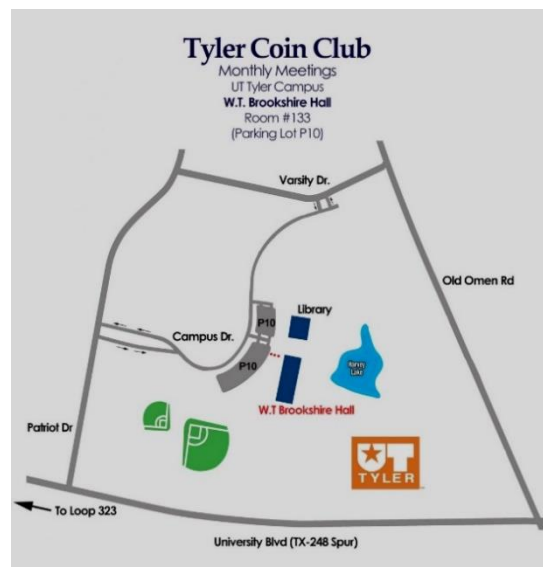


YOUR TWO CENTS WORTH AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2019



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

The Tyler, Texas Coin Club (TCC) meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Please consider yourself welcome. Meetings include great fellowship, numismatic education, a brief business session, and a spirited numismatic auction. The TCC meets on the campus of the University of Texas Tyler in room 133 of the W. T. Brookshire Building. Enter the campus via the identified “west entrance” off University Boulevard. Turn toward campus onto Patriot Dr. Enter campus and proceed on Campus Dr. to Parking Lot P10. (See map below) The W. T. Brookshire Building is in full view from the parking lot just to the right of the library.



A FEW WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

Friends . . . At this writing your editor is doing what famous reporters have done for decades: I am “on the road.” At the moment I am sitting at a desk in room 126 of the LaQuinta Inn at Dominion in extreme North San Antonio. For the last three days my wife and I have enjoyed the hospitality of the Alamo City along with that of several friends from the Texas Numismatic Association. The purpose of our visit is specific. We drove all this way in order to attend the official mint release of the American the Beautiful Quarter honoring the Mission National Park and the four missions which are part of it. Please see the article on this subject following.

I look forward to being with y’all next Tuesday, September 10. It is my plan to be in attendance and to bring a roll of Mission Quarters I will “open” so that, as long as they last, anyone wanting a first release, freshly minted coin, can take one home. Images of the quarter, obverse and reverse, can be found above.



NUMISMATIC NOTES

THOUGHTS FROM OUR PRESIDENT LANE B.

September is upon us which means fall is just around the corner. Too bad the cool fall weather in East Texas won't be here much sooner! With fall approaching and the kids back in school, coin collecting activities tend to slow down a bit. Perhaps it's preparation for the upcoming holidays or the summer months have dwindled away the extra 'fun' money we have for our favorite hobby, but numismatics seems to slow down around this time of year.

That doesn't mean we can't still be engaged as collectors. Even though the flurry of summer shows is over, there are always online opportunities from auctions to your favorite dealers. And many of those dealers may be posting their "newps" from their most recent major shows. I know I am waiting for one particular dealer to post some of his new offerings!

Last month we had a special auction. It was the first of the two United States gold coins won by the Tyler Coin Club during the Texas Numismatic Association Annual Convention. The first coin was a wonderful, original dollar gold piece struck at the Philadelphia Mint in 1851.

This month, the second of the two coins will be placed into our auction. The coin being auctioned is a \$2.5 Indian Quarter Eagle struck at the Philadelphia Mint in 1911. The coin is graded AU-58 by the Professional Coin Grading Service (PCGS). This coin has a wonderfully American design; a classic Native American on the obverse and a proud eagle on the reverse. What is marvelous about this particular design by Bela Lyon Pratt is how it was executed. The coin's design appears to be incuse, but it is not. The design is actually struck in relief, but below the surface of the coin. The effect is really neat. Here is an image of the coin:



At a retail value just north of \$300, it represents a nice way to add a gold coin with a great design to your collection. As was the case with last month's auction, all the proceeds go to support the Tyler Coin Club.

Oh ... one more thing ... an interesting point of numismatic trivia about the \$2.5 and \$5 Indian gold pieces is that the highest point on the coin is not part of the design, but is the mintmark, when present. See you at the auction and good luck!

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 13, 2019 MEETING
OF THE TYLER, TEXAS COIN CLUB
OFFERED BY CARL S., TCC SECRETARY

Meeting called to order by TCC President Lane B. with pledge to the flag

Attendance: Members: 45 Guests: 8 New Members: 2 Total: 55 (Equals Club High)

Discussion of Agenda Items (Lane)

- The club was led in prayer by Larry V.
- Please keep Ed, Bruce, Aleasha and their families in your thoughts and prayers.
- Introduction/recognition of guests, visitors, and new members.
- Recognition of members with birthdays and anniversaries in month of August.
- Carl presented a brief Treasurer's report.
- Dwight gave a recap of feedback he received at the Tyler Coin Show; all was positive.
- The 1851 gold dollar, one of two gold coins the club won at the TNA raffle, was auctioned. The 1911-P \$2.5 Indian gold piece graded AU-58 by PCGS will be auctioned at the September meeting.
- Lane encouraged additional member participation with educational presentations and coin clinics (aka show & tell) at monthly meetings.
- Next regular meeting is September 10, 2019 at W.T. Brookshire Hall (room #133) on the UT Tyler campus.

Special Guest Speaker (John Anderson)

- John gave a wonderful presentation about his work with the American Bicentennial Celebration. His efforts begin in 1972 when he was assigned to the Lubbock, Texas Chamber of Commerce Bicentennial Committee. In the fall of 1973, John was hired by the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission of Texas as the assistant executive director. In 1975, John was hired by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration Region 6 as the deputy regional director.

Club Auction (Richard G.)

- 29 items sold - \$1,266.50

Door prize winners

- Bruce, Dudley, Kevin, and Steve

Refreshments

- A big Thank You to Carl for providing refreshments!

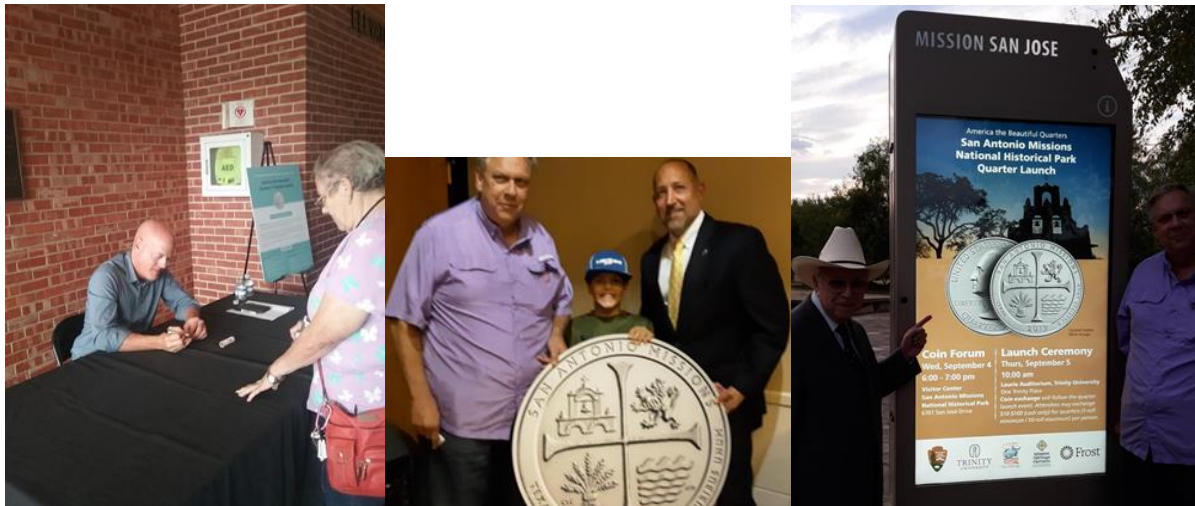
TEXAS NEW QUARTER
SEPTEMBER 5, 2019 RELEASE OF
THE SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS NATIONAL PARK QUARTER

Following are a few photos from your editor's brief time investment in San Antonio. The purpose of my visit was to attend the official release of the San Antonio Missions National Park Quarter from the America the Beautiful series. Your editor joined with a large crowd of like-minded folks to hear speeches from dignitaries from a variety of sources including those related to the Mission

Trail, U.S. Representative Lloyd Doggett, the Archbishop of the local Roman Catholic Diocese, the Deputy Director of the U.S. Mint Pat Hernandez, and several others.

The winning design for the quarter was submitted by artist Chris Costello. The design was transferred for the minting process by Joe Mena, the 14th Chief Engraver of the U.S. Mint. The obverse of the piece is the familiar image of George Washington which has been in place since 1932. The unique reverse shares several images significant to the history of San Antonio. Costello's primary vision is to replicate the theme of the crest of Spain, including the use of the cross design seen originally on Spanish coinage minted in the Americas. (See my article at the end of this publication.) Instead of items pertaining to the monarchy, the four corners of the relief feature the bell tower of mission Espada telling the story of the Christian faith's motivation, wheat representing the agriculture nature of the mission, a design representing the San Antonio River which was, and still remains, crucial to the area's development, and fourth, the traditional image of the lion seen on Spanish coins for centuries. This famous lion design is there to remember the presence of Spain.

September 5 was a good day in the numismatic world here in Texas. In honor of the occasion I share a few photos along with happy memories.



(From left to right:

First . . . Chris Costello, designer of the coin's reverse, signing "autographs" on unopened rolls of Mission Quarters.

Second . . . Your editor, along with Deputy Mint Director Pat Hernandez, and Jackson P. from California. Jackson has attended dozens of these release events nationwide with his father beginning at the age of two.

Third . . . The electronic sign outside of the event with Frank Galindo of San Antonio. Frank is Texas Numismatic Association Governor for the region and also the designer of the annual TNA historic medal. My wife Susan, Frank and Carla Galindo of San Antonio, and Kevin and Cindy Kell of Keller, were the only familiar faces I saw in the crowd in San Antonio of September 5.)

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

Questions for Dr. Coyne:

- 1.) In the field of tokens, what is a "maverick"?
- 2.) How does one "ring" a coin to help distinguish a genuine one from a fake?
- 3.) Did the U.S. mint at New Orleans ever strike copper coins?

- 4.) When were Mr. and Mrs. Bill Johns active collector/dealers in Houston?
- 5.) What countries show prominent square holes in their coins?
- 6.) Are there any "fiat" coins in present circulation in the United States?
- 7.) Has the U.S. ever struck zinc coins for circulation?

Dr. Coyne Responds:

1.) A "maverick" token is one that is unidentified as to city and state of issuer. Part of the fun and of the science of studying tokens is figuring out the history of challenging pieces and discovering the time and place of issue. There are, fortunately (or unfortunately), thousands of tokens from decades ago right up to now that do not declare on their faces anything about when or where they were issued. Examples might say "good for one drink", or "good for 5 cents in trade". The illustrated token remains a "maverick" to Dr. Coyne even now....



2.) The "ring test" is an easy-to-perform test which may help distinguish a cast copy from a struck original coin. The crude way to perform the test is to simply drop the piece to be tested on a hard surface and listen to the sound it makes as it bounces. But this procedure can leave unsightly edge dings. It is better to balance the test coin on a fingertip and gently strike its edge with a pencil or pen and listen for the ring. A "thud" confirms a casting or an electrotpe. But, alas, the ring test is not conclusive; there are casts that "ring" fairly well, and there are struck pieces with original planchet problems that do not "ring" very well cast, and it gives a "thud"



3.) The U.S. mint at New Orleans was the first branch mint to begin striking (but beating Charlotte and Dahlonega by only a few weeks) in 1838. Eventually, the "O" mint struck all the current silver denominations (except the twenty-cent piece) and all the gold denominations. No copper or bronze coins were ever officially issued. There are stories, however, that in 1837 some large cents were made using obsolete Philadelphia dies, but these would have been press setup pieces, and if they were saved at all, they would likely be indistinguishable from legitimate large cents made earlier at Philadelphia. The "O" mint suspended operations during the Civil War and struck its final pieces in 1909. The building is now open to visitors as a museum in the French Quarter.

4.) Bill and Chris Johns were active in Texas collecting circles beginning around the middle of the twentieth century. She was secretary/treasurer of GHCC in 1960. Dr. Coyne knew them by 1976 when they ran a retail coin shop on FM-1960 (featuring a fun bid board with new lots every week). They were active in the GHCC and the Money Show for several years thereafter. Chris also headed the local club involvement with the ANA summer show in Houston in 1978.

5.) Coming first to mind among coins showing square holes are the bronze cast coins known as "cash" of mainland China made for centuries. ca 300 BC into the 20th Century.



6.) At the time of removal of silver from dimes, quarters, and half dollars (by 1971), ALL of the new issues of the U.S. were "fiat" coinage. This means that they circulated at a certain face value by reason of government pronouncement and not because they contained bullion value equal or nearly equal to their trade value. This is to say that they also had considerable seigniorage (the difference between face value and cost of production). All circulating issues still remain "fiat issues" today, though ironically, the rising copper and nickel prices have recently driven the "melt value" of cents and nickels above their face value. This is why our government had to recently enact prohibitions against melting them. There are no such laws presently prohibiting melting of the earlier 90% silver coinage.

7.) There are billions of zinc coins in present circulation in the U.S. They form perhaps 90% of the present commercial stock of one cent pieces. The copper plating on the surfaces of the post-1982 cents comprises less than 1% of the weight of the coin, but the interior is nearly 100% zinc.



Still seen once in a while in circulation are remainders of the 1943 issue of Lincoln Cents, which have zinc coated steel planchets.



Fun Numismatic Activities

Thoughts on Creative Numismatics Offered by Larry V.



(Examples of material used by Larry during his time of artistic creativity. On the left are silver medals. On the right a variety of silver world coins.)

I have been collecting coins, off and on, since I was 10 years old. I collected in the late 60s, mid 70s, the first half of the 80s, then laid off till around 2008 and have been collecting since. My collection started off with coins my dad and grandfather brought back from the war and some coins one of my grandmas saved for me. Since my ancestry was pretty cash poor, the pieces were modest, and their training prevented them from helping me more than being proud I was saving money. So, I began my collecting with a very general stack of common circulated foreign and US coins. But that was enough to stir my interest.

While I started off with a Whitman cent album to fill, I quickly lost interest in this type collecting because I didn't have the finances to fill it or any other date/mintmark books (filling them out of circulating coins was time past for a kid). I did put together a Mercury Dime collection in the 80's and a complete buffalo nickel set a few years back along with a multiple of US Twentieth Century type sets of various grades. The rest of my collecting has been more-or-less a search for something else to keep my enthusiasm up.

For some time, I've been simply collecting numismatic items which I believe have stories to tell and then I create displays to present to others at the local coin shows sponsored by the clubs I belong to. I've tried hard to explain the variety of interesting aspects of our hobby – money's recording of historical subject matters and commerce, artistic beauty and steps in the manufacture of coinage, metallurgy, collectable coin valuation, etc. using the displays with varying success and at considerable expense. Of late, I've stumbled into a couple of numismatic related interests (besides the coin club displays) that keep me pumped up at minimal cost and with minimal investment downside; "junk" silver and picture framed wall displays.

I've discovered from articles in the last couple of *Coin World* Magazine publications that I'm not alone in my interest in "junk" silver. It is basically a departure from the world of investing in "numismatically" rare items to investing in common numismatic items whose value in commerce approximates their value in melted silver. In collecting common foreign silver coins, it doesn't take long to figure out that a majority of our fellow collectors (at least in the south) steer

away from them due to the added complication of dealing with varying silver contents. Who can remember all the various silver contents of so many coins from so many countries over so many years? What a bother! I, however, find it fascinating. I even made up a club display for Mexico coinage showing how made-for-circulation twentieth century pesos began the century consisting of 90.3% silver, then over the years dropping to 80% silver, then 72%, then 50%, followed by 30%, then 10%, and finally nada (0%).

Another common form of silver I've started picking up are the old Franklin Mint pieces (mostly medals). The Franklin Mint was a well-known entity for quality numismatic products (i.e., legal-tender coins for Panama). Their pieces are beautifully executed and the silver purity for silver medals is typically sterling (92.5%). When first made, such pieces (though beautiful) seemed unaffordable to many people because of the high premium price over silver content. Today these medals may be acquired for a very modest premium over their melt value. It appears they are being put on the market in abundance by the children of the last generation who collected such highly promoted items of the 1970's and 80's.

It is so interesting to have a method of collecting coins such that the financial downside is so little and the variety of items which can be collected is so great. The variety of artistic designs, ages (almost all the circulated silver coins are over 50 years old and many 100 or more), the veritable alphabet of countries from which they are available, the fact that such forms of money have been demonetized years ago, and even the numerous metallic make-up of the pieces make them truly fun to study and collect. It is a wonderfully economical way to collect coins and metals and might even be considered a sneaky way to turn a silver investor into a numismatist.

As to my newest hobby aspect, that of creating numismatic displays the size of picture frames, it's a technique I'm still working on perfecting. Framing colorfully interesting world paper money is easy to do and, to me, looks wonderful (art a-la wonderfully talented and government sponsored engravers with top notch printing presses). The picture frames are readily found locally for very little investment. I purchase new, low end but neat, diploma frames for as little as \$1.25. I can sometimes find a variety of nice used wooden picture frames (with good glass) of various sizes for even less at local flea markets. I pick paper money based on colorful beauty and low price (condition is only based on looking interestingly attractive) because my objective is to pass them on at a price that can't be refused. I back them with good card paper and then frame them – with or without a title.

Framing coin displays is a bit trickier as my hope is to keep them cheap as well since I'll give some away or put others up for sale at future coin shows (maybe put up in local flea markets as well to increase the exposure potential). For now, I'm working on matching a medal or coin's displayed subject matter to that of pages from old books, cutting out the appropriate book page and then framing it with the matched medal or coin attached (the attachment method being the tricky part). If I believe the numismatic piece may have some nominal numismatic value in the future, I am currently sticking it to the book page with double-sided tape and mounting it under the glass (hey, I'm no great artist). I have not developed a method for using numismatic pieces that significantly exceed metallic value.

Anyway, I'm having some fun with these new relatively cheap off-shoots of my hobby and have hopes that they will stimulate numismatic interest in a general public that hasn't yet come to realize what an enjoyable and safe investment opportunity (hobby) is waiting for them.

So, what are you doing?



(Two examples of Larry's framed numismatic art. At the left a photo article from a period magazine combined with a Jubilee Head silver British coin. At the right three pieces of world paper money framed with an eye for color and artistic detail.)

UPCOMING COLLECTOR OPPORTUNITIES

Cowtown Coin Show – September 6 - 7 ... White Settlement Event Center – 8905 Clifford

Texas Coin Show – September 27 – 29 ... Grapevine Convention Center – 1209 E. Main, Grapevine, Texas

Plano Coin Show- October 5 ... Comfort Inn and Suites – 700 Central Parkway East, Plano, Texas

Paris Coin Show – November 9 ... Lamar Avenue Church of Christ – 3535 Lamar Ave., Paris, Texas

Texas Coin Show – November 15 – 17 ... Grapevine Convention Center – 1209 E. Main, Grapevine, Texas

Texarkana Coin Show – November 22 – 23 ... Texarkana Convention Center – 4610 Cowhorn Creek Rd., Texarkana, Texas

Hot Springs Coin Show- January 11 – 13 ... Hot Springs Convention Center – 134 Convention Boulevard, Hot Springs, Arkansas

Greater Houston Coin Club's Money Show – January 17 – 18 ... Lone Star Convention Center – 9055 Airport Rd. @ FM 3083, Conroe, Texas

OUR NEXT TIME TOGETHER

The Tyler Coin Club will meet again on Tuesday, September 10, 2019. Our meetings officially begin at 7:00, however the doors are open by 6:30 for those who choose to come early for a time to visit and smile. See you then. Check out basic information on the first page for a map to the meeting location on the University of Texas at Tyler campus.

A VISIT TO YOUR EDITOR'S "COIN CABINET"

ANOTHER "WANT" RECEIVED

Your editor has commented on a few occasions concerning a trip made to Bolivia a few years back. My sojourn down south was not primarily related to numismatics. Nonetheless I found time while there, as in just about everywhere else I travel, to add some coin focus to the adventure.

One of my planned stops, by coincidence, was in the community of Potosi. At nearly 15,000 feet above sea level Potosi is the largest city in the world at such an elevation. It is also the home of Cerro Rico which is a mountain from which silver has been extracted for nearly five hundred years. But the crowning glory, historically speaking, of Potosi is the mid-Eighteenth-Century mint structure. Sizeable *Casa de Moneda*, stands today as a sign of the grand presence of Spanish invasion and settlement. Previous to the structure now in place, for nearly two hundred years prior starting in 1572, the original Potosi mint struck coins for the Spanish throne using metallic resources acquired from the mountain which dominates the scene.



(Street view of the entrance to the historic Spanish Colonial mint facility in Potosi, Bolivia.)

It is interesting to note that within the walls of the building, as it stands today, there can be found tools of the coining trade from way back. These include original items used to “hammer coins,” a functional “screw press,” a couple of “steam presses,” and even minting machines of more modern nature which were in use for Bolivian coinage until 1953. So, if one wishes to grasp a nearly complete array of minting contraptions, Potosi is the place to be. Of course, there are challenges such distance, difficulty to maneuver the roads, and the rarified air associated with such a height.

When I left Potosi, after a four day stay, I had a better grasp of the development of coinage, along with one tangible souvenir. On the centuries old square in historic downtown Potosi, I purchased from a street merchant for an unusually large sum when compared to catalogue value, an 8 Reales from 1825. Even though I could have acquired this item for less money at home, the thought of having one from its original place of creation was appealing. It is interesting to note 1825 was the last year any Spanish Colonial Coins were struck south of the Equator. Even though not produced on the North American continent, the last true Colonial coinage associated with the Spanish in the Americas were the 1895 pieces for use in Puerto Rico.

Since my trip, a variety of thoughts have crossed my mind. In particular, your editor has noted how coins out of the Potosi mint remained more primitive than those of like years from minting facilities loosely in the area. For example, the Spanish “Pillar Dollars” of Mexico City were in place as “Spanish Milled Coins” several decades before the process to create them was ready to move forward in Bolivia.

One of the coins on my want list has been, until now, an Eight Reales from Potosi which predates the “new” coin era production in the mint facility. The first coin struck in the marvelous building, which stands tall, broad and proud today, carries the date of 1773.

As for my desire to acquire an original cob 8 Reales from Potosi; I recently located such a coin. A couple of months ago the 8 Reales pictured just below became mine. It is essentially a large lump of silver. The design is crude. There is no symmetry in the strike. The date of 1755 is rather late for a piece struck in such a fashion. I am pleased to have it in my holdings.

Please see the photos below to grasp that about which I write.



(Above are pictures of the obverse and reverse of a Cob 8 Reales from the Casa de Moneda in Potosi, Bolivia. On the obverse pictured at the left: note the date of “755” (1755), the “8” for 8 Reales, and the “P” just the right of the date as a reference to Potosi.

On the reverse pictured at the right: note the arms of Spain along with “8” for 8 Reales, and at the top running horizontally the “P” denoting Potosi. The “cross” in place on the reverse of the coin above is the design which the creator of the reverse of the Mission National Park Quarter chose to replicate as a tribute to Spanish heritage in America and the coins associated with those years.)