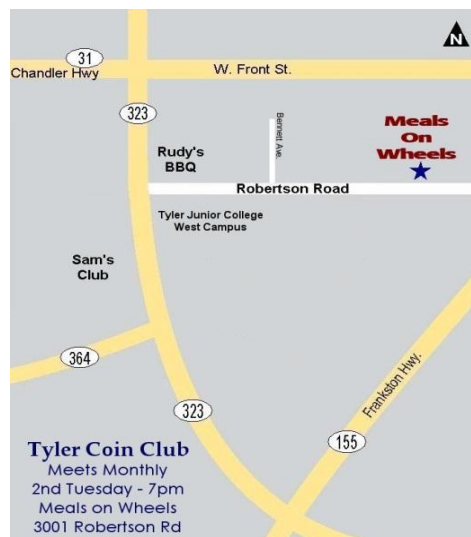


# YOUR TWO CENTS WORTH FOR AUGUST, 2015



## **(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 8, 2015.



## **A Few Words from the Editor**

When my friend Hal Cherry made the decision to retire after many years as one of the prime moving forces of the Texas Numismatic Association it became my privilege to be nominated to the office which was left vacant. I can't say I am able to "take over" for Hal because Hal's shoes are big'uns. Hal committed to be my guide and early on graciously donated a day of his time in order to sit down with me and share the responsibilities of the First Vice President, along with a taste of the duties and expectations of the office. He was quite thorough.

I will say, however, that one area has come up on occasion which I wasn't expecting. A half dozen or more times over these last three months I've received emails from someone, somewhere with the pertinent question: "What is THIS?" Attached will be an image of some coin or other numismatic goodie. Now I generally have to pass the question on to someone else owing to my lack of knowledge and experience in some areas. How great it is to have folks around, such as my fellow TCC club members. I am thankful because each of you has his or her area of expertise, and that y'all are always willing to share your insight. Thanks!!



## **Sowle Food: Words of Greeting and Celebration from our President**

It was SOOOOOO good to be back with you again this month. We had another great, well attended meeting which saw us welcome two more new members, Ed and Kay White. We also welcomed Tom Hall and Ben Pate who joined us last month. Please join me in welcoming these four to our club family.

Our meeting had several cool things to enjoy; Ron gave us a great Show and Tell concerning World War II Office of Price Administration (OPA) Paper Tokens and Ration Stamp Booklets. There are 30 Red Letter Combinations of tokens and 24 Blue Letter Combinations, AND, Ron has the entire collection. It was indeed an impressive collection to see. He also shared with us the ten cent postal savings stamp collection book from that era. Isn't it interesting to know that when your book was full of stamps, you could go to the bank and trade it in on a \$25 Savings Bond? Great job, Ron, thanks for sharing that with us. Read the complete presentation from Ron shown below in this newsletter.

Also, Richard, our newsletter editor, presented the club with a check from the TNA. This was the club's reward for having two club members volunteer to work the TNA show and convention back in May. Our two representatives were Richard himself and Tommy B. Thanks guys! Your hard work in volunteering is greatly appreciated.

Then, Michael B. shared with us his experience with the Northwest Territorial Mint. After much discussion, we all came away with ideas on how to police offers for silver and gold that come to us by way of the internet. Thank you for sharing this with us, Michael. We are happy your near tragedy had a happy ending.

Our young numismatist member, Andrew, wrote such an excellent "Getting to Know You" article for our newsletter, that the TNA ran it in their March/April issue. Steve Roach, editor of Coin World, saw the article in the TNA News. Inspired by the article Steven contacted Andrew for permission to print it in an upcoming issue of Coin World. Andrew willing agreed. We are very proud to have this young man in the Tyler Coin Club.

We had our usual "spirited" auction led by Tommy, lots of August birthdays and anniversaries, and GREAT refreshments provided by Terry.

And last, I thank you once again for your prayers, visits, cards, flowers and concern during my wife's episode with breast cancer. From all indications she is now cancer free and will continue her regular check-ups in the future.

Continue to remember in your prayers those mentioned...John & Sandra's daughter, our new member Gary and his wife, and our VP Howard's sister-in-law, brother and son. All of these need our prayers for various health issues.

That's it for this 'portion' of "Sowle Food." Until next time, remember: "[\*People who think they know everything are a great annoyance to those of us who do.\*](#)"--- Isaac Asimov  
God bless!! . . . Dwight

# Minutes of the Meeting of the Tyler Coin Club for August 11, 2015

Respectfully Submitted by: Carl S., TCC Secretary

Meeting called to order by Vice President Howard W. with pledge to the flag

**Attendance:** Members: 29 New Members: 2 Guests: 7 Total: 38

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

- The club was lead in prayer by Larry V.
- Please keep families/friends of Dwight, Billie Sue, John, Sandra, Gary, and Howard in your thoughts and prayers.
- Introduction/recognition of guests, visitors, and new members.
- Recognition of members with birthdays and anniversaries in month of August.
- Dwight expressed his sincere thanks to club members for their thoughts and prayers.
- Next month Lane B. will give a presentation on collecting third-party graded coins.
- Lane is also organizing another workshop. The topic will be "Detecting Problem Coins." A date will be announced soon.
- Steve Roach, editor of *Coin World*, has requested permission to publish an article written by Tyler Coin Club member and young numismatist Andrew C. The article was originally submitted by Andrew for the *Getting to Know You* section of the Tyler Coin Club Newsletter (April edition). The article was then published in the May/June edition of the Texas Numismatic Association's *TNA News*.
- Michael B. shared his recent experience dealing with Northwest Territorial Mint.
- Richard presented a check to the club which represented a thank you gift to the club from the TNA for providing volunteers to man the TNA Show and Convention in Arlington in May. The amount on the check represented two Tyler Coin Club volunteers; Tom B. and Richard L.
- The club continues its search for someone interested in assisting as program director; duties range from securing member and external speakers for club meetings to gathering prayer list requests and volunteers for refreshments.
- The Tyler Coin Club is celebrating the 100 member milestone. More details soon.
- Meals on Wheels (MOW) donations for August \$42.
- Next meeting is September 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **Presentation (Ron B.)**

- Member, Ron B., gave a quick but very informative presentation on World War II ration tokens. In an effort to control scarce commodities during WWII, the Office of Price Administration issued ration books. The books contained various stamps which were used to purchase food and other items. Red and blue tokens were used to make exact change for ration stamps. Ron's collection includes all 24 blue tokens and all 30 red tokens. Blue tokens were used for processed foods, and red tokens for meats and fats.

## **Club Auction (Tom)**

- 27 auction items sold - \$511.25

## **Door prize winners**

- Aleasha, Ed, Lane, Sherry, Terry

## **Refreshments**

- Terry T.

## “On the Home Front”

### Memories of a World War II childhood shared by Tyler Coin Club member Ron B.

When the United States entered World War II, after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, life on the home front changed dramatically. The economy changed from depression to a war time footing. Suddenly men were entering the military resulting in gaps in the job market. Women started entering the workforce, taking jobs that, up until that point, had been staffed by males. Many factories, which had been left idle by the depression, were cranking up. The majority of factory output was war materials resulting in a scarcity of once common domestic items. For example: stoves and refrigerators were not produced during the war. Also many products that were imported were no longer available.

The federal government created several organizations to prevent profiteering and hoarding. The Office of Price Administration (OPA) had the power to set price controls and ceilings on the availability of items. At the peak, 90% of retail prices were controlled. The OPA had the power to ration scarce items. Autos, tires, gasoline, shoes, sugar, coffee, hosiery, meats and fats, and processed foods were among rationed items.

Each auto received a sticker to be placed on the windshield showing how much gas could be purchased per week. Each sticker had a letter indicating the owners need for gasoline. The letters were:

- “A” for most vehicles
- “B” for people in war related jobs
- “C” for doctors, clergy, and other essential people
- “R” for agricultural equipment
- “T” for trucks and taxis
- “X” for congress and government officials

In 1942 an “A” sticker was allowed 4 gallons of gasoline per week. By 1944 the quantity was reduced, owing to shortage of fuel stateside, to 2 gallons.

Tires with inner tubes could be patched. Tires were inspected, and if a replacement was needed, the owner was issued a coupon that was taken to a dealer so a new tire could be purchased.

People were encouraged to plant “Victory Gardens” in order to grow their own fruits and vegetables.

Scrap metal and rubber products were recycled. Local groups would have drives to collect these resources which were so important to the war effort.

Among the products imported from the Philippines before the war were rubber and sisal, which was used to create rope. These became scarce because of Japanese occupation of the Philippine Islands.

If a plant grown in the United States was found to have fibers suitable for making rope farmers were encouraged to grow the plant and factories were built to process the raw material from the plants. Interestingly one plant found to be suitable for such fiber we know as marijuana, a plant now illegal to grow in most states in the United States.

The war affected our money. Copper and nickel were critical wartime materials. In 1942 the metal nickel was eliminated from the Five Cent coin and an alloy of silver, copper, and manganese was used from 1942 until 1945. These coins contain 35% silver. The one cent coin was made of zinc plated steel in 1943 and from recycled shell casings from 1944 into 1946.

Families would display a banner with a star for every family member in military service. Banners with one or two stars were common. I will never forget the banner in the neighborhood store. It had five stars.

The Office of Price Administration issued ration stamp books to families in order to buy rationed food items. The OPA provided grocers with red and blue tokens for use as change for

the stamps. The red tokens were for meats and fats, the blue tokens for processed foods. Fats were items such as butter, cheese, and lard.

The tokens are made of vulcanized fiber, in other words, very stiff paper. The tokens were authorized by the federal government and made by private industry. The red tokens read “OPA 1 red point” with a letter on each side of the “1.” The blue token reads: “OPA 1 blue point” with a letter on each side of the “1.” From what I can tell there was no rhyme or reason for the letter combinations. There are 30 letter combinations for the red tokens and 24 for the blue tokens. Approximately 1.1 billion red tokens and 900 million blue tokens were made. Even today, seventy years later, there are large quantities of examples of both red and blue tokens available to collectors.

The red combinations are: HC, HT, MM, MV, TH, TY, UC, UH, UT, UV, UX, UY, VC, VH, VT, VU, VX, VY, XC, XH, XT, XU, XV, XY, YC, YH, YT, YU, YV, YX

The blue combinations are: CC, CH, CT, CV, CX, HH, HU, HV, HX, HY, TC, TT, TU, TV, TX, UU, VV, WC, WH, WT, WU, WW, XX, YY

The rarest token letter combination is the red “MV” token. The next rarest are the red “MM” and the blue “WW” “WH” and “WC.”

There is not much collector interest in these tokens so a set can be assembled for a very reasonable price.

Information acquired from Wikipedia and U.S. History.org



(Left: An enlargement of a “Red” OPA token.

Right: OPA tokens, both blue and red, are still to be found in original World War II era merchant boxes containing approximately five hundred individual pieces.)

## **Numismatic Education** **A Visit with Dr. Coyne**

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

- 1) Are “encased postage stamp” pieces commonly counterfeited?



- 2) Did the U.S. Mint ever do any work for Cuba
- 3) Are United Kingdom Maundy Sets still made in sterling silver?

- 4) What is an “Everyman Registry Set”?
- 5) What is the first appearance of the motto “In God We Trust” on our currency?
- 6) What is a “Brown Box” Eisenhower Dollar?
- 7) Is this piece a U.S. commemorative coin?



## Dr. Coyne Responds

1) The brass cases for encased postage stamps are not often counterfeited, but the stamps within them are sometimes replaced by a higher-denomination stamp to take advantage of perceived “rarity”. The mica or slate fronts are also sometimes replacements.



(Encased Postage Stamps came to be during the time of American Civil War as a response to the need for ready change in the marketplace. The patented brass case, holding a stamp under a small strip of mica, served the purpose well. Merchants of the era seized the opportunity to use the back of these circulating discs for advertisement purposes. The most prolific was the “Ayer’s” medical firm. Several designs of advertisement for Ayer’s products are available to contemporary collectors.)

2) The first U.S. Mint work for Cuba came in 1915, following the Spanish-American War. From 1898 to 1914, the U.S. dollar was the official currency of Cuba, though Spanish and other coinage still circulated. In 1914, the Cuban authorities created the Cuban National Currency System, which authorized the minting of centavos (1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 40), and silver and gold pesos (1, 2, 4, 5, 10 and 20). All these were minted at the Philadelphia Mint in 1915 and 1916. In 1915, a new law prohibited circulation of all foreign coins and currency. The new Cuban and U.S. pieces were acceptable. The era of U.S. coinage supply to Cuba ended in 1961 following the takeover of the Cuban government by Fidel Castro. Cuba built its own mint in 1977 and began striking circulation coins and commemoratives there.

3) The United Kingdom Maundy Sets issued sporadically and then annually for centuries have continued to be issued in sterling (.925 fine) silver even as the regular coinage was transitioned to reduced silver and then base metals beginning in 1920. The designs on the Maundy 1, 2, 3, and 4 pence feature the monarch’s portrait on the obverse and a simple wreath design with the denomination on the reverse. The quantity issued each year, to carefully selected worthy recipients, is determined by formula from the monarch’s age and number of years on the throne. Elizabeth II will set a record this year for total pieces issued.





(A complete set of Maundy coins from 1907. The coins from top left, clockwise to bottom left are: Four Pence, Three Pence, Two Pence, and One Pence. The image on the obverse changes from monarch to monarch. The reverse has maintained the same design for nearly 200 years, since 1822. This set, in its original box of distribution, comes from your editor's coin cabinet.)

4) An "Everyman Registry Set" is a set of related coins composed of the dates/mints as dictated by PCGS or NGC to fit their prescribed definition of the set, for example, Mercury Dimes or CC Morgan Dollars, but with the limitation that all coins are circulated specimens. They can be in slabbed grades Poor-01 to AU-58. The collector acquires coins which fit his registry set and lists their certification numbers and optional photos on the PCGS or NGC website, and the Third Party Grader's computer "ranks" the listed sets according to grade and completion percentage. The "everyman" aspect makes the program accessible to more collectors, as high-cost uncirculated pieces are excluded.

5) The earliest use of the motto "In God We Trust" on a piece of United States currency came considerably earlier than its adoption by Congressional action, which wasn't until 1956 with the first piece of U.S. paper money "officially" carrying the wording released on October 1, 1957. The reader will remember that from the late 1860's forward "In God We Trust" has been placed on various denominations of our national coinage and is now in place regularly on every denomination of coin in circulation. As for United States paper the motto "In God We Trust" can be seen for the first time on the back of the series 1886 Five Dollar Silver Certificate courtesy of an image of four Morgan Dollars on the note's back. As the reader knows the motto appeared, in "Old English style type," just above the eagle on the reverse of each Morgan Dollar. Therefore the first representation of "In God We Trust" on a piece of United States currency came to be seventy years prior to its official introduction during the Eisenhower administration.



(Reverse of Morgan Dollar upon which the reader can see boldly the motto "In God We Trust." The first appearance of that motto on United States paper money is to be found on the back of an 1886 Five Dollar Silver Certificate which had as part of its primary image engravings of Morgan Dollars.)

6) The “Brown Box” informal name applies to the U.S. Mint issues of proof Eisenhower Dollars of 1971-74. This distinguishes them from the “Blue Ikes”, which are non-proof issues (but still for collectors) in flat envelope packaging, also from 1971-74. Both varieties are 40% silver. Base metal clad Ikes were also issued for circulation in these years.

7) The illustrated piece is not a U.S. commemorative coin. It is an awards medal issued for the 1892-93 Columbian Exposition in Chicago. It was struck at the U.S. Mint using designs prepared by Augustus St. Gaudens (obv) and Charles Barber (rev). These come in large (about 3 inch) and small (about 1.25 inch) sizes in bronze. The official cases on the large ones were stamped aluminum with blue inserts.

## Grading for the Rest of Us offered by Lane B. Lighting the Way



To make the best numismatic decisions, collectors need to use appropriate tools. When considering the right tools, we think of magnifiers, storage boxes, inert flips, and pricing guides. Often we forget about lighting, or rather, we assume whatever lighting we use will be just fine. However, the type of lighting may have a significant effect on the appearance of a coin and our ability to grade it properly.

Overhead **florescent** lighting, the type of lighting most commonly used in the exhibition halls and meeting rooms, is the worst lighting for examining coins. This type of florescent lighting is indirect and diffused. Overhead florescent lighting tends to mute the luster on high-grade coins and might also give the surface of circulated coins a less than natural look. However, the effect varies greatly on the quality of the florescent light. Daylight florescent lights work well for some collectors as the light's temperature (color) is relatively high (white) and more natural.

**Halogen** lighting is a favorite with many collectors and dealers because it is bright and brilliant and tends to give coins a little extra flash. While this may be pleasant for viewing, when it comes to grading, halogen lighting has one strong advantage which is also its primary drawback. Since the light is so bright and focused, surface defects are exaggerated. This characteristic is wonderful if you are looking to find surface flaws, such as hairlines. However, this enhanced detection of surface defects may lead to coins being under-graded since the surface defects appear much greater than when viewed under other types of lighting.

**Incandescent** bulbs are the gold standard for examining coins. Usually used are bulbs ranging from 60 watts to 100 watts, incandescent bulbs are the lights used by most professional graders. While the color of the light can vary with the quality of the bulb, high quality bulbs provide a consistent and predictable light source. Inexpensive bulbs will generally have a



distinctive yellow tint that interferes with properly assessing a coin's luster. Although these bulbs currently represent the best choice for numismatists, they are becoming more difficult to find and will soon be unavailable to consumers.

A relative newcomer to the consumer market is the **light emitting diode**, commonly referred to as an **LED**. Similar to halogen lights, LEDs are pinpoint sources that produce a fairly white light while avoiding the heat associated with halogen or incandescent bulbs. Currently not many collectors or dealers use LEDs for examining coins however, as the LED technology improves and costs continue to decline, it is likely that these bulbs will become more commonplace. LEDs have the

advantages of being compact and requiring very little power to operate. They are so small and require so little power that a collector could carry their own LED with them at a coin show.

It is important that when you view coins you minimize light interference from other sources. When professionals grade coins, they will usually be in dark room at a desk with a single lamp illuminating their coin. This approach not only enhances focus, but eliminates the effects that may be present from multiple light sources. Regardless of the type of light you choose to use, it is essential to be consistent or, if that is not possible, learn how to view your coins under the various lighting conditions.

## **Upcoming Collector Opportunities**

**Greater Houston Stamp Show** – September 18 – 20 . . . Humble Convention Center – 8233 Will Clayton Parkway, Humble, Texas

**Texas Coin Show** – October 2 – 4 . . . Grapevine Convention Center – 1209 S. Main, Grapevine, Texas

**Collin County Coin Show** – October 10 . . . Quality Inn – 1300 North Central Expressway, McKinney, Texas

**Fort Worth Coin Club Show** – November 6 – 8 . . . Forest Hill Convention Center – 6901 Wichita St., Forest Hill, Texas (Fort Worth area)

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

**59<sup>th</sup> Annual Houston Money Show** – December 3 – 5 . . . George R. Brown Convention Center – 1001 Avenida de Las Americas, Houston, Texas (Sponsored by the Greater Houston Coin Club)

**Cowtown Christmas Coin Show** – December 11 - 13 . . . Forest Hill Convention Center – 6901 Wichita St., Forest Hill, Texas

**Hot Springs Coin Show** – January 15 – 17 . . . Hot Springs Convention Center – 134 Convention Blvd., Hot Springs, Arkansas

**National Money Show** – March 3 – 5 . . . Dallas Convention Center – 150 South Griffin St., Dallas, Texas (Sponsored by the American Numismatic Association)

## **Our Next Time Together**

The Tyler Coin Club will meet again on Tuesday, September 8, 2015. 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" Meet Charles Simmang of San Antonio

Perhaps you all have noticed that your editor tries to find something different from the collector world to place at the masthead, at the very beginning of each newsletter. Generally whatever has been selected for each edition flanks the club logo on the first page. It is my goal to locate an item relational to the club, such as the "Two Cent" theme on this issue, or to find something buried in my "coin cabinet" which is Texas related, and on occasion an item specifically significant to Tyler and the surrounding area.

Last month I used a medal which I have recently located, a picture of this is also provided at the end of this brief article. The piece of which I speak hits a few buttons in my collecting world. It is Texas history based with its time of creation during the Texas Centennial of 1936, a collector area about which I am enthusiastic.

But unlike many mass produced items the one I present to you here has more of the look of sculpture because it is cast instead of being struck as a coin is produced at a public or private "mint." With a picture I can't do justice to the size and weight but I can say that this is nearly twice as large as an average United States silver dollar and several times heavier. The metal of which this medal is made is what numismatists call "white metal" overlaid with a copper wash. The front bears a profile of General Sam Houston and the back that of the Alamo surrounded by flag of the United States and Texas and the names of three significant battle areas of the Texas Revolution.

The name of the designer, engraver, and sculptor attributed to my new collectible is "Charles Simmang." Even though there is not much public record concerning Mr. Simmang I came away from my study aware of the fact that he was a resident of San Antonio who found his calling as an engraver. According to one source I located, a listing of the San Antonio Historical Association records, Charles Simmang's original company, founded in 1887, remains today in the family name. *The Simmang's Engraving Company*, still in the San Antonio area, offers to provide services such as tooling jewelry, silver, and other forms of metal.



(Picture of young Charles Simmang in his San Antonio studio about 1900.)

It is interesting to note that one of Charles Simmang's creations is listed in the book *So Called Dollars*. Catalogue HK 679 denotes the official San Antonio Bicentennial medal from 1931. Simmang was also known for creating peace officer badges out of Mexican Cinco Peso coins. Your editor located a few of these in contemporary auctions.

Your editor spent quality time exploring the internet for some sign of Mr. Simmang. Sadly there isn't much information from which to glean his story. At the least I consider it an

honor to be custodian of one of his limited edition commemorative pieces especially created for the 1936 Texas Centennial celebration.



(Actual size of commemorative medal honoring the Texas Centennial. Original image created and cast by Charles Simmang, engraver, of San Antonio, Texas.)