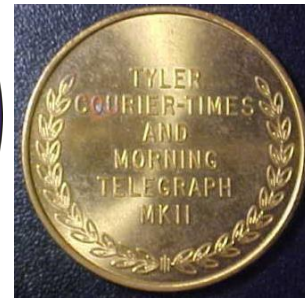


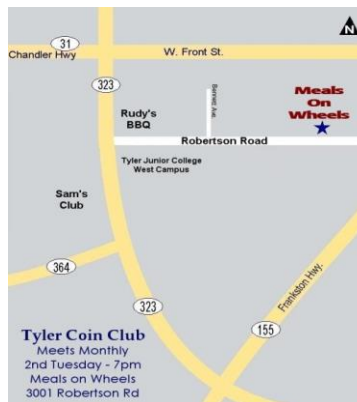
YOUR TWO CENTS SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER, 2016

NEWSLETTER OF THE TYLER, TEXAS COIN CLUB



(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. 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, October 11, 2016.



A Few Words From the Editor

Friends . . . Over the last thirty or so years your editor has seen a great deal of Eastern Texas. Living the life of a Methodist preacher has given me and my family the chance to experience life in a number of communities. In the majorities of the places in which we have spent quality time there are annual celebrations which draw people to the area in larger numbers. During our years in Brazosport we enjoyed the "Mosquito Fest" in Clute and "Dickens on the Strand" in Galveston, there is the "Rosebud Reunion" in the community of the same name, the "Watermelonfest" in Hempstead, "Gatorfest" in Anahuac, any number of possibilities in Houston, and now here in East Texas I find myself living in the land of "Yamboree."

During the era when every community Texas was encouraged to establish some sort of celebration in honor of the 1936 Texas Centennial, Tyler's own "Rose Festival" was formed. With the exception of a few years during the mid 1940's, Rose Festival has been in place since 1933 making it one of the longest, if not the longest, running celebratory events in Texas.

In honor of the soon to be 2016 Tyler, Texas Rose Festival, I have chosen the medal above. It might bring back some memories? Rose Festival dates are: October 13 to 16. Perhaps I'll see you there and/or at Gilmer's Yamboree the weekend following.

Sowle Food

Words of Greeting and Encouragement from the President



In our September club meeting, the Tyler Coin Club (TCC) elected Richard L. as our new 1st Vice President. This gives the TCC five officers for the first time in club history. Please join me in welcoming Richard to our administration. Richard is very well qualified to serve in this capacity at a time that finds us in need of an additional officer. We have been very blessed as a club to grow to where we are today, and each one of you, Tyler Coin Club's faithful members, have contributed to this success. This new club officer position will help the club continue its growth and see it running as smooth as ever. We thank you, club members; and thank you Richard. Welcome aboard!! To God be the glory!!

And, we offer our thanks to Lane B. and Bruce B. for accepting the opportunity to place their names in the running for this office. They too are deserving of our thanks and support, showing an interest in and compassion for our club.

As a result of the TCC adding an additional officer, the club has made a few amendments to our Constitution and Bylaws to reflect this new position. This too is a first for the TCC.

On the flip side of this "coin"/article; I'm receiving much enjoyment in collecting copper. Since I haven't been able to collect much gold and silver for the past few years, I am able to afford the collecting of copper. Here are my reasons why: Very affordable, very appealing to the eye and feel, and who knows, copper may be the silver of the future??

Here is what the August 9, 2016 issue of Investing News has to say about copper: "Copper prices have been under pressure in recent years, but the red metal has seen some modest gains in 2016. That's leading some analysts to up their copper price forecast for the year. There's no doubt that copper has underperformed other metals so far in 2016 (gold and silver are up 25 percent and 40 percent respectively), but the red metal has still held its ground in 2016, halting the steady decline in prices over the past five years. Currently, copper prices are up about 2 percent overall for the year, trading at \$2.19 per pound."

"Focus Economics states in the August edition of its *Consensus Forecast Commodities Report*, 'after hitting a multi-year low at the beginning of this year, copper prices have been fluctuating around a mild upward trend before broadly stabilizing in July and at the beginning of August.' On the London Metal Exchange, spot copper was sitting at \$2.17 per pound on August 5th."

Look into it; read and study copper as you would silver and gold and make your own decision...and have fun collecting!!

That's it for this 'portion' of "Sowle Food." Until next time, remember: "*Our greatest glory is not in ever falling, but in rising every time we fall.*" --- Confucius

God Bless . . . Dwight

Minutes of the Meeting of the Tyler Coin Club, September 13, 2016

Respectfully Submitted by Carl S., Tyler Coin Club Secretary

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

Attendance: Members: 32 New Members: 0 Guests: 6 **Total: 38**

Discussion of Agenda Items (Dwight)

- The club was lead in prayer by John D.
- Please keep Tom & family, Danny, and Joe in your thoughts and prayers.
- Introduction/recognition of guests, visitors, and new members.
- Recognition of members with birthdays and anniversaries in month of September.
- Members were reminded to pick up their new Tyler Coin Club wooden nickel.
- The Vanishing Texana Museum in Jacksonville, Texas will host a *Coins of the Ancient World* exhibit every Saturday in October. Members interested in participating or attending should contact Dwight.
- Update to club Constitution and By-Laws – A motion was made by Aleasha C. to accept the proposed changes to the club Constitution and By-Laws discussed at the August meeting. Allen B. seconded the motion. All members were in favor. An additional clarification to the duties of the 2nd vice president position was discussed. The proposed change will be presented at the October meeting for member approval.
- Election of 1st Vice President – Club members voted by secret ballot to fill the new officer position of 1st Vice President. Richard L. was elected with 56% of votes. Members welcomed Richard into the new position.
- ANA Outstanding Club Publication – Dwight presented Richard L. (Newsletter Editor and new 1st Vice President) with a certificate from the American Numismatic Association for the Tyler Coin Club's *Your Two Cents Worth* newsletter taking 2nd place in the ANA's Outstanding Club Publications competition.
- Sue Corbin donated 9 boxes of numismatic items belonging to her late husband, Bill Corbin. Bill opened the first coin shop in Tyler, Texas in 1961. The donated items include numismatic reference materials, supplies, and a large collection of *The Numismatist* magazines.
- Meals on Wheels (MOW) donations for August - \$34.
- Next meeting is October 11th.

Presentation (Lane B.)

- Lane gave a fascinating presentation on Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* in the context of an allegory for the political, economic, and social landscape of America in the 1890's. The numismatic connection ties to the election of 1896 in which monetary policy is intensely debated and

proves highly divisive between supporters of the gold standard (Yellow Brick Road) and silver (Dorothy's slippers – ruby in the film version). Lane showed some wonderful examples of satirical and caricature tokens also known as “Bryan Money” as well as a 16 to 1 comparator token. (Editor's Note . . . 16:1 was the gold to silver value ratio at the time of the silver / gold debate . . . the good old days!!)



(Lane B. in mid presentation on our journey to Oz, numismatic style. His emphasis on “*Gold, Silver, and the Wizard,*” was a first class educational gift to the club, one which details the possibility that the story of the *Wizard of Oz* might be formed around the silver / gold standard challenges of the late Nineteenth Century.)

Club Auction (Dwight standing in for Tom)

- 27 auction items sold - \$655.85

Door prize winners

- Allen, Kenny, Lester, Randy, Richard

Refreshments

- Don H.

Getting to Know You

**This month new Tyler Coin Club Member Dr. Randy W.
Shares His Story**

Well it all started with that “little brown jug”. No, it's not what you think! I never knew what originally came in that brown vessel, but it became a piggybank, of sorts. My parents would deposit pennies, or cents, from the change they received. I suppose they had their own plans for the higher denomination coins. My sister and I would sort through the pennies occasionally to see if we could find anything to add to our penny album (folder). We loved the venture into the treasure hunt for “missing links”. Periodically we found something to fill an empty slot, but we always were rewarded with filthy fingers.

My parents found that I worked more diligently on schoolwork when my “A” grades were rewarded financially! As a side benefit to good study habits, many dimes and some silver dollars entered into my world. This reward motivated me through Texas A&M and Baylor College of

Dentistry, well maybe that's a stretch. Due to a Parkinson's Disease diagnosis in 2007 and the free time created by my retirement in 2008, I am getting reacquainted with coins.

I began by buying silver bullion coins and a few gold coins, especially in the last 5-6 years. These purchases were a defensive reaction to the state of our scary national financial turmoil. The next purchases included U.S. 90% silver coins, 40% JFK half dollars and 35% War nickels. I have branched out somewhat and now know "just enough to be dangerous".

I hope to learn more, and perhaps narrow my focus, with advice and the opinions gleaned from my association with the knowledgeable members of the Tyler Coin Club.

Numismatic Education

A Visit with Dr. Coyne

Questions for Dr. Coyne

- 1) What U.S. copper coins have a reeded edge?
- 2) What does the Manley Library of the American Numismatic Association do?
- 3) When were the last U.S. Peace Dollars struck?
- 4) Are red seal United States Notes of the \$2 denomination still being issued?
- 5) What does the "CAC" organization do?
- 6) What does "spelter" mean in the composition of a coin?
- 7) Is this piece a U.S. coin?



Dr. Coyne Responds

1) The only U.S. copper (or bronze) coins which were mint-made with reeded edge are the early Large Cents of 1795. These are scarce enough that they could be considered experiments. About 200 1937 proof cents (and Buffalo Nickels) are in collectors' hands, but it is now thought that these were privately "reeded" in a machine shop operation after they left the Mint. Beyond these, there are only a few pattern issues with reeded edges.

2) The library of the American Numismatic Association in Colorado Springs (named the Manley Library in 2003) is the largest numismatic library in the U.S. which lends its books over the counter and through the mail. The American Numismatic Society Library in New York City is larger, but it is not a "circulating" library. ANA members can borrow books for up to 12

weeks for the cost of postage. David Sklow is the new library manager there. Use library@money.org.

3) The last Peace Dollars were struck at the Denver Mint in June of 1964. The mintage, over 216,000, was intended as a trial run for planned continuing production to support circulation of the coins (which had not been made since 1935). The entire 1964-D production was ordered melted at the Mint, and the official summary today is that all were melted. Rumors persist to the contrary, but officials at the United States Department Treasury have said that any specimens which might surface will be recovered as government property. One of the most popular Daniel Carr issues (Moonlight Mint) is his conception of what one might look like:



4) Red Seal United States Notes of the \$2 denomination were issued in several series in the small size beginning with Series 1928 (multiple signature combinations) and Series 1953 (multiple signature combinations). The final issue came in Series 1963a, after which the Green Seal Federal Reserve Notes of Series 1976 (with a new reverse design) were forthcoming.



(1963a Series United States Note Two Dollar Bill. The last series of a century long tradition.)

5) The *Certified Acceptance Corporation* (CAC) examines coins already graded by PCGS and NGC and (for a fee) attaches their “green bean” sticker (or declines to attach it if CAC thinks the coin is unworthy). CAC says they intend to approve coins that are “solid for the grade”, interpreted as excluding perhaps the lower third of coins slabbed by PCGS or NGC within the same grade. CAC also makes a market in coins they have approved.

6) “Spelter” is an early alternate name for the metal zinc. It has come to mean a class of zinc alloys. It is thus an inexpensive alloy metal which gives a “silver” look to coins and other items made from it.

7) The illustrated piece is not a U.S. coin. The piece is a Spanish 2 Reales (containing the silver of only 1/5 of “Piece of 8”). These were coined in Spain for the home market, and called a Pistareen. It is smaller and lighter than the proper 2 Reales coined in the Spanish Colonial mints

in the Americas. Those proper “2 bit” coins are $\frac{1}{4}$ of a “Piece of 8”. Both the Pistareen and the proper 2 bits had wide circulation in the American Colonies.

Grading for the Rest of Us offered by Lane B. **A Brief History of Coin Grading, Part Three**



Many collectors and dealers will agree that accurately grading coins is one of the greatest challenges facing the hobby. The ability to evaluate a coin’s strike, luster, surface marks, and eye appeal consistently is difficult for even seasoned numismatists. Fortunately, collectors and dealers in the 21st century have significant resources at the ready including books, Internet websites, computer and phone applications, and educational courses taught by experienced graders. In the first half of the 20th century, the landscape was quite different.

Until the late 1940s, no standardized guidelines were universally accepted for grading United States coins. Dealers and collectors had their own systems, which was just fine if you were collecting alone and not communicating with others. However, when you needed to buy or sell coins and the grade influenced the price then not being able to communicate the coin’s grade in a clear, consistent, and concise manner was a definite barrier.

In 1949, Dr. William Sheldon published an exhaustive study of early American large cents in his landmark work titled *Early American Cents* (later to be published under the title *Penny Whimsy*). In this book, however, Dr. Sheldon described a systematic method of relating a coin’s grade to its value which would be the cornerstone

of quantitative grading through modern times, or so it would seem.

Sheldon recognized that there was a need for systematic ordering (what we now call varieties) large cents and a need to clarify nomenclature (improve communication between numismatists). His systematic listing of large cent die marriages and die states along with standardized terminology met those two needs. But that was not enough. Sheldon wanted to provide a system for correlating a coin’s value and its condition. He believed that through a study of the rare coin market in the previous decades that such a system could be developed. And to prove such a system could be crafted, he chose 1794 cents as his subject.

Sheldon was a cent appraiser while in high school and had an excellent understanding of the large cent market. He also recognized a pattern in the price of large cents as grades changed. He had two caveats to his grading system; there was a continuum of grades from poor to perfect, and a coin’s condition has a degree of objectivity.

He recognized that dealers assign conventional adjectives to grades (*e.g. Good, Fine, etc.*) and with professional numismatists there was an underlying matrix of meaning to these adjectives. Thus, one should be able to translate these adjectives

to “points” on a linear quantitative scale of condition. If rarity is not a factor (e.g. rarity is constant or well established), then these “points” should be directly related to sales history for the coins. In other words, objective value (sale price) is equal to quantitative condition (grade).

In order to demonstrate this relationship, Sheldon tracked sales of common varieties of 1794 cents from around 1925 through 1948. He noted that unmutilated but identifiable coins are in their basal state, which he called condition 1 (*Poor*). Coins in this condition sold in the 50¢ to \$1.50 range, or for \$1 on average. Coins in *Fair* condition generally sold for twice that of coins in basal state (*Poor* condition). Or, *Fair* condition coins sell for about \$2 each. Coins in *Good* condition sold for twice *Fair* coins and *Fine* cents sold for three times *Good* cents. He noted similar trends for coins of other grades from well-circulated to pristine *Mint State*.

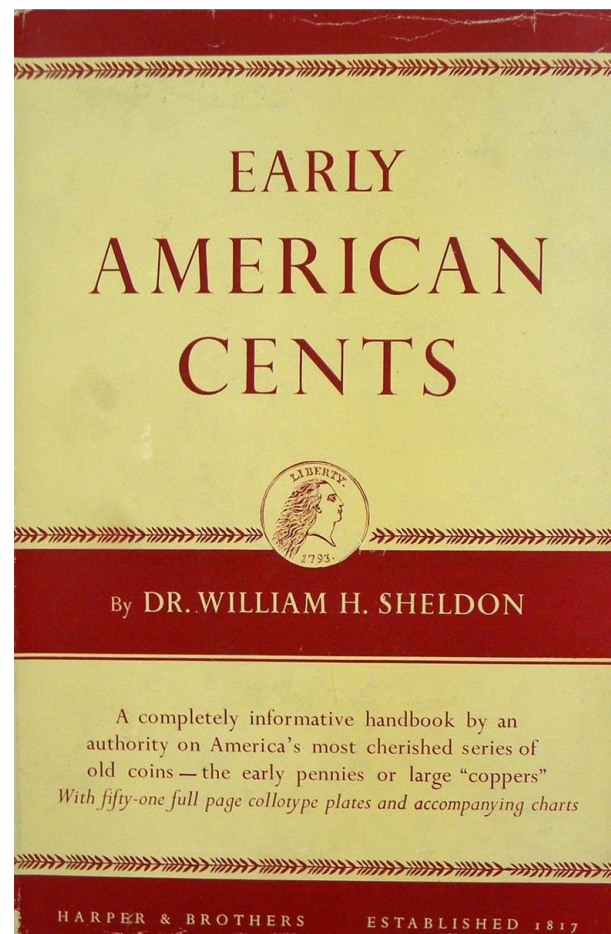
From this study of 1794 cents, he created a formula that was to be the basis for all cent grades and values: **Cent collector value = (Basal value) x (Condition)**

The intent was that one could predict a cent’s value as long as the condition was known (objectively) and the basal value of the coin was known. The implicit assumption was that as the basal value increases, say from \$1 to \$1.50, that the corresponding coins in all other grades would also increase in value by the same proportion (in this example, 50%).

Sadly for Sheldon, this relationship never worked outside of his data set for 1794 cents. In addition, his systematic approach “towards a science of cent values” was

never embraced by collectors or dealers. What did gain traction however was the numerical values attached to adjective grades. Today’s collectors and dealers use the “Sheldon System” of a 70-point grading scale for all United States coins even though there is no direct, mathematical relationship between the numerical grade of a coin and its value.

As an aside, even though you may not be a collector of the “big pennies,” Sheldon’s *Early American Cents* or *Penny Whimsy* is a worthwhile addition to a numismatist’s library. The early chapters leading up to the exhaustive listing of varieties is a worthwhile read.



Upcoming Collector Opportunities

Ancient Coin Exhibit – Every Saturday in October . . . Vanishing Texana Museum – 302 S. Bolton, Jacksonville, Texas (Opening with lecture – Saturday, October 8 at 2:00 p.m.)

Paris Coin Show – October 22 . . . Lamar Avenue Church of Christ – 3535 Lamar Avenue, Paris, Texas

Denton County Coin Show – October 29 . . . VFW Post 2205 – 909 Sunset Dr., Denton, Texas

Fort Worth Coin Club, Inc., Coin Show – November 4 – 6 . . . Forest Hill Civic Convention Center – 6901 Wichita St., Forest Hill, Texas

Texas Coin Show – November 18 – 20 . . . Grapevine Convention Center – 1209 S. Main, Grapevine, Texas (Also January 13 – 15, March 17 – 19, April 21 – 23, July 7 – 9, September 22 – 24, November 17 – 19) (No wonder we can't find a quick and comfortable date for the TCC Show)

Houston Money Show – December 1 – 3 . . . George R. Brown Convention Center, Hall E – 1101 Avenida de Las Americas

Cowtown Coin Show – December 16 – 18 . . . Forest Hill Civic and Convention Center – 6901 Wichita St., Forest Hill, Texas (Also February 3 – 5, May 19 – 21, August 4 - 5) (Ditto thought above)

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

Texas Numismatic Association Annual Coin Show – June 2 – 4 . . . Arlington Convention Center – 1500 Convention Center Dr., Arlington, Texas

Our Next Time Together

The Tyler Coin Club will meet again on Tuesday, October 11, 2016. 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 evening of the meeting to enjoy a dinner together at Rudy's BBQ.

A Visit to Your Editor's "Coin Cabinet" **Your Editor's "Big Postal Adventure"**



Friends . . . My recently extended experience with the United States Post Office began on August 15. Very early on that Monday morning I noted, on eBay, the item pictured just above. As the reader can see it is a "coin and die" set purportedly from the Texas Quarter series. According to the authenticating paper work, included in the mint issued collector box, this particular die struck 127,546 coins at the Denver mint starting on May 14, 2004 and ending when a "piece separated" during striking on May 17. I say "purportedly" because the striking surface of the die, as can be seen in the photo at the end of this article, has been completely ground down with not even trace evidence of what was originally in place.

Your editor understands that the United States Mint's practice of selling "coin and die" sets was discontinued when it became evident that dastardly elements, such as our good coin

counterfeiting friends, “the Chinese,” were re-engraving these pieces and using them on old U.S. mint production machines which were shipped from our place to theirs.

This set was actually sought out and ultimately acquired by your editor as a tool to be used in telling the story of coin production to anybody who chooses to listen. For example; in just a few weeks I’ll be sharing some coin history with a local Cub Scout pack. When discussing the coining process I thought it of interest to have an original piece in hand. So, with all of this in mind, your editor “won” the set pictured above on eBay for \$9.99 plus a \$9.04 shipping fee. The sale was completed on August 15 with an estimated delivery date five days later.

A week passed, then two. When the start of the third week rolled around I decided it was time to take a closer look. My seller had provided a tracking number which made the exploration an easier proposition. My purchase started its journey on August 16 in Cato, New York. On August 17 the box passed through the sorting facility in Warrendale, Pennsylvania. By the end of the first week, I noted tracking through Dallas, to Denton, to Fort Worth, and back to Dallas. On August 24 my set was enjoying the hospitality of fine postal focused folks in Waco. The most interesting one was the overnight stop in Axtell, which is down Highway 31 west of Waco. In the time between August 26 and happy day when the notice of delivery was placed in my post office box, on September 2, there had been a second visit to Fort Worth, a brief stay at the “North Texas Distribution Center” (wherever that is), over to Shreveport, and then FINALLY in my hands in Gilmer after a full three week travel time.

Even though this event was a touch frustrating, and at points humorous, I can affirm that this is the odd occurrence, not regular practice for our beloved USPS. Ninety nine point nine percent (99.9%) of my purchases and sales arrive on time, or earlier. It is good to know that, even though the post office does make mistakes, we collectors do have a dependable and generally secure means of building our collections with items delivered no more than an easy walk down the driveway, or a drive to the box at the local post office building.

I am delighted to have my “coin and die” set. The fact that it is related to Texas makes it even better. Along with the acquisition I look forward to developing ways to use it as an aide for education. The post office experience was something I just “felt like” sharing, especially the part about an overnight to Axtell. And, yes, when the packaged arrived safely in Gilmer, the address was spot on, including my 75644 zip code. I was a little jealous because this 2004 Texas State Quarter and its defaced die had seen so much of Texas in a year when I haven’t had time to get out on the road. For example; I can’t recall the last time I was in Axtell even though my father-in-law was originally from Mt. Calm just a few miles down the highway.



(Left: Coin and die happily together.

Right: Adjusted striking surface of a die used to mint 127,546 Texas State Quarter coins at the Denver mint in 2004.)