

# Tyler Coin Club

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Five State Coin and Currency Super Show @ Tyler  
Member TNA, ANA

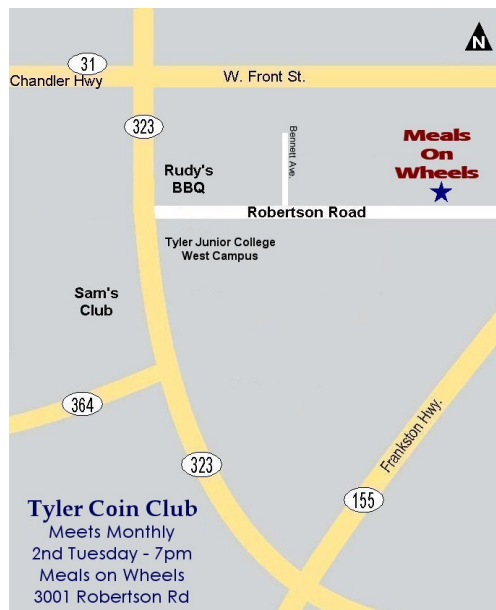


## Your 2¢ Worth



**(Newsletter of the Tyler, Texas Coin Club for October, 2013)**

The Tyler, Texas Coin Club meets on the Second Tuesday of each month with meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. Location is the community room of the Meals on Wheels building located at 3001 Robertson Road. (Two blocks behind Rudy's BBQ) Club members and friends gather starting at 6:30 p.m. for fellowship. Meeting agenda will always include business and the most spirited auction in Texas. Special presentations and programs are regularly offered. A friendly welcome is to be had by all. TCC's next meeting is Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013.



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

It was good to be back with the numismatic family last Tuesday. Your editor has been away for a few meetings tending to details in the life of the church and involved in a few items related to family. My return was quite comfortable and enjoyable. It was good to visit friends and to hear all the preparation work and other vision from Barry concerning our 2014 coin show.

Your editor also noticed the little box on the table for donations to Meals on Wheels. I have known about this organization for most of my years in ministry. Meals on Wheels does fantastic work using a majority volunteer crew. I've known more than a few who have been and are touched by their "ministry." With all 501(c)3 organizations finances are currently a challenge. So, next time you see the little box on the auction table at the club meeting, how about gracing it with a love offering. You'll be glad you did and Meals on Wheels will use it wisely to enhance the lives of others in our communities.

## **“Sowle Food” - Thoughts from President Dwight**



It has been a fun filled, exciting year for the TCC!! And as 2013 winds down, we have more fun filled excitement on our agenda. Here's what's coming:

- New Club Shirts
- Club Picture
- Election of Officers for 2014
- TCC will have a new Vice President
- Christmas Angel Tree Drive
- Year-end Christmas Dinner/Meeting

At this month's meeting Barry gave us the date of our sixth show. Can you believe that? We have had five shows and a sixth is on the calendar! WOW!! This really excites me.

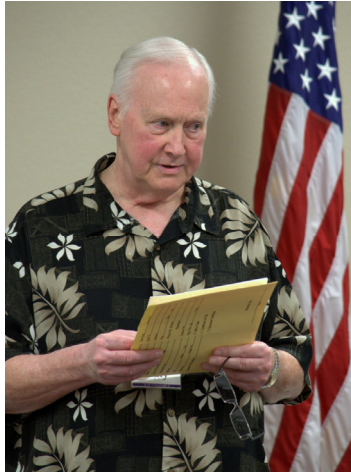
Our November meeting will have us bringing donated items for the auction with the money going to our Christmas Angel Tree Drive. You were very generous and gave almost \$500 last year, and I have no doubt we will exceed that this year. I've said it before, and I'll say it again: It's great to be a Tyler Coin Club Member.

Well, that's about it for this 'portion' of "Sowle Food." Until next time remember: "I am determined to be cheerful and happy in whatever situation I may find myself. For I have learned that the greater part of our misery or unhappiness is determined not by our circumstance but by our disposition." --- Martha Washington

God bless!

Dwight

**What I Have for You Tonight:**  
**(Our program time on October 8<sup>th</sup> featured club member and coin show guru**  
**Barry C's update on the state of our 2014 coin show)**



(Carl S. supplied this picture of Barry during his presentation on the 2014 "Five State Coin and Currency Super Show." The photo is a touch of foreshadowing owing to the fact that the show will be on June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, which includes Flag Day.)

Barry C., chair of our industry leading "Five State Coin and Currency Super Show @ Tyler," served as our educational speaker at the October 8<sup>th</sup> club meeting. Barry's topic was the history of our most recent run of successfully presented coin shows to date. Starting back in 2010 the club has hosted five such adventures with escalating numbers in a variety of ways, including in financial return to help the club maintain our presence in this great city and surrounding area. Each individual show has been unique in some ways, however there are points in common: well attended, highly praised by consumers and dealers alike, with nearly 100% volunteer club member participation.

In particular Tyler Coin Club volunteer members are recognized for our friendliness and the sincere welcome our dealers experience from the moment they enter the vicinity of the Lone Star Event Center. It is there club members greet the dealers, help them unload their vehicles, and provide for whatever needs there may be. Because of such a proactive and friendly greeting and for a variety of other reasons there is much positive "chatter" from dealers, throughout the state and beyond, and a desire to return which is contagious.

During his presentation Barry shared the challenge involved in finding an acceptable show date. Because of the quantity of shows in Grapevine, Fort Worth, and most recently in Houston, a comfortable date, where we have the optimum dealer and customer draw, is a daunting task. Fortunately Barry was able to find such a date and one on which the Lone Star Event Center was available. He has therefore reserved "our" date and secured a deposit on the facility. This puts the Tyler Coin Club's "Five State Coin and Currency Super Show" firmly on the numismatic map. I know you all join your editor in celebrating Barry's commitment, dedication and exceptional talent in representing us in the community.

So . . . you may ask . . . what are the details? As you can see in the picture above there is a hint of the projected date. The show is scheduled for Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup>. June 14<sup>th</sup> as you know, is Flag Day. Barry's vision is to celebrate this high day of our patriotic calendar as our theme for the Tyler Coin Club's 6<sup>th</sup> show in just four years. He also shared a tentative goal of 90 to 100 tables which will make us once again one of the larger regional shows not only in Texas but also in the nation.

As for the show itself he promises some surprises including one listed as "\$1 Raffle." (Barry calls this the "big one.") Even though exact details were not shared at the club meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> Barry did say this will be something involving the whole club. He promised details at a later date. He also emphasized there will be provisions for younger folk (a fact which brings a grin to your editor's face.)

The bottom line then is this: announcements will begin appearing in the numismatic and public media soon. For example, check Numismatic News and Coin World in the next few issues. Barry encourages all of us to "talk up the show," to tell the story, to encourage dealers and customers, remembering that, despite the world of electronic media, word of mouth is still the best means for encouragement and invitation. Naturally it is time for we club members to hold on to the dates. How blessed we are to have a show which is "all hands of deck." We may have one of the largest all volunteer presentations of this nature to be found anywhere.

Your editor celebrates the future with thanks to Barry for his commitment and continued selfless good work. I know we all share the appreciation and look forward to another marvelous "Five State Coin and Currency Super Show @ Tyler."

### **Tyler Coin Club - TNA District 12** **Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

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

**Attendance**   Members: 27   Guests: 3   Total: 30

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

- The club was lead in prayer by Ronnie.
- Please keep the families and friends of Olen, Dick, and Ray in your thoughts and prayers.
- Introduction/recognition of guests, visitors, and new members.
- Recognition of members with birthdays and anniversaries in month of October.
- Carl submitted David's design concept to graphics instructor at TJC. Instructor has several students that will submit press-ready designs for member consideration.
- Dwight distributed order form for new club shirts.
- Group pictures will be taken either at November or December meeting; stay tuned for email from Dwight.
- Members voted to hold the December dinner on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Dwight discussed options for dinner arrangements.
- Brandon Q. informed members, per an article in *Coin World*, sales tax is no longer required for bullion and numismatic items priced over face value in the state of Texas. Prior to October 1<sup>st</sup>, sales tax on such items was required for amounts under \$1,000.
- A special "Angle Tree" auction will be held at the November meeting. Club members will bring donated items for the auction and all proceeds will go towards purchasing clothing and Christmas gifts for children in our area.
- Members were encouraged to join the ANA and TNA. The club receives \$5 off its ANA membership for every active individual ANA member.
- Richard is seeking additional participation for the "Getting to Know You" section of the newsletter.
- Next meeting, November 12, 2013 (*Don't forget your Angel Tree items for the auction*)

#### **Treasurer/Bourse Chairman Update (Barry)**

- After much anticipation, Barry announced dates for the 2014 coin show in Tyler. Mark your calendars!
- The dates are: **June 13-14, 2014**

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

- 9 auction lots sold - \$204.25

#### **Door prize winners**

- Brandon, Carl, Charles, and Howard

#### **Refreshments**

- Don H.

Respectfully Submitted by Carl S., Club Secretary

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

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

1. What country issues “Maundy Coins?”
2. Which U. S. Mint Engraver had the most designs adopted for regular issue and commemorative U.S. coinage? Hint: recent
3. When was the last “regular-issue” U. S. half dollar containing silver made?
4. Who is the oldest living numismatic author/researcher/collector in the U. S.?
5. Which mint was the first to use this cap-and-rays design?



6. What is an “insert die?” Why would a mint use one?



7. What does this medal have to do with U. S. numismatics? Hint: part of a series.



**Dr. Coyne responds:**

1. The United Kingdom issues sets of four coins; 1 Pence through 4 Pence, each year on Maundy Thursday, the Thursday before Good Friday. The coins are part of a traditional ceremony in which the reigning monarch meets with representative “deserving but poor” people. The coins are distributed in little leather bags, each containing a total value related to the current age of the monarch. The number of bags distributed is also related to the monarch’s age. Thus the later sets of Victoria and Elizabeth II are the most common. The early sets of these queens are more difficult to obtain. The custom has been going on since about 1670 (in the time of Charles II) missing only a few years, and issued in all years since 1822 (except 1936). These small coins are all struck in silver. For centuries, it was difficult to distinguish the 3 pence pieces from the regular circulation issues of the same coin. The diminutive 1 Pence and 2 Pence pieces are easy to tell from their circulation counterparts, as the regular issues are copper or bronze and are much larger.



(1937 “Maundy” set – 1.2.3.4 Pence coins – all minted in silver)

2. According to “*American Silver Eagles*,” (Whitman 2012) “Mr. John Mercanti has produced more coin and medal designs than any other employee in the history of the U.S. Mint. Among his works (in addition to the American Silver Eagle) are gold and silver commemorative coins honoring the Statue of Liberty, the Olympic Games, Dwight Eisenhower, and five circulating State Quarters.” He worked at the U S. Mint from 1974 through 2010. Charles E. Barber would be runner-up, with the production of coins with which we are familiar and also including his large array of medallic designs from 1879 to 1917.

3. The most recent “regular issue” silver half dollar is the 1969, a 40% silver issue made in both Philadelphia and Denver. The same planchets were used in the 1970-D Mint Set, but that issue was not for circulation. The 1982 Washington Commemorative half dollar is a traditional 90% silver coin of the same specifications as the Franklin half dollar, but this commemorative was not issued for circulation.

4. The oldest living (and one of the most important ever) researcher/authors in American numismatics must be Eric P. Newman of St. Louis. Eric is still active today in the hobby at 102 years old. His keynote work is in the field of American Colonials, with his stellar and groundbreaking publication *The Early Paper Money of America* (2008 Krause Publications) in its 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Newman is currently working on a 6<sup>th</sup>!! In mainstream U. S. coins, he was the most recent, and only living, collector/dealer to own all five of the 1913 Liberty Nickels simultaneously. Unlike John J. Ford, Eric Newman has always been open and helpful in sharing his knowledge broadly across the hobby.



(Numismatic media photo of Eric Newman on the occasion of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Eric is holding a commemorative medal commissioned by the American Numismatic Society and minted in gold. Its obverse pictures a bas relief profile of Mr. Newman. As your editor prepares this edition of the newsletter he happens to have his arm resting close to Newman’s fore mentioned book which is always on the ready when a piece of Colonial or Continental currency comes along.)

5. According to the standard reference in the field, “*Hookneck*” by Hubbard and O’Harrow, the Mexico City mint began producing the Cap and Rays 8 Reales (with a ‘hookneck eagle’ on the reverse) in 1823 with the Durango and Guanajuato mints following in 1824. Christian Gobrecht of the U.S. Mint must have been looking at one of the Mexican pieces when he cut the die for the “First Steam Coinage” medal of 1836. The design was never used for a regular issue U.S. coin.

6. An “insert die” is a die made with a hole in it so that another, smaller die can be temporarily inserted in the hole to strike coins or medals with a design feature which changes easily while the main features of the die remain the same for the whole run of production. Award medals sometimes make use of an insert die for the reverse, which could carry the name of the winner or of the event. There is often a raised line visible on the finished coin or medal where the insert die meets the main die. On the medal at the top of the next page, the words “Public Schools” are on an insert die.



7. This is the Indian Peace Medal of our 12<sup>th</sup> President, Zachary Taylor. It continues the series begun during George Washington's term. Originals were created in two or three sizes for distribution to tribal representatives by explorers and military units on behalf of the U. S. government. They enjoyed varying popularity and esteem on the part of receiving Native Americans. They dropped from favor entirely by the late 1800's. Reproductions, like this one, were available on the Mint's list for decades.

### **Upcoming Collector Events**

**Fort Worth Coin Club Show** – November 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> . . . Lockheed Martin Recreation Center . . . 3400 S. Bryant Irvin Rd., Fort Worth, Texas

**Texas Coin Show** – November 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> . . . Grapevine Convention Center . . . 1209 S. Main, Grapevine, Texas (Also January 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> and March 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>)

**Money Show of the Southwest** – (Sponsored by the Greater Houston Coin Club) - December 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> . . . George R. Brown Convention Center, Hall E . . . 1001 Avenida de las Americas, Houston, Texas (Largest Show in Texas)

**Cowtown Coin Show** – December 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> . . . Lockheed Martin Recreation Center . . . 3400 S. Bryant Irvin Rd., Fort Worth, Texas (Also February 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> and April 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>)

**Five State Coin & Currency Super Show @ Tyler** – June 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 . . . Lone Star Event Center . . . 4036 Kilgore Hwy, Tyler, Texas

### **Next Time Together**

The Greater Tyler Coin Club will meet again on **Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>**. See you at **7:00 p.m.** Bring a friend. Come enjoy a positive numismatic experience, good fellowship, and the most spirited coin auction in Texas. Mark your calendar now. You are also encouraged to plan on gathering at around 5:00 for dinner at Rudy's BBQ just prior to the meeting. See you then.

Bring a friend!!



## Numismatic History: From Your Editor's "Coin Cabinet"



Your editor enjoys a good story. Honestly it doesn't matter if it is a true story, or just one which is plausible or at the least entertaining, as long as it is a "good story." The one I present to you in this issue of *Your Two Cents Worth* is loosely numismatic in its emphasis and dates from a personal experience of just a few short years ago.

Back in 2007 and 2008 your editor had the privilege of traveling twice, legally I'll add, to Cuba. The purpose of the trip was what our official legal recognition called "humanitarian service." Both trips were "Partner in Mission" based which means they were designed to help the Methodists in Cuba with church construction, Bible school, and through other opportunities to enhance their spiritual lives and in turn to be blessed ourselves in return by sharing time with Christians of another world community. Both times our team passed through Havana on the way to our in-country destination, and both times we stayed at a Methodist retreat center within walking distance of the city center. It was also a very easy stroll to the Hotel Libre (Hotel Freedom), the tallest structure to be found in this vast city's downtown area.

Hotel Libre opened in March of 1958 as part of the Hilton chain. Unfortunately, on January 8, 1959, Fidel Castro and company came riding into town. In a few short months American control and management of the hotel ceased. Castro chose to use the hotel as his initial headquarters. As your editor understands the story much of the formation of the new Cuban government and the division of power amongst the conquerors happened in the hotel.



(Downtown Havana with Hotel Libre shown towering above most other structures)

Today when the hotel is visited there is much to see including a wall of photos showing olive-green fatigue attired men sitting around a common table with Fidel leading a discussion. According to tradition one of the challenges was forming a “cabinet.” Castro did his best to match his fellow workers with the jobs to be done. When it came time to find someone to run the financial end of the government Castro asked the logical question: “¿Quién es un buen economista?” or “who is a good economist?” One of the members of the party, perhaps the most famous outside of Cuba besides Castro, is said to have enthusiastically held up his hand and was given the job of President of the National Bank.

This young man was Ernesto “Che” Guevara. Che’s resume included being a trained doctor, a revolutionary, an author, an intellectual, a guerrilla leader and a basic rebel-rouser. He had no particular educational experience in the world of finance.

So why was Che Guevara so anxious to answer the question of “who is a good economist?” This was the case because, according to the story, which may or may not be true, Che heard another question “¿Quién es un buen comunista?” As the reader can figure this means: “who is a good communist?” which Che considered himself to be. In other words, the closeness between “comunista” and “economista” resulted in appointment as chief financial officer of the new Cuba.

As a result, speaking from a numismatic perspective, the early post-revolutionary currency in Cuba bears the facsimile signature of Che as “Presidente del Banco.” Below is a piece of Cuban currency from the series of 1961 carrying the signature of Dr. Guevara on the left. (That’s ironic isn’t it?) Is the story true? Your editor can’t say. It is, however, an interesting one to tell.



(At top: front of Cuban One Peso note series of 1961. See signature of “Che” just above red “J21.” The image in the middle is that of Jose Martí a poet, writer, nationalist leader and martyr during the time of the Spanish colonial era in Cuba. Below image: features relief of Fidel et al entering Havana in victory on January 8, 1959)