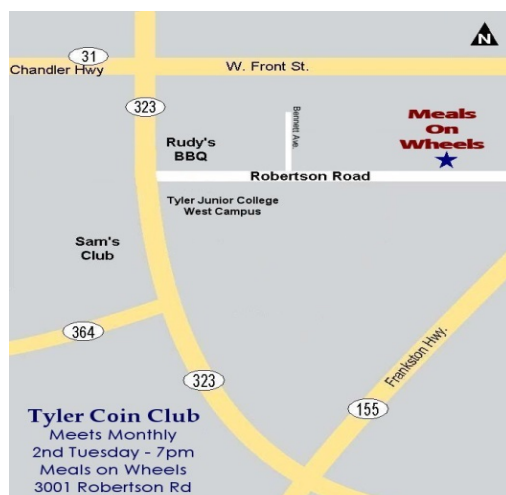


## YOUR TWO CENTS WORTH - NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 2015



**(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. The Club's agenda will always include business and, with the exception of the December meeting, the most spirited numismatic auction in Texas. Special presentations and programs are offered. A friendly welcome is to be had by all. TCC's next meeting is Tuesday December 8, 2015. This gather of the Tyler Coin Club features our annual Christmas dinner.



### A Few Words from the Editor

Your editor had a bit of fun with the coin chosen to flank the club logo at the top of this page. First thing I need to do is share a little background. For two years several decades back I had the privilege to live in the United Kingdom, in the area of Belfast, Northern Ireland. During those years I was able to grasp a bit of the love that many of the Brits have for the royals, especially for QEII also known as Queen Elizabeth the Second. I also recall that it was a cultural norm in the community in which I resided to refer to a person of community stature and positive repute as a “dear one.” This memory played in my mind when I chose to share the coin above.

As you can see, the image at the top of the page is of a Canadian “Loonie,” to be exact it is a 2014 dollar coin. This piece features not only a “dear one” but also “one deer.” Your editor will admit that his sense of humor is rather odd, and for that reason the play on words struck me as interesting at the least. Yet I have another purpose in presenting this creative piece of the engraver's art. It is good to see the Canadian mint embracing the theme of winter and Christmas. Yes, it is that time of year. In a few days the Tyler Coin Club's annual celebratory dinner will take place. All of this means it is time for one final word for the year . . . Your editor wishes all of you “dears” a Merry and Blessed Christmas leading to a prosperous Year 2016.



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

The TCC is coming to the end of another successful year, and I continue to be blessed to be associated with each of you. Just when I think we can't have a better year than the one before, we up and have a better year than the one before. Hallelujah! We've had speakers who have given us an education on Collectible Bank Notes, United States Twenty-Cent Pieces, 20<sup>th</sup> Century Type Coins, World War Two Ration Tokens, and a presentation entitled "Collect the Slab, Not the Coin." We've had two workshops, one on "Coin Grading" and one on "How to Detect Problem Coins." We've had another record-breaking coin show, and we exceeded our goal of \$1500 for the Angel Tree raising \$1700, \$600 more than last year.

The year 2016 will see us with our own "Wooden Nickel" souvenir, more educational speakers at our meetings, another record-breaking coin show, and another workshop...or two.

The TCC is also a family: a family that shares in the same King of Hobbies, a family of friends that love one another, a family that prays for one another, and a family that loves God and the Savior God sent to us and to our world. We are blessed indeed.

I thank each of you for who you are, what and who you represent, and for your continued support of your club officers.

That's it for this 'portion' of "Sowle Food." Until next time, remember: *"I spent the first years of my life spending the coins I'm now buying back"* --- Unknown

God bless!! . . . Dwight

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Tyler Coin Club, November 10, 2015**

Respectfully Submitted by Carl S., Tyler Coin Club Secretary

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

**Attendance:** Members: 29 New Members: 0 Guests: 0 Total: 29

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

- The club was lead in prayer by Richard G.
- Please keep families/friends of Barry, Dick, Aleasha, Dwight, and Charles in your thoughts and prayers.
- Introduction/recognition of guests, visitors, and new members.

- Recognition of members with birthdays and anniversaries in month of November.
- Election of 2016 club officers at December meeting.
- The *Introduction to Detecting Problem Coins* seminar on October 24<sup>th</sup> was a huge success. Members learned how to identify coins with surface alterations including cleaned, tooled, whizzed, repaired, and artificially toned coins. A very special thank you to Lane for a superbly executed and very educational seminar.
- The club Christmas meeting will be Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$15 – Traditions will cater the event at our regular meeting location – Meals on Wheels Building.
- 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.
- Meals on Wheels (MOW) donations for November total \$50.
- Meeting dates for 2016 have been posted on the club website.

### **Salvation Army Angel Tree**

- Tyler Coin Club members donated 39 items to the Angel Tree portion of the November auction raising \$872. Combined with \$640.75 from the October auction plus cash donations, a total of \$1,700.75 was raised for the Salvation Army Angel Tree.

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

- 50 auction items sold - \$1,321.00
- Includes 39 items donated for Angel Tree - \$872.00

### **Door prize winners**

- Andrew, Carl, Paul, Sherry, Todd

### **Refreshments**

- Ray S.

## **Getting to Know You**

### **This month collector and TCC member Dudley V. Tells His Story**

When Richard, our newsletter editor, asked me at our November meeting if I would write something about myself for the “Getting to Know You” column, I was a little apprehensive. The reason that I felt this way was because I know that most of our members are genuine numismatists and collectors and I am so new to this hobby that I didn’t think I would have much to offer in a column.

I have saved a few coins that my grandmother had given me 60 years ago, but that doesn’t make me a collector does it? My father-in-law was a collector for a certain period of his life when he worked in a bank back in the 40’s and 50’s in Oklahoma. My wife inherited these coins and my cousin Larry was good enough to look at all of these coins and he offered several comments about what he saw. I consider Larry as a very knowledgeable person and expert on coins and my wife and I both respect his opinion. Larry had started collecting at a very young age and his reasons for loving the hobby made sense to me i.e. intrinsic value, history, beauty and appreciation for the art of mintage. Larry said that my father-in-laws coins sent him back to the 1940’s and 1950’s as he looked at the coins of that era that were still being circulated.

Larry asked me if I wanted to join the Tyler Coin Club with him about 1-½ years ago and we joined together and I think we have only missed one meeting since being accepted as members.

We enjoy the fellowship and Christian values with the great people at the club each month and really feel welcomed by the other members in the club.

As mentioned previously, I am a beginner and not sure yet where my collecting interest will take me. I may never have the passion for coins that Larry has but I do share with him an appreciation for the history, and beauty of collectable items.

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

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

1. Why are American Silver Eagles .999 silver instead of coin silver (.900 fine)?
2. Did the United States mint ever strike coins at a date earlier than that shown on the coin?
3. What is the difference between a “flan” and a “planchet”?
4. What does “CAC” do for Third Party Graded coins?
5. What is the first gold coin struck in lands that would become the United States?
6. Can copper coins be treated to simulate natural luster?
7. Is this piece a U.S. commemorative coin?



### **Dr. Coyne Responds**

1. American Silver Eagles (ASE) compete in the market with other silver investor “coins.” The others have fineness of .999 or greater. The .999 purity also leads to a smaller physical coin (more compact storage) than would a .900 piece still containing one pure ounce. Since the ASE is not intended to be a circulating coin, the added hardness and durability of a .900 fine composition is not needed.
2. The United States Mint made the entire run of Lafayette commemorative silver dollars, such as the obverse of one pictured at the top of the next page, on December 15, 1899, despite the date of 1900 on the coin. Additionally, for many years the mint has pre-struck proof sets during the fourth quarter of each year so that sets might be available to start shipping on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the new year. The opposite situation, in which coins were issued bearing prior dates, was common in the early days of the mint when dies were used as long as they remained usable.



3. The terms “flan” and “planchet” refer to the same item. The flan terminology is more popular in Europe. Both terms refer to the unstruck disk of metal which becomes a coin only after it is struck by obverse and reverse dies. The U.S. Mint has in recent years greatly decreased its own production of planchets. Now the ingot casting, rolling mills, and blanking to produce planchets takes place at private contractors’ plants, with ready-to-strike planchets being supplied to the mint.
4. CAC (Certified Acceptance Corporation of Far Hills, New Jersey) has made a business of examining coins already certified by PCGS or NGC and providing an opinion on whether the submitted piece is “solid for grade” or not. The CAC decision can be a “green bean” or a “gold bean” or no sticker. The green sticker means CAC thinks the coin is average or better for the grade, and the gold sticker (seldom seen) means CAC thinks the coin is likely to upgrade upon resubmission. Refusal to sticker means that CAC thinks the coin barely makes the grade or does not deserve the grade. But the consumer looking at an individual slab cannot tell whether CAC has refused to sticker, or whether the coin has just not been submitted to the CAC. CAC also maintains a market in coins it has stickered.



(Enlarged copy of Certified Acceptance Corporation sticker which, when applied to an slab coin, indicates that the original grade, in the opinion of the CAC experts, is “average or higher for the grade” designated by the grading service rendering the original examination and declaration.)

5. The earliest gold coin struck in the United States is the Brasher “Doubloon” of 1786. These are styled similarly to Spanish Colonial gold coins struck mainly in Mexico, but produced and “regulated” by Ephraim Brasher (by approval of Congress) and marked by him to indicate satisfactory intrinsic worth. Two major varieties are known today, and both are rare and expensive. The first U.S. mint issues are the 1795 half eagles. The half eagles are a foundation coin for a United States type set, which the Brasher Doubloons only available to a select few collectors.
6. Despite continuing attempts by commercial chemists and home hobbyists, cleaning copper coins to simulate mint luster remains an unfulfilled dream. They seem to invariably come out a sickly pink color with surfaces that are an unconvincing simulation of real mint color. The best advice remains “don’t clean copper coins!” Removal of surface oils and dirt with acetone is usually acceptable.
7. The illustrated piece is a United States commemorative coin of the “classic” half dollar series, 1892 to 1954. This issue commemorates the centennial of the founding of the town of Elgin, Illinois. Its issue was supposed to support funding of the pioneer statue shown on the coin (statue and coin designed by Trygve Rovelstad). But the statue was not completed and installed until 2001. Mintage of this coin is about 20,000.





(Obverse of the Elgin, Illinois commemorative half dollar)

## **Grading for the Rest of Us**

### **Looking at Viewing**

### **Insight from Lane B.**

Numismatics is fun. To add to your enjoyment, it's vital to enhance your skills so you can gain greater appreciation for this wonderful hobby. Sometimes, those skills are complex and require significant time to master, such as grading or counterfeit detection. Other times, the skills are so fundamental that we often don't even think about them as skills, but rather as something that comes to us naturally.

One such skill is how to view a coin. Sure, we all can grab a coin and look at it, but the key is how to look at the coin so that you see more than the casual observer. In recent months we have chatted about lighting and magnification and now it's time to put that knowledge to use while viewing a coin. Below are some steps to consider when viewing a coin for your collection.

First, once you have been given permission by a potential seller, dealer, etc., to examine a coin, be sure to hold the coin by its edge if it's not in a holder. While obvious to many seasoned collectors, new collectors may not appreciate this important first step. Placing your fingers on the obverse or reverse of a coin may cause significant distress to the coin's owner when material from your fingers is transferred to the coin. Fingerprints are the most common reminder of such mishandling. The coin below shows the result of careless handling that appeared several months after a top grading company encapsulated the coin as MS-65.



(A 1993-P Washington quarter graded by the Professional Coin Grading Service (PCGS) as MS-65. There is little doubt that the fingerprints on the obverse appeared after the coin was encapsulated.)

Secondly, place the coin 8 to 12 inches under an appropriate light source. That distance provides enough space to move the coin around and view under magnification. Closer than 8 inches and it can be uncomfortable due to the heat generated by the light source or the angle at which the coin must be viewed to avoid bumping into the light source. Further away and the light becomes more diffuse and may not be bright enough to view the coin properly.

Thirdly, view the coin without magnification. The idea is to develop an impression of the coin before a closer examination is made. Once you have developed your initial impression of the coin, it's time for a closer look. At this point in the process review each part of the coin systematically. The key is to be consistent so you develop a habit in how you review the appearance of a coin.

You can start anywhere on the coin you wish to examine. For our discussion, let's start with the fields and move on from there. The fields are the flat, recessed areas of the coin that

correspond to the high points of the die when the coin is struck.\* Examine the fields to look for marks that may or may not be consistent with the grade.

Certain coins may have more open designs and be more susceptible to marks in the field. Other coins may have more elaborate designs and thus marks in the fields may not be prominent. The fields are also where signs of cleaning or other surface alterations will tend to be most noticeable.

Next let's move onto the devices. These are the raised parts of the coin, such as stars, lettering, date, and the portrait or other design elements. Opposite of the fields, the devices are sunk into the die and thus are raised on the struck coin. Examine the devices for marks and signs of wear or mishandling. The most important devices, from a grading perspective, are the central devices such as the portrait, shield, or other main design element.

Let's now review the rim of the coin. It is raised above the coin's field, but unlike the devices, the rim tends to reveal marks and signs of handling more readily. That is likely due to the simplicity of the design relative to many of the elaborate central devices on collectible coins. The rim is usually the highest part of the coin so it is often the first part of the coin to receive contact. Carefully examine the rim for marks from interactions with other coins or from circulation. Prominent marks on the rim of a coin can significantly reduce the value of a coin.

With the fields, devices, and rim evaluated, take another look at the coin in quadrants. This technique allows you to review the fields, devices, and rim in context with each other on that region of the coin.

Now that we have completed one side of the coin, it's time to repeat the above steps on the other side of the coin.

Finally, if it is possible, evaluate the edge of the coin. The edge is often neglected. In fact, it was only in the last few years that the major grading companies changed their holders so that the edges can be viewed with relative ease. Viewing the edge is also important if you collect early 19<sup>th</sup> century coins as the edges on many series were plain or lettered and marks or other damage to the edge of the coin may be more apparent than with coins that are reeded.

When you view your coins, remember to rotate and rock the coin to allow the light to reflect from different angles and positions on the coin. Be sure to change the coin's orientation so that you don't only look at the coin with the coin in the traditional position (e.g., date at the bottom). And finally, be sure to use your close examination to reaffirm or refute your initial impression.

Viewing your coins is fun. It's also a skill that can be better developed each time you share your coins with others.

\*Note: Coins that are an exception to this rule are the United States Indian Head Quarter Eagle and Half Eagle. On these coins, the field is the high point on the coin and the devices are in relief below the surface of the coin.

## **Upcoming Collector Opportunities**

**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

**Cowtown Coin Show** – January 22 – 24 . . . Forest Hill Convention Center – 6901 Wichita St., Forest Hill, Texas (Also April 15 – 17)

**Texas Coin Show** – January 29 – 31 . . . Grapevine Convention Center – 1209 S. Main, Grapevine, Texas (Also April 22 – 24 and June 17 – 19)

**Fort Worth Coin Show** – February 26 – 28 . . . Forest Hill Convention Center – 690- Wichita St., Forest Hill, Texas

**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, December 8, 2015. See you at 7:00 p.m. Come enjoy a positive numismatic experience, along with great fellowship and, at every meeting except the one in December, the most spirited numismatic auction in Texas. The Tyler Coin Club's December meeting will focus upon our traditional "Traditions" Christmas family dinner.

## **A Visit to Your Editor's "Coin Cabinet"**



Hello Friends . . . back a few years ago when I was living in the other extreme part of East Texas, aka Southeast Texas, within "spitting" distance of the Gulf Coast and a few close miles to the nation of Louisiana, a friend who was also a numismatist and a fellow member of the Port Arthur Coin Club presented me with the medal above as a Christmas remembrance.

There are a few things I can say about this piece; it is one HUGE hunk of bronze, there is a pleasing patina present, and every time I pull this out of its protective box, generally at this time of the year, I find myself studying the imagery and noting something new on the medal's field.

Obviously this is a sculpture's personalized vision of the Nativity of Christ. Just about everything and everybody who is part of the first Christmas event is present. Note at the left Mary and Joseph along with a somewhat oversized infant Jesus. A stylized star provides brilliance and guidance. Around the edges one can observe a pair of farm animals along with a couple of pint-sized angels. The image on the right displays the traditional three "wise men" otherwise known as "Magi" who saw the star "in the east" and came to worship. Once again the Christmas star is present as it dominates the near sky over Bethlehem. The only significant element missing from the design are the shepherds. I often wonder if there is another such medal with their amazement highlighted.



Of course this medal carries the observer back to the joy of the Christmas season. Truth is this sculpture in miniature demonstrates a mixture from the two primary places in which the birth narrative of Jesus is found. The side pictured on the right comes directly from the Gospel of Matthew, found in chapter 2, verses 1 and 2. Even though Biblical historians can't vouch for exactly three "Magi" the association with the three gifts of the season lead scriptural enthusiasts and artists alike to portray a trio. Matthew tells the story this way: "After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.'"

The image on the left appears in Luke's Gospel, chapter 2. It is Luke who brings to the classic nativity scene such familiar material as the accounting which brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem, the subsequent overbooking at the inn, and the birth in a manger. As a reminder, here are the details as found in Luke 2: 6 forward . . . "While they were there (Bethlehem, inn, manger, etc.) the time came for the baby to be born, and Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room in the inn."

A few final words from your editor as we come to end of another year: Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, whichever fits your expectation and your faith experience. For sure I wish you all a Happy New Year. I pray that 2016 will be a blessed year for each of you. I look forward to sharing time with you, my fellow Tyler Coin Club numismatic enthusiasts and friends, as we cross the invisible time line which leads us from 2015 into 2016.

Oh yes, one more thought; I focus once again on the medal at the right above. I know this is overused and in some ways quite cliché, but still a significant insight: "Wise men still seek him." (And "wise women," too.)

'Nuf for now. See you all next year.

Regards and God Bless . . . Richard (aka "your editor")



(Your editor doesn't have the Shepherds on a medal or coin but does have this image from an old Christmas card. It is fitting to give those who were "out in the field keeping watching over their flocks by night," their due during this season of the year. It is my prayer that their joy is your joy.)