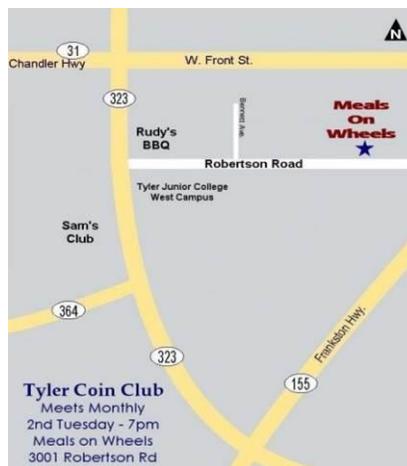


YOUR TWO CENTS WORTH FOR NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2017



(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. Even though our current location is the Meals on Wheels Building on Robertson Road for the December meeting, the members and friends of the club will gather for a Christmas dinner and celebration at the Golden Corral Restaurant located at 5601 S. Broadway, south of the Loop. See you there on Tuesday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m. May you and yours experience a peaceful, remarkable, positive, blessed, happy, outstanding, and overall wonderful holiday season.



THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

As some of you all may already know, and as many of you have already done for yourselves, it is my plan to enter the retirement world in just a few months. Even though the exact date is not in place, it'll be sometime during June or July of next year. I can affirm what the old song says; "so close and yet so far away." In the mean time this upcoming relocation has provided for me the unenviable task of sorting, tossing, and the worst of all, of justification; explaining to myself and to my wife WHY whatever it is that has been buried away from all these years should be kept and not put on the curb or donated to some person assisting organization.

The process also gives me time to look back and to explore all of the memories which are sitting in front of me in a box or on the floor. Associations with people, memories of positive and negative experiences, failures and successes, all of these and more are brought to life in the mind. I am finding that my "stuff" is serving as a bridge to times past as well as a reminder of how the most important "things" in life are not what you can hold in your hands but what you keep in your heart and mind. Paramount among these is relationships and memories of the same.

In my own life's experience I am thankful for those who have enhanced my life. Y'all are on the list, you members and friends of the Tyler Coin Club. For this, your editor thanks you.



NUMISMATIC NOTES

Thoughts from Our President Lane B.

Another year is coming to an end and the time has certainly gone by very quickly. This has been another wonderful year for the Tyler Coin Club and much of the accolades go to our immediate past President, Dwight. His “sowleful” leadership (sorry, I just couldn’t resist) over many, many years has made a great coin club even better. Of course, he did not do this alone. The other officers who dedicate so much time and do so much behind the scenes keep our club running smooth.

December brings with it a time of transition and growth for our club. It’s time for the annual nomination and election of officers to serve the club for the next calendar year. This election cycle Barry, our dedicated Treasurer, is not seeking reelection so it will be an opportunity for another club member to answer the call to volunteer. We also have been growing as a club. Our membership is at 125 members and we routinely have over 40 active members attend each meeting. Our wonderful “Meals on Wheels” location is getting a little snug and soon it will be tough for all of us to fit! Perhaps it’s time for us to think about a location with a bit more room and one that is more economical for the club.

If you are not able to join the Tyler Coin Club for our December Christmas dinner, then I would like to extend warm wishes for you and your family and friends this holiday season. May you be blessed with all the possible wonders of our great world this Christmas.

I thought I would share a humorous, politically-correct Christmas greeting that was first sent to me many, many years ago ... its silliness always puts a smile on my face.

Please accept with no obligation, implied or implicit, my best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, low stress, non-addictive, gender neutral, celebration of the winter solstice holiday, practiced within the most enjoyable traditions of the religious persuasion of your choice, or secular practices of your choice, with respect for the religious / secular persuasions and/or traditions of others, or their choice not to practice religious or secular traditions at all, and a fiscally successful, personally fulfilling, and medically uncomplicated recognition of the onset of the generally accepted calendar year 2018, but not without due respect for the calendars of choice of other cultures whose contributions to society have helped make this planet great, [not to imply that this planet is necessarily greater than any other planet or is the only planet in the known or unknown universe], and without regard to the race, creed, color, age, physical ability, religious faith, choice of computer platform, or sexual preference of the wishee.

DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTABILITY:

[By accepting this greeting, you are accepting these terms. This greeting is subject to clarification or withdrawal and is freely transferable with no alteration to the original greeting. It implies no promise by the wisher to actually implement any of the wishes for her/him/itself or others, and is void where prohibited by law, and is revocable at the sole discretion of the wisher. This wish is warranted to perform as expected within the usual application of good tidings for a period of one year, or until the issuance of a subsequent holiday greeting, whichever comes first, and warranty is limited to replacement of this wish or issuance of a new wish at the sole discretion of the wisher.]

TCC Member of the Month



TYLER COIN CLUB MEMBER: DAVID H.

Personal History

- Married to Sherry
- 4 Kids
- 11 Grandkids
- Own and operate a remodeling company
- Like to spend time with grandkids
- Like to go to coin shows

Collecting History

- Started collecting about ten years ago
- It is the fault of Bill Corbin and Tom Bennington

Favorites

- Type coins
- Unique exonomia
- Silver commemoratives
- Most especially a good coin story

Best Practice

- Buy the key first

Minutes of the Meeting of the Tyler Coin Club **October 10, 2017**

Respectfully Submitted by: Carl S., TCC Secretary

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

Attendance: Members: 36 New Members: 1 Guests: 1 **Total: 38**

Discussion of Agenda Items (Lane)

- The club was lead in prayer by Dwight S.
- Introduction/recognition of guests, visitors, and new members.
- Recognition of members with birthdays and anniversaries in month of November.
- Aleasha presented members with final details for the Annual Christmas Dinner
- December 12th – Golden Corral, 5601 S. Broadway.
- Lane distributed the 2018 prayer leader & refreshment signup sheet to members.
- Barry presented a brief Treasurer's report to members.

- David H. discussed details of the 2018 coin show (see below).
- The floor was opened for nomination of 2018 club officers (current Treasurer is not running.)
- Election of club officers will be held at the December 12th meeting.
- Lane discussed future meeting location options; reviewing both financial considerations and growth in club membership.
- Meals on Wheels (MOW) donations for November - \$60.

2018 Show Update (David H.)

- Show dates: Friday, June 22nd and Saturday, June 23rd
- Venue: Harvey Hall Convention Center
- David discussed additional details including expenses, advertising, volunteers, committee members, raffle, and sponsorships

Club Auction (Tom)

- 9 regular auction items sold - \$203.00
- 37 Angel Tree auction items sold - \$1,453.40

Door prize winners

- Ed, John, Lane, and Royce

Refreshments

- A big Thank You to Don H. for providing refreshments!

Grading for the Rest of Us offered by Lane B **Using Specific Gravity Testing for Authentication**



Inherent in grading coins is the fundamental understanding that the coin is deemed authentic before it is graded. If the coin has been altered or is a counterfeit, then its grade is not really relevant. However, if we rush to grade a coin without considering authenticity first, we may overlook some very well made counterfeit coins that have been entering the marketplace over the last several years. In addition to the appropriate diagnostics for the coin type, there is an easy test that can be done to test a coin's composition. The test compares the density of a coin relative to the density of a standard substance, namely water.

The test measures the specific gravity of the coin. The specific gravity (SG) is the ratio of density of the test coin to the density of water. Pure metals and alloys have known values for SG and thus the SG of a coin can be compared with the known values to determine whether or not the composition is correct.

Here's how the test is done: You will need a good quality scale, which can measure weight to a tenth or hundredth of a gram, cup in to hold water, and a way to suspend the coin in the water so that nothing touches the cup or balance. See the image below.



The SG apparatus above consists of a scale, a plastic container filled with water, a scaffold to suspend the coin, and a piece of plastic-coated wire bent to suspend the coin in the water without touching the sides or bottom of the beaker.

Steps to Measure Specific Gravity

Step 1: Weigh the coin on the balance. Record the weight as the “dry weight.”

Step 2: Fill the container with water so that the coin can be fully submerged when suspended.

Step 3: Place the water-filled container on the balance.

Step 4: Without the coin in the suspending wire, place the wire attached to the scaffold into the water.

Step 5: Zero the balance with the suspending wire in place. This way, when the coin is placed into the suspending wire, the only difference will be the weight of the coin in the water.

Step 6: Carefully place the coin in the suspending wire and lower into the water. Be sure not to spill any water.

Step 7: Record the weight of the suspended coin. Record the weight at the “wet weight.”

Step 8: Divide the “dry weight” by the “wet weight” and record the value. This value is the SG.

Step 9: Look up the SG value of your coin in a table of known SG values for the composition of the coin you are testing.

I recently purchased some silver rounds on eBay and one of rounds just didn't seem authentic. Below is an image of both rounds. The Buffalo round was a new production silver round in the very popular design of the Buffalo nickel. The other silver round is a classic Silver Trade Unit struck in 1981.



Pictured on the page just before are two silver rounds recently purchased on eBay. One is authentic and one is counterfeit. Although the weight of the counterfeit round was well below 31.1 grams (the weight of an authentic silver 1 oz round), the SG made it fairly clear it was plated with silver.

SG testing was done on both pieces. It was clear the Buffalo round was not pure silver just based on its “dry weight” alone. However, the SG testing gave some insight into what its composition might be. Below is a table with the results of the SG testing.

SG Testing Results for Two Silver 1 oz Rounds

	Buffalo	Silver Trade Unit
Dry Weight	24.515 g	31.133 g
Wet Weight	3.393 g	2.962 g
SG	7.23	10.51

The SG for the Silver Trade Unit was very close to the known SG value for pure silver. The SG for the Buffalo round was well below the SG for silver and closer to that for bronze. The seller was contacted and the Buffalo round was returned. Interestingly, the Buffalo round was housed in a thick plastic capsule that helped mask its light weight.

Be sure to test those questionable silver rounds and bars. There has been a recent influx of fake 10 oz Engelhard poured bars that are rumored to be available on eBay. Authentic Engelhard poured bars are highly sought after which makes them an easy target for silver bullion counterfeiters.

The table below lists the SG for many materials relevant to coinage (and detecting counterfeit coins).

Table of Selected SG Values

Material	Specific Gravity
Copper	8.96
Bronze (~14% tin)	7.4
Gold	19.32
Lead	11.34
Manganese	7.43
Nickel	8.90
Palladium	12.02
Platinum	21.45
Silver	10.49
Zinc	7.13
Sterling Silver (0.925)	10.36
US Coin Silver – 90%	10.31
US Coin Silver – 40%	9.52

Data from: *CRC Materials Science and Engineering Handbook*, 3rd Ed., James F. Shackelford and William Alexander, CRC Press, 2000

ASM Metals Reference Book, 3rd Ed., Michael Baucchio, ASM International, 1993

NUMISMATIC EDUCATION

A Visit with Dr. Coyne

Questions for Dr. Coyne

- 1) Is a “wire edge” the same thing as a “knife edge”?
- 2) When did Mexico most recently revalue its Peso by 1000 times?
- 3) Is palladium a U.S. coinage metal?
- 4) What U.S. coin denomination has mintage in the most years?
- 5) What is a coin “brockage”?
- 6) Was there any US Federal paper money issued between the Revolution and 1862?
- 7) Is this piece a U.S. coin?



Dr. Coyne Responds

- 1) A “wire edge” on a coin or medal is the same as a “knife edge” or “fin”. This undesirable result of striking in a coin press comes about whenever the planchet has too much metal, striking pressure is too high, and there is too large a gap between the collar and the edge of the die which moves down within the collar at the moment of striking. In medal production, such an irregularly shaped flange of excess metal can be trimmed off post-striking. But on production coinage, that additional step would involve too much work to be practical. Popular coins which often come with a wire edge include the 1907 High Relief \$20 pieces.
- 2) The Bank of Mexico introduced a new currency on January 1, 1993. The nuevo peso ("new peso", or MXN), written "N\$" before the numerical amount. One new peso, or N\$1.00, was equal to 1000 of the obsolete MXP peso. The government printed new currency with the smallest note having a value of 10 pesos and the largest with a value of 1000 pesos. At first, they carried a prefix N for nuevo but after 1996 they stopped printing the N. Most people now just call it the peso. Devaluations of a currency aimed at changing exchange rates versus an outside currency are a different matter. Mexico has endured a series of devaluations: 1976, 1982, and 1994 were the largest.
- 3) Palladium was used for the first time as a U.S. coinage metal for the 2017 \$25 denominated bullion coin. These hit the market in the last month and are selling on internet auctions at prices over the issue price. The obverse design is based on A.A. Weinman’s classic liberty head from the 1916 dime, and the reverse has a bold eagle.

4) The one-cent coin has been issued in the most years. Cents are available bearing the date of every year from 1793 to 2017, except 1815. Other denominations have gaps in their minting history, usually dictated by the size of supplies on hand versus demand. The fifty cent coin is runner-up.

5) A brockage is a coin with an error in striking which results in a normal obverse paired with an incuse and reversed obverse on the other side of the coin, or alternately and seemingly about as likely, a normal reverse paired with a reversed and incuse reverse on the other side. Both types result when a normally struck coin fails to eject from the coining chamber, a fresh planchet is introduced to the coinage chamber, and the stack of two is struck in the press, followed by ejection of the 2-coin stack. These are most often seen on Large Cents, but also come on other series.

6) The era of private bank notes was in its heyday from about 1830 to 1861. The old Continental Currency notes had been heavily depreciated (but some redeemed), and large scale federal issues began in 1861 to finance the Civil War. Some would say the Treasury Notes of 1815, issued to help finance the War of 1812, would qualify as federal notes, but they seem not intended to circulate hand-to-hand as did the later regular issues.

7) The illustrated piece is a U.S. coin. It is Shield Nickel of 1876, showing a nicely repunched date. The whole coin is shown below. The 2-cent coin has a similar design, but it was not being coined as late as 1876. If you are a sharp-eye collector, you may detect artificial toning and whizzing on this coin. It is in a “details” holder.



Upcoming Collector Opportunities

Tri County Lakes Coin Show – January 12 – 14 . . . Hot Springs Convention Center – 134 Convention Blvd., Hot Springs, Arkansas

Houston Money Show – January 19 – 20 . . . Lone Star Convention Center (Yes there is such a place – but not in Tyler) – 9055 Airport Road at FM 3083, Conroe, Texas

Cowtown Coin Show – January 26 – 27 . . . Forest Hill Civic and Convention Center – 6910 Wichita St., Forest Hill, Texas (Also April 6 -7, June 29 – 30)

Texas Coin Show – February 2 – 4 . . . Grapevine Convention Center – 1209 S. Main, Grapevine, Texas (Also April 20 – 22, July 20 – 22, September 28 – 30, November 16 – 18, December 14 – 16)

American Numismatic Association’s National Money Show – March 8 – 10 . . . Irving Convention Center – 500 Las Colinas Blvd W., Irving, Texas

Texarkana Coin Show – March 30 – 31 . . . Texarkana Convention Center – 4610 Cowhorn Creek Dr., Texarkana, Texas

Our Next Time Together

The Tyler Coin Club will meet again on Tuesday, December 12, for our last gathering in 2017.

See you at 7:00 p.m. Our December meeting will be the club's annual Christmas Dinner and Celebration. Instead of the usual location members and friends will gather at the Golden Corral Restaurant located at 5601 South Broadway. See you there.

Watch for details concerning a new meeting location for the other eleven months of the year.

A Christmas Inspired Visit to Your Editor's Coin Cabinet

Amazing, isn't it, how we have made it so far in such a short time. Here we are closing in on the end of a year and getting ready to greet the start of another. The good news is that the New Year experience gives all of us time to assess where we have been, where we would like our focus to be in the future, and how we choose to take steps to accomplish the change in direction from where we are to the best plan for each of our futures.

In the time right before the transition on the calendar we have the joy of passing through Christmas, and the days in which we remember how God has chosen to be with us, to show signs of love and respect, the time in which a large percentage of the world's population honors the coming of Christ.

So it is my thought here once again to end our year of newsletter publication with a personal word of thanks. It is my joy to be part of this great club family. I wish you all a remarkable Holiday / Christmas experience (your choice) with the happiest New Year ever to follow.



(The medal above comes from one of my favorite medalists. Cabral Antunes, a native of Portugal, lived from 1916 to 1986. His topic base is diverse but, as far as your editor is concerned, his strongest the medals he prepared annually for the celebration of Christmas. The one above was produced for Christmas 1974. Your editor appreciates the side featuring the nativity but really enjoys the depth of expression on the faces of the "wise men" on the other side.)