



YOUR TWO CENTS WORTH
NEWSLETTER OF THE TYLER, TEXAS
COIN CLUB
NOVEMBER, 2011

The Tyler, Texas Coin Club usually meets on the **Second Tuesday of each month** with meeting beginning at **7:00 p.m.** Location is the **west campus of Tyler Junior College** – 1530 SSW Loop 323. Club members and friends gather starting at 6:30 for fellowship and refreshments. Meeting agenda will always include business and the most spirited auction in Texas. Special presentations and programs are often offered. A friendly welcome is to be had by all. The club's next scheduled meeting is **Friday, December 16th**. Please note; this gathering is our annual Christmas Dinner which will take place at "Spring Creek BBQ." (5810 S. Broadway in Tyler)



A Few Words from the Editor

Friends . . . this time your editor has a word of thanks to all of you. As you may have noted I was unable to be in attendance at our October meeting. The reason, as Dwight shared with you, was the fact my wife was having some rather aggressive cancer related surgery over at Baylor Hospital in Dallas. As an update I can say the surgery went much better than we expected. The medical staff at Texas Oncology is remarkable. Even though we are still waiting for a few more details about what is to follow we know we are in the best place and we are looking forward to a great future. Please accept my thanks for your prayers and kind words. I look forward to being with you all at the December meeting.

“Sowle Food”
Thoughts from President Dwight



“The Five State East Texas Regional Coin and Currency Expo” is now history. Can you believe the Tyler Coin Club has now hosted three – count them 1,2,3 – coin shows in the last fifteen months? Putting it in that perspective, it’s hard for me to believe it, but we did. What we missed in number (quantity) in attendance, we made up for in sales (quality.) One coin went for \$9,500 cash, several dealers said they did five (5) figures in sales, and the ones who did so-so said they still enjoyed themselves and spoke well of our hospitality. As a matter of fact, everyone I spoke to, whether I approached them or they approached me, said they were very impressed with our hospitality and the manner in which we conduct a show. A very prominent dealer said, and I quote, “The Tyler Coin Club puts on a show and conducts itself better than any show I have attended by far,” and he does shows from coast to coast. Special thanks to be given to our Bourse Chairman Barry for another **OUTSTANDING** job in pulling off this show. Barry, you **OUTDID** yourself.

The other officers join me in saying thank you, Tyler Coin Club. You worked hard and showed your enjoyment in helping us put on a quality show for our hobby and the numismatic community. And, to God be the Glory.

I’m looking forward to seeing you along with your spouses and other family members at our annual December Dinner / Meeting. We will meet at Spring Creek Bar-B-Q on Friday evening, December 16th at 6:30 (you can get there earlier if you like.) Go through the line and join us in the private room for an evening of Christmas cheer as we bring another year to a close.

Until then, I wish you and your family a happy Thanksgiving Holiday, and leave you with this thought:

So once in every year we throng
Upon a day apart,
To praise the Lord with feast and song
In thankfulness of heart
-Arthur Guiterman, *The First Thanksgiving*

Getting to Know You . . . Personal Numismatic Story

This month collector Horst tells his “How I Got into Coin Collecting” story

In the spring of 1964 I got married to my lovely French wife, Isabelle. For our first Christmas together she surprised me with a very unusual gift, a Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle gold coin for \$56. I got so enchanted with this shiny beautiful coin that every time I had \$56 saved up I bought another one. Over the next 2 to 3 years I accumulated at least one dozen, never paying more than \$56 per coin. At that time the coin dealer in Dallas on Main St., I forgot his name, advised me to invest in silver rather than in gold coins because I had not earned a dime with all my gold coins. Around 1967 I started buying silver dollars at about \$3 to \$4 a piece for uncirculated Morgan’s. Later I started collecting type coins and foreign coins. I bought whatever had eye appeal to me such as Japanese, Mexican, German and Canadian coins. I still have some of those coins with book values of \$150 to \$200, for which I paid a quarter! For advice in coin collecting I suggest buying quality coins in XF+ with a value of \$5 or more because through the years better grade coins have appreciated in value much more than the cheaper coins.

Minutes from Tyler Coin Club Meeting held on Tuesday November 8th, 2011

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

Attendance

- | | |
|--------------------|----|
| • Members present: | 30 |
| • Guests present: | 3 |
| • Total Present | 33 |
| • New Members | 1 |

Discussion of Agenda Items (Dwight)

- Introduction / recognition of guests, visitors, and new members
- Recognition of members with birthdays and anniversaries in month of November
- Mentor sign-up sheet (to help new members) was circulated; members please denote your area of expertise
- Please keep Richard and your family in your prayers
- Working on arrangements for road trip to *The Texas Exhibit* sponsored by the Dallas Historical Society (Planned for Saturday, December 3rd)
- Nominations of Officers for 2012; please let Dwight know of any nominations other than current officers
- 501 (c) 3 application – tabled until after show
- Next spring the club will enter *Your Two Cents Worth* in the TNA and ANA newsletter contests
- December dinner / meeting with families – discussed options; club voted to hold meeting at Spring Creek on Friday, December 16th

Club Show Update (Barry)

- Dwight read proclamation from Mayor Barbara Bass supporting the coin show
- Barry discussed progress on coin show, asked for additional volunteers for various activities, discussed food service aspects of show, and such

Club Auction (Tom)

- 20 auction lots sold (includes donated items) - \$887.25
- 1 donated auction item sold - \$25.00
- 2 auction lots passed

Door Prize Winners

- Randy, John, Todd, Ronnie

Refreshments

- Howard

Respectfully submitted by: Carl Shotts, Club Secretary



(Familiar Faces at the Tyler Coin Club Show)

Numismatic Education – From Dr. Coyne

Questions for Dr. Coyne:

- 1) On a medal, where is the cartouche? What is a cartouche anyway?
- 2) How does one distinguish a genuine Seated Liberty Half Dollar from a fake?
- 3) Did the U.S. mint ever strike coins for Cuba?
- 4) When were Mr. and Mrs. A. I. Martin active collectors in Houston?
- 5) What countries show prominent volcanoes on their coins?
- 6) Are there any 90% silver Eisenhower Dollars?

Dr. Coyne responds:

1) This somewhat obscure vocabulary word is neatly explained in a note in the E-Sylum (the free online weekly journal of the National Bibliomania Society, Wayne Homren, editor):

Answer: It's a panel intended for lettering. In a "medallic" design it is an area purposely left open. The area is called a "reserve." But it's a cartouche when it has a border surrounding the open area. Lettering can be in the die, or if left open it can be inscribed later within the cartouche after the piece is struck. As such a cartouche is particularly useful for an award medal as it aids in customizing the medal by inscribing a recipient's name, date, and often, details of the award.

A cartouche can be any shape, usually rectangular or square, or even contained in a ribbon. Originally it came from a scroll, with rolled edges, but evolved into a tablet-like shape, and later in simpler forms.

A cartouche is often the location for an "insert die" carrying lettering. The insert leaves a minute gap surrounding it. This is usually just inside the border of the cartouche.

Collectors encounter medals both inscribed, or "un-inscribed cartouche" -- without any lettering therein. Really cheap organizations bestow un-inscribed medals with the instructions for the recipient to have his jeweler engrave the appropriate inscription (but this seldom occurs).

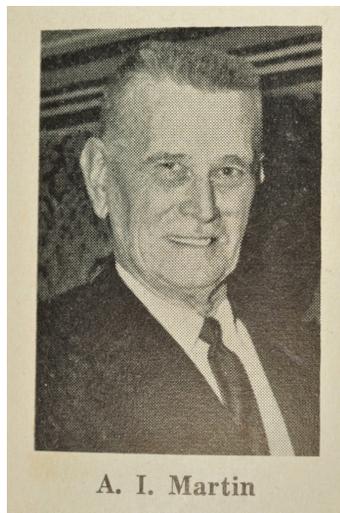


2) Seated Liberty Half Dollar fakes made to pass in circulation (not to fool collectors) are almost always cast rather than struck. Therefore they will show the classic signs of castings: a slightly grainy surface, mushy details, and a repaired edge where the sprue for pouring in the molten metal was removed. Casts also do not "ring" like struck coins. Since the metal shrinks slightly as it cools, they are often undersized when compared to the genuine coin.



3) The U.S. mint struck many coins for foreign countries from 1855 to about 1991. Issues for Cuba began with those of 1915 -- made in Philadelphia. Cuba, embroiled in civil unrest for over 150 years, has been minting their own coins since the Cuban Mint was established in 1977. Prior to 1977, Spain, the United States, and Eastern European countries were the primary producers of Cuban coinage. Since 1977, Cuba has minted thousands of commemorative coins along with coinage for circulation. Since 1950, the Banco Nacional de Cuba (National Bank of Cuba) has had responsibility for issuing Cuban coinage.

4) Mr. A.I. Martin was active in Texas collecting circles around the middle of the twentieth century. He was president of GHCC during the early 1960s. His enduring legacy was his work (and that of his wife Doris) in bringing the ANA summer convention to Houston in 1965. He was general chairman and Doris was publicity chairman. An exhibit medal won by Doris at the same convention is now in private hands in Dallas.



5) Coming first to mind among coins showing volcanoes are the 1/4, 1/2, 1, 2, 4, and 8 real silver pieces of the Central American Republic (1823-39). Some of the areas that made up the C.A.R., including Nicaragua, later adopted similar motifs for issues continuing almost to the present time. The Philippines peso of 1905 has a single smoking volcano. The scarce issues of the Coquimbo Mint (Chile) also show one.

6) There are no 90% silver Eisenhower Dollars. The early Ike's in 1971-74 were clad (for circulation) or silver clad (averaging 40% for collector versions). The Bicentennial Ike's from 1975-76 (though all are dated 1776-1976) came in the same copper-nickel clad and silver clad versions. After the bicentennial, the 1977 and 1978 issues were all CN clad. The first 90% silver coin made by the US mint after 1965 would be the commemorative half dollars of 1982 showing George Washington on his horse on the obverse and Mt. Vernon on the reverse.



(President Dwight and friends at the Tyler Coin Club Show)

Upcoming Collector Events

Pasadena Club Coin Show – November 25th – 27th – Houston Hobby Marriott Hotel – 9100 Gulf Freeway, Houston, Texas

Greater Houston Coin Club's Money Show of the Southwest – December 1st – 3rd – George R. Brown Convention Center – 1001 Avenida de Las Americas – Houston, Texas

Coin Club Trip to the Texas Exhibit at Fair Park in Dallas – Saturday, December 3rd – information to follow

Christmas Coin Show – Lockheed Martin Recreation Center – 3400 S. Bryant Irvin Rd., Fort Worth, Texas

Texas Coin Show – December 16th – 18th – Grapevine Convention Center – 1209 Main St., Grapevine, Texas

Next Time Together

The Tyler Coin Club will meet again on **Friday, December 16th**. This will be our annual Christmas celebration and dinner. Family and friends are invited to attend. The scheduled location is “Spring Creek.” President Dwight will be sending details in the near future. See you then.

Until Then . . . a Piece of History for your Consideration And Edification



(A set of the Cuban Tourist of “Conversion” coins – good nowhere in the world except Cuba)

Just about every time I read through Dr. Coyne's material I come away with a variety of new insights and on occasion a few happy memories. A couple of months ago, for example, I commented on Bob Medlar's shop over in San Antonio. Last month's article caused me to remember a visit to the U.K. where I was able to see, in the national numismatic collection, a copy of the scarce three pence piece from the limited reign of Edward VIII. This month I'm focusing upon Dr. Coyne's response concerning coins of Cuba minted here in the United States.

It was your editor's privilege to spend some time in Cuba. In order to protect myself right off here I'll let you all know I was there legally as part of a humanitarian team. One of the highlights for me was the opportunity to spend time in and around Havana. The days in Havana were mostly tourist based whereas our primary work was in the Pinar del Rio region. On our first visit, during our brief stay in Havana, I was able to convince a fellow traveler of the importance of seeing the Cuban numismatic collection which, at the time, was located in a mid-Twentieth Century bank building, one of the few places in Cuba where air conditioning can be found.

The first thing which struck me was the overall lack of original Cuban material in the collection. There were a few pieces from the Colonial era, and a nice gathering from the late Nineteenth Century forward. The museum hosted a shop where collectible coins from the Cuban mint could be purchased. I chose not to invest in any collector coins because of the risk of confiscation upon my return to the United States. I did decide, at the time, I would later purchase a piece of Cuba's coin history. The result was the acquisition, here in the States, of a classic Cuban gold coin,

such as the one pictured below. As you probably know the importation of items from Cuba is severely and officially frowned upon by the United States government.



The most interesting aspect of the journey from the standpoint of a student of numismatics was the fact that at the time the Cuban financial system was based on, are you ready for this? . . . The United States Dollar. Everybody was delighted to have "Greenbacks." Now since the time of my most recent visit, about four years ago, the currency of choice has shifted from United States Dollars to Canadian Dollars. The Cuban government claimed the reason was political. I have a hunch it was actually practical and financial.

Another odd fact was the use of the exchange or "conversion" coins. Essentially Cuba has two financial standards; the Cuba Peso and the Tourist Dollar. Even though U.S. Dollars were acceptable at the time, any cent change was made in these "tourist" coins, which are good nowhere else in the world, except Cuba.

I consider myself fortunately to have had the chance to be part of the Cuban culture, albeit for just a brief while. The museum was an interesting visit. I understand that the collection has since been relocated to a pre-1900 structure in Havana and has been expanded.

Thanks for your time and interest in reading this far and thanks also to Dr. Coyne for giving me cause to once again reflect upon a few memories.