

# Tyler Coin Club

Five State Coin and Currency Super Show @ Tyler

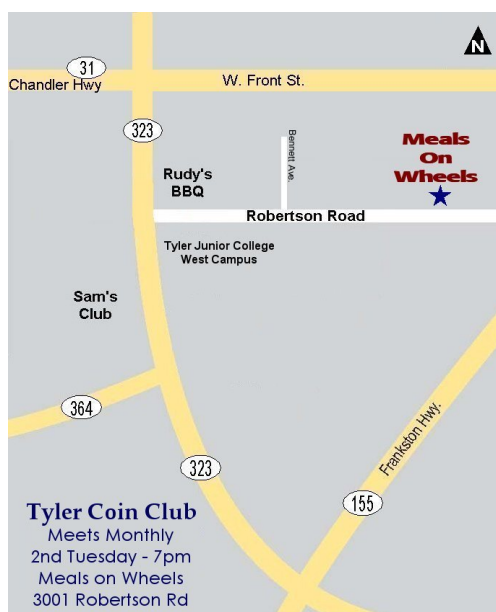
Your

info@tylercoinclub.org



## (Newsletter of the Tyler Coin Club for December, 2012)

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 occasionally offered. A friendly welcome is to be had by all. TCC's January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting will start the club's 2013 year. See you then, if not before. In the mean time: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!!!



## A Few Words from the Editor

Well Friends we have successfully navigated through another year together. Looking back over the past twelve months I know we are all thankful for the joys we have shared together. We have participated in twelve meetings, eleven auctions, celebrated the success of another great coin show, experienced a few programs and Show and Tell Times, collected who knows how many moments of quality business items, and enjoyed each other's company at that!! Couple this with the chance to volunteer not only at our own show but also at a first class American Numismatic Association event, and at the annual Texas Numismatic Association Show and we have a complete, and marvelous year. Club membership and attendance are both up over this same time last year. Our Christmas celebration and meal was a real joy. What could be better? Well, the chance to do it all over again . . . and more . . . as we head into 2013!!

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



(Your editor's favorite picture of President Dwight – taken by Carl S. at the club Christmas celebration last year.)

The year 2012 is almost over. **WOW!** I cannot believe it is December again! At my age, I can agree with the old adage; “Time flies when you’re having fun.” And being a member of the TCC is so much fun – “How much fun is it Dwight?” - More fun than a witch in a broom factory. LOL I know it’s not original. But it **IS** true. As with the years before, 2012 has been fun, profitable and enjoyable. The TCC had 11 new members this year, we are just weeks away from our 501 (c) 3 classification, we hosted another show (that makes 4 in 3 years,) and we are in our 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting location in 4 years because of growth. God has blessed us again this year, and I can’t wait to see what He has in store for us in 2013.

The question I have heard a lot lately is, “Will the coin market improve now that the election is over?” You know, the market may drop, it may boom, or it may be like a roller coaster. Who knows? But I feel confident in saying the metals will not only rally, but will reach new heights. Sure, a lot may ride on how the fiscal cliff is handled. Some will continue to accumulate bullion; others may have an opportunity or two to pick up affordable coins while there is some uncertainty. Whatever happens, I feel silver and gold coins and bullion will always be of value. And, let’s not forget the fulfillment we have when we complete a collection or a set or whatever we may be collecting just for the fun of it. That is what makes this hobby so enjoyable. We can’t predict what the future will hold, and to me that is part of the fun and intrigue of this hobby. I love it!!

As this final portion of “Sowle Food” comes to a close for another year, here is my prayer for you: may the good times and treasures of the present become the golden memories of tomorrow. I wish you lots of love, joy and happiness. “MERRY CHRISTMAS” God bless you, and God bless the United States of America!!

## **Getting to Know You . . . Personal Numismatic Story**

### **This month club member and active numismatist John H. shares his story**

The seed of coin collecting was planted by my two grandparents – by my mom’s dad who was a Connecticut Yankee and an avid coin collector and by my dad’s mom who was a Southern Belle of Irish heritage. She taught me the importance of history and heritage and how to save. My grandfather started me in the hobby by giving me a half way complete set of Lincoln cents when I was eight. He collected Franklin halves. He also had a complete set of Hawaiian coinage worth about \$25,000 in 1973. My grandmother would give me shiny Ike dollars and Bicentennial coinage every time I would visit, which was about once a week. It is so important to encourage young collectors, a fact I learned from my grandparents. These younger ones are the future of our wonderful hobby. I still remember the first coin I ever purchased – an 1889 Indian head cent at the coin department of Sanger Harris at Town East Mall in Mesquite. It was so hard to spend my allowance but so worth it – still have that coin. I dived back into collecting when I was in college taking courses at Paris Junior College while attending Texas A & M Commerce. For about five semesters I had a 3 hour break between class and lab. So rather than go to the library I would go to the coin store in downtown Paris. They had a bid board and I usually found something of interest. This is when I started collecting proof sets, type coins and small gold and silver, including Chinese Pandas. I continued the collection of these until just a few years ago.

A few years ago I retired and my income went way down. So my coin budget went way down from what it was. Starting at that time I sold many of my coins but I held on to my Shipwreck coins – pieces of eight, my collection of Roman denarii – including one issued under Marc Antony, a collection of Republic of Texas Money, Civil War and Hard Times tokens, and a 1960’s re-strike of the Confederate cent from original dies.

History plays a part in my collecting. In the last couple of years I have begun to assemble a collection of Buffalo Nickels. Another recent interest is due to my participation in the Tyler Coin Club; a two - cent collection, inspired by the name of our newsletter.

So, if you see me at the club meeting be sure to say hello and talk shop about coins and currency. I would welcome that.



(Collector and Tyler Coin Club member John H. is working on a set of Buffalo Nickels. Because of the name of the club’s newsletter, which John submitted, he also is developing a Two Cent piece collection.)

## **Tyler Coin Club TNA District 12**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** December 11, 2012

Meeting and Annual Christmas Dinner called to order by President Dwight Sowle with Pledge to the Flag

#### **Attendance**

Members present: 22

Guests present: 17  
Total Present: 39

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

- The club was lead in prayer by David B.
- Introduction/recognition of guests, visitors, and new members:
  - Welcome new members: Jim, Max and Lee
- Recognition of members with birthdays and anniversaries in month of December.
- Results of voting for giving back to Meals on Wheels: The two top options were monthly monetary donations from each member and assisting with parking lot lighting. As it turns out, Meals on Wheels was already addressing the parking lot lighting needs, so the monthly monetary donation option was selected.
- Dwight discussed the 24x7 security being provided for the Meals on Wheels facility.
- Update on new club logo competition; 3 designs have been submitted. Voting will be by secret ballot at the January 2013 meeting.
- Barry updated members on final results of August coin show and stated dates for 2013 show are close.
- David H. updated members on items purchased for the Salvation Army Angel Tree. Proceeds from last month's donated auction items and cash donations, along with additional last minute donations totaling almost \$600 were used to purchase the items. A special thank you goes out to David, Sherry and family for their hard work in gathering the Angel Tree items and the wonderful display they made to document this effort. The competition-level shopping skills they executed during Black Friday stretched the club's donations to ensure 4 children will have a wonderful Christmas.
- Nominations for 2013 club officers were opened. Randy M. nominated the current officers for the 2013 term. No other nominations were offered.
- Randy M. made a motion to re-elect current officers for the 2013 term
  - Ray S. seconded motion
  - All members present were in favor, none opposed
  - 2013 Officers are:
    - President - Dwight Sowle
    - Vice President - Darrel Deitenbeck
    - Treasurer - Barry Carter
    - Secretary - Carl Shotts
- In lieu of singing, Dwight offered a very unique Christmas trivia quiz for members and guests. Those clever enough to answer Dwight's "very entertaining" questions were treated to some nice prizes donated by Texican Coin & Bullion.
- For the second year in a row, one of our youngest guests, Karson, won the grand door prize for guests which was a very cool articulating Santa Claus figure. The look on Karson's face was priceless!
- John H. won the grand door prize for club members, which was a brilliant 2012 American Proof Silver Eagle. Additional members winning door prizes included Ray, Carl, John, Randy, Ray, Tracy, Stephen and Olen.
- Next meeting, January 8, 2013.



(A proud winner at the club's Christmas party)

## **Numismatic Education – From Dr. Coyne**

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

- 1) What was the first coin minted in the New World?
- 2) What is the year date carried on the last 90% silver U.S. half dollar minted for circulation?  
What is the date on the first mostly-nickel coin issued by the U.S.?
- 3) I have a medal listed as “size 15”. How big is it?
- 4) What is the largest commemorative gold coin issued by the U.S.?
- 5) Are there any proof twenty cent pieces?
- 6) Which dollar coins are supposed to have lettered edges?

### **Dr. Coyne Responds:**

1) Most scholars agree that the first coins struck in the New World came from the newly-established Mexico City mint in 1535. They are the Carlos & Johanna “early series” (without waves between the pillars) silver pieces. This is a 2 Reales:



2) The final 90% silver half dollars for circulation carry the date 1964, though they continued to be coined into 1966 using these dies. The second part of the question turns out to be somewhat of a trick question: There has never been a “mostly nickel” issue. The Five Cent coins since 1866



are actually 75% copper and only 25% nickel. Similarly, the outer layers on our current clad coinage are cupro-nickel.

3) Medals are “sized” by different scales in various references. In classic U.S. references, the size is given in sixteenths of an inch. So a “size 15” has a diameter of 15/16 inch (about .9375 inch). Europeans use millimeters.



(Medal by Charles Barber)

4) The largest commemorative gold coins by the U.S. are the round and the octagonal \$50 pieces of 1915 issued for the Pan Pacific Exposition in San Francisco. These massive pieces have a diameter of 44 mm (1.73 inch) for the round and contain almost 2.7 ounces of gold.

5) There are proof issues of all four years of the U.S. twenty cent piece. The 1875 and 1876 issues have circulation-strike counterparts, and the 1877-1878 issues were made only in proof.



6) The Presidential Dollars of 2007 to 2012 are supposed to have lettered edges (though some error coins exist without them). The Sacagawea Dollars and Native American Dollars of 2000 to 2012 are similarly lettered. In a much earlier era, the 1794 – 1803 dollars have incused lettering “One Dollar or Unit”. No silver dollars from 1836-1999 have lettered edges. Most have reeded edges. The Gobrecht Dollars of 1836-1837 also have plain edges.



((Image below from U.S. Government Mint Site))

(Your Editor found the following information from the *U.S. Mint's Customer Service* page of interest: "The edge-incused inscriptions found on the eight 2007 and 2008 Presidential \$1 Coins [George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren] include the year of minting or issuance [2007 or 2008], *E PLURIBUS UNUM*, *IN GOD WE TRUST* and the mint mark ["P", "D" or "S"]. Beginning in 2009, with the William Henry Harrison \$1 Coin, the inscription *IN GOD WE TRUST* moved to the coin's obverse (heads side), with the year of minting or issuance, *E PLURIBUS UNUM* and the mint mark remaining as edge-lettering.")

### **Upcoming Collector Events**

**Texas Coin Show** – December 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> . . . Grapevine Convention Center – 1209 S. Main St., Grapevine (Also January 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>)

**Cowtown Coin Show** – January 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> . . . Lockheed Martin Recreation Center – 3400 South Bryant Irvin Rd., Fort Worth

**Fort Worth Coin Club's Winter Coin Show** – March 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> . . . Lockheed Martin Recreation Center – 3400 South Bryant Irvin Rd., Fort Worth

### **Next Time Together**

The Greater Tyler Coin Club will meet again on **Tuesday, January 8<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. Members and friends are also encouraged to gather at Rudy's BBQ for a "Dutch treat" pre-meeting meal starting at 5:00 p.m. Both of these are great ways to meet friends and to start off a wonderful numismatic experience in beautiful Tyler, Texas



(A great evening of celebration at the club's Christmas party)

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



(One Lepton / or One Euro Cent of 2002. Leptons were the smallest denomination of coins from Greek affiliated states for many centuries. In pre-Euro days one Lepton was equivalent to Greek Drachma in the same way a One Cent piece is equivalent to a U.S. Dollar; 1/100<sup>th</sup>)

As you may recall your editor declared in last month's *Your Two Cents Worth* his intent to share a few words about the Texas Centennial Half Dollar series, his one interest in the world of United States coinage. Instead of doing this your editor has once again made a decision to postpone such an article for another time, perhaps to March, when we Texans (whether those who are born here or those who "got here as soon as possible") celebrate Texas Independence Day.

Instead your editor has invested a bit of time on a project related to more ancient things of the numismatic world, a search inspired, in a small way, by the season of the year in which we currently find ourselves, the time of Advent and Christmas when we remember the birth of Jesus and how this specific gift, from the heart of God, helped shape the culture of the world, by challenging each individual to a new perspective in the way life is lived.

One of the major emphases of Jesus' teaching was, and continues to be, a focus on priorities, basically in how we use the resources at our disposal in ways which are not always self-based. The exact message upon which your editor chooses to focus can be found in two of the Synoptic Gospels, in John 21 and in Mark 14. The remembrance is commonly called the experience of the "Widow's Mite."



(Lepton or "Widow's Mite" – a very "insignificant" coin – enlarged for detail)

Now your editor started off this Christ-based coin search with a word study. It is interesting that the only official listing for "mite," at least in the traditional dictionary of the English language, defines a certain diverse, and plentiful, group of "arthropods" (invertebrates) which are for the most part, microscopic.

But this isn't the context in which your editor desired to seek out the usage of the term. After some more extended research your editor recorded the following details specific to the use of "mite" in numismatic jargon. Here is what your editor discovered; all of this makes sense when offered in the context in which the "mite" becomes the famous "widow's mite."

1. The first numismatic use of the word "mite" came in the 1611 King James Version of the Bible.



2. This term was chosen as a definition of the size of a coin commonly called in Greek the “lepton.” (Remember Greek is the language of the New Testament.)
3. Leptons were quite small, minted poorly on flans, (in the numismatic world “planchet”) which were not even, with legends which were generally not legible.
4. One source your editor read declared these to be about the same size as a common pencil eraser.
5. The “Widow’s Mite” or “lepton” was so small it would only show up as weight on a scale when combined with other coins.
6. At the height of its usage, roughly the time of Jesus, the lepton was the equivalent of approximately six minutes of a common day’s labor. (Note that even payment for a full day’s labor back then would fall well below what we think of as the “poverty level.”)

If your editor is reading this data correctly the definition explains that the basic “lepton” aka “mite” was so insignificant it would take more than a few to even be measured. That friends, is incredibly small. Naturally those who translated the Bible, under orders from King James, were picturing the microscopic “arthropods”, mentioned in the paragraph at the start and doing their best to share just exactly how small and insignificant the coin, referred to in the Synoptic Gospels as the “Widow’s Mite,” really was.

It is this same lepton, or mite, which Jesus used as a teaching tool for his disciples. (Mark 12 and Luke 21) As the story goes Jesus, his disciples and a small crowd, were sitting in front of what both John and Mark call “the treasury.” Now this could have been a separate public facility, or was perhaps part of the temple, which would actually make more sense. It was the custom of the day for people to pass by and toss their offering into large inverted bell-like containers. When a coin would hit the inside of the container it would make a distinct sound so those who were listening carefully would be able to tell if the offering was of gold, or silver, or of a more base metal.

Crowds would gather just to listen and to be amazed by the well dressed, wealthy folks, who were able to put in larger quantities of coins of higher intrinsic value. Nobody particularly noted the donation of the “widow” because her two little leptons made no sound at all. Only the discerning ear and eye of the Jesus observed her moment of piety. Seizing the opportunity to share significant insight with his disciples Jesus focused upon how this “poor widow” had given more than any of the others, because the gift she gave came from the heart, and was a substantial part of her “living.”

Now your editor has taken occasion to think this through and continues to be amazed at how throughout the years the message of Jesus, in relation to the widow’s mite, continues to “ring” clear, and how true that message is in every part of life and to people of every philosophy and even religious practice of life. Your editor speaks for himself here and perhaps for more than himself, when he admits to forgetting the goal of true generosity at this time of the year and during every season of the year. We were reminded of such focused and selfless giving by Tyler Coin Club president in an email received just a couple of weeks ago. In this communication Dwight spoke of the generosity of the club in our support of the “Angel Tree” outreach. Our specific point of giving came from funds donated at the club meeting, as well as from auction lots presented, and bids made with the proceeds going directly to the *Angel Tree project*.



(Dwight and David with information about “Angel Tree.” This project received friendly support from the Tyler Coin Club. One of the instructions for joyful living Jesus left with us, through the story of the Widow’s Mite, is the gift of sacrificial giving)

The simple truth is that the challenge God placed before the disciples on the day of the “widow’s mite” is a practical vision for each of us. How great it is to touch someone’s life, to enhance another’s living at a point of need, and to do so not from abundance, but from the point of sacrificial living. Your editor has no specific direction to offer in this venture except to return to the “treasury” and to marvel at the heart-felt response of one who had only two leptons, yet one who had a heart for God, and who found great joy in giving . . . maybe a challenge here to all of us to figure it out for ourselves.

Merry Christmas . . . Happy Holidays . . . Season’s Greetings . . . or whatever fits your thoughts . . . and traditions for this season of joy.



“The point here is not money . . . it is what we are willing to give of ourselves”  
 (A gift to your editor from a friend: James Christensen’s *Widow’s Mite* a study in porcelain)