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Association*



The California Numismatist

The California Numismatist

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and the
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Winter 2017, Volume 14, Number 4



About the Cover

A wintery view of the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada mountains is visible just the other side of the expanse of Mono Lake visible in the distance in this photo. Mono Lake was created roughly 750,000 years ago and sits in Mono Basin, itself formed over the last five million years, and given birth by volcanic forces extruding basalt and crumpling the surface of the earth. That's a lot older than the coins and token pictured on the cover. A lot older. What do you think will be there in five million more years?

Visit Us on the Web

The California Numismatist has a Web site at www.CalNumismatist.com. You can find the official scoop there in between issues. Also, both CSNA and NASC maintain their own Web sites at:

www.Calcoin.org

www.NASC.net

And both associations have Facebook pages at:

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Presidents' Messages

NASC...

The NASC recently held its final board meeting of 2017 and I can confidently report to you that things are looking up for the NASC going forward. NASC has several plans in the works for 2018 which we hope will further our organization's educational mission. In particular, NASC will be working on new ways to provide more benefits to our member coin clubs, including more access to educational materials. Of course, if any of you have any suggestions of ways NASC can do better for our favorite hobby, please feel free to let me know.

The board also discussed the successful 2017 Golden State Coin Show (GSCS) and the popular gold coin benefit raffle. We have now set plans for next year's NASC GSCS which is looking to be even bigger and better with an expanded educational exhibit area and a youth activities table. The show's public hours will also be extended to a three-day show held August 24-26, 2018, at the Arcadia Masonic Center. Mark your calendars now!

Despite the efforts of the board in working to grow the NASC, our general membership unfortunately appears to be declining. We do have a few ideas which we hope will increase our membership numbers during 2018, but we could still use your help. I believe that you, our current members, are our best potential source of new members. You already know the good NASC does for the hobby and local coin clubs. You also already know how great it is to read the latest issue of TCN each quarter. Accordingly, I ask that all current members of NASC reach out to their fellow collecting friends and try to sign up at least one new member over the next couple of months. To help with this effort, I will cover \$5 of the first-year membership fee of any new members you sign up. Just send me their applications with the remaining \$10 and I'll turn them in. If we each do this, we can easily double our NASC membership this year.

Thank you all again for your support of NASC and of our great hobby. I hope you all have happy holidays!



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael J. Kittle". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Michael J. Kittle
NASC President

CSNA...



Welcome to the new year. Now that the holidays are behind us, I hope that they have fulfilled all your expectations. With all the chaos and commercialism of “Black Friday” and “Cyber Monday”, it is very difficult to remember the real reason we celebrate these cherished holidays.

The excessive commercialism reminds me of a recent article in the *Wall Street Journal* entitled “U.S. Mint Makes a Mint Selling Gold Coins at a 25% Markup”. It stated, “The government currently is selling the gold-coin proofs at a 25% markup over per-ounce gold prices, a premium that can run as high as \$360 per coin. The silver coins carry a more than 200% premium

over market silver prices.” The article goes on to provide examples on how one “unhappy investor” lost nearly \$100,000 “investing” (my quotes) in 45 four-coin sets of American eagle gold proofs and 979 ounces of silver eagle proofs. You would think the someone spending \$308,000 in an IRA account would do a little bit of due diligence on the risks associated with such an investment!

Even more astonishing is the fact that the bullion dealer who sold the coins implied that it was the fault of the US Mint by saying, “Maybe you should ask the question of the Mint: Why are you charging so much for these coins?” Even collectors begrudgingly recognize that the mint is one of the few government operations that actually makes money (no pun intended). None of you needs a reminder that the mint provides proof coins for collectors, not investors.

I am thankful for all of our members who unselfishly donate their time and expertise to improve our numismatic experience. Thank you all for supporting our December 2017 coin show and our strategic planning meetings. Please remember that we need your email addresses in order to improve our efficiency and reduce the costs of communicating with our membership. Send them to Don Hill at csnalibrary@gmail.com.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Pfeifer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Pfeifer
CSNA President

Editor's Page

The days leading into our winter issue have been unseasonably warm here in Southern California. Lucky us. Or, considering all of the fires that have been lighting up the state, maybe not.

In any case, however you view the weather, one thing's not controversial, the luck we have with articles coming from all the talented contributors to the magazine. We have a quartet of articles from Mark Benvenuto, Donald Lannon, Jim Wells, and Bill Febuary, and I'm sure every reader will find something appealing in the material these four have whipped up.

Our columnists have also all been diligently whiling away the hours over their keyboards: Merle Avila, Jim Hunt, Sol Taylor, Michael Turrini, and Walt Ostromecki have each fetched up bite-sized (some bigger bites than others) numismatically nutritional entrees that will help our readers make it through the sparse winter months.

And of course our various officials provide material good to peruse as well: presidents Mike Kittle and Bill Pfeifer, and corresponding secretaries Harold Katzman and Don Hill, all provide the latest guidance from their offices for us to keep in touch with their respective associations.

My best holiday wishes to all our readers, whatever flavor of celebrant you may be, and remember, while we appreciate all our readers, *you're* our favorite!



A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'Greg Burns'. The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Greg Burns
Editor

↔ *The* ↔

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Corresponding Secretaries' Reports



CSNA—

by *Don Hill*

I'm always surprised when people say they don't like to give out their email address. I much prefer being contacted by email instead of snail mail and not by telephone. Getting rid of an unwanted email is a simple click, but a paper item requires opening an envelope, reading, and eventually carting the item, envelope, and enclosures to the recycling bin.

I've found it easier to handle the volume of mail sent to me by having multiple email addresses. This helps filter the material I do get into workable categories that can be handled quickly. First, there's the email address my wife and I use for family and friends and personal business. But I have separate email addresses for other activities. These other addresses include my CSNA volunteer work, and one for Facebook, and another for my personal coin collecting hobby mail. I happen to use Gmail free email accounts but there are others. You should think about getting additional email services and then don't hesitate to share your selected email address.

NASC—

by *Harold Katzman*

One club and one member were not marked as digital and were updated accordingly, which is now reflected in the total membership. Ginny Bourke helped point one of them out to me.

I will begin working on dues notices next week for 2018. About 55 dues notices will be going out. Eight are clubs.

NASC New Members	CSNA Membership on 26 Nov. 2017
Jody M. Hoshino#3236	Associate.....5
	Junior.....4
NASC Membership on 11 Nov. 2017	Life.....123
Junior Members7	Member Clubs.....24
Life Members.....10	Member Clubs Life.....12
Club Members.....22	Regular.....140
Regular Members.....77	Business.....16
Sustaining Members.....118	Total.....324
Total Membership.....234	

Dear Members—Please Note!

If you've moved, please advise us at the relevant address below:

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The Evolving Obverse: Gods, Kings, Commoners, Liberty, Presidents

by Mark Benvenuto

It's probably fair to say that almost everyone who uses coins does so for some convenience or another, and not specifically for their artistry or their history. Yet an examination of how coins have developed over the millennia shows us that there is what we might call an *evolution of images* as well as artistry, a slow but pretty steady change in what is portrayed on our change, as it were.

To misquote Julie Andrews in *The Sound of Music*, "Let's start at the very beginning. It's a very good place to..." prove our point. The beginning of coinage in the western world would be the Greek city-states. The coinage of these small nations is amazingly rich in images, and those images often portray one patron god or goddess of the city, although that was not always the case. The idea of portraying a deity was that this was the image of the protector of a city, a divinity who favored its citizens. Since in that time many people were illiterate, the image was usually what they knew by sight, and thus associated with their city, although the coin might also show a few letters. While there are plenty of coins



Coins from Athens and Corinth displayed a portrait of Athena, the

Greek goddess of wisdom and military victory. Athena was also the patron of the city of Athens and Hercules' half-sister. Her parents were Zeus and Metis, a nymph.

that could be gathered to compose a gorgeous set from the eastern end of the Mediterranean, we can suggest that the coins of Athens and the coins of Corinth are two that are well known to collectors today, and that were probably well known to anyone who lived in or near the cities when they were at their height. Each portrays Athena as the patron goddess.

Now we can argue that right here at the beginning, some form of evolution was already in the works. Kings raised armies and fought each other. The strength of one city-state might rise or fall based on anything from military conquest to good or bad harvests, to proper rainfall. But one man who rose above it all was the figure we know today as Alexander the Great.

Gaius Julius Caesar, usually called Julius Caesar, was a Roman politician and general who played a critical role in the events that led to the demise of the Roman Republic and the rise of the Roman Empire. Caesar's power and unrivalled position created many enemies amongst his peers. His monopoly of power led to his assassination on 15 March 44 BC, at the hands of a large group of men, including Cassius and Brutus, who believed his death would restore the republic. It didn't.



One can only imagine whether or not he even thought about the change he was making when he placed his own conquering face on his coins. Think about it for a moment – the audacity, the nerve! A man, a mere flesh-and-blood mortal putting his face where only the gods had been so honored before? The coins of Alexander are indeed a first, evolutionary step in getting to the coins we use today.

Next, it is probably logical to look at the rise of Rome, an empire that still influences how we live, think, govern, and even speak today – including some aspects of our coinage. Rome borrowed extensively from the Greek city-states as it conquered them, including their gods and goddesses, their philosophies, and even their coins. But when it came to money matters, the Romans were innovators. They made changes – they helped this evolution.

Most Greek coins bear few inscriptions. Those they do possess tend to be written in straight lines. The Romans pushed the lettering on their coins around to the arcing edge of the coin, a technique virtually all governments still use today. The Roman emperors also took titles, rather long ones sometime, and spoke and wrote in Latin (a language that adds some long endings to words to adjust their meaning). It all couldn't fit! The solution to the problem is something

we still use today: the abbreviation. If "CAESAR AVGVSTVS" was too long a term, why not shorten it to "CAES AVGV"? If the Caesar was also father of his country, instead of "PATER PATRIAE," why not shorten it to "PP"? There are plenty of other abbreviations as well. If that seems hard to believe that this has carried on, look perhaps at rather modern British coins, with "FD" meaning "Fidelis Defensor," or "Defender of the faith," a title still used by the British monarch. Or examine early U.S. coins which proclaimed for example, "50 C." instead of "50 cents." The Romans' second step of our evolution in coinage is still with us today.

But even with their advances, Roman emperors kept with traditions when it suited them. Some are depicted wearing a laurel wreath, a visible symbol of a hero. Yet some are depicted wearing a crown of straight rays, the symbol of them being divine leaders, gods in human form, as it were. Once again, the audacity, the nerve – perhaps? It seems the idea of the obverse of a coin remaining the place of gods had not yet been completely phased out.

Though the empire existed for over a millennium – or at least, the Eastern Roman Empire did – long after the Roman Empire was naught but a

dimly remembered piece of the past, another empire arose whose “coins” we can choose to examine – Great Britain. There had been coins made throughout Europe for centuries, in Britain and elsewhere, that depicted the faces of kings (and the occasional queen) on the obverse, but something new happened in Britain in the late eighteenth century. The tokens of merchants, mere commoners like John Wilkinson the iron baron, made their appearance in the economy of Britain at a time when the coins of the king had become scarce.

The reasons for this particular bit of what we are calling evolution are many and are intertwined. The royal treasury in London was doing a rather wretched job of providing the people of the nation with small change. The presence of coal under virtually every part of Britain provided a fuel for the refining of Mr. Wilkinson’s iron, as well as several other metals. Textiles and other goods were being produced in Britain in quantities far greater than ever before. All of these together meant that people needed some form of coin with which to conduct business. Mr. Wilkinson was one of several wealthy merchants who decided to make their own – their own coins that is. Wilkinson tokens were used at his company stores, and are collect-

ibles in their own right today. Still, to put his common man’s face where the king’s had been for centuries? Well, the audacity, the nerve! That’s the sort of thing that could get a man’s head cut clean off in those days.

The face of Mr. Wilkinson on a coin though, well, that represents another evolutionary step on the road to our coins today. We’ve moved from gods, to emperors and kings, to common men. And by the way, although the dear Mr. W has long passed, we might still know about his company. They make the famous Wilkinson razors.

At the same general time the British Royal Treasury had run short enough on cash that commoners stepped in with their own tokens as coins, the French people had run short enough on patience that they decided their king should be short his own head. The French Revolution changed a great deal within France in the 1790’s, and as coincidence would have it, made many of those changes within a year or two of the United States Congress making its own change away from what we now call pre-Federal coins to those produced at a newly-opened federal Mint in Philadelphia.

While commoners had risen to occupy the obverse of coins in the late 1700’s, another idea came to the fore



John “Iron-Mad” Wilkinson (1728 – 14 July 1808) was an English industrialist who pioneered the manufacture of cast iron and the use of cast-iron goods during the Industrial Revolution. He was the inventor of a precision boring machine that could bore cast iron cylinders, such as those used in the steam engines of James Watt. His boring machine has been called the first machine tool. He also developed a blowing device for blast furnaces that allowed higher temperatures, increasing their efficiency.



Left: the personification of Liberty on a 1794 US silver dollar.



Right: President Lincoln's image graced Victor Brenner's 1909 cent design.

at that time as well. That idea was Liberty. Both the people of revolutionary France and the young United States valued it highly, and chose to put it on the obverse of their coins, as a way to say that this was their monarch. Think about this for a moment: kings had been on the obverse of coins as long as anyone could remember. Gents like Mr. Wilkinson had recently put their faces up front – but they weren't really trying to overthrow the old order. But the image of a woman as an allegorical face for a larger idea, a woman with a freeman's cap representing the concept of Liberty? Oh, the audacity, the nerve!

The coins of a France embroiled in revolution, and of a young United States weren't isolated instances of some evolutionary step in coinage; they were the start point. As Spain's New World empire slowly changed from Central and South American colonies to independent nations, that idea of Liberty, the image as a woman, or the image of that liberty cap, spread to the coinage of several of the new nations. The evolution from kings to commoners now encompassed an idea as well.

The most recent step in this long evolution appears to have first occurred in 1909. We can pin this next

step to a specific year because this was the first year of issue for the Lincoln cent. This remains the first circulating coin of the United States to feature a real, actual person, albeit one who had passed away when the coin was unveiled. As the 20th century unfolded, the rest of the circulating denominations would follow suit. His Excellency, and General, and President Washington made it onto the quarter in 1932, the bicentennial of his birth year. The Sage of Monticello, Mr. Jefferson, took his place on the nickel in 1938. The man who led us through the Second World War and was elected president four times, Mr. Roosevelt, was honored on the dime in 1946. The half dollar first sported the only founding father who was never president, Dr. Benjamin Franklin, in 1948, to be followed by an assassinated President Kennedy in 1964. And while Morgan and Peace dollars portrayed Liberty on their obverses until 1935, in 1971 it was General, later President, Eisenhower who took that prime place.

Gods, kings, commoners, Liberty, presidents, they have all taken their place on the obverse of our coins over the millennia. And while the future is impossible to predict, it might be fascinating to think that this evolution may not yet be complete.

Carson City's Mint: One Branch the Treasury Department Didn't Want

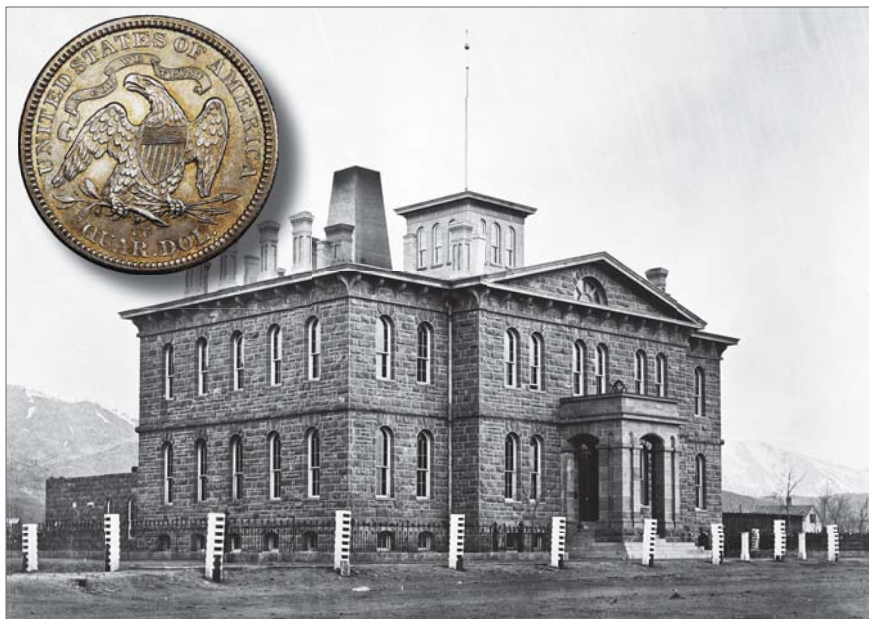
by Donald Lannon

At the beginning of the Civil War, US branch mint operations at the facilities in New Orleans, Charlotte, and Dahlonega—all cities that were controlled by the government of the Confederate States of America—were suspended on May 31st, 1861. US Treasury officials worried that the two remaining plants at San Francisco and Philadelphia might not be capable of meeting the nation's wartime coinage needs—as it turned out, the actual production of gold and silver coins between January 1862 and December 1865 totaled about 213,775,000 with a face value of more than \$95 million. Congress, in response to this possible problem, approved acts that provided for the creation of two branch mints on the Pacific Coast: one at Denver (approved on April 1862) the other at Carson, Nevada (approved in March 1863).

Secretary of the Treasury Chase and James Pollock, his mint director, both opposed the expansion. In February 1864 Chase went so far as to make a written recommendation to Congress. "...So much of existing laws as authorizes coinage, except at

great commercial centers, [should] be repealed," he asserted. The chairman of the Committee on Finance presented Chase's remarks to the Senate. "At the last session of Congress," the chairman recalled, "... we authorized the establishment of a mint in Nevada. Nothing has been done with reference to the erection of a mint there, and the [Treasury] secretary recommends that we repeal the law. ... We formerly had a mint in Georgia, and one in North Carolina; but they were found always to be expensive and useless, and repeatedly an attempt was made to repeal them, but that could not be done, owing to certain causes. In connection with this subject is a petition requesting the enlargement of the branch mint in San Francisco." That petition had been submitted by the superintendent of the San Francisco facility and was supported by Secretary Chase.

The *Congressional Globe* (1864) reported, "The chairman of the Committee on Finance, speaking for his committee, on the same occasion remarked that taking the recommendations of the [Treasury] Secretary [sic] into consideration ... they could come



The Carson City Mint in 1866 and a gorgeous 1877CC quarter dollar.

to no other conclusion than that the wise course would be to enlarge the minting facilities at San Francisco as desired. ... There was no difference of opinion in the committee, and it was thought unanimously that this was the advisable and proper course to take.”

Advocacy Report Accompanied Bill

After being reported by the House Committee on Ways and Means, the bill to establish a branch mint at Carson passed the House of Representatives without debate on March 3rd, 1863. It was considered in the Senate on the same day and, despite opposition by the chairman of the Committee on Finance and only a short debate, was passed. An advocacy report, prepared by a member of the House Committee on Ways and Means, accompanied the bill through both houses

of Congress. According to a US Mint document, “This report, as quoted in the Senate, stated that the estimated yield of gold and silver in Nevada at that time [1863] was \$2,000,000 per month, making \$24,000,000 per annum. The yield of gold and silver, in the opinion of a Senator [sic], was nearer \$3,000,000 than \$2,000,000 per month.”

The document continued, “The [advocacy] report ... further goes into the cost of transporting the bullion from the mines of Nevada to the branch mint of San Francisco, which is the nearest point where the gold and silver can be deposited for coinage, and it shows that it amounts to a tax of from 5 to 6 per cent [sic]; that the returns are received in about thirty days, with an additional cost of 2 per cent [sic] in carrying back the coin, making an actual tax of about 7 per



An 1880 photograph of miners on the Comstock. The caption on the original says, "To labor is to pray."

cent [sic] on the gold production of the Territory of Nevada. The transportation of silver is still more expensive. The bullion used in commerce can be shipped abroad in that shape as well if not better than in coin. The coinage of the amount that would find its way out of the Territory [sic] in payment of supplies and transportation [sic] it is believed [sic] will reach at least half a million [sic] per annum."

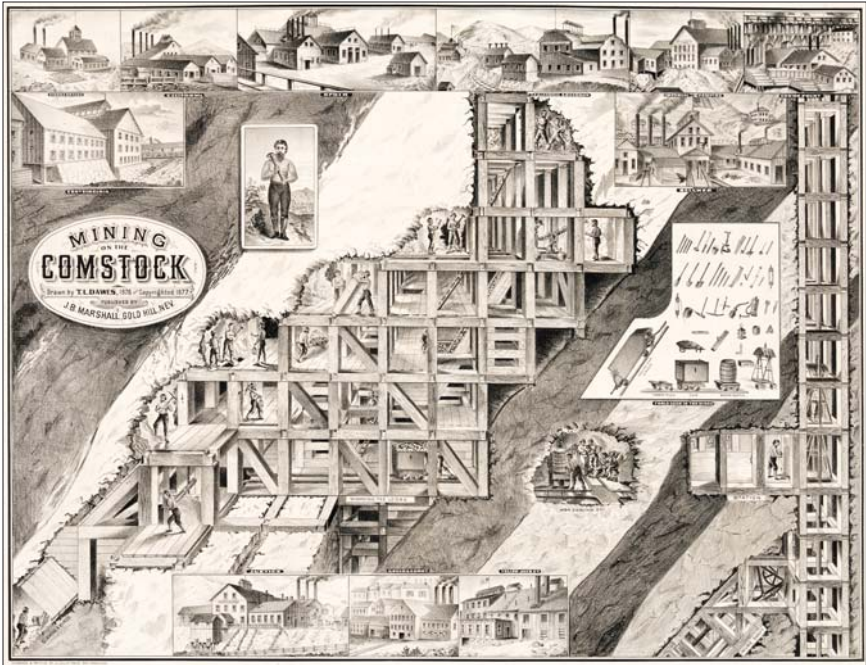
"It was urged in the Senate," the document admitted, "that the heavy tax upon producers in Nevada, the wonderful increase of gold and silver bullion, and the necessity of keeping it in our country by coining it ourselves, [sic] were to be considered sufficient inducements...for Congress to order the establishment of a mint." Thus, in March 1863 Congress provided for the creation of a branch mint at Carson, Nevada.

But an important fact had been overlooked. Nevada mines yielded about \$100,000 in gold and silver during 1860; the following year, their yield was approximately \$2.3 million; and in 1862 they produced about \$6.5 million. US Mining Commissioner J. Ross Browne claimed that between 94 and 95 percent of Nevada's product

from 1857 through the end of 1865 came from the Comstock Lode. Most of this was then forwarded to San Francisco where it was refined and struck as coinage.

Mills and a Railroad Were Built

In *History of Nevada 1881* editor Myron Angel informed his readers "... The first ore extracted [between 1859 and 1860] was from the...claims at Virginia City, and this was packed on mules over the Sierra Nevada to California, some to Grass Valley, and some to San Francisco for reduction, a small portion being reduced in arastras near the mines. This ore being very rich, one mule carrying \$2,000 worth, it was a good enough way of transporting the bullion to market. But there was other ore in the mines not so near pure silver, and this required reducing nearer home. For this purpose the first thought was power, and the Carson River seemed to offer it in abundance. This stream was about 15 miles distant, and there at once the enterprising owners of the mines directed their energies. ...The building of mills once entered upon, the business increased with wonderful rapidity."



An 1876 drawing by T. L. Dawes displayed an arrangement of shafts and other tools typically used in the silver mines of the Comstock Lode.

David F. Myrick, the author of many books about Western history, made clear in the preface of his two-volume work *Railroads of Nevada and Eastern California* (1962), “Since the earliest days, mine operators had been faced with discouragingly stiff teamster charges for hauling ore from the mines in Virginia City to the mills along the Carson River as well as for the equally important return traffic of wood and timber from the Tahoe region with which to fire the furnaces and erect the square-set timbers so essential to mining operations.” The solution: organize, construct, and operate a railroad that would run from the Comstock down to the Carson River.

A charter for such a project had been granted in 1865 by the Nevada legislature to a group of promoters who had never exercised their right to build the railroad; so, on March 5th, 1868, the charter was reissued to another group, and construction started as soon as funds were secured in early-1869, authors Lucius Beebe and Charles Clegg recalled in *Virginia & Truckee—A Story of Virginia City and Comstock Times* (1949). “It was the original intention that the Virginia and Truckee [Railroad] should be but 15 miles...in length, running from the mine shafts of the Comstock to the stamping mills along the Carson River...and perhaps to Carson City, but with a functioning transcontinental

A winter excursion of the Virginia and Truckee Engine #29. The line is now privately owned as a historical heritage railroad, but was originally built to serve the mines of the Comstock Lode, hauling ore, lumber, and supplies.



railroad being built [by the Central Pacific] through Reno [sic] it would have been folly to neglect this opportunity for a mainline connection. ...September 28, 1869, was set as the day...to drive a silver spike in the first rail to be laid in the shadow of Carson mint.” By January 29th, 1870, these rails had reached Virginia City.

“...Like the Comstock itself, the railroad sat on top of a mountain of gold and silver, and a ponderable part of its traffic was either ores containing these metals or in the bullion which [sic] went down to the [US] Mint in Carson or San Francisco in ever increasing quantities from the strong-rooms [sic] where the final bricks were poured at [the] Con-Virginia, Best & Belcher, Crow Point, Yellow Jacket, and Gould & Curry [mines],” the authors revealed in *Steamcars to the Comstock* (1957).

During 1870, its initial year of operation, the Virginia & Truckee Railroad hauled more than 40,000 tons of freight per month, almost half of it ore (that is, between 80 and 100 carloads daily), a third lumber and wood, and as much as 13 to 14 tons of silver bullion. Writing in their book *The Silver*

Short Line—A History of the Virginia & Truckee Railroad (1983), Ted Wurm and Harre Demoro claimed that “Even the lowliest Chinese laundryman or desperately indigent Piute Indian was aware...that ore being lifted from the innards of the Comstock Lode would, within 10 days, return to Virginia City as silver coin, after being minted in Carson City.”

“Since mining was the principal industry of Nevada,” historian Myrick observed, “it was only logical that railroad development paralleled the eras of mining prosperity [roughly between 1868 and 1883]. ...The advent of the iron horse brought on [an] immediate reduction in the cost of transporting wood of [sic] from one-third to one-half that of the teamsters’ rates.” During the same period, Nevada’s population exploded—from 6,900 residents in 1860 to 42,500 by 1870; then it peaked by 1880 with slightly less than 62,300. A steady decline followed, and by 1900 the population had returned to about its 1870 level.

Construction of Mint Begun

Although Congress had approved the establishment of the Carson

Carson City in 1864 or 1865, just before the time when construction on the new mint was to start (1866).



facility in 1863, it was two days after Christmas 1865 when Treasury Secretary Chase appointed its three commissioners: Abraham Curry, Henry Rice, and John Mills. Seven months later in its issue of July 17th, 1866, the *Carson Daily Appeal* proclaimed, “A glorious day for Carson! The arrival of the [US] Mint papers! Joy and gunpowder! At an early hour yesterday morning our citizens were startled from their beds by the booming of cannon and the ringing of bells, which demonstrations were made in honor of the arrival of a big package of papers by express marked ‘A. Curry, Superintendent of Construction, Carson Mint.’ And, glorious to contemplate, that package contained the long-looked-for plans and specifications for the Branch Mint [sic] at Carson.” Earlier, a portion of the Congressional appropriation for the mint’s construction had arrived in San Francisco and awaited disbursement.

At 8:00 a.m. on July 18th, 1866, the three commissioners and H. R. Mighels from the *Carson Daily Appeal* held a groundbreaking ceremony at the site of the proposed mint, along the line of its front porch; shortly

afterward, a construction crew commenced their work. Then, on September 24th Masons from the Grand Lodge of Nevada, accompanied by two senators and several Supreme Court justices, laid the cornerstone. “Fine day, brass band, singing, a big crowd,” a participant later remembered.

The mint site was located on Carson Street, with approximately 90 feet of frontage—about two blocks from the Virginia & Truckee Railroad passenger station. As originally proposed, the foundation of the two-and-a-half-story mint building was laid in concrete and set seven feet below the basement floor. The structure’s architectural style was best described as neo-classical.

Building plans depicted an entryway, 12-foot wide hallway, a 12 by 40-foot main hall, a spiral staircase, a 13 by 16-foot (paying teller) office, a 19 by 19-foot coining room, a 10 by 14.5-foot whitening room with a solid masonry vault (5 by 6-feet), an annealing furnace and rolling room (17 by 24-feet), a 10 by 24-foot gold and silver melting room, a 12 by 19-foot (refiner and melter) office, a 14.5 by

19-foot (deposit) melting room, a 19 by 19-foot (deposit) weighing room with a 6.5 by 10.5-foot strong vault, a 13 by 16-foot treasurer's office with a 5 by 5-foot vault, an engine room (16.5 by 53-feet); also a cabinet, an adjusting room, a ladies' dressing room, a humid assay room, assayer's office, assayer's room, watchman's room, two storerooms, an attic, and a basement.

Granite used in the construction of the building came from a nearby quarry operated by the territorial prison. Likewise, the architectural marble used in its interior came from a bed of that stone, located about five miles northeast of Carson. Delivery of the machinery necessary to manufacture gold and silver coins was made on November 22nd, 1868. Coinage dies were prepared at the US mint in Philadelphia and then shipped by express messenger to Carson. Mint Commissioner/Construction Superintendent Abraham Curry was promoted to the position of mint superintendent in April 1869.

Coin Production Commenced

Actual production of coins did not begin until January 8th, 1870. By year's end gold and silver production from the Nevada mines totaled about \$16.0 million. Of this amount \$8.3 million came from the Comstock Lode alone, and included both Lyon and Storey counties. In its first year of operation, deposits at the Carson branch mint during fiscal year [i.e., July 1st through June 30th] 1870 were only \$152,417. Similarly, gold and silver coinage produced during that same (calendar) year amounted to \$173,235

and \$41,855.50, respectively. Mint Superintendent Abraham Curry served until September 1870. H. F. Rice was named as Curry's replacement that same month.

Congressional legislation was approved on February 12th, 1873, that established the US Mint as a bureau of the Department of the Treasury. Consequently, the director's office was relocated from the mint at Philadelphia to the Treasury Building in Washington, DC. In April 1873 Dr. Richard Linderman became the bureau's director, appointed by President Grant. Between 1855 and 1864 he had served as chief clerk, and later as mint director (April 1867 to May 1869). Earlier, he had written a comprehensive report on the condition of the silver market, suggesting that the silver surplus could be coined into "trade dollars."

During the period including fiscal years (FY) 1873, 1874, 1875, and 1876, gold and silver deposits at the Carson mint were (in millions) \$9.25, \$5.9, \$5.6, and \$8.2, respectively. Coinage production for both metals in FY 1873 was 529,440 pieces. This figure included 41,490 gold pieces (half-eagles, eagles, and double eagles) and 487,950 subsidiary silver coins (standard dollars, half-dollars, quarters, and dimes). By FY 1876 the total had grown to 151,603 gold pieces and 13,907,000 silver coins, of which 1,329,000 were trade dollars. And the value of the ore removed from the mines of Lyon and Storey counties between 1873 and 1876, a period of only four years, totaled more than \$101.65 million.

Mint records show that during FY 1876 alone the US Mint at Philadelphia manufactured and shipped 257

Coinage press number 1 was put into service at the Carson mint in 1870. It's still in use today, producing medals for sale to mint visitors. The 12,000 pound press exerts up to 110 tons of pressure on today's medals, though the silver coins of the past required as much as 170 tons (a pressure considered unwise for operation on this press today). Originally a stream-driven machine, today the press has been adapted for use with an electric motor.

coinage dies to Carson: 27 for the production of double eagles (\$20 gold pieces), six for eagles (\$10), eight for half-eagles (\$5), 62 for trade dollars, 18 for standard dollars, 36 for half-dollars, 36 for quarters, six for \$.20 coins, and 10 for dimes. At the end of this production cycle, all of these dies were returned to Philadelphia where they were destroyed, a standard practice.

Dr. Linderman had noted in his director's report of the prior fiscal year (1875), "The duplication of the coining machinery at the mint in Carson, for which an appropriation was made two years ago, had been completed and the coining capacity doubled." With respect to the parting of ore, he explained, "The Comstock bullion ... consists, on the average, of twenty-one parts by weight of silver to one of gold. The two metals must be separated or parted before either can be brought to the legal standard for coinage.

"Since the usefulness of [the Western] mints to the country at large, and more especially California and Nevada, depended upon [sic] the supply of precious metals which [sic] they receive for manipulation, it was important to ascertain how the



expectations of an abundant supply from that source were [sic] likely to be realized."

Bullion Yield Estimated

In the summer of 1875 the director met with the managers of the Consolidated Virginia and the California mines in an effort to gain "correct information respecting the extent of the ore-body and its prospective yield of bullion." Linderman believed that it was necessary "...to go into the mines for the purpose of making full observations and measurements, and to take specimens...for assay, representing, as nearly as could be obtained, an average of the ore-body."

On the 16th of July the director, accompanied by Professor Robert E. Rogers, arrived in Virginia City. Previously, Rogers had been in charge of all refinery equipment in the branch mint at San Francisco. "Before we left Virginia City for San Francisco," Linderman recollected, "the superintendent of the mines placed in our hands certi-

fied surveys. ... These... were taken to San Francisco for careful examination and study.” Having official business at the Carson facility the next month, he decided to revisit the mines, arriving in Virginia City on August 26th. “At my request,” Director Linderman added, “the superintendent of the mines... furnished a statement, showing the explorations and developments made from August 26th... up to the 2nd instant [in November].” The director was confident: “...[T]he total production of all the mines on the Comstock may be safely estimated at not less than fifty million dollars per annum, about forty-five per cent [sic] of which will be gold.”

Later, Professor Rogers completed a separate report in which he determined that “...the ore-body equals an amount which... would give as the ultimate yield of the two mines [the Consolidated Virginia and California]... \$300,000,000; but... I take the assays at one-half that ascertained, which will place the production at not less than \$150,000,000.”

Nevada mines produced an estimated \$44 million in 1877, with \$18 and \$26 million in gold and silver, respectively. The bullion yield of the Comstock Lode alone amounted to almost \$34.9 million. Deposits at the mint were slightly more than \$5.39 million in FY 1877 of which almost \$1.74 million was gold. Coinage totaled 91,272 gold pieces, 16,292,000 subsidiary silver coins, and 221,000 trade dollars. Almost 600 dies were sent from Philadelphia: 91 for the striking of gold coins and 488 for silver; the latter figure included 58 trade dollar dies.

Total deposits at the mint over the

eight years from 1870 through 1877 were slightly less than \$44.6 million—about \$20.2 million in gold and \$24.4 in silver. Coinage production during the same period amounted to 35,477,463 of which 593,702 were gold pieces and 34,883,761 silver coins; the latter figure included trade dollars. Meanwhile, mint expenditures of \$1,519,333 exceeded earnings of \$1,318,406. The two greatest expenditures were salaries (\$153,063) and wages (\$628,241); the greatest income sources were derived from seigniorage (\$915,631) and parting (\$165,868). “Seigniorage” is defined as the difference between the cost of the bullion plus minting expenses and the value as money of the pieces coined.

In a letter from Carson Mint Superintendent James Crawford to Director Linderman, dated November 16, 1877, Crawford offered his opinion: “As a whole, the mining interests of Nevada were never in a more prosperous condition, nor did they ever before promise to yield as handsomely as at the present moment.”

Gold and silver deposits remained strong the next fiscal year, totaling somewhat less than \$3.2 million of which \$2.45 million was in silver. A total of 54,348 gold coins were struck at Carson in addition to 410,000 trade dollars, 1,114,000 standard dollars, and 5,630,000 fractional silver coins. During FY 1878, the Philadelphia facility shipped to this branch 66 dies for use in the striking of gold pieces, 92 for trade dollars, 100 for standard dollars, and 172 for fractional silver coins. Earnings topped \$229,575, with almost \$122,000 of this amount having come from seigniorage alone; in contrast, expenditures were just under

\$209,000. Mint Director Linderman noted, "...There is practically no difference in the cost of manufacturing a double eagle from that of a silver dollar." And this year, for the first time, he admitted that "...The insecurity of the mail, which is carried by stage-coach through the Territories [sic]...precludes sending government bullion by that method." The Virginia & Truckee and the Central Pacific railroads had become the alternative.

Coinage Suspended

While still in office, Director Linderman died on the 27th of January 1879. He had been the director of the Bureau of the Mint since its creation in April 1873. His association with that institution spanned more than 25 years. Horatio Burchard, known as the "father of the Consumer Price Index," was named by President Hayes to succeed Linderman as the director in February 1879. Burchard's report for that fiscal year conveyed his concerns with the Carson branch. He wrote, "Notwithstanding the fact that the mint at Carson City is located but a short distance from the productive mines of the Comstock Lode, higher prices were demanded for bullion deliverable at Carson than at San Francisco, and, in addition, the rates charged by the express company for transportation of silver dollars were higher from Carson than San Francisco. For these reasons, it was decided ... to suspend the coinage of the standard silver dollars at the Carson mint, and instructions were given February 26, 1879, to the superintendent thereof to coin up as closely as practicable the bullion then on hand, and to cease purchasing...lots of less than ten thousand

[sic] ounces, and to retain only such number of workmen and adjusters as might be necessary." However, the Treasury Commission (this included Assistant Secretary French, US Treasurer Wyman, and mint Director Burchard) recommended that the mint accept offers to buy silver—delivered at Carson—if/when its price, plus the transportation cost of the end product (coins), was the same as the bullion cost at the Philadelphia or New Orleans mints.

Total deposits that fiscal year were just over \$1.3 million, with about \$300,000 in gold and \$1 million in silver. Mint records show that only 24,357 gold coins were struck in three denominations; 1,644,000 standard silver dollars were struck as well. Philadelphia had provided 24 dies for the former and 30 for the latter. The Carson mint earned \$188,296 of which \$182,672 came from seigniorage. Expenses were \$157,335 of which \$103,549 had been charged to personnel. Confident of his mint's future, Superintendent Crawford told his boss, Director Burchard, "The present outlook...is that the product will be greatly increased during the current year."

The director, however, was not as optimistic as his superintendent. "The mint [at Carson] accomplished but little coinage during the [FY] year," Burchard informed the Treasury secretary, "and for several months was comparatively idle. The receipts of gold have at no time been great and almost entirely of the production of... Nevada. The records show that of all gold deposits at this mint during the last seven years, less than \$100,000 was produced by other states and Ter-

ritories [sic].”

“ [T]he production of 1879 is considered less than that of the preceding year,” he continued. “It has resulted from the diminished yield of the mines of the Comstock Lode. A depth has been reached 1,000 feet below the bed of the Carson River, and impediments are encountered from accumulations of water and from oppressive temperature, [sic] which discourage and have retarded vertical exploration. This has caused a falling off in the total yield...from the production of the preceding year, [sic] which...was \$47,076,863 of both gold and silver, but which for 1879, J. F. Hollock, the State [sic] controller, reports to be only \$19,305,473.97. The hope of finding similar deposits or a continuation of the large ore-body of the ‘bonanza mines’ in the lower levels of contiguous mines has not as yet been realized.”

Over the long term, Director Burchard was somewhat hopeful. “Although the production of Nevada will be large and continuous for many years, it does not appear probable that the mines of that State [sic] will make such enormous contributions to the mineral wealth of the country as they have in previous years.” Despite his concerns, the director reminded the Treasury secretary, “At the second session of the Forty-fifth Congress an appropriation of \$8,500 was made for the purpose of replacing boilers and rebuilding the boiler-house. This work has not yet been finished, and I respectfully recommend that additional provision be made, not only to complete the edifice as originally planned, but to add a second floor to connect with and enlarge the refinery,

the present capacity of which is limited by contracted room.”

Mint Remained Open

By October 1879 Carson’s stock of bullion had been reduced to about \$107,000 in gold and a little over \$14,000 in silver. This supply was less than that necessary for even a month’s production of coins. Coining work was, therefore, temporarily suspended from November 1st of that year through May 1st of the next. Even so, the mint remained open so that gold and silver could be purchased; and, so that both metals could be deposited and refined. Coinage production was resumed on July 1st, 1880.

According to the mint director, only enough bullion could be purchased to allow the striking of 8,318,000 standard silver dollars by the two Pacific Coast mints combined. Silver bullion, deliverable to the mints at San Francisco and at Carson, could not be purchased at market rates. The existing supply, by this time, had been reduced to 12,342 ounces. “The purchase and reception of silver bullion was...in the meantime continued,” Burchard explained, “and a stock accumulated by the 16th of April [sic] 1880, [sic] of 227,087.54 standard ounces. This amount justified the resumption of coinage, but the whole amount of silver bullion obtained for the Carson Mint [sic] during the year amounted at its coining value to \$597,624.28 only.” Then came the news from the Bureau of the Mint’s assay committee.

Legal Limit Not Met

“The assayer of the [US] Mint... discovered that a silver coin of the

Ninety-six thousand 1880CC silver dollars were melted because they failed an assay which revealed an insufficiency in their purity.

Carson Mint [sic], from the coiner's July delivery [1880]...was below the legal limit of tolerance," Burchard reported. "The [Carson] superintendent...was immediately directed not to pay out, but to retain in his possession all of the coins of that delivery, and to seal up...all packages which [sic] might contain any of such coins. ... Ninety-six packages, each containing one thousand [sic] dollars, were thus sealed up and reserved for further assays at the bureau, and a special examination made by Andrew Mason, melter and refiner at the New York Assay Office, in conformity with the order of the [US] President to investigate the matter, confirmed the previous assays, and demonstrated that the fineness of a certain bar of bullion, about to be melted for coinage, had been incorrectly stated to the melter and refiner of the Carson Mint [sic], and that ingots of defective fineness made therefrom had afterward passed the assay department of that mint without detection.

"It did not appear that the error had occurred through the neglect of the assayer's subordinates, and as the assayer himself had died shortly after the first discovery of the defective coinage, it became unnecessary to take any further action, except to order all the coins contained in the 96 packages to be remelted for coinage, which was done," the director concluded.

Carson had resumed its coinage production in July 1880; but, on April 1st, 1881, all such activity was, once



again, suspended for lack of sufficient bullion. During those nine productive months, \$883,590 were coined. Although the mint's coin presses remained inactive until the close of the fiscal year, the facility remained open for the receipt and purchase of bullion as well as the payment on deposits.

Conditions Improved

During FY 1882, "The difficulty in procuring silver for coinage was less than that experienced in former years, and coinage operations...were resumed in the month of October and continued during the remainder of the year," Director Burchard reported. "The work performed...was nearly double that of the preceding year." Gold and silver deposits totaled \$1,016,808 and \$1,003,321, respectively. Three denominations of gold coins were struck (85,383 pieces in all). Silver coinage totaled 763,000, all of which were silver dollars. The Philadelphia mint provided 14 gold coin dies and 30 for the silver dollar. Earnings for the fiscal year were \$135,517 (\$97,735 from seigniorage); expenses were \$113,036 (\$94,952 of

which were in salaries and wages).

“This institution [the Carson mint] is of advantage to the miners and mine owners in that portion of Nevada where it is located, in affording a local market for their silver production, as well as a convenient means of obtaining the value of their gold bullion in coin or bars,” Burchard admitted in his FY 1883 report. Total deposits for that year were \$1,472,624 and \$1,276,182 in gold and silver, respectively. Coin production for this period consisted of 104,042 gold pieces (using 26 dies) and 1,120,000 silver dollars (using 20 dies). Earnings were \$170,545 (\$146,423 from seigniorage); expenditures amounted to \$146,668 (of which \$98,649 were in salaries and wages).

In his annual report for FY 1884, the mint director wrote, “... A steady supply of silver has been purchased, mostly in lots of less than 10,000 ounces, and the silver coinage has averaged about \$100,000 [in silver dollars] per month.” Deposits for the fiscal year totaled \$2,410,552 with \$1,451,820 of it in gold and \$958,640 in silver. A total of 107,955 gold coins, in three denominations, were struck; silver dollar production totaled 1,164,000. Earnings were \$186,168 (of which \$168,705 was from seigniorage) while expenditures were \$147,907 (\$99,362 of which represented salaries and wages).

“Mr. James Crawford, Superintendent [sic] of the Mint [sic] at Carson, who had filled the office since September 9th, 1874, died on the morning of March 8th, 1885,” James Kimball told the Treasury secretary in the annual mint report of FY 1885. Appointed by President Cleveland, Kimball had replaced Burchard as

director in July, shortly after the end of the fiscal year. He had been trained as a metallurgist and geologist; and, prior to his appointment, Kimball had been employed as a mining engineer. “Mr. Crawford had proved an efficient and worthy officer, and was much beloved by the officers and employees of the mint,” he wrote.

William Garrard replaced Crawford as mint superintendent on April 1st, 1885. Coiner Levi Dague was suspended at the same time. Joseph Ryan was appointed in place of Dague. Ryan, in turn, was suspended in August of FY 1886 when all coinage production ceased. Deposits of gold during FY 1885 were \$1,505,665 and \$1,159,122 of silver. Coinage consisted of 58,189 gold pieces (using 28 dies) and 776,000 silver dollars (using 20 dies). Earnings were \$136,609 (inclusive of \$116,046 from seigniorage); expenditures were \$129,462 (inclusive of \$83,820 in salaries and wages). Most disturbing to Treasury officials, the cost of coining each piece (all of which were double eagles and silver dollars) at Carson in 1884 was \$.0728; by 1885 it had risen to \$.0913. This was much greater than the costs at either the Philadelphia (\$.0130 and \$.0189, respectively), San Francisco (\$.0437 and \$.0580, respectively), or New Orleans (\$.0155 and \$.0149, respectively) mints during the same years.

Mint Reduced to Assay Office

Under instructions from the secretary of the Treasury, all coinage efforts ceased after April 1st, 1885. Director Kimball confessed, “The business of...the Mint [sic] at Carson...has

James Crawford was superintendent of the Carson mint from 1874 to 1885, the year of his death.

Crawford's replacement was William Garrard, generally considered an ineffectual custodian of the post.



been practically reduced to that of an assay office.” He was blunt. “Coinage has been entirely suspended...and all clerks and operatives in the Assayer’s [sic], Melter and Refiner’s [sic], and Coiner’s [sic] departments, [sic] have been discharged. In the General [sic] department only one deposit-melter, one messenger [sic] and seven watchmen are now borne upon the pay-roll [sic] of workers.

“Of the officers and salaried clerks the newly-appointed [sic] Coiner [sic] has been suspended. ...The Assistant Coiner [sic] and Abstract Clerk [sic] have been removed, and the office of Register of Deposits [sic] is vacant owing to [the] failure upon [sic] the part of the appointee to qualify. [These staff reductions occurred between June 11th and November 16th]. Since the suspension of coinage...all the coin, except some \$18,000, in standard dollars, has been transferred, and the removal of the bullion on hand is now in progress. But little business has been done at this mint during the past three months, the aggregate of the depos-

its amounting to only 500 ounces of gold and some 700 ounces of silver,” Kimball opined.

The director had become concerned with the mint’s security as well as its operations. “...[A]ll of the institutions [mints], as far as I am informed, with the exception of the Mint [sic] at San Francisco, are supplied with vaults the security of which mainly depends upon [sic] the integrity and efficiency of guards and patrols by night, and upon [sic] the presence of officers and employees by day.”

In his report of the 1886 fiscal year, Director Kimball acknowledged, “The Mint [sic] at Carson was closed during the entire year, although the coinage of 28,000 silver dollars is credited to that institution. The coinage was really executed prior to June 30, 1885, but not delivered by the coiner to the superintendent until after July 1st, 1885, which brought it into this year’s statement of coinage.” He went on, “The purchase of silver... has been confined exclusively to the

mints at Philadelphia and New Orleans, where the silver could be more economically obtained and the coinage executed with greater advantage to the government.” Indeed, Kimball believed that the fall off in business during the first three months of FY 1886 (from 23,333 standard ounces in gold deposits in 1885 to 518 ounces in 1886) in itself justified closing the Carson facility.

Deposits Went Elsewhere

What caused the cessation of deposits at Carson? Kimball identified two causes. “[F]irst, to the payment of depositors by draft instead of in cash; and, second, to the collection of a transportation charge from depositors for the cost of transportation of refined bullion to the Mint [sic] at San Francisco, by express.” In October 1886 it was decided to reopen the Carson facility to depositors, and to pay these customers “in current funds.” Dr. David Tuttle was appointed to the position of melter and refiner; Joseph Ryan became the assayer.

Although it was opened for the receipt of deposits during FY 1887, the Carson mint was closed for coinage purposes—effectively, its sole function was as an assay office. Gold and silver deposits totaled \$166,107. Expenditures for the year exceeded \$35,000, more than \$32,000 of which were for personnel. “Substantially the whole product of these mines [of the Comstock Lode], instead of being transshipped south...to Carson...has always been shipped directly to San Francisco for parting [“parting” refers to the silver contained in gold deposits and its separation therefrom] and refining, for coinage of all the gold, and

for as much of silver as required by... demands from the mint at that city for coinage of dollars,” Director Kimball observed in his 1887 report. “As the product of the Comstock Lode down to the year 1881 has constituted some seven-tenths of the gold and silver... of the whole State [sic]...the other three-tenths...[have] been reported from Storey County, exclusive of Virginia City, and from the neighboring counties—Lyon, Washoe, and Ormsby. From these four counties, and perhaps occasionally from the Bodie district, substantially the whole of the deposits of the mint at Carson have been derived.”

“For the first three years of operations at...Carson,” he continued, “a considerable volume of silver was deposited for unparted bars. From 1873 to the middle of 1875 large deposits of silver were made for trade-dollars, many of which passed into local circulation. For the coinage of subsidiary silver coin at this mint in 1876 and the following year [sic] comparatively large purchases of silver were made. Since that time all silver coinage has consisted of standard dollars, the monthly capacity of the mint for this kind of coin being some 200,000. All of the silver coined at this mint has been deposited in an unparted state.”

Carson continued to operate as an assay office during FY 1888; the coin-er’s department remained closed. “The business at the [Carson] mint...has been confined to the receipt of gold deposits in payment of value in coin or bars, and to the receipt of silver deposits for bars, the gold contained being paid for in coin when desired,” Kimball’s annual report stated. John Dennis had become the melter and

refiner in April, succeeding Dr. Tuttle who was appointed to that position at Philadelphia. Dennis' department operated on 45,538 standard ounces of gold and on 766,394 ounces of silver during the fiscal year. Deposits of both metals totaled over \$1.8 million.

Coinage Resumed Again

Coinage was resumed in July [1889], almost nine months after the Treasury had authorized the mint's reopening. In October of that year, President Harrison appointed Edward Leech to the post of US Mint director; he succeeded Kimball. Since 1873 Leech had served at the mint bureau: first as an assistant to the director; then, as an assay clerk, adjuster of accounts, and as a computer of bullion. Although he had received a law degree in 1886, Leech had continued his career at the mint. In his annual report for FY 1890, he summarized "[T]he mint at Carson was closed to coinage during the four previous years, but was reopened with a full corps of officers on July 1, 1889. The expenses of this institution conducted as a coinage mint aggregated during the last fiscal year [were] \$124,928.52, against \$61,706.99 expended in the prior year, when its business was limited to the manufacture of [gold and silver] bars."

Director Leech reminded his boss, "The expense per piece...at the mint

at Carson is very much greater...partly because the operations are limited on account of [the] lack of machinery as well as a stock of bullion, but also for the reason that the cost of repairs and renovating of the buildings, ... closed for coinage purposes for four years, is included in the cost of coinage." The building was in dilapidated condition after years of idleness. Repairs and betterments to the structure as well as the overhaul and repair of machinery were necessary, the director complained. Combined, gold and silver deposits for the period amounted to almost \$3.5 million. Coinage consisted of 30,945 double eagles (using 24 dies) and 350,000 silver dollars (using 50 dies). Earnings were \$406,380 (of which \$368,929 came from seigniorage) while expenditures topped \$153,000 (of which more than \$100,000 represented salaries and wages). Coinage production at the Carson mint continued through fiscal years 1891 and 1892.

During FY 1891, a total of 276,726 gold pieces were struck in three denominations (using 42 dies) in addition to 2,109,041 silver dollars [using 40 dies]. Carson's earnings were almost \$401,000 while its expenditures were just under \$180,000. The average cost per coin: \$.0564—much greater than either the \$.0239 at San Francisco or the \$.0175 at Philadelphia. Mint

Factoid...

Though known as *the Silver State*, more gold is actually produced in Nevada on a dollar-for-dollar basis as reflected in these production weights from 2015:

<i>Alloy</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>2017 Value</i>
Silver	295.4	\$163,544,032.00 (at \$17.22 per ounce)
Gold	166.1	\$6,822,689,359.00 (at \$1,277 per ounce)

production declined the following year with about 224,000 gold coins struck (using 60 dies) and almost 1.40 million silver dollars (using 30 dies). Earnings were slightly more than \$378,000 with expenditures of almost \$152,000; at the same time, the average cost per coin had increased to \$.0764.

Preston Suspended Operations

President Cleveland selected Robert Preston in May 1893 as Leech's replacement. Prior to his appointment as director, Preston had worked at the Treasury Department, serving as the auditor of the US Mint; then, at the Mint he had worked as a computer of bullion, assay clerk, adjuster of accounts, and finally as a Mint examiner. Director Preston's first annual report was for the 1893 fiscal year. During this period, the Carson facility struck 160,167 gold coins in three denominations (using 70 dies) and almost 1.40 million silver dollars (using 20 dies). Earnings were approximately \$470,000 (more than \$440,000 of which were derived from seigniorage) while expenditures exceeded \$132,000.

"By direction of the Secretary [sic] of the Treasury coinage operations at the mint of Carson City were suspended on June 1, 1893," Director Preston announced, "and the force employed in the coiner's department dispensed with. A corresponding reduction was also made in other departments. ... The business of the Carson mint is now conducted on the same basis as that of the assay office at New York."

Preston explained, "The mint at Carson City being of limited capac-

ity, and the amount of gold deposited and silver produced there being small as compared with the amount of gold deposited and silver purchased at the San Francisco mint, which possesses a large coinage capacity, the expenses for coinage were much greater at Carson than at San Francisco. Upon the suspension of coinage operations... the presses and other machinery used in the coinage department were painted and leaded under the supervision of Mr. Charles H. Colburn, the retiring coiner, to prevent corrosion. ... [S]hould coinage operations not be resumed at the Carson City Mint [sic], it will be necessary to transport the gold bullion deposited at that institution to the mint at San Francisco for conversion into coin."

The Carson facility continued to function as an assay office during the 1894 and 1895 fiscal years. J. W. Adams was appointed as the superintendent; and Hirsch Harris was named as the melter and refiner. Both men undertook their respective duties on June 1st, 1894. "At this time a complete settlement was made of both the [former] superintendent's and the [former] melter and refiner's accounts," the director stated. He added, "At the time the melter and refiner was ill and died shortly thereafter." A settlement of all accounts was made, and all were determined to be in order.

Bullion Theft Discovered

According to Director Preston, "On February 13, 1895, the [Carson] superintendent received an official communication from Mr. Hirsch Harris, the melter and refiner, stating that a clean-up [sic] of the refinery had revealed an apparent shortage

in the gold bullion of approximately 3,000 standard ounces. The superintendent immediately caused all the bullion in the hands of the melter and refiner to be reweighed and his accounts checked. ...On February 15 the Bureau of the Mint was advised by letter...of the apparent loss, with the request that some competent person be sent from the Department [sic] to investigate the matter. ...The Bureau [sic] immediately requested Mr. Andrew Mason, superintendent [of the] United States assay office [in] New York [sic] to make the investigation.

“...The investigation developed the fact that between August, [sic] 1893, [sic] and November, [sic] 1894,” Preston revealed, “James H. Heney, occupying the position of silver dissolver in the refinery from December 1, 1891, to June 30, 1893, had melted at the Reno Reduction Works and subsequently sold to the Selby Smelting and Lead Company of San Francisco...fine gold of the value of \$23,000. After a through investigation...the evidence collected was deemed sufficient to justify the arrest of John T. Jones, assistant melter and refiner, and James H. Heney. ...The grand jury convened on August 19... and their trial [both Jones and Heney] was set for November 1, 1895. ... [Earlier] on June 4...10.25 pounds of crude silver amalgam were found secreted on the premises of W. J. Pickler, deposit melter of the mint. Mr. Pickler, failing to satisfactorily account for it, was arrested. ...[However] Pickler died on the 31st of July, [sic] 1895.”

In his report of FY 1896, Director Preston acknowledged, “Owning to the investigation and trials of the persons charged with the embezzlement

of gold bullion from the melter and refiner’s department, the refinery has not been operated during the year, and the business of this mint was limited to the receipt of gold deposits only.” He then announced, “...[T]he parties charged with the embezzlement... have been convicted and sentenced to a term of eight years’ imprisonment [at hard labor] and to pay a fine of \$5,000.”

Carson Mint Closed

Preston reported, “In April, [sic] 1897, the refinery was again closed, for the reason that the amount of bullion deposits did not justify refinery operations. The value of the yearly deposits of gold bullion...did not exceed \$650,000. In view of these facts, it is...recommended that the mint at Carson be discontinued... and hereafter the business of said institution be conducted upon [sic] the same basis as the...assay office at Boise City, Idaho. Provision should be made for the transfer of the silver dollars [5,081,388 were stored there] to the subtreasury [sic] and the bullion [almost 568,000 fine ounces of silver] to the...mint at San Francisco.”

The Mint of the United States at Carson was officially reduced to an assay office on July 1st, 1899. Shortly thereafter, one of its high-speed coin presses as well as a pair of large scales were removed and shipped to the facility in New Orleans. And on January 1st, 1901, it was announced that a “Suit has been instituted and is pending against the estate and sureties of E. B. Zabriskie, deceased, who held the position of melter and refiner of the Carson mint during the period...[in which \$75,550] was embezzled. The

recovery of any part of the amount is very doubtful.”

Functioning with only two or three employees, the Carson assay office remained open until the close of the 1933 fiscal year when it was shuttered. US Mint Director Nellie Ross—an appointee of President Franklin Roosevelt—decided that the Carson City mint, after more than six decades of service, was no longer needed. As she reasoned, “With [the] present improved transportation facilities, and most bullion deposits reaching the Government [sic] through the mails and express companies, the remaining bullion-receiving institutions [i.e., the branch mints at San Francisco and Denver]...adequately cover the field and provide for the prompt turning into usable cash of either newly minted bullion or that reclaimed from industry.” Today, the 149-year old Carson branch continues to serve the public—not as a mint, but as one of Nevada’s most visited museums. As

such, it has exceeded the expectations of its many critics.

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\$5 Gold: the Only Denomination from All Eight US Mints



By Jim Wells

In the two and one-quarter centuries since the Philadelphia Mint was opened in 1792, US mints have struck coins at eight locations. From the original half cents and large cents to recent bullion coins of \$25, \$50, and \$100, US coinage has spanned 19 denominations. Prominent among historical denominations and collector interest has been the \$5 half eagle. The only denomination struck at all eight mints has been this \$5 gold coin.

The \$5 half eagle and nine other denominations were specified in the Mint Act of 1792, that established the dollar as the basis of our decimal monetary system. Like for all US coinage, the story of half eagles is filled with numerous *facts*: the true records of designs, mintages, mintmarks, and engravers. Likewise, like all US coinage, the half eagle story is filled with *factoids*: the true but brief and trivial information of the series. How many of the *facts* described here did you know? How many of the *factoids*?

Philadelphia's Initial Designs (1795-1834)

Coin designs and production practices changed rapidly in the mint's formative years. Chief Engraver Robert Scot's first half eagle design featured a stylish Miss Liberty wearing a tall liberty cap resembling a turban. The design is possibly a copy of the ancient Roman head of a Hellenistic goddess. The reverse showed a "small" or "plain" eagle perched atop a palm branch, an adaptation of a first-century Roman onyx cameo. The same designs were used on \$10 eagle coins. In 1798 Scot introduced a new reverse design of a heraldic eagle. The design was based on the Great Seal of the United States, and would eventually be used on all silver denominations too. But heraldic-reverse, half-eagle coins were also struck (likely in 1798) with leftover turban head obverse dies dated 1795 and 1797.

In 1807 Mint Director Robert Patterson tasked new Assistant Engraver

The turban head half eagle of 1795-1807 was produced only at the first Philadelphia Mint, but sported two different reverses.



John Reich to develop improved designs for all denominations, a slap at Scot. Reich responded with a capped bust obverse design. Newspaper criticism characterized the portrait as “the artist’s fat mistress,” and the design lasted only six years. On the reverse was an eagle with a shield and outstretched wings, which was used with small modifications for 102 years!

John Reich changed the obverse portrait of Miss Liberty again in 1813, discarding her drapery and leaving only a capped bust. The reverse was essentially the same. The coins were reduced from a “large diameter” (25 mm) to a “reduced diameter” (23.8 mm), but same weight (8.75 grams) in 1829 to accommodate new mint machinery.

Fact: After copper and silver coins were struck for two years, the first gold coins struck by the US were half eagles in 1795, followed later that year by \$10 eagles. The third original gold denomination, \$2.50 quarter eagles, debuted the next year.

Factoid: For decades the mint’s principal output consisted of one denomination in each metal: gold half

Both capped head (1807-12) and capped bust (1813-34) coins used the same reverse eagle with outstretched wings.

eagles, silver half dollars, and copper cents. The half eagle was the most important US gold denomination in the early 1800s. In truth, half eagles were the only gold denomination produced from 1809 to 1820. It’s bullion value was conveniently close to that of many foreign coins of the period: the British guinea and sovereign, French louis d’or, and Portuguese 4,000 reis.

New Mints, New \$5 Design (1834-1838)

Miss Liberty’s cap was removed in 1834 when the classic head design by William Kneass was introduced. The coin’s weight was reduced slightly to prevent the mass melting that had consumed many earlier coins. Much of the melting was done overseas, yet the US Mint was in fact one of the biggest offenders. Many mintages were melted because their metal value was higher than their face value. Alexander

The Charlotte Mint's first half eagles in 1838 showed the classic head design, with the C mintmark above the date.



Hamilton's 1792 ratio of gold's value to silver was 15 to 1, yet increasing silver supplies poured into world markets and changed the ratio to nearly 18 to 1.

In the early 1800s, gold discoveries in North Carolina and Georgia and the ensuing gold rushes had supplied the Philadelphia Mint with new inputs, but with accompanying transportation problems from the mines to the mint.

President Andrew Jackson in 1835 approved three new mints: in Charlotte, North Carolina; Dahlonega, Georgia; and New Orleans. Charlotte and Dahlonega were near mining areas where the early gold discoveries were being mined. The government decided that only gold coins would be minted there.

New Orleans was the busiest port in the South and received many shipments of gold and especially silver from other countries. Both silver and gold coins were approved for minting in New Orleans.

The Charlotte and Dahlonega mints began production in 1838, the final year of the classic head half eagle. New Orleans produced silver coins starting in 1838, but their first half eagles were minted in 1840 using the follow-on Liberty head design.

Fact: Private minters in the southern states, including Templeton Reid and the Bechtler family, had produced gold coins in the early

1800s including the \$5 denomination. Their success spurred the US government to open the three Southern mints.

Factoid: Senator Henry Clay of Kentucky, a former speaker of the US house and secretary of state, and a minority of other senators strongly opposed Jackson's plan to open new mints.

The Long-Lived Liberty Head (1839-1908)

In the 45 years until 1839, the half eagle had seen a total of six design changes. A new version of the Liberty head (or coronet head) by Christian Gobrecht was introduced in 1839 that lasted for 70 years, with the only major change being the addition of *In God We Trust* to the reverse in 1866. The net weight of 0.2418 ounces of pure gold is still used today.

The Liberty head design was produced by the Philadelphia, Charlotte, Dahlonega, and New Orleans mints. In addition, a new mint was opened in San Francisco in 1854, another in Carson City, Nevada, in 1870, and a seventh mint in Denver in 1906. All seven mints struck the Liberty head half eagle.

The Charlotte, Dahlonega, and New Orleans mints were closed in 1861 at the start of the Civil War. After



Like Charlotte's coins, the Dahlonega Mint's first classic head half eagles in 1838 showed the D mintmark above the date.

reorganization and repairs, the New Orleans Mint resumed coinage in 1879. The mint was closed again in 1909, the final coins being half eagles.

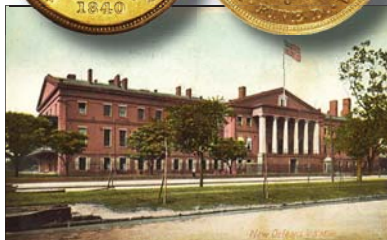
The 1848 gold discoveries in California produced a rush of prospectors, sudden growth, and quantities of raw gold. Many private California minters produced various denominations of gold coins. San Francisco's mint was opened in 1854 in the refurbished facility of Moffat & Company, a private coiner that had morphed into a United States assay office, then into a US mint.

The Carson City Mint was built primarily to process another Western

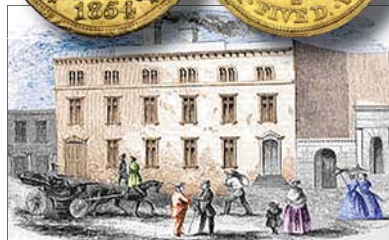
discovery of valuable metals: Nevada's Comstock Lode. Silver coins comprised 97% of the mint's coinage totals, but their gold coinage represented 48% of the mintage's face value. The mint opened in 1870 and closed in 1893, when the lode was exhausted.

Fact: *The Guide Book of US Coins* ("Red Book") lists 268 half eagles struck in the San Francisco Mint's inaugural year of 1854. But only three examples are known today; one is in the Smithsonian. Where did the rest go?

Factoid: The *Red Book* lists 6,879 half eagles minted during the Charlotte Mint's last year of 1861. But the mint was captured by Confederate troops on April 21, 1861. Reports show that gold on hand was used to



The New Orleans Mint's first half eagles in 1840 showed the Liberty head design, with an O mintmark below the eagle.



Half eagles from San Francisco were struck from gold from the California gold rush. This is the rare Smithsonian piece.

strike 2,044 half eagles in April and 887 in May, using the US dies. Similar captures occurred at Dahlonega and New Orleans. So, some portion of the year's half eagles were Confederate-struck.

The Revolutionary Indian Head (1908-1929)

President Theodore Roosevelt spearheaded a movement in the early 1900s to improve the artistry on US coins. He employed sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens to create new eagle and double eagle designs that were introduced to great acclaim in 1907. The next year, Saint-Gaudens' former student Bela Lyon Pratt brought completely new and unusual designs to half eagles and quarter eagles. The designs and legends were not raised above a flat field, but incused into the coins. The obverses featured an Indian chief in ceremonial headdress. The reverse had an American eagle majestically poised with his wings at his side, atop a bundle of arrows.

During the depths of the Great

Depression in 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt ordered the end of gold coinage. Mintage of half eagles and quarter eagles had ceased after 1929. All gold coins except numismatic coins and quarter eagles were recalled into banks, to be exchanged for \$20.67 per ounce. In January 1934, the treasury raised the price of gold to \$35 per ounce. No US gold coins for circulation were minted thereafter.

Fact: The devices and legends of the Indian head half eagle are all depressed (incused) into the coin's flat surface, yet the mint marks are raised above the surface (from being stamped into the "flat" dies!)

Factoid: The \$5 half eagles and \$2.50 quarter eagles of 1908 were originally intended to feature the forward-striding Miss Liberty used on the Saint-Gaudens \$20 double eagle. But Augustus Saint-Gaudens died in August 1907 before these plans and dies were realized. The mint's chief engraver, Charles E. Barber, jealous of Saint-Gaudens' design, then declared the legends and lettered edge



Carson City half eagles were from 1870 to 1893, with the CC mintmark above the Five D, and In God We Trust added over the eagle.



Indian head half eagles, designed by Bela Lyon Pratt, were minted with an incuse design, as were her quarter eagle coins. The D mintmark is left of the arrow bundle.

of the double eagle were too large for the smaller coin sizes. Patterns were made, but before coins were struck, President Roosevelt was shown Bela Lyon Pratt's incuse design and approved it enthusiastically. Such modifications and jealousies likely occurred during many design changes.

Commemorative Outpourings from the Eighth Mint (1986 to the Present)

Commemorative half eagles were begun in 1986, more than 50 years after the previous regular-issue \$5 coins. Standards for weight (8.539 grams, 0.2418 oz. pure gold) and size (21.6 mm) are the same as for previous half eagle coins.

The first design marked the centennial of the Statue of Liberty. A close-up of the statue's face is on the obverse, and an eagle in flight adorns the reverse. Over thirty other commemorative half eagles have followed, roughly one each year. All have the same specifications.

Some uncirculated commemorative specimens were produced at the Philadelphia Mint, most uncirculated and proofs are minted at West Point.

The West Point Bullion Depository was opened in New York state in 1938 to house silver and gold bullion. The depository started striking cents, medals, and finally gold coins in 1983. The W mintmark was the newest since Denver's D in 1906. A large celebration was held when the 1986-W Statue of Liberty \$5 gold commemorative was first struck. In 1988 the bullion depository was renamed the West Point Mint.

Fact: As this article's title declares, the half eagle is the only one of 19



The 1986-W Statue of Liberty Commemorative \$5 is the first of dozens of \$5 gold commemoratives struck at West Point.

US coin denominations minted by all eight mints.

Factoid: How about the \$5 (1/10 oz.) American eagle gold bullion coins, minted yearly since 1986, along with their \$10 (1/4 oz.), \$25 (1/2 oz.), and \$50 (1 oz.) siblings? Are the \$5 coins "half eagles?" My opinion is no; these \$5 coins are only three-fourths the diameter of half eagles and contain less than half the gold of the "real" half eagles.

So, are half eagles collectible? Assembling all the 309 date/mint/variety combinations listed in the *Guidebook* would probably be futile, based on the many uncollectible rarities and high prices. Even collecting all the obverse-head designs requires some expensive purchases. The 30+ recent commemorative half eagles might be obtainable. More likely is a half eagle from each of the eight US mints; seven of them produced the Liberty head type, and you have a wide selection for a modern West Point-minted coin.

Whatever your choice, you can enjoy the artistry and history of the half eagle denomination, with or without holding the coins. That's numismatics!



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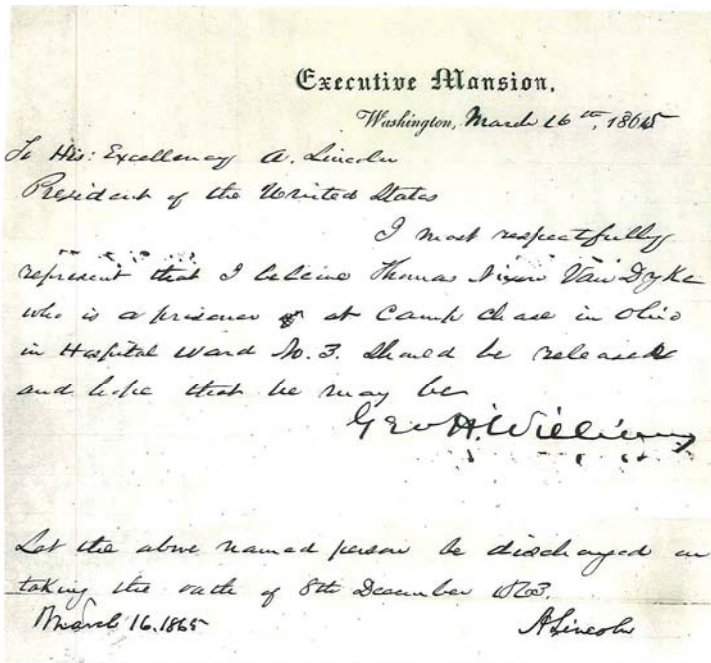
So are \$5 gold bullion coins half eagles? No, too small, too light!

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Lincolnia

Sol Taylor provides the below image and writes: "A tidbit of Abraham Lincoln. The original was part of the estate of Maurice M. Gould who acquired it at Copley Coin Company in Boston around WWII. It was sold at a mail bid sale in 1976 to a well-known Lincoln collector Gordon Z. Greene who died in 1977, and its present ownership and location are unknown."



My Latest Adventure

by *Bill Febuary*

Years ago when I first became interested in collecting I started out with cents as they were abundant and circulating everywhere in the town I lived in. Most people I knew in church and in my own employment had pennies they had saved over the years.

A church friend of mine's father was elderly and had collected Lincoln cents in the 1930's, '40's, and early '50's, and had put away coffee cans and tobacco cans full of pennies, not really knowing what to do with them.

When I told my church friend I was a coin collector he told me of his father and his many Lincoln pennies, and he asked me if I would examine the coins his father had put away. I told him I would be happy to.

Up first was a one-pound Prince Albert tobacco can containing nothing but Lincoln cents. As I sorted through the coins, I was amazed at how many key and semi-key Lincolns were in each can. I discovered I could perhaps put together a complete set of coins (without the major keys) from 1909 to 1958. The finding of this many coins that almost completed a set of Lincoln cents was thrilling in itself, until my discovery of a 1922 *plain* Lincoln cent in very fine condition. That was the climax, and I continued to search through the remaining cans that this old timer had put away.

I took a Blue Whitman folder that I had purchased a few days before, and my reward to the old timer was that I put together a complete date set of coins from my finds from his tin cans. He had no problem with me keeping

the semi-key date coins that I found along with the 1922 plain Lincoln cent, which made the treasure hunt all the more worthwhile.

A few years later the old fellow passed away and I believe my friend gave the remaining coins to several of the grandsons for them to start their own collecting hobby.

Now for the reason for this story. As I searched through my various albums and sets that I collected and put together over the past 45 years, I came across a similar set that I had put together from those cents from the old fellow's cans. As I looked them over I realized that only one or two coins were missing from the set. I had forgotten all about this particular Lincoln set in its Blue Whitman folder, similar to the one I had given the old fellow, and so I had to review and grade each coin and put them into a newer album, a Dansco album where the coins could be better stored.

Over the years I have done almost the same thing with the various coin albums and coins I've collected, and I decided to grade each coin and place them into newer albums for better storage and an easier way to safeguard and display them for others to see.

So here again is another numismatic story where many of our readers may have done a similar thing with their own coins, as well as the stories they could tell about their own collecting experiences. That is why numismatics is such a thrilling hobby, because there is no end to the stories that can be told and shared with others.

California Token Spotlight

Shining on: The Mitchell Building, Cloverdale

by *Merle Avila*

At 117 North Cloverdale Boulevard sits the Mitchell Building, the oldest commercial building in Cloverdale. Today it houses the Cloverdale Flower Shoppe. Over the years, many businesses have resided there. The building dates from 1854. To put this into historical perspective, in 1851, the land in the area was deeded from Maria Jesus Palament to Horrel Johnson. In 1856 Richard Markle and a man named Miller bought the 800 and some odd acres that are known today as Cloverdale. The land was known then as Markle Place. There was a trading post owned by J. H. Hartman and F. G. Hahman, both pioneer merchants from Santa Rosa, and a tavern belonging to Richard Markle. It was not until 1859 that Markle and Miller deeded the land to James A. Kleiser and David C. Brush. In 1872 the town of Cloverdale was incorporated.

In 1865, Charles “Charlie” E. Mitchell bought the building and housed a saloon business there. Charlie Mitchell purchased the saloon from W. T. Brush. In 1907, Tom Mitchell and his brother, Jake, took over the saloon from their father, Charlie, and ran it until 1915 when they sold the business to Joe Perazzo. In 1910 the saloon was known as the Mitchell Brothers Saloon. The building itself

stayed in the Mitchell family from 1865 until 1949.

In 1915 there was a devastating fire in Cloverdale. The Union Hall, an ice cream parlor, a barbershop, the Cloverdale Hotel, and two other saloons were lost. The fire burned to the south wall of this little building and stopped. In that same year, the Mitchell Brothers sold the business to Joe Perazzo, but retained ownership of the building. From May 1, 1923, until 1943 when he died, Tom Mitchell and his wife, Edna, ran Mitchell’s Sandwich Shoppe. Over the years there have been many face-lifts to the interior and exterior of the building, but the structure, made entirely of redwood, remains the same.



The building at 117 N. Cloverdale Blvd. as it appears today.

The Mitchell Brothers U-Auto ("you ought to"... get it?) Saloon is shown in this 1910 photo and traces its roots back to 1865. The building stands today, 152 years later, a testament to the endurance of the redwood "bones" that have held this structure up over that length of time.



K-4



K-10

K-15



K-16

It Makes Cents:

Where You Could Find It

by Dr. Sol Taylor

In thinking through my many years of coin collecting, I would share a few notable finds, especially with my fellow octogenarians.

The most unlikely find was during WWII when I bought a roll of 1919S cents from a fellow collector for one dollar. My big prize was a well worn 1909S VDB in the roll; it was dirty, well worn, but easily identifiable as the real thing. It was the third 1909S VDB I ever found (all before 1945).

At the beach (Bay 4, Brighton Beach, Brooklyn) during WWII I sifted through a handful of sand and found a crusty Lincoln cent. At the time, the date was not clearly defined. So once I got it home and soaked it in detergent a few minutes and wiped it clean—it turned out to be a 1914D cent—the only one I ever found in circulation. I recall selling it in the 1960s to a local coin dealer for ten dollars, quite a find indeed.

At my first meeting of the Whittier Coin Club in 1961 I brought with me a cigar box with dozens of 1943 cents I had picked out the change based on their mint condition. Each one was wrapped in tin foil (not aluminum).



I had no real intention of selling them but when Bill Willoughby asked what I had in the cigar box, I told him (1943 cents). He looked at a few and offered me ten cents each—about 100 coins and a profit of 1,000 percent.

At the NASC

Bowers & Merena auction in 1980 they featured a full roll of BU 1909 VDB cents, apparently originally put away in 1909. I examined the roll and found ten 1909 VDB double dies in the roll, a variety not that well known at the time. Knowing many bidders at the auction knew me and my fascination with Lincoln cents, I asked my friend Jeff Oxman to bid on the lot up to \$1,000, the estimated catalogue value. He bought the roll. I bought the ten doubled dies for \$1,000 and Jeff got the rest basically for free.

At the 1986 ANA convention, the auction featured a section on mint error coins. One lot had seven off-center struck coins including a 1943S cent. What caught my eye was the coin looked more silver than zinc. With my handy pocket magnet I checked and sure enough the coin was indeed *non-magnetic*, thus it was silver. I bid on

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buying! Cut out
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the lot along with a few floor bidders and eventually bought the lot for \$200. This unique coin is now featured in *The Standard Guide To The Lincoln Cent* as well as other Lincoln cent guides; it is slightly off center and has a planchet clip. It was sold at a SLCC mail bid sale a few years later for \$250. Its current value is four to five times that. I also sold the other coins for over \$200 including a nice XF large cent 10% off-center.

Finally, more recently I bought a high quality BU roll of 1954S Lincoln cents from a local coin dealer. Ten of the coins were the 1954SJ (San Jose) die break variety (featured in a recent TCN article). I recall paying ten dollars for the roll and in the recent TCN article a BU specimen was sold on eBay for \$14.

The moral of the story is “keep looking and know what you are looking for”.

Numismatic Luminary



by *Jim Hunt*

Our Numismatic Luminary was born in Los Angeles, but he grew up in Mentone, a small rural suburb of Redlands and San Bernardino and lived there until 1963. After 10 years moving all over the country, he moved to San Diego in 1973. He has lived in El Cajon since 2001. He is married (wife Evie) and has a son and daughter who both reside in Southern California with their children.

Dr. Ken Aring is a professor, a scholar, and a numismatist. He holds a bachelor's degree in physics from the University of California, Riverside, and a Ph.D. in physics from Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. He taught physics at Point Loma Nazarene University for 33 years, retiring in 2006. In his early years, he developed an interest in history, geography, and issues in philosophy and religion. As a professor, he often spoke in history, religion, and business classes about coins that shed light on the subject of the course: the Reformation in the Netherlands (their war for independence from Spain), history of Chinese money, the Mongol Empire, the history of money, etcetera. Starting in 1985, he exhibited parts of his numismatic collections in the university library, changing the display two or three times a year. He has continued doing this since retirement.

Ken and his wife both enjoy camping in the mountains and desert. Ken is

very active in his church, particularly as a teacher of Sunday School classes. He has a great interest in the relationship between Christianity and science. He has given public talks on the subject and published a few papers. His family has not been particularly supportive of his numismatic hobby and his children have not expressed an interest, but a grandson has shown some interest so all is not lost.

Most of his numismatic collecting has been driven by what it can teach him about history, geography, culture, languages, religions, and economics. Ken started collecting coins at the age of 10, but soon lost interest. While teaching in Grand Rapids, Michigan, he found many people there shared his Dutch ancestry. This generated an interest in the coins of the Netherlands, first in the modern coins, and eventually to coins of the medieval period. He then began to collect at least one coin from every country in the world reaching back to the ancients. This further inspired his interest in the coinage of Asia and especially that of India. In 1981, he read Marco Polo's book on his travels (1271-1295) from Venice, through Central Asia to China, and the return around Southeast Asia. His studies related to Marco Polo revealed a lot about the money in the Mongol Empire. He discovered coins in his collection that related to Marco Polo's travels. After a few purchases

TCN readers may remember previous mentions of Ken Aring's interest in privatization vouchers, including a TCN article he wrote on that subject that appeared in the winter issue of 2009, itself presaged by his presentation on that subject at an earlier CSNA educational symposium.

he found he could trace his entire trip with coins. This led to prize winning exhibits and published articles and dominated his interests for the remainder of the 1980's.

Inspired by a talk given by Joe Lang, Ken developed an interest in coins and paper money coming out of Eastern Europe due to the collapse of the communist system. This initial interest soon expanded to collecting all sorts of exnumia, first from former communist states, and later from other places and times. He says that his interests are constantly expanding. He then prioritized his favorite areas of collecting: (1) privatization vouchers and the collapse of the communist systems, (2) medieval Asia (Marco Polo and the Mongol Empire), (3) the Netherlands: coins and tokens, medieval to modern. He enjoys collecting material that is not catalogued or even recognized as having numismatic value. Privatization vouchers fit well into this area.

Dr. Aring belongs to the following numismatic organizations: ANA (the first organization joined in 1972), International Bank Note Society, International Primitive Money Society, Oriental Numismatic Society, Numismatic International, CSNA, International Numismatic Society of San Diego (INSSD), Ancient Numismatic Society of San Diego, and San Diego Paper Money Club. He has served as



secretary/treasurer and president of INSSD (nine years). He has received the Medal of Merit from the San Diego County Inter-Club Numismatic Council (represents all coin clubs in San Diego County). He has received three Best of Show exhibit awards at the San Diego Coinarama. He received the Best Bulletin Article award from Numismatic International for his article, "A Numismatist on the Trail of Marco Polo". He considers this his most important award since it gave him the confidence that he could do something that not only he liked but that others appreciated. It gave him the drive to attack bigger projects.

The most important numismatic events in his life are: (1) the concept of mapping out the money Marco polo saw in his travels, and (2) the study of privatization vouchers.

Dr. Aring has made many contributions to numismatic education. He has published articles on his favorite numismatic interests in several publications, including TCN. He has

lectured at Point Loma Nazarene University classes in history, religion, and accounting. These class lectures were coordinated with an exhibit in the university library. He has been a speaker at two CSNA Educational Symposiums. He has provided exhibits at the San Diego County Fair, Coinarama, and at the Point Loma Nazarene University Library. My personal observation of his exhibits is that they are all of museum quality. He has been a very

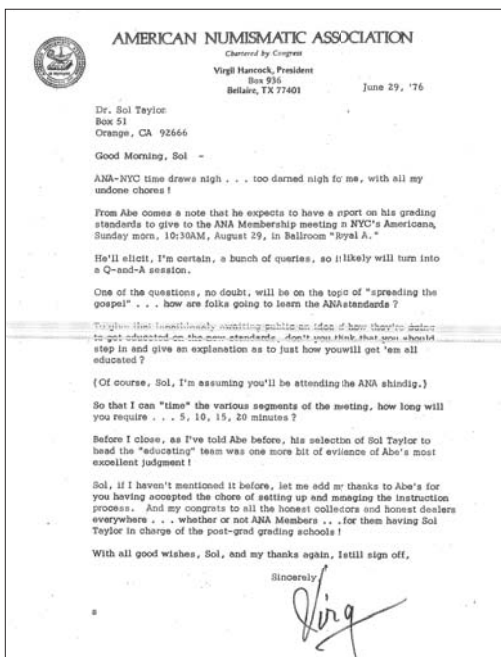
consistent exhibitor and speaker over the decades sharing his numismatic interests very effectively with others.

Dr. Aring's advice to beginning collectors is: collect things that tell a story, something that you can share with others. United States coins are easy to start with, but don't ignore foreign coins, paper money, tokens, medals, and other things slightly related to money. Share your collections at a coin club and by exhibiting.

A Grading History Lesson

Contributor Sol Taylor sent in the following... ed. In the early stages of "official" grading guides for coins, the ANA launched a program at the 1975 ANA convention in Los Angeles. Abe Kosoff was named chairman of a committee to establish, research and publish a standard grading guide for United States coins. This letter from then-president of the ANA, Virgil Hancock, pointed out the early stages in the process. Previous grading guides such as Brown and Dunn consisted of black and white photos of US coins from fair to uncirculated. Naturally, today such guides are of little or no use.

The summer seminar at the ANA in 1975 included a five day grading course of US coins. I designed and taught the course with laboratory work using various chemicals used at the time for cleaning coins. Since then, "cleaning" has not been considered acceptable in coin grading. I taught the same course at the 1976 and 1977 ANA summer seminars. By that time ANACS had hired staff and allocated equipment for the issuance of grading certificates with two grades—one obverse grade and one reverse grade. That practice lasted a few years until other grading services came online where a single grade was assigned to each coin and the coin was encased in a hard plastic holder known as a "slab". By the mid 1980s several grading services were issuing slabs and grading coins.



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Enjoying Your Hobby?

Are you grateful for the fun you've had over the years?

Consider the enjoyment future generations can have if they're properly introduced to numismatics. Sure would be nice if there was an organization that was set-up to help spread the word...

*Hey, that's just what CSNA
and NASC do!*

And now, you can help them to ensure that others get the message about our terrific educational hobby by making a tax-deductible donation today. Simply send a check to either of the association corresponding secretaries (addresses on page 8), identify your gift as a "fund-raising donation", and then receive acknowledgement in TCN (or not, as you wish) along with a tax-deductible receipt.



The Emerging Hobbyist

by Michael S. Turrini

This column has two segments and reflects on the sadness of the demise of a local coin club. This concern is important: for any coin hobbyist and certainly any novice hobbyist, the primary and most convenient entrance into our world of money are local coin clubs. If no local coin club exists, well, where does a prospective coin hobbyist or even an established hobbyist go? Colorado Springs, home of the ANA, requires travel, and even our CSNA Show this past December was in Arcadia. Distant. Again, travel.

A few months back, Frank Vilalón, well-known Northern California coin dealer who has relocated further north, passed through someone to me two Hefty *One Zip* plastic bags filled with assorted ephemera, yellow, dusty, and fragile with age, from the once prominent and successful Hayward Area Coin Club, founded in 1958, and now long gone.

When I crossed the threshold of involvement and service to our association, back in those youthful and halcyon early days of life, there was a regular attendee at local coin club meetings around the San Francisco Bay Area named Carl Winton.

Carl was a simple person, not pretentious and always positive. What happened to him is lost to time. But, his presence was one of involvement and service.



Why Carl is mentioned is that he, as best as he might, sustained the remains of the once prominent and successful Hayward Area Coin Club. Now, both he and the Club are gone.

So, this club's few remains and memories of its long-gone members were deposited into two dirty Hefty *One Zip* plastic bags, which were sent to the ANA archives.

Across northern and southern California are buried several local coin clubs once active, alive, and advancing our world-of-money hobby at its grass-roots, in the trenches, in local communities. The San Francisco Coin Club ended this past October, a great run of 57 years, and once a proud presence and prominence here in organized California numismatics, including hosting ten or more CSNA conventions.

There may be some who would accuse me of allowing the club to die. I admit candidly there could have been much more accomplished upon my part; but, at the end, your columnist was carrying the entire burden, including editing the bi-monthly *Two Cents Worth*, handling the funds, etc.

The fault was not in the stars, to paraphrase Shakespeare. No, the failure was that members declined and abandoned the club: they no longer renewed, attended, or contributed and participated.

This is true across most all local coin clubs that have ceased here in California: members cease to renew, attend, or contribute and participate. The local coin club remains the grass-

roots of our world of money. When the roots are diseased or dead, well, my folks, our hobby suffers and declines.

Ending, the Internet or the contemporary social media might be supposed substitutes; yet, the face-to-face fellowship and human interaction was what has and still sustains our world of money.

Any thoughts or comments? Email EMPERORI@juno.com.

NCNA Event

On September 16 the Northern California Numismatic Association (NCNA) held their fourth annual California Numismatic Seminar with the theme "Collecting in Today's World". Pictured are (from left): speakers Roger Lyles and David Harper, and moderator Herb Miles, and speakers Robert Luna and Paul Johnson.



At right is Robert Luna presenting YN Christopher Marks (age 15) with a special prize for his attendance.



Below are the three folks who contributed so much of their time and funds



to make the event possible: Alexander Chamberlain (seated left), Michael Turrini (seated right), and both event benefactor and post-event dinner host James Laird (standing).

Goings On



by Greg Burns

As predicted in the last issue, NASC President Michael Kittle called for and held an extra NASC board meeting in early November.

We again did not get enough attendees to achieve a quorum necessary to conduct official business (only eight of us showed up), and Harold Katzman again said he'd look into suggested ways to revise the requirements consistent with the by-laws (which in section 2 requires 15 for a quorum, a number that includes "all elected officers, Club Representatives [sic] or alternates and the immediate Past-President [sic]"). There's nothing in the constitution or by-laws requiring a concurrent meeting in order to hold a vote, so my interpretation would be that the by-laws could be amended to pretty much anything so long as a simple majority of those empowered to vote do so, and that such a vote could be conducted by email or telephone poll. Eh, legal-schmeagle stuff, someone'll figure it out.

Though Treasurer Jay Robinson wasn't able to attend, he did ask for those with assets of NASC to forward him the information so that he could start a register of those, in order that we be able to account for them and track them in the future. Obviously this would include not only things like gold and silver coins being held in trust for future gold benefit drawings, but also other items that move around, like the perpetual trophies (President's newsletter and the Goodson award), and other items of importance.

Corresponding Secretary Harold Katzman provided his report, the gist of which you can read on page 8.

Historian George Moore said that various items had been added to the NASC holdings, including some old wooden nickels. He'd also found the old majestic perpetual but recently retired President's Trophy for outstanding club newsletter, and George held a lively discussion whereupon the board decided to reinvigorate the grand old lady, installing new naming plates to catch her up to date, and to again start awarding it as a perpetual trophy going forward. This decision was helped along by the fact that the newer replacement perpetual plaque which took its place has gone missing for several years now, so bringing the previous trophy out of retirement seemed like a prudent thing to do, especially seeing how steeped with history it is.

For committee reports it was rather spotty because of the lack of attendance, but Phil Iversen gave an update on CSNA activities to the NASC executive body. Phil reemphasized the dates of the pending CSNA show (December 16-17 in Arcadia).

Harold Katzman gave a report on the outcome of the Member Club Gold Benefit Drawing held during the recent Golden State Coin Show (GSCS). The good news was that the event came out in the black to the tune

of several hundred dollars, which will be used to seed the event for next year. Special thanks go to donors towards the prizes: Mary Yahalom, Heritage Auctions, Dwight Manley, and another anonymous donor. Michael Kittle mailed the prizes out to winners at his own expense, and Armando of Del Rosa Stamp and Coin donated the cost of the tickets. Thanks to all!

The 2018 GSCS will again be in Arcadia, that venue now under contract. New next year will be a public opening on Friday afternoon (tentatively 2 - 7 p.m.), with dealer set-up that morning. In an effort to encourage volunteers for show staffing, Bourse Chairman Don Berry stated that a two-hour minimum volunteer shift would be rewarded with a free lunch and \$10 worth of gold drawing tickets. Sound good? Contact Don at dberry@pressedsales.com to sign up.

The 2018 GSCS is also going to have a coin auction, similar what was done at the 2016 event through coinzip.com. Ten percent of the proceeds will be donated to NASC, and it will be coordinated by Michael Kittle.

For those of you waiting on your 50-year membership awards, it was committed that these would be completed and given out shortly, hopefully before the end of the year. Keep your fingers crossed.

As mentioned in our last issue, there's a meeting scheduled on 12/17 (Sunday) at 9 a.m. (was originally later in the day, but now rescheduled to this time), with the topic of exploring if there's any benefit or interest in merging NASC and CSNA into a larger organization (maybe named something like California Numismatic Association or Golden State Numis-

matic Association?). The meeting invitees include both associations' "officers and directors" according to the letter I saw. Phil Iversen (being very active in both groups) will be the meeting moderator.

For those who like to plan their calendars out *way* in advance, NASC has released the following future meeting dates: 2/24/18, 6/16/18, and 9/8/18, all from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Long Beach Expo (the room used is typically accessible from the main hallway). In addition, there will be one at the 2018 GSCS 8/25/18 from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in Arcadia. I'm sure I'll be at all of them, and will hopefully see you there.

The news on CSNA is pretty thin at this point, at least pending their show/convention to be held in Arcadia December 16-17 (see more info in the last issue, and a short entry in this issue's "Calendar of Events"). The show's General Chairman Howard Feltham has just recently undergone hip surgery, so I'm sure they can use a fair amount of help. For a change their banquet will also be held Friday evening before the show opens, and those details, too, are found in our previous issue. The main publicity for that event was in our last issue due to the timing of publication (many folks won't have this current issue in hand by the time the show and banquet are held). I'll be there as well, so hope to see you then...



ANA Report



by *Jim Hunt*

This is a follow-up on the ANA World's Fair of Money, held this year in Denver, Colorado. A total of 8,638 attendees were recorded. There were 1,420 dealers representing 410 companies on the bourse floor. Collectors and guests were treated to 35 hours of free educational programs. Forty-one scouts attended workshops for merit badges and 345 young collectors participated in the "Treasure Trivia" event. The official auctions realized more than \$50 million.

Immediately following the show, 250 members attended a 50th anniversary celebration held at the 50-year-old headquarters building in Colorado Springs. A number of members received awards at the annual banquet, including Numismatist of the Year winner David W. Lange. The Lifetime Achievement Award winner was Julian Leidman, and Brian Fanton was the recipient of the Farran Zerbe Award.

Exhibits from the ANA Edward C. Rochette Money Museum and private collections included an 1804 dollar, a 1913 Liberty-head nickel, a complete set of Clark, Gruber & Company 1860-61 pioneer gold coins, paper money errors, and Joseph Leshner "Referendum Dollars", among other rarities. The Collector Exhibit area contained 51 competitive and non-competitive exhibits. Robert

Rhue received the Howland Wood Memorial Award for his Best-of-Show Exhibit, "The Colored Seal Notes of Colonial Georgia". CSNA Director of Education Phil Iversen was the winner of two exhibit awards. For the second year in a row there were no young numismatist awards given out.

The ANA has a very special offer when you join as a new member or sponsor a new member. You will get a free limited-edition (2000 copies) silver medal encapsulated by NGC.

The medal has Liberty seated on the obverse dated 1891 (the year of ANA's founding) and the reverse features the association's lamp of knowledge. Membership options cost from \$14 to \$46 depending on the age of the member. To reserve your free silver medallion, call 1-800-514-2646 and mention code M17A.

The ANA National Money Show will take place at the Irving Convention Center, Irving (Dallas), Texas, March 8–10, 2018. Kagin's will be the official auctioneer for the show.

The next World's Fair of Money will be held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA, August 14-18, 2018.



Regroup and Rebuild...

Our sympathies go out to all of our Northern California readers who were adversely affected by the recent series of wildfires up there in October. We received reports of many, many, who were displaced, lost homes (and we assume numismatic materials and publications), or were otherwise victimized by the flames and their aftermath.



Wikipedia reports that 21 of the wildfires beginning October 8 became major fires that burned over 245,000 acres. Counties most seriously affected were Napa, Sonoma, Lake, Mendocino, Butte, and Solano. Ninety thousand were driven from their homes, at least 43 killed, and at least 185 hospitalized. Collectively, the fires constituted the largest loss of life due to wildfires in the United States since the Cloquet Fire in 1918. In total, an estimated 14,000 structures were destroyed or damaged, with losses topping \$3 billion. More than 10,000 firefighters battled the blazes, using more than 1,000 fire engines and other equipment, with crews arriving from as far away as Canada and Australia. The fires were not considered fully contained until the end of October.

Enjoying Your Hobby?

Ever wonder what's going to become of it in the future?

Who will be doing the research when the current crop of "greybeards" is gone? Better hope someone promotes it to the general population and gets young people involved at an impressionable age...

Hey, that's just what CSNA and NASC do!

You can help to ensure there will be someone interested in your collection when it comes time to pass it along by making a tax-deductible donation today. Simply send a check to either of the association corresponding secretaries (addresses on page 8), identify your gift as a "fund-raising donation", and then receive acknowledgement in TCN (or not, as you wish) along with a tax-deductible receipt.



ANA Educational Outreach

by *Walt Ostromecki*

In my continuing efforts to keep you all advised as to *what's new and happening* on the ANA education outreach front, I am pleased to announce that youth and family involvement in the "Coin's For A's Program" is growing at a fast rate. The program as of November 1st, 2017, has topped the 1,476 mark nationwide! A number of coin clubs and schools in both Central and Southern California have already recruited an active core of students, ages 7-18, from public, private, and home-schooled youngsters.

Currently, there are no youth participants enrolled in Northern California. All that is needed there is a volunteer or club in the area to step up and make it happen! Any club, state, or regional association can adopt and personalize it and make it their own, or be a sponsor partner with the ANA.

So, what is the "Coins for A's Program"? Briefly, any youth ages 17 and under who earns three or more A's per marking period (or pass or fail, completed, or other non-letter grade mark) in public, private, or home-schooling program, who sends a copy of their progress/report card in to the ANA, will earn a quality coin by participating and receive as an initial first time program enrollee a *free* 1-year ANA YN membership which includes the online digital version of the ANA's monthly magazine, *The Numismatist*.

That membership also includes

the quarterly electronic publication *Your Newsletter* written specifically for youth, which updates them on projects, events such as the online youth numismatic auctions, and other activities to enhance their numismatic hobby experience. To get started, send a copy of your progress/report card to Educaiton Director Rod Gillis, American Numismatic Association, 818 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279, or via email to rgillis@money.org. Questions? Contact Mr. Gillis by telephone at 719-482-9845 or Numismatic Educator Sam Gelberd at 719-482-9846.

Recently an ANA member of a Central California coastal club, who has had a small core of youth actively engaged in the numismatic hobby for many years, asked, "What exciting and fun-filled new coin show activity is currently attracting the attendance of more kids and families? The answer: "Fill a Penny Folder".

What's involved? Simply, pouring out a say one gallon bucket full of circulated Lincoln wheat cents on an eight-foot table and providing the kids with a new or used Lincoln cent blue folders and encouraging them to hunt through the pile for dates and mintmarks to push into the folder.

The penny hunt activity facilitator does need to provide a brief overview on *what are* and *where can mintmarks be found* (the D, S, and none, which



“The Penny Search” in action at the Youth Activities Education Booth during a recent Long Beach Coin Expo. Walt (left) peruses a pile of coins helping a father-son duo.

signifies P). One can set any amount of cents kids and/or families can pick out, from 25 to 50.

Now, sit back, watch and enjoy the fun and excitement! Investment costs for the club or show can be from zero—with donated cents including some 1943 steel cents from club members and coin dealers—to around \$50-75 dollars for a one-gallon bucket full.

The NASC hosted one during its August 2017 GSCS Show in Arcadia. The PNNA has underwritten this activity at both its Oregon and Washington shows and during the month of September at their annual Washington State (Puyallup) Fair booth “The Fun Money Hobby”.

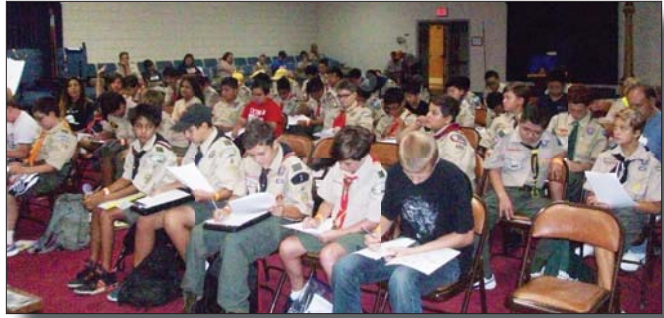
Other coin groups who have added this youth-family activity to their Kid’s Zone area include, The Las Ve-

gas Numismatic Society, Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists, Omaha Coin Club, The El Paso Coin Club, and the Central States Numismatic Society, to just mention a few. It has seen great success at attracting and planting numismatic seeds for the future at both small local club shows and larger state/regional ones.

Launching on December 1, 2017, will be the ANA’s newest youth program and step-by-step kit for individual ANA members and coin clubs on the how’s, what’s, and lesson plans needed for getting into and making a good informative-educational numismatics program to all grade levels of school age children. The program will also be released to all ANA district representatives. Further details on this new ready-to-go program will be covered in the next TCN issue.

BSA Merit Badge Workshop Success

The coin
collecting merit
badge workshop
held at the 2017
Golden State
Coin Show
at the end of



August attracted 81 boy scouts along with 38 parents and leaders, a total of 119 who thereafter were free to stroll the bourse floor after their introductory session in numismatics. Think you might know someone who'd be interested in this workshop next year? Contact Walt Ostromecki at drwaltomf1@earthlink.net for more information.

CSNA Historical Snippet...

The first CSNA educational symposium was held 3/22/69 and was arranged by Maurice Gould. At the time it was simply presented as the "CSNA Symposium". The following year, 3/28/70, Gould again chaired it, and it was referred to in that year as the "CSNA Educational Seminar". Listed as co-sponsor was the Long Beach Coin Club (LBCC – no mention of them in the first write-up I believe). The third event on 4/3/71 reverted to the "CSNA Symposium", and now LBCC was listed as "host". Chair for the third event was Richard Trowbridge. The fourth event on 3/25/72 came with an entirely new name, the "CSNA Numismatic Educational Symposium", and was chaired by William Wisslead. A note in the write-up said that LBCC actually hosted or co-sponsored the first four events. The fifth and sixth events (3/31/73 and 3/30/74) ran the same as the fourth. In all of these, Maurice Gould was the driving force, even when not listed as chair. He arranged speakers, promoted it, and was the general engine behind the movement I think.

Finally, in 1973 (before the sixth event) in the winter issue of Calcoin News (V27N1) Maurice Gould was appointed to

the newly created (by the board) position of director of education by CSNA President S. Everett Phillips. Gould served in that capacity up to the time of his death on 11/29/75 (through the fall issue, V29N4).

William Wisslead continued to chair the events, and the eighth on 3/20/76 was hosted by the Orange County Coin Club. The following year in the summer 1977 issue (V31N3), Wisslead was appointed as director of education and served in that capacity through spring of 1979 (V33N2). Starting in summer 1979 (V33N3) Bryan Burke was appointed to the position and served through the spring of 1984 (V38N2). In summer of 1984 (V38N3) Thomas Fitzgerald was appointed to the position, and he served the longest, all the way through the spring of 2003 (V57N2), having served a span of 20 years when newly-elected President G. Lee Kuntz appointed Jim Hunt to that position (V57N3). Hunt served through winter 2010 (TCN, V7N4), and in spring 2011 (V8N1) CSNA President Gary Beedon appointed Phil Iversen as director of education, in which capacity he's continued to serve to the present.

...GB

Numismatic Nostalgia



Fifty Years Ago

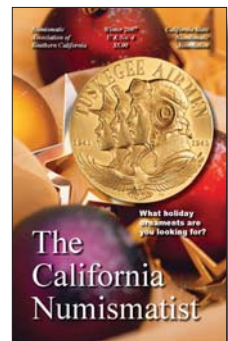
- Scanning the inner cover of *The NASC Quarterly* and looking at the list of then-current officials, board members, and committee chairs, I was able to find *one* name still current with us: Albertus Hoogeveen. Albertus was in charge of the Signs committee at that time. Today he serves as recording secretary for NASC. Talk about a long history of service to the association! I'm guessing there's some kind of record there.
- The financial results of CSNA's 40th Semi-Annual Convention (held in Sacramento, April 13-16, 1967) showed receipts of \$6,092.53, and expenses of \$4,782.02 (gross profit of \$1,310.51). Hmm, I'm guessing today's clubs/associations would be happy with that. According to the BLS inflation tables that would be equivalent to a profit of \$9,600.89 today.

Twenty-Five Years Ago

- From 1992's last issue of *Calcoin News* comes a word that's new to me: *znachki* (or using the Russian Cyrillic alphabet, *значки*). These are civilian ornamental pins, often enameled, but sometimes not, typically measuring 10-50 mm, and similar to what we in the western world would call a lapel pin. Those who collect them are *falerists* or *phalerists*, a term that also includes those who collect military decorations, fraternal pins, and such related items.
- Timely, considering the date, an article in *The NASC Quarterly*, by Virginia Hall, "The Heroic USS Nevada", recounted the tale of the battleship crew's experiences during the WWII bombing at Pearl Harbor, and the thereafter naming of "Nevada Point", a plot of land relating to the temporary resting spot of the ship at that time.

Ten Years Ago

- The winter issue of TCN had a holiday-themed cover highlighting the then-recently released Tuskegee Airmen medal. A single congressional gold medal was awarded to nearly 1,000 men in a ceremony in 2008 in recognition of their efforts in the unit in WWII, of whom six accepted the award on behalf of roughly 300 surviving members, spouses, and relatives.
- TCN reported that the ANA announced their abandonment of plans for a museum in Washington DC, and another in the San Francisco Old Mint. The SF facility, a national landmark, was closed in 1994 to the public, and has struggled to survive ever since.



We Get Letters...

Got some thoughts you'd like to share with other readers, comments on articles or opinions you've read in TCN, or otherwise have something you'd like to say? Let your voice be heard and write to us via snail-mail to CSNA, PO Box 1181, Claremont, CA 91711, or better yet drop us an e-mail at gregsburns@gmail.com. Submitted material may be edited for form or content...



Library Donation

(Ed... this email was copied to me from CSNA President Bill Pfeifer to Michael Turrini.)

Michael,

On behalf of all CSNA members, officers and our board of directors, I want to thank you for your generous gift of \$500 to benefit our CSNA library. This generosity is really appreciated and I know our librarian, Don Hill, will put it to good use.

Thanks again for supporting CSNA with this much appreciated gift.

Sincerely ,

—CSNA President Bill Pfeifer

"A Collector's Journey from Old Mason Jar to Hobby Appraiser"

Hi Greg:

While reading the latest *Coin World* I came across the "Guest Commentary" section of the September 18, 2017, issue and thought you might like to read it.

—Bill Febuary

Ha, ha, yes, I read it last weekend (I get the digital edition). Enjoyed it.

Congratulations! GB

(Note to TCN readers, the column was written by Bill and described his evolution in the hobby. Good reading.)

Digital v. Print Membership

Hi Greg:

I was pleased to get your digital TCN and see that you did your usual excellent job of putting together all the articles- especially mine, which looked great! Many thanks! And congrats for another ANA win!

But I am confused that I was called a "digital member" - does that mean I get no hardcopy? I got winter and spring hard copies. I was very confused by the CSNA and NASC renewal requests last winter: I think I paid normal dues for one (assuming it meant hardcopies), then the other offered the digital TCN option, and I thought I don't need to pay for two TCN copies, so I might have paid for digital then. Did I misunderstand? Or is a hardcopy in the mail?

Anyway, the TCN still rules!

—Jim Wells

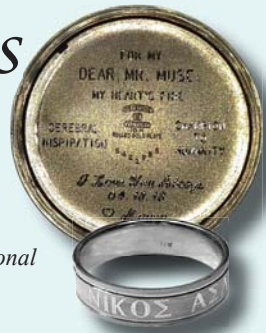
Hi Jim,

Thanks for the compliments, and

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glad you enjoyed the layout of your article. I was a little behind the gun (so often am) with this issue, and pushed through all of the layout work without seeking much in the way of further input/clarifications. Glad you felt it worked out well.

Yeah, I guess the subscribing options between the two organizations is a bit disjointed and confusing. If it's any consolation you're on the print-copy mailing list, so you'll get your hard copy. I, too, maintain membership in both associations, but for what may be obvious reasons simply do the full membership...

Best regards, Greg

Typo Correction

Greg,

I just got around to reading the latest issue of TCN. I noticed one minor spelling error. Where you had mentioned that I had won an award at the ANA for my exhibit, it is actually *mint* and not *mine*. I am sure this was just a typo. No big deal as I doubt anybody would know the difference...

—Phil Iversen

Yeah, rushing fingers putting an issue late to bed! "Mint", "mine", hey, there's only one letter difference!

In any event, congratulations on the honor...

Regards, Greg

Marathon Wooden Nickel

Greg,

In the [previous] issue you mentioned that 25 years ago I issued a wooden nickel after completing the LA Marathon. Attached is a photo of the item.

—Phil Iversen

P.S. I did make a wooden nickel after completing three LA Marathons in different years. The three race years were 1992, 1994 and 1996. And yes, it is a long and grueling distance, but such a thrill to finish.



Around the State...



Club Reporter—North

Lila Anderson

P.O. Box 365

Grover Beach, CA 93483-0365

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Club Reporter—South

Virginia Bourke

10601 Vista Camino

Lakeside, CA 92040-1605

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Ginny's Gleanings: A huge *thank you* to all the club editors and secretaries who have kept me informed this past year of their club's activities. I appreciate it! I hope all of you had a wonderful summer. At this time, it is just about time for Thanksgiving and Christmas/holiday festivities. This year has flown by. Phil Iversen is working very hard to make this 50th CSNA Educational Symposium the best ever. So do mark your calendars for April 7. The Covina Coin Club and Downey Coin Club have forgotten to send me their bulletins so hopefully next year, I will receive them. Most of the clubs will be installing new officers for 2018 so consider volunteering your services to the club or clubs you belong to. It is fun, honest! "I guess it was an interesting life. I didn't pay much attention and I never thought I'd be here this long"—Fats Domino

Lila's Lookout: The days leading into winter have always been that four-letter-word, "b-u-s-y" for so many of us. All I can think of, with the winds, fires, floods, seismic activity, exorbitant taxes, silly politics, and rush hour traffic that Californians live with, well at least in our spare time, is that we have a really great hobby that helps keep our hearts contented, our minds healthy, and best of all, we will always have each other. Bring yourself carefully to the nearest numismatic activity, and you will not be able to be anything but very happy you did so!

Club Reports...

ANCIENT COIN CLUB OF LOS ANGELES This club has a Facebook page which has brought them new members. **Roy Iwata** continues his services at the Long Beach Coin Show. In September, **Michael Markowitz** presented an in-depth history on *Carthage and its Coinage*. **Roger Burry** and **Kenneth Friedman** presented *The Punic Wars – Barca v Scipio* in October; a very interesting and informative talk. **Bob Lattanzi** provided the educational entertainment in November with his presentation of *Etruscans and their Coinage*.

BAY CITIES COIN CLUB The very first picnic was declared an outstanding success. **President Bernie Malis** presented new junior member **Joshua Lee** a 2018 *Redbook* and a copy of the US constitution. More picnics in the future are planned. Bernie is also taking over the reins for the club Facebook page from **James Gill**. This club continues to grow and have fun.

BURBANK COIN CLUB **Phil Iversen** has been teaching coin grading at all of the meetings. He covers different coin series and just did the grading seminar on Indian cents at the November meeting. The club decided to have their December holiday party at the Coral Café in beautiful downtown Burbank. This club has active participation in show and tell, club raffles, and auctions, with refreshments provided by the members.

CALIFORNIA EXONUMIST SOCIETY will be having their beginning of the year meetings as well as assisting with the coin show's educational program at the San Jose Coin Club's 50th Anniversary Annual Coin Show in January of 2018.

CHULA VISTA COIN CLUB **Steve Fahlender** shared some of his paper money with the members at the October meeting. He had many examples of one-cent paper currency issued by Japan, Fiji, and other countries during WWII. **Jim Hunt** described his many experiences and the wonderful time he had as a member of the California State Quarter Committee. He met many famous people and had a ball. **Ken Spindler** was lucky enough to purchase an extremely rare Canadian token on Ebay which he shared. The donation auction took place at the November meeting and the club garnered more than \$300. The 50/50 pot took in \$110 setting a new record and a very happy **Ralph Munoz** won \$55.

COINEERS The theme in August for show and tell was *First Year of Independence from a Colonial Power*. **Andrew Woodruff** and **Kevin Church** (separately) drove to Oregon in August to view the solar eclipse and fought traffic all the way back to San Diego. Verdict? It was worth it!! Members are saddened by the passing of **Vice President Chris Beyerle**. He was only 32. The theme in October was *October Revolution* as a tribute to Chris who collected Russian pins as well as other Russian items.

COVINA COIN CLUB The club continues to grow and have auctions, raffles, and refreshments at each meeting. Hopefully, they will mail me their bulletin so I can give names for my next report.

CUPERTINO COIN CLUB 2018 medals are now for sale. The medals feature **Betty H.'s** winning design. Silver medals are \$25. Golden-bronze and antique-bronze are \$8, and include two tickets to the drawing at the February show. One copper medal awarded for each five medals or ten tickets purchased. Mail orders to: Cupertino Coin Club, PO Box 448, Cupertino, CA 95015-0448. Be sure to order early before medals sell out. Good to see Cupertino Coin Club youth night was well attended complete with young numismatist **Matthew M.'s**, talk on *Lincoln Cents!*

DELTA COIN CLUB During January and February of 2018 promise yourselves to stop in and participate in a meeting on 1st and 3rd Fridays, 7:30 p.m. at Eagles Hall, 1492 Bourbon Street, Stockton, where club gatherings are a treat!

DIABLO NUMISMATIC SOCIETY members will be in the proximity of a Two-Day Show at Clarion Hotel, 1050 Burnett Avenue, Concord, on January 5 & 6, 2018. **Bill Green** is bourse chairman.

DOWNEY COIN CLUB **Albertus Hoogveen** usually mails me this club's doings but he forgot. I know the club is doing well.

FREMONT COIN CLUB has a *Club Officer Installation Dinner* in January. FCC has already chosen the dates for their club show to be July 28 & 29 of 2018, at Fremont Elk's Lodge, show starts at 10 a.m.

GLENDALE COIN CLUB The August meeting was all about pizza! **President Mike Kittle** provided a program on the *First Coins of the United States* in September. **Gordon O'Rourke** won the 2001-D buffalo silver dollar in August and **Clarence Scherich** won the 1881-S MS65 Morgan dollar at the September meeting. The club show in October was declared very successful with a very large silver and gold coin raffle which saw many thrilled winners. In October the PCGS video *Coin Grading 101* was viewed.

GREATER ORANGE COUNTY COIN CLUB Busy **Mark Baskin** provided refreshments and the program at the August meeting. He talked about *The 2nd Issue Fractional Currency Notes*. This was the series which led to much improved security from counterfeiting by the Treasury Department. In September, members were regaled with member and US Olympic gold medalist **Mike O'Brien** talking about his experiences winning a gold medal in the 1984 Olympics. He has taught over 15,000 kids to swim.

HEARTLAND COIN CLUB Members were encouraged to visit the new club Facebook page started by **Vice President John Weiss's** daughter, **Janna Weiss**. **Cole Schenewerk** is summering in Gambia, Africa, before he goes to work with Heritage Auctions and shared a picture of himself with his new friend, a Nile crocodile! **President Jose Gallego** provided a Powerpoint program in August on very low mintage coins from Numista of Mexico. The theme in September was *Medals* and many club members participated by bringing in medals from everywhere; all of them beautiful works of art. John Weiss and his committee are working hard to make the November coin show another success.

HEMET COIN CLUB Long-time and very active members **Mary Ann** and **Jerry Bodenhorn** are moving to Indiana leaving members with very long faces. The members wish them only the best and hope they return to sunny Hemet soon. **Phil DeAugustino** spoke on the subject of astronomy in August, explaining all about the full solar eclipse. **Jim Phillips** has only to get one more replica of the medal on the moon to complete his collection. He and wife **Cathy** have a new puppy-in-training, Max, a very beautiful golden retriever! *The Hemet Numismatist* by Editor Jim Phillips is winning prizes; a second place for "Outstanding Local Numismatic Publications" from the ANA and a first place President's Award from NASC. The September meeting featured the much loved ice-cream social. The October meeting featured the donation auction.

INTERNATIONAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO **Ken Aring** presented the August program using Powerpoint: *The Break Up of Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia*. **Lincoln Higge** provided a fascinating program in September, *Roman Saints on Coins*. Guest speaker **Steve Fahrleender** spoke in October on *Propaganda Notes of WWII*. These are highly collected and many were issued by partisan movements making them dangerous to possess at the time and hard to find now.

LIVERMORE VALLEY COIN CLUB **Jonathan Mitchell** wants you to plan ahead and mark your calendar for March 4, 2018, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. so you can be sure to attend one of the best shows in Northern California: Livermore Valley Coin Club's 55th Annual Coin Show at Elk's Lodge, 940 Larkspur Drive, Livermore.

LONG BEACH COIN CLUB **President Howard Feltham** provided the program in October speaking about the *Early Days of the Mexico City Mint*. Members are competing for a \$5 gold piece in a very special drawing. Only those members who bring in a new member qualify. Guest speaker and NASC **President Mike Kittle** taught the finer points of grading Indian cents in November. **Former ANA President Dr. Walter Ostromecki** is slated to speak in December.

LOS ANGELES PAPER MONEY CLUB **Mike Kittle** presented the program in September and spoke on the *Early Coins of the United States* which the members all enjoyed. **Goody Kashirian** gave an interesting talk in October about investing in and collecting stamps.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION During these past four years this member organization has sponsored and elevated to a nationally recognized event its *California Numismatic Seminars*. According to **NCNA President Lloyd G. Chan** and **Treasurer Michael S. Turrini**, “The Jon-Maria Marish/O. L. Wallis Legacy (Memorial) Fund has been established to raise money and directly expend funds to enhance and to advance organized numismatics plus our world of money, right here where you might reside and enjoy our hobby, Northern California.” We’re told the fund has so far collected \$4,000.

PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY in late November saw the realization of the *PCNS Numismatic Book Sale*. The sale offered titles from the library of PCNS member and retired coin dealer **Stephen Huston**. The sale was held as a benefit for PCNS. Book sale brought \$1,900 for PCNS! Members and their guests now are planning to relax and have even more fun at the annual holiday party, which will take place at Fort Mason Center on Dec. 27, 2017.

PENINSULA COIN CLUB recently held their 38th Annual Coin & Collectibles Show, and members are presently enjoying all their newest additions to their collections.

REDWOOD EMPIRE COIN CLUB community reassures us that after the devastating fires that hit Santa Rosa: “Out of the Ashes: Santa Rosa Strong” which is also the amazing title of their most recent newsletter. Several members of RECC lost their homes in the fire but are alive, as are their pets (furry family members), and all are staying strong best they can. It has been heartening to see the outpouring of compassion and loving assistance from their brothers and sisters of this wonderful coin club of Northern California.

SACRAMENTO VALLEY COIN CLUB The fine numismatic collectors of SVCC have an exciting one-day show nearby to enjoy at the Lions Gate Hotel, Sacramento. Been noticing the valley of Sacramento is lucky with coin shows; one show per month so far, during these colder months!

SAN BERNARDINO COIN CLUB “A blast” was the unanimous verdict on the July picnic by all who attended. **Janet Reeves** was singled out for her outstanding cupcakes and salsa cheesecake. **Vice President Alex Jaramillo** was the winner of the gold Mercury dime drawing. *Other Hobbies* was the theme in August. **Jack Reeves** celebrated his 93rd birthday and 26-year membership in the club. The *Super Auction* was held in October and over 80 lots of desirable material changed hands.

SAN DIEGO NUMISMATIC SOCIETY In September the theme was *Recent Acquisitions*. **Vice President Greg Knox** brought in an undated 7-tien silver coin from Annam (Vietnam) and a “Klippe” which is a crude square coin made in France circa 1592. **Mike Shaw** found several medals at Coinarama which had been issued by the American Institution of New York to various inventors and manufacturers during World Fairs or Trade Shows. **Jim Hunt** took center stage in October and spoke of his experiences on the California State Quarter Committee and all the wonderful things he got to do. He loved every minute of it. The donation auction was the November program.

SAN JOSE COIN CLUB will be having their 50th Anniversary Annual Coin & Collectibles Show on January 26, 27, and 28, 2018, at Double Tree Hotel, 2050 Gateway Place, San Jose. Club medals for 2018 struck in silver, golden bronze, and copper featuring Moffett Field Hangar will be available for purchase at the show while supply lasts!

SANTA MARIA COIN CLUB continued their 60th Anniversary celebrations. The club received an official proclamation celebrating the anniversary from the City of Santa Maria and members received a custom ANACS slabbed 2017 half dollar. Sounds like a great way to celebrate. In October the club promoted itself at a table at the Kiwanis’s Beerfest in October (I’ll drink to that) and held successful one-day coin show. The club’s meetings emphasize education, with quizzes based on a topic announced in advance in the club newsletter and a presentation on some aspect of numismatics. October was on *Good For Tokens* by **Bill Sudbrink** and November was *Famous Numismatic Boards* by **John Schuldt**. December is the annual Christmas party.



SAN FRANCISCO COIN CLUB *Numismatic News* staff posted in “Letters to the Editor”, Dec. 19, 2017 sad news that CSNA member organization SFCC has ceased. Though SFCC was once a standard of what an active and avid coin club should be, factors such as having more people living away from the city than inside of it, membership dwindling to only a small few, and, ultimately, the burden of sustaining the club having fallen upon a lone individual (how do you spell **Michael S. Turrini**?) This reporter reminds every one of you (this is very important) to go out and find, and kindly hug a numismatist!

STANISLAUS COUNTY COIN CLUB will honor **Lloyd Solomon**, who passed away recently, as the subject for their annual club medal. The picture for the design, provided by Lloyd’s family, shows Lloyd wearing a beret, befitting

his Francophile tendencies. In other news of the SCCC, there was a recent General Membership Challenge Question: Which Scottish economist (and convicted murderer!) established France's first central bank in 1716? Answer: John Law (1671- 1729).

UPLAND COIN CLUB Members celebrated the club's birthday in August with a potluck and bingo. In September, the program was the *Super Auction* with lots of nice numismatic items for sale. An interesting subject, *The Anthropology of Money*, was presented by **Margie** and **Kevin Akin** in October. The speakers wrote a book on the subject and had their book available.

VALLEJO NUMISMATIC SOCIETY First Wednesdays are the usual evening for meetings, but December had an exception of a first Thursday meeting instead, in order to hold their *Hopperstad Auction* and *Hot Link Nite*. Two days after that, *Joint Christmas Party* of VNS along with the illustrious members of the Fairfield Coin Club, bringing synergistic coin merriment to the region!

VERDUGO HILLS COIN CLUB The *Annual Rick Gordon Ice Cream Social* shared top billing in August with **John Duff's** presentation of **Q. David Bowers** DVD, entitled *The Untapped Potential of Civil War Tokens*. Several members were missing in August because they decided to view the solar eclipse. **Dr. Walt Ostromecki** presented his topic, *The Numismatic Hobby Contributions/Trail Blazing Treasurer Women 1795 to Date*. Congratulations to long-time member **Bob Thompson** for receiving the coveted 2016 Richard P. Goodson Award at the NASC Golden State Coin Show banquet. In October, members received part three of the story of the Civil War tokens DVD and lots and lots of pizza.

VISALIA COIN CLUB Officer **Phil Blettner** tells us that Visalia members can be found happily participating in local coin shows and communing among coin collectors at their 4th Tuesday meetings, 7:30pm at Amigos restaurant. Amigos is located in lovely Visalia at the corner of Walnut and Akers.

WESTERN WOODEN MONEY CLUB, near and dear to this reporter's heart since joining as a charter member (thanks given to encouragement of the legendary woods expert—now residing with all the forests of wooden commemoratives in paradise—Gordon Donnell), provides programs at coin shows and other numismatic meetings (contact information provided elsewhere in this issue of TCN).

WHITTIER COIN CLUB Members celebrated the club's 58th birthday at the Black Bear Diner in La Habra in September. The video *Collecting Mercury Dimes* by **David W. Lange** was shown in October. The program in November was *Other Collections of Members*. This is always a favorite topic. **Steve Fortune** showed off his good fortune when his 1834 half-cent came back slabbed MS-63 brown.

Condolances...

NASC, CSNA, and the staff of TCN send their condolences to the friends and family of the departed members and readers noted following.

Chris Beyerle (9/10/85-9/23/17),
Coiners Coin Club. Served as vice president of the club.

Lloyd "Randy" Solomon (2/49-8/28/17),
Stanislaus County Coin Club. Lloyd passed away peacefully after a long battle with congestive heart failure. He is survived by his wife of forty-five years, Jeannie, and their four children and six grandchildren. Lloyd was born in Burlington, North Carolina, the second of six children. He grew up in South Carolina before heading West to attend college at Brigham Young University. After serving a mission in France and Switzerland, which prompted a life-long love of all things



French, Lloyd returned to BYU, fell in love with Jeannie, and got married. Following college, Lloyd joined the Army where he served as a linguist for four years, and then the family moved to Modesto in 1979. Even after decades of living in California, Lloyd insisted that he was just "passing through" because he was still a Southerner. Lloyd worked as a social worker with the Stanislaus County Child Protective Services. He was also an avid collector, with a broad range of interests, including special-edition PEZ dispensers, rare and unique root beer offerings, and coins.

RIP Alan Fred Kreuzer

Al Kreuzer, coin dealer in Castro Valley, passed away in 2016.

Philip Diehl, Michael Fuljenz, and Chandra Kreuzer-Zell Rudd were the first recipients of the annual Al Kreuzer Memorial Award, which was presented during the Industry Council for Tangible Assets banquet in Denver, held during the ANA's World's Fair of Money. The Anti-Counterfeiting Task Force award, in the form of a three-inch, antique bronze medal, is named for Kreuzer.

Don Ketterling, a friend who often shared tables with Kreuzer at coin shows, told attendees, "I truly believe he would be proud to have this award in his name." Ketterling noted that Kreuzer was instrumental in identifying counterfeit



certified holders that had made their way around the Bay Area in recent years. He also shared that Kreuzer "would often spend inordinate time helping others... and I considered him one of my closest friends."

Beth Deisher, ICTA's director of anti-counterfeiting, announced that the high-relief, three-inch award medal was sculptured and struck by Medallic Arts Company, Dayton, NV.



Directory of Member Clubs

Changes should be sent by a club officer via mail to the applicable association's corresponding secretary. CSNA and NASC membership status is indicated in parentheses at the end of each club's listing.

- Alameda Coin Club**—meets 1st Tuesday, 6:15 p.m., Alameda Free Library, 1550 Oak Street, Alameda; mailing address: P.O. Box 1763, Alameda, CA 94501-0202. (CSNA)
- Ancient Coin Club of Los Angeles**—meets 2nd Sunday, 1:00 p.m., Community Room A5, Sherman Oaks Galleria (level A rotunda; self-park validated), 15301 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks; mailing address: ACCLA, c/o K. Friedman, 16255 Ventura Blvd., Suite 1200, Encino, CA 91436; Website: www.accla.org (check for meeting info); email klf1031@roadrunner.com. (NASC)
- Bay Cities Coin Club**—meets 2nd Thursday, 6:30 p.m., El Segundo Library, 111 W. Mariposa Ave., El Segundo; mailing address: P.O. Box 45233, Los Angeles, CA 90045. (NASC)
- California Exonomist Society**—meets twice a year during the semi-annual CSNA Conventions; mailing address: Michael S. Turrini, P.O. Box 4104, Vallejo, CA 94590-0410; email: EmperorI@juno.com. (CSNA, NASC)
- California State Numismatic Association**—meets up to twice a year during CSNA conventions at various locations; mailing address: Don Hill, P.O. Box 4003, Vallejo, CA 94590; email: csnalibrary@gmail.com; Website: www.calcoin.org. (NASC)
- Chula Vista Coin Club**—meets 1st Thursday, 6:30 p.m., San Diego County Library, Bonita Branch, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita; mailing address: 10601 Vista Camino, Lakeside, CA 92040; Website: www.chulavistacoinclub.org. (CSNA, NASC)
- Coincers Coin Club**—meets 3rd Thursday, 7:00 p.m., 4675 Tecolote Road, San Diego, CA; mailing address: 829 Portsmouth Court, San Diego, CA 92109. (CSNA, NASC)
- Covina Coin Club**—meets 3rd Wednesday, 8:00 p.m., San Dimas Royal Mobile Homes Clubhouse, 1630 W. Covina Blvd., San Dimas.; mailing address: Helen Desens, 282 W. Bygrove St., Covina, CA 91722. (CSNA, NASC)
- Cupertino Coin Club**—meets 2nd Friday, 7:30 p.m., St. Joseph of Cupertino Church, 10110 N. De Anza Blvd., Cupertino, CA; mailing address: P.O. Box 448, Cupertino, CA 95015-0448; email: CupertinoCoinClub@gmail.com; Website: www.cupertinocoinclub.org. (CSNA)
- Delta Coin Club of California**—meets 1st and 3rd Fridays, 7:30 p.m., Eagles Hall, 1492 Bourbon Street, Stockton, CA 95204; mailing address: P.O. Box 690761, Stockton, CA 95269-0761; email: deltacoinclub@gmail.com. (CSNA)
- DHHS Numismaniacs Coin Club**—meets periodically, Dana Hills High School, 33333 Golden Lantern, Dana Point, CA; Mrs. Mary Danna (club advisor), email: dhhsnumismaniacs@gmail.com or text @DHHSNumismaniacs to 23559 for updates about the club. (NASC)
- Diablo Numismatic Society**—meets 3rd Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Concord Police Department meeting room, 1350 Galindo St., Concord; contact: James Laird, president, (925) 200-2276; email: info@diablocoinclub.org; Website: www.diablocoinclub.org. (CSNA)

- Downey Numismatists**—meets 4th Monday, 7:30 p.m., Downey Retirement Center, 11500 Dolan Ave., Downey; mailing address: Albertus Hoogeveen, P.O. Box 222, Downey, CA 90241. (NASC)
- Fairfield Coin Club**—meets 4th Wednesday (except December), 7:00 p.m., Grace Episcopal Church, Parish Hall #1, corner of First and Kentucky Streets, Fairfield; mailing address: P.O. Box 944, Fairfield, CA 94533-0094. (CSNA)
- Fremont Coin Club**—meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Fremont Elks Club, 38991 Farwell Drive, Fremont; mailing address: P.O. Box 1401, Fremont, CA 94538-0140; Website: www.FremontCoinClub.org. (CSNA)
- Fresno Numismatic Society**—meets 2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Las Palmas Masonic Center, 2992 E. Clinton Ave. Fresno ; mailing address: P.O. Box 11525, Fresno, CA 93773-1525; email: admin@fresnocoinclub.com; Website: www.fresnocoinclub.com. (CSNA)
- Glendale Coin Club**—meets 2nd Friday, 7:00 p.m., La Crescenta Library, 2809 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta; mailing address: GCC, c/o Michael Kittle, P.O. Box 388, Agoura Hills, CA 91376-0388; email: mike@kittlecoins.com; Website: www.GlenCoin.com. (NASC)
- Greater Orange County Coin Club**—meets 2nd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church, 2845 Mesa Verde Dr. E. Costa Mesa; mailing address: 2032 Kornat Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626; email: bill.pfeifer@sbcglobal.net; phone: (714) 546-0931; Website: www.occoinclub.com. (CSNA, NASC)
- Heartland Coin Club**—meets 3rd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., Bostonia Park Rec. Building, 1049 Bostonia St., El Cajon; mailing address: P.O. Box 15113, San Diego, CA 92175; email: jmgallego@losgallego.com. (CSNA, NASC)
- Hemet Numismatists**—meets 3rd Wednesday, 12:00 Noon, Provident Savings Bank, 1600 Florida Avenue (Northwest Corner Giard and Florida), Hemet; mailing address: P.O. Box 36, Hemet, CA 92546. (CSNA, NASC)
- International Numismatic Society of San Diego**—meets 4th Wednesday, 5:45 p.m., North Park Adult Rec. Center, 2719 Howard Street, San Diego; mailing address: P.O. Box 161081, San Diego, CA 92176; Website: www.inssd.org. (CSNA, NASC)
- Leisure World Coin Club**—meets 2nd Wednesday, 1:30 p.m., Clubhouse No. 3, Room 2, Seal Beach Leisure World; mailing address: Austin Overholtz, 1331 Pelham Road, #67A, Seal Beach, CA 90740. (NASC)
- Liberty Numismatic Society**—meets 3rd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., Millbrae City Library, 1 Library Avenue, Millbrae; mailing address: P.O. Box 300, Millbrae, CA 94030-0300; Website: LNS.ANAclubs.org. (CSNA)
- Livermore Valley Coin Club**—meets 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Livermore Public Library, Community Room "B", 1188 South Livermore Ave., Livermore; mailing address: P.O. Box 610, Livermore, CA 94550. (CSNA)
- Long Beach Coin Club**—meets 1st Monday, 7:00 p.m., Millikan High School Cafeteria, 2800 Snowden Ave., Long Beach; mailing address: P.O. Box 8101, Long Beach, CA 90808. (CSNA, NASC)
- Los Angeles Paper Money Club**—meets 2nd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., Marie Callendar's, 14743 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks; contact: Scott McNatt, 818-667-2329; email: info@promedia.la; website: www.losangelespapermoneyclub.com. (NASC)
- Northern California Numismatic Association**—meets annually during Nor-Cal coin shows in various communities; mailing address: Michael S. Turrini, P.O. Box 4104, Vallejo, CA 94590-0410; email: EmperorI@juno.com. (CSNA)
- Numismatic Association of Southern California**—meets four times per year; mailing address: Harold Katzman, P.O. Box 3382, Tustin, CA 92781-3382; email: haroldkatzman@yahoo.com; Website: www.NASC.net. (CSNA)

- Pacific Coast Numismatic Society**—meets 4th Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Fort Mason Center, Building C, San Francisco; mailing address: P.O. Box 475656, San Francisco, CA 94147-5656; Website: www.pcns.org. (CSNA)
- Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists**—meets at PAN conventions; mailing address: PAN, 1985 Lincoln Way, Suite 23 #225, White Oak, PA 15131; email: pancoins@gmail.com; Website: www.pancoins.org. (CSNA)
- Redwood Empire Coin Club**—meets 2nd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., Veterans Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa; mailing address: P.O. Box 9013, Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0013; Website: www.RedwoodEmpireCoinClub.com (CSNA)
- Sacramento Valley Coin Club**—meets 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., North County Corporate Yard, 5026 Don Julio Blvd., Sacramento, CA; mailing address: P.O. Box 160122, Sacramento, CA 95816; Website: SacValCC.org. (CSNA)
- San Bernardino County Coin Club**—meets 3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Highland Senior Center, 3102 E. Highland Ave., Highland, CA; mailing address: P.O. Box 311141, Fontana, CA 92331-1141. (CSNA, NASC)
- San Diego County Inter-Club Numismatic Council**—meets 1st Saturday in February, May, August and November, 10:00 a.m., North Park Adult Center, 2719 Howard Street, San Diego; mailing address: 10601 Vista Camino, Lakeside, CA 92040; Website: www.coinarama.org. (CSNA)
- San Diego Numismatic Society**—meets 1st Tuesday, 6:15 p.m., North Park Adult Center, 2719 Howard St., San Diego; mailing address: 10601 Vista Camino, Lakeside, CA 92040. (CSNA, NASC)
- San Jose Coin Club**—meets 2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., American Legion Hall, Post #318, 1504 Minnesota Avenue, San Jose; mailing address: P.O. Box 5621, San Jose, CA 95150-5621; Website: www.sanjosecoinclub.org. (CSNA)
- Santa Maria Coin Club**—meets 3rd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., Edwards Community Center, 809 Panther Drive, Santa Maria; mailing address: P.O. Box 7186, Santa Maria, CA 93456. (CSNA)
- Stanislaus County Coin Club**—meets 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., Denny's Restaurant, 1525 McHenry Ave., Modesto; mailing address: P.O. Box 1672, Modesto, CA 95353-1672; Website: www.stancocoinclub.org. (CSNA)
- Upland Coin Club**—meets 3rd Saturday, 7:00 p.m., Magnolia Rec. Center, 651 W. 15th Street, Upland; mailing address: 9369 Somerset Drive, Alta Loma, CA 91701. (NASC)
- Vallejo Numismatic Society**—meets 1st Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Florence Douglas Senior Center, Room A, 333 Amador (between Florida and Georgia), Vallejo; mailing address: Michael S. Turrini, P.O. Box 4281, Vallejo, CA 94590-0428; email: EmperorI@juno.com; phone: (707) 642-0216 or (707) 246-6327. (CSNA)
- Verdugo Hills Coin Club**—meets 2nd Monday, 7:15 p.m., La Crescenta Library, 2809 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta; mailing address: P.O. Box 26, Tujunga, CA 91043. (NASC)
- Visalia Coin Club**—meets 4th Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Visalia Senior Citizen Center, 310 North Locust, Visalia; mailing address: 204 West Main Street, Visalia, CA 93291. (CSNA)
- Western Token Society (WESTS)**—meets annually; mailing address: P.O. Box 723, Merced, CA 95341. (CSNA)
- Western Wooden Money Club**—meets at various San Francisco Bay area local coin shows, about four times per year; mailing address: Michael S. Turrini, P.O. Box 3467, Fairfield, CA 94533-3467; email: EmperorI@juno.com. (CSNA)
- Whittier Coin Club**—meeting place undetermined at time of publication; please email phil.chang540@gmail.com for the latest information; mailing address: 540 Teakwood Avenue, La Habra, CA 90631. (CSNA, NASC)

Application for CSNA Membership

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Vallejo CA 94590

CSNA Corresponding Secretary
P.O. Box 4003
Vallejo CA 94590

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- Enquiries about CSNA should be addressed to the Corresponding Secretary, Donald Hill, or CSNA Treasurer, Lloyd Chan. Please allow several days for a response.

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Calendar of Events



*...mark your calendars
and plan to attend!*

We use www.CalCoin.org and www.NASC.net as the sources for TCN. To include your event please send information regarding the event to CSNA Webmaster Lloyd Chan at lchanfizx@aol.com and NASC Webmaster Jim Phillips at jimjumper@hughes.net.

- December 16-17 **CSNA 134th Convention and Coin Show**, Arcadia Masonic Center, 50 West Duarte Road, Arcadia. Hours: Saturday 10 am-6 pm, Sunday 10 am-4 pm. Admission \$4 Saturday, \$3 Sunday, Youth 15 and under free. Free parking. Info: Howard Feltham, 310-850-9860 or hfelt@aol.com.
- December 17 **Sacramento Coin Show**, Lions Gate Hotel, 3410 Westover St., McClellan. P. Macintosh, 916-317-9055, www.sacramentocoinshow.com.
- January 5-6 **East Bay/Concord Coin Show**, The Clarion Hotel 1050 East Burnett Ave Concord, California, 925-351-7605, info@norcalcoinshows.com
- January 14 **Van Nuys/Verdugo Coin Show**, Van Nuys Masonic Hall, 14750 Sherman Way, Van Nuys. Richard Murachanian, 661-287-1651.
- January 26-28 **50th Annual San Jose Coin Club Coin & Collectibles Show**, Double Tree Hotel, Bayshore Ballroom, 2050 Gateway Pl., San Jose. Info: www.sanjosecoinclub.org.
- January 27-28 **Pasadena Coin & Currency Show**, Scottish Rite Center, 150 N. Madison Ave, Pasadena, CA 91101 Contact:Paul Vreede Phone:818-486-7285
- February 10-11 **San Francisco Area Coin and Collectibles Show**, S. San Francisco Conference Center, 255 South Airport Blvd., South San Francisco. Scott Griffin, 415-601-8661, www.griffincoin.com.
- February 16-17 **Redwood Empire Coin Club 50th Annual Show**, E.L. Finley Hall, Sonoma County Fairgrounds, 1350 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa. Bourse: Merle Avila, 707-585-3711 or 707-824-4811 evenings.
- February 18 **Cupertino Coin Club 46th Annual Coin Show**, Napredak Hall, 770 Montague Expressway, San Jose. Bourse: Bruce Braga, 408-839-1883 or Cupertino Coin Club, P.O. Box 448, Cupertino, CA 95015-0448.

- February 22-24 **Long Beach Coin, Stamp & Collectibles Expo**, Convention Center, 100 S. Pine Ave., 888-743-9316, info@longbeach-expo.com.
- March 3-4 **South Bay Coin & Currency Show**, Elk's Lodge, 1735 W. 162nd St., Gardena. Paul 818-486-7285.
- March 10-11 **Buena Park Coin Show**, Retail Clerks Hall, 8550 Stanton Ave., Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 10am-4pm, Kerry Pieropan, 714-271-8946, www.pacificexposllc.com.
- April 6-8 **Western States Token Society (WESTS)** Merchant tokens, exonomia & related collectibles. Mother Lode Shopping Center, Jackson. Merle Avila (daytime) 707-585-3711, merle@avilaarchitects.com.
- April 7 **CSNA's Golden Anniversary 50th Annual Southern Educational Symposium** 10AM to 4 PM Courtyard Marriott Torrance/South Bay 1925 West 190th Street, Torrance.
- April 29 **Van Nuys/Verdugo Coin Show**, Van Nuys Masonic Hall, 14750 Sherman Way, Van Nuys. Richard Murachanian, 661-287-1651.
- April 20-22 **Santa Clara Coin, Currency, Stamp, and Sports Collectibles Show**, Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara. Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 10am-5pm and Sunday 10am-4pm. Scott Griffin, P.O. Box 1876, Suisun, CA 94585, 415-601-8661, scottgriff@hotmail.com.
- May 6 **Vallejo Numismatic Society 46th Annual Show**, Florence Douglas Senior Center, 333 Amador, Vallejo. Edwin Hoffmark, Jr., PO Box 4281, Vallejo CA 94590-0428, 707-642-8754, paper4coin@yahoo.com.

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CSNA

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These Non-Voting Appointees Perform Special Duties for the Association

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Articles—should be relevant to coin collecting or coin club experiences, and are accepted with the understanding that they are unrestricted from publication. Please indicate if the article has been previously published, and if so, where. Digital files are preferred via e-mail to gregsburns@gmail.com; typed copy is also acceptable mailed to *The California Numismatist*, P.O. Box 1181, Claremont, CA 91711. The author's name and contact information should appear on the first page or on an accompanying cover letter or e-mail.

The California Numismatist reserves the right to edit all items for format or content. As a guide to the general writing style typically preferred for use in our publication, please see the journal's website at www.calnumismatist.com.

Images—relevant to the articles and of a resolution suitable for publication (generally 300dpi) are appreciated. If the author lacks photographic equipment, material may be sent to *The California Numismatist* for reproduction, but *only* with prior arrangement. The preferred format for digital files is JPG or TIF, though other formats may also be acceptable (GIF, PNG, etc.) depending upon the editor's capabilities at the time.

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General—*The California Numismatist* is an educational journal published four times per year and distributed to all California State Numismatic Association (CSNA) and Numismatic Association of Southern California (NASC) members as a membership benefit. Circulation is approximately 600 and most issues are 80 pages. All advertising is accepted subject to the approval of the editor.



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