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1211W. College Ave.
Santa Rosa, Ca. 95401

Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 63, Issue 8, Meeting #729. August 17, 2011

Next Meeting: September 14, 2011

A SWELL SHOW AND TELL

The August meeting of the Redwood Empire Coin Club began with a remembrance of Martha Vanderheide. We were all saddened with her sudden passing. Merle was able to go to her memorial service, and the remembrance handout from the service was at the meeting for us to look at.

SEPTEMBER TOPICS

The September meeting is going to be a great one. To start off, the topic will be "**MY FAVORITE GOLD COIN**". Bring it in or just talk about it (even if you don't own one, tell us about your favorite). Everybody who talks about their favorite gold coin gets 4 free raffle tickets.

It will also be **DESSERT NIGHT!** Everybody is encouraged to bring in a dessert to share with the club. The four people who brought goodies to the August meeting are exempt.

Finally, we will have our **6 MONTH MEMBERSHIP GOLD DRAWING!** For every meeting you attend in the last 6 months, a wooden nickel is put in the pile to be drawn from. In the past we have given away a number of \$10 gold coins, though there may be several smaller denomination gold coins available for this drawing. And **YOU UST BE PRESENT TO WIN!**

SHOW AND TELL

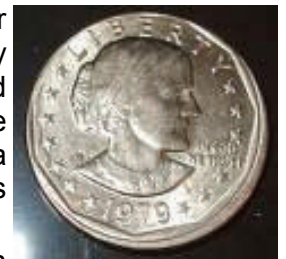
- Carmann, Jonathan, Curtis, and Frank all promised to bring something to talk about next month
- Harry D said the Nor Cal show went very well, with 21 dealers and a couple hundred people attending
- Jan H brought his collection of RECC medals, which he offered for sale.
- Bill B was at the Fairfield Coin Show, where the Western Wooden Money Club also met. One of our members was a winner of their raffle— Irene C winning a MS 70 1/10 ounce gold coin!



- About 4 weeks ago Cal G received a new edition of a book on Eisenhower Dollars, one of several being produced. He has already been able to cherry-pick some good varieties after viewing the book!



- Mike C talked about a MS-65 Susan B Anthony dollar variety he recently purchased. He discussed the fine detail considered the 'wide rim'. I couldn't find a photo of that one, so here is a different kind of wide rim.



- Phil A became interested in old Roman coins at our last coin show, and has started collecting them by the ruler depicted. He brought in several of them, including Trajan, Caracalla, and even Julia Mamea, one of the emperor's wives! All these 1 denarius, dime-sized silver coins are very affordable. He also collects miniature military figurines. The ones made in Russia are the finest. It is nice to have a figurine of each roman emperor to match the coins!
- Gary C dragged his wife along to a coin show, and she began to admire classic early gold pieces. So he started paying attention to Classic Head half cents. Each year had a slight variation since they were made from hand-cut dies. Robert Scott was the designer of the earlier Liberty Head and Draped Bust half cents and cents; rival John Reich designed the Classic Head coins. The design was not too popular, and dubbed 'the blousy bar maid'.



- Gary also brought up a bit of trivia on coin lexicography. The denarius was the precursor to the penny, The British abbreviation for penny is 'd' from denarius. In the Roman empire, 240 denarii were made from 1 Roman libra (pound) of silver. In Britain (before decimal coinage occurred in the 1960s), 12 pennies were equal to one shilling, and 20 shillings one pound (thus 240 pennies to the pound). Long ago nails used to be measured by how many pennies it cost for 100 nails of a certain size; so one hundred 12d nails (12 penny nails) cost twice as much as one hundred 6d nails.
- Irene C not only won the 1/10 ounce gold, she also won a 1 ounce American silver eagle at the Fairfield Show!
- Richard W discussed collecting Kennedy halves. With the price of silver making it expensive to collect so many other coin types, this is an affordable set. The Junior Member discussions got him interested in this.
- Joel M bought a 2006 American Eagle coin because it is a beautiful coin. It also happened to be a first strike!
- Sean M collects woods from coin clubs all over the US. He recently got a 2 new ones from a Eureka Coin Club.
- Larry M scans some auctions on eBay, with some starting at 99 cents. He recently bought a 1874 Swiss 2 franc coin for ~\$3. It has about a half ounce of silver, so Larry got lucky, once again.
- Dan M was at a coin show looking to buy a Widow's mite (among other things, probably). One dealer's table had a box of them, but Dan had to come back 3 times because the dealer was gone. When he finally did find the dealer, they had all been 'sold', and none available individually. But he offered Dan a lot of 50, which worked. Dan has given several away as gifts, and told the story of the Widow's mite.



The parable is in both Mark 12:41-44 and Luke 21:1-4. Jesus comments on the rich putting their surplus money in the temple treasury, while the poor widow put in two mites, *all* that she had. Jesus comments that the widow put in more than all the others. It is generally viewed as a testament to the value of faith, though there are a number of interpretations.

Interestingly, no coin denomination of mite existed at that time, and the term was first mentioned in a 1525 bible- probably referring to a small Dutch coin denomination appearing in the fourteenth century AD.

The parables refer to the widow giving the two coins of the smallest denomination, which would have been the prutah and half prutah of the Hasmonean kings and Herod the Great. The most common of these, easily by a factor of 1000:1, was the small prutah of Alexander Jannaeus. There were several varieties of this, like the one pictured. The most common variety features a star with either dots or a circle around it on the obverse (*not* a ship's wheel as many used to think), and an anchor on the reverse. Other varieties show a cornucopia or a lily. They are quite common coins still today, though many are quite worn. Dan must have got quite a bargain, as I have seen them average \$12-18 individually, with sharp examples running up to \$100!

- Kurt was at a show in Sacramento 2 weeks ago and found some "good-for" tokens, which he gave to Merle.
- Glenn used to live in Cyprus, and has recently started collecting its coins again. Cypriot coins have featured people from Alexander the Great, to Queen Elizabeth II. Many of the early Queen Victoria and QE II coins are quite scarce. Cyprus has become quite a popular resort destination and collecting its coins is much more difficult now compared to the past.
- Willie Q had a love token made for his granddaughter. Ann N was going to colorize it but has a broken arm (we all send her our best wishes). Still, Willie will send to coin to his granddaughter for her birthday. The engraving was really quite nice.
- Merle A talked about Steve Album's California Token Book, featuring tokens from 1643 different towns. Merle has 347 towns to still get tokens from. He recently found a wooden "good for" from the Blue Sky Village Club in Cathedral City, the only token type known from that town. He related how tokens used to be thrown out in 55 gallon drums because they were relatively worthless; now they are scarce and valuable.

NEW LECTURE SERIES

Lee Gong is still giving an **ADVANCED COLLECTING** talk at the beginning of each meeting. He will begin at 6PM. This will be very interesting and informative, geared to all adult and advanced Junior members.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads may be placed by any club member, up to 2 per month. They run for two months. Buy—Sell—Trade—Want Lists OK. Notify Charlie at each meeting (or mail to club P.O. Box, or even call) to get your ad in

WANTED: Merle Avila would like to buy your “Good For Tokens” that have the name of a town on them from anywhere in the USA. Please call: Days- 707-585-3711;
Eves- 707-824-4811.

Or e-mail Merle@avilaarchitects.com

CASH PAID for coin collections any size. I’ve been buying coins for 56+ years! Frank Villalon 707-467-0250

KIDS KORNER

The August Junior meeting was made possible by Jasmine M. She has started collecting Indian head and Lincoln cents. Jasmine was able to add to her collection by obtaining some coins and albums that were donated by our generous adult members.

At the September meeting, we will begin discussions of the United States Quarter Series (1999-2009). The first eight Junior Members to attend the next meeting will receive a brand new State Quarters album by Whitman Publishing Co.

See you in September at 6:15 PM sharp!

Rich W.

Rich W e-mailed with a very interesting news item few Americans are aware of. The U.S. is producing hundreds of millions of unwanted presidential dollars, which then need to be trucked and put in storage. By the time the series is finished being minted, over \$1 billion will just sit in storage. Check out the newscast report on-line at <http://abcnews.go.com/WNT/video/coins-costing-taxpayers-14076274>

He also was in Canada recently, where people use \$1 & \$2 coins (Loonies and Twonies) all the time, not needing currency in that denomination. If only the U.S. could do the same. Canada sure is way ahead of us in some ways, eh.

DRAWING WINNERS:

Membership: Joel M, Lee G, Steven T, Jasmine M, Kurt G, and Bob K

50:50 pot of \$ 78 was split with Sean M

Raffle: Mike, Paul R, Richard W, Charlie C, Bob B (twice!), Jack H, Dan M (with a free talk ticket!), Irene C, Edwin H, Harry D, and Gary C

August Members– 47+

New Members: Zach S (#828) and Frank C(#829). Also, Linda S (#825) joined a few months ago and someone (ahem) forgot to announce it– WELCOME!

Guests: Yes, several

Auction: 22 exciting items

Adjournment was at 9:00 p.m. sharp!

We want to wish Bruce S. a speedy recovery from his back injury.

Volunteers for **refreshments** for September are all of you bringing desserts– thanks!

The Redwood Empire Coin Club meets on the second Wednesday of every month. The Club’s meeting location is the **Veterans Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa** (opposite the County Fairgrounds across from highway 12), in the **“Dinner Room”** on the east side of the building, at 7:00 PM sharp.



R.E.C.C.

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UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS

September 10, 2011. Merced Coin Show. Senior Community center, 755 West 15th Street, Merced

September 30-Oct1, 2011. Sacramento Valley Coin Club Fall Show. Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd, Sacramento

October 8-9, 2011. 15th Annual Contra Costa Coin Show. Diablo Numismatic Society, Holiday Inn, 1050 Burnett Ave, Concord

October 15-16, 2011. Delta coin Club's 47th Fall Coin Show. Eagle's Hall, 1492 Bourbon Street, Stockton

October 22, 2011. CSNA Annual Northern California Educational Symposium. Vallejo Naval & Historical Museum, 734 Marin at Capital.

November 6, 2011. Peninsula Coin Club 32nd Annual Coins and Collectibles Show. Napredak Hall, 770 Montague Expressway, San Jose

November 11-12, 2011. Sacramento Coin Show. Red Lion Inn (next to Sears), 1401 Arden Way, Sacramento

November 18-20, 2011. Santa Clara Coin, Stamp, and Collectibles Expo. Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great American Parkway

Check out the newsletter at:
Redwoodempirecoinclub.com

Thanks for reading. Corrections? Additions? Questions? E-mail us at:

info@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com

Or call me— 707-573-1252

See you September 14— Charlie

