



Founded March 26, 1949

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

# Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 65, Issue 6, Meeting #753. August 14, 2013

Next Meeting: September 11, 2013

## AUGUST NEWS

We had a great Show and Tell at the August meeting. But first, we have a very exciting September meeting planned. We will start off with a mini **Educational Seminar on Gold Coins**. Various members volunteered or were coerced into giving short talks as follows:

- SF Mint– Merle
- Denver Mint– Phil A
- Philadelphia– Curtis
- New Orleans– Joel M
- Carson City– Zach S
- West Pointe– Bill R
- Charlotte– Charlie
- Dahlonaga– Gary C
- Commemorative Gold Dollars– Jerry St G
- Commem \$2-1/2, and standard \$5 gold– Steven H
- Gold Dollars Type 1-3– Dan C
- Gold 2–1/2– Charlie C
- Gold \$3, St Gaudens High Relief– Merle
- Gold \$4– Rich W
- Gold Eagles– Bob K
- Gold \$20 Liberty– Edwin H
- Gold \$20 St Gaudens, Pan Pac \$50– Mike C
- Gold \$50 slugs– Lee

After that, we will have our **6 Month Gold Coin Drawing!** For every month you have attended a meeting for the last 6 months, a wooden nickel with your member # was saved, and from these someone ( or a few *someones*, depending on the prizes) will win a gold coin! BUT: *you must be present to win.*

Finally, it will also be **DESSERT NIGHT!** Please bring a dessert to share with the club. You can count on a big turnout for this one.

There is a new coin shop in the area. Irv from Airport Gold and Silver talked about the shop he opened on Airport Blvd. Current hours are Tuesday-Thursday 11-6. He buys and sells bullion as well as coins, and has them on display at the shop. To get in to the building you have to wait to be buzzed in at the door, but then it is completely secure inside the building.

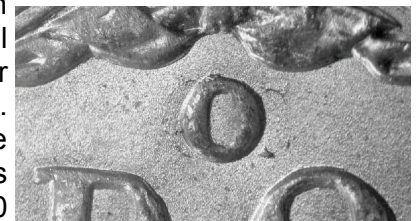
### SHOW AND TELL

- ☛ Rod M Sr. finally purchased his first CC Morgan Dollar, an 1883 CC in MS 64
- ☛ Rod M Jr. got his first Capped Bust Half Dollar



- ☛ Guy S brought in a “Big Buffalo”. It was a coin bank in the shape of a Buffalo nickel, made by the leader of Boy Scouts Troop 32. It was very detailed from the actual coin used as a model

- ☛ Edwin H was proud to show off his VAM, a 1900 O/CC Morgan Dollar. VAM stands for the Encyclopedia of Morgan and Peace Dollars book written by Van Allen and Mallis, w h i c h catalogues all known minor die variations. There are seven variations of just the 1900 O/CC alone!



- ☛ Gary C bought a set of “the last of the sterling British coins” before changing to the decimal system. Inside the set was info on the design of the new coins, by C.W. Coombs. Gary talked about this
- ☛ Bill G likes to collect Liberty nickels. He talked about a coin design change during 1901 from a high leaf to a low leaf near the V. He brought in one of each. See photo next page

Reverse of 1900 • Touching AM/Far Leaf



Reverse of 1902 • A & M Separate/Near Leaf



Phil A talked about how he once bought a boxed coin with an early date Chinese Panda, a 5 yen coin. They later changed to a 10 yen denomination, and he continues to collect them



Jon Maria brought in her collection of Australian lunar coins. She mentioned how some had the date 2007 (on the obverse with Queen Victoria), and there was a different date on the reverses, not sure why. And as I suggested, the years on the reverse corresponded to the animal depicted on the coins.



The year 2007 was the year of the boar (or pig); 2008 was the rat, 2009 the ox, 2010 the tiger, etc.

Jim C has a German die with a double eagle on it. He took a Canadian Maple Leaf, heated it with a torch, and struck it with the die. Now he has a *German Maple Leaf*! Very cool.

Rich W brought in a Wall Street Journal article on the man who designed the new U.S. \$100 bill. Brian Thompson joined the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in 1989 and worked on the current \$20 bill design until it was accepted in 1993 (has it really been 20 years?!!). For the last *seventeen* years he has been working on a new design for "The Benjamin". He is incorporating some new design elements as well as security designs to help reduce counterfeiting, and it took 40 drafts to reach the final decision. When finished, the picture will be among the most recognized images across the globe. At the end of 2012, 8.6 *billion* \$100 notes were in circulation. Up to 2/3 of all US currency circulates abroad, and the \$100 bill is the favorite of foreign counterfeiters. It will be nice to see the new design when it finally comes out.

Curtis S found some 'holey' foreign coins, which he will give to Willie Q. They included a 3 pence from Queen Victoria, a Canadian penny, a Spanish coin, and a model half sovereign from Victorian England.



Merle bought a slabbed 50 cent Bay Bridge Commemorative coin last month. He was going to break it out and put it in an album, but it was too nice a coin! So now he wants to get another to put in his album. He also talked about another Santa Rosa 'Good For' token, an 1880 Capital Saloon, Ford and Meyer.

Lee G talked about a Coin World article about an 1894-S Barber Dime that recently sold at auction for \$2.5 million. He discussed the Kevin Flynn book about those dimes. (Remember to buy the book before you buy the coin). Early in our club's history, San Francisco coin dealer Earl Parker brought two samples of 1894-S dimes to the club for sale. Member Ken Jordan was present to witness this. We don't know how much he offered them for.



Dan C discussed how 30 million \$100 bills have been rejected from circulation due to bad printing (fuzzy images, etc). Out of 8.6 billion bills in circulation, it seems like a small number.

## A TALE OF TWO COINS



This is a tale of the two coins pictured here. They were both minted in ancient Tyre, a hub of commerce in ancient Phoenicia, and still existing as a city on the coast of southern Lebanon. The obverse features Melqart, a Phoenician god, and the reverse shows an eagle standing on the prow of a ship. The top coin is a half shekel, and the lower coin 1 shekel, and they both have historic and biblical significance.

In the Old Testament (the Torah), the term shekel was originally used as a unit of weight representing a certain value. Later it represents a coin of a specific value. One specific issue in ancient times was that the annual Temple tax for every Jewish man, woman, and child over a certain age was.... one half shekel.

So how do the coins above fit in, since Tyre was 100 miles from Jerusalem? The Temple Tax was specified to be of fine silver from Tyre. Their coins were consistently pure over the years, whereas coins from most other countries/kingdoms were of varying purity. People from all over the ancient world would come to Jerusalem to pay the tax and worship at the huge temple there, the center of the Jewish world. So the shekels and half shekels of Tyre were probably the most common silver coins in Jerusalem.

Since pilgrims came from many nations carrying their own coins, here is where the first of three tales from the New Testament fit in. The coins from other lands needed to be exchanged for half shekels of Tyre to be accepted for the tax. Which meant that a currency exchange was necessary. There were money changers there at the base of the temple, known for shouting out their rate of exchange. This is the tale where Jesus was angered at the money-changers there at the holiest site of worship, noisily trying to get business— and he overturned their tables.

Even a full Shekel was not accepted for the tax— it was a half shekel. The exchange rate cost a little extra, and the smallest coins of the time were likely what was used for this. These were the tiny prutah (plural is prutot), also known as a lepton, most likely minted by the Tasmanian ruler Alexander Jannaeus. One shekel equaled 256 prutot. And here is where a second tale of the bible comes in. The name of these coins was translated in English initially in the Tyndale Bible of 1525 as a shortening of the word 'minute'- not as the name of a coin— to 'mite'. The King James bible in 1611 made the term mite popular as the name of the coin. The books of Mark and Luke both tell a tale of two people donating money to the temple (yes—back then, as now, extra donations were welcome). One was a wealthy merchant who threw some coins from his purse into the treasury. The other was a poor widow, who threw the only two mites she owned. Jesus praised her as the more worthy for giving everything she had. Widow's mites can be commonly purchased today. They have an inverted anchor on one side, and a star (or wheel with spokes) on the other.



One final story from the bible is what Judas was paid to reveal the location where Jesus could be found— thirty pieces of silver. Those pieces of silver were probably shekels, since they were the predominant coin. So the shekel pictured here is like what was paid then, though the date could have been somewhere in a 150+ year span, since the coins remained so consistent through the years. Some collectors still do try to get coins dated around 32 or 33 AD, when the 30 pieces of silver were paid.

This brings you back to the coins pictured at the top. They are readily available on the market, though the half shekel denomination is more scarce than the shekel. But both are extremely hard to find in this good a condition. The half shekel was purchased a couple years ago at auction, and the shekel was just purchased. Both are in a condition as struck, and *both* are dated 76/75 BC! The date is actually year 51 of the ruler's reign, which corresponds to the year 76/75 BC. So they make up an uncirculated year set that is almost 2100 years old! Can you top that?

## DO YOU KNOW?

Do you know which major U.S. art museum is the only one with a gallery dedicated to just ancient coins? It is the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, which has the Michael C. Reutters Gallery of Ancient Coins. It features over 500 of the 7500 coins in the museum collection, highlighting not only the intricate artwork in miniature depicted on the coins, but the historical significance as well. The coins date from the mid-seventh century BC to the 5th century AD. They even have an iPad app (but not for iPhone). It allows you to look at over 250 of the coins, enlarge them, flip them over, and read about the history. So the next time you are in Boston, check it out.

Do you know of any good coin apps for the iPhone? I took a look, and of the hundreds of apps under 'coin', most were games or virtual coin flipping apps. But there were a few that can be considered. (Sorry Android and other smart phone users, you will need to look up if there any for your phone platform).

- ◆ NGC Coin details (free)- helps collectors verify authenticity and make informed buying and selling decisions. It combines info from the best of NGC's research tools like Price Guides and VarietyPlus. You can even scan NGC slabs or enter its number to verify the coin.
- ◆ Precious metal prices (free-\$4.99). There were 10 apps with various prices to portfolio management guides
- ◆ U.S. Commemorative Coins (free or \$10 for the full thing)- evaluates the value of every U.S.Mint commemorative from the Columbian Expo to present
- ◆ CoinBook Pro (\$1.99)- catalog of US coins with prices, photograting, upgraded prices periodically
- ◆ Coin Book Collector (\$2.99)- catalog your collection
- ◆ U.S. Coin Identifier (\$0.99)- comprehensive database of hi-resolution images and specs for every U.S. coin series, includes bullion values
- ◆ PCGS Photograde (free)- self explanatory
- ◆ PCGS Price Guide (free)- provides current retail value of 15,000 US coins in up to 10 different grades. A convenient 'shop' button instantly connects you to all offerings on eBay.

I am sure there are more apps. They may prove very valuable, and are sure easier than carrying around a book at the shows you go to!

Here is a preview of some of the coins to be discussed in September.



## 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

**CASH** paid for coin collections, will travel. I have been buying coins for 58+ years. Frank Villalon 707-467-0250

**FOR SALE:** Beautiful uncirculated 1 ounce 2010 gold American Eagle at spot price plus \$50. Call Steve K. at 548-0839



Volunteers for **refreshments** for September are everyone bringing desserts—thanks!

### **NEW LECTURE SERIES**

Lee Gong will be 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.

3

## DRAWING WINNERS:

**Membership:** Rick S, Edwin H, Bob K, Rod M Jr, and Harold R

**50:50** pot of \$ 128 was split with Guy S

**Raffle:** Jack H (three times), Joel M (3 times), Mike B, Bill R (twice), Gary C, Harry D, Curtis S (twice), and Edwin H

**August Members Present:** 52+

**Guests:** yes

**Auction:** 43 of exciting items

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

## KIDS KORNER

The August meeting was all about Canadian coinage from the one-cent (no longer being minted) all the way to "Loonies and Toonies". Juniors received many uncirculated coins thanks to Robert A. who is recently back from Canada. During the meeting, the question became " can you name all the provinces of Canada"? I can now. The ten provinces and three territories are as follows: 1. Ontario 2. Quebec 3. British Columbia 4. Alberta 5. Manitoba 6. Saskatchewan 7. Nova Scotia 8. New Brunswick 9. Newfoundland & Labrador 10. Prince Edward Islands . Territories: 1. Northwest Territories 2. Yukon 3. Nunavut

I will be in Oregon in September. The junior meeting will still be held at 6:15. Thanks- Rich W

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.

1211 W. College Ave.

Santa Rosa, Ca. 95401



## UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS

**September 6-8, 2013. Santa Clara Coins and Collectibles Show.** Santa Clara Convention Center

**September 22, 2013. Livermore Valley Coin Club Fall Coin Show.** Elk's Lodge, 940 Larkspur, Livermore

**September 28, 2013. CSNA Annual Northern California Educational Symposium.** Vallejo Naval & Historical Museum, 734 Marin at Capital, Vallejo

**October 12-13, 2013. Diablo Numismatic Society's 17th Annual Coin Show.** Crowne Plaza Hotel, 45 John Glenn Drive (off Concord Ave)

**October 19-20, 2013. Delta Coin Club's 49th Annual Coin Show.** Eagle's Hall, 1492 Bourbon Street, Stockton

**November 3, 2013. Peninsula Coin Club 34th Annual Coins and Collectibles Show.** Napredak Hall, 770 Montague Expressway, San Jose

**[Redwoodempirecoinclub.com](http://Redwoodempirecoinclub.com)**

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

**[newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com](mailto:newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com)**

Or call me— 707-573-1252

See you September 11— Charlie

**Check out the newsletter at:**

