



Founded March 26, 1949

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

Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 65, Issue 1, Meeting #746. January 9, 2013

Next Meeting: February 13, 2013

HAPPY NEW YEAR

We had a wonderful turn out to start of the new year. Merle updated us on the upcoming Coin Show:

- All 67 tables are sold and paid for
- Set up will be Wednesday February 13 (yes, the day of our next meeting). It will be at 5:30, after which we will all come over and join the meeting. Bob K has a list of those volunteers, and will give us a pass code to get in the gate at the fairgrounds.
- We will still have a Coin Show Dinner at Fou Zhou Chinese Buffet. It is \$20, including all-you-can-eat buffet and soft drinks/tea. The hard stuff is on you.
- Keep selling those Gold Coin Drawing tickets! It helps cover the cost of our show, plus you are eligible for a gold coin to the top 3 sellers plus one other randomly picked. PLEASE give your ticket stubs to Merle, since he keeps track of every single one.
- I will be asking for volunteers to work at the front tables during the show. We need 4 people minimum at all times, from 10am to 6 pm Friday and Saturday.
- There was talk of a treasure hunt for kids. But we aren't sure if ANA Vice President Walt Ostramecki will be able to make it to our show. See page 4 for current details.

- Stephen Album made it to our meeting this month. Besides writing the first book on California Tokens, he is the world's leading expert on Islamic coins, and told an interesting story. He (for his auction company) was in the process of negotiating to hold an auction for a large collection of Iranian and Indian coins. He had even prepared most of the catalog. But the owner decided to go with Heritage Auctions instead. What could have sold for \$3-5million sold instead for under \$1million. Much did not sell since that particular market collapsed. And he felt the other auction company did a poor job of presenting the coins, often grouping some together and selling them at too low an estimate. Stephen asked that his name not be mentioned in the catalog, and said the seller later regretted making the change. He will be among the dealers at our upcoming show.
- Steven H likes to go metal detecting for coins and jewelry. He recently traded in some of his finds for 2 \$20 gold pieces, 1895 and 1903-S both graded MS 63. Not bad!



SHOW AND TELL

- Gary C missed the November meeting because he was in Charlotte NC to go to a Denver Broncos football game against the Carolina Panthers. Denver won 36-14. Right near the stadium is the Mint Museum. He went there hoping to see the old Charlotte Mint. But that is located across town in the *other* Mint Museum. Yes, they have two Mint Museums. And while in NC, Gary went to Greenville, just to go to the "Coin Depot", as advertised in many magazines. He described what it was like.



- Joe McC collects currency. He brought in souvenir BEP lithographs, featuring Educational Series Notes. These were in denominations of \$1, 2, 5, and 10 (even though a \$10 note was never printed). The lithographs are produced using the actual plates that were used for printing the currency.

- Lucky Larry bought 3 sets of the 2012 San Francisco Mint American Eagle Proof/Reverse Proof coins. IF you want them certified, they need to be sent in unopened. But Larry did open one set and brought it in to show us. They really are a beautiful set of coins.



- Guy S collects US type coins, but includes colonials in this. He talked about the Fugio Cent, which may have been designed by Ben Franklin. He brought in his specimen, as well as a replica in mint condition to show what the details can look like



- Phil A donated stamps to the club last month to help pay for mailings. He talked about a visit to Charleston SC to see the Hunley, the Confederate States' submarine— and the first in existence. On February 16, 1864, it successfully sank the USS Housatonic, but then disappeared until being recently found. Lt. George Dixon was the captain. His sweetheart, Queenie Bennett, had given him a gold coin for good luck. Legend had it that Lt. Dixon was saved by the coin when a bullet struck him at the Battle of Shiloh in 1862. And that legend proved true when that coin was found when the Hunley was discovered. Phil brought a copy of the coin. It had been engraved on the reverse "Shiloh April 6th 1862 My Life Preserver QED". You can see the bend from the bullet.

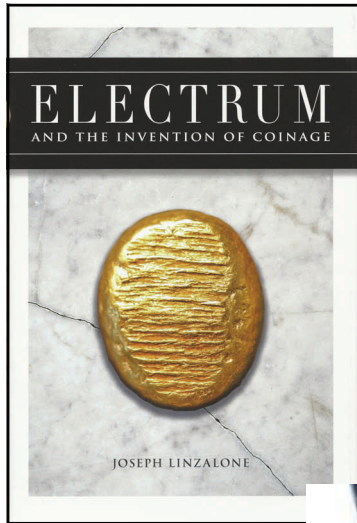


- Joel M Talked about the Walking Liberty Half Dollar. It's design is used for current Silver Eagles. His nicest specimen is a 1935 MS 64 coin.
- Rich W brought in his complete set of Buffalo nickels. He found a Capital Plastics holder for it that did not have a hole for the 1918/17D or the 1937 3 legged variety, but did have one for the affordable 1938 D/S variety



- Lee G went to the Canadian Numismatic Association meeting 4 years ago in Ottawa. He was able to get a tour of the Royal Canadian Mint, where he saw the vault with a huge amount of gold ingots. There was a recent news story showing photos of the same vault he visited.
- Trevor talked about a 2003 Proof set he just got, which was from the year he was born
- Mike C talked about how the Queen of England signed a 1 million pound note. There is a Bank of England One Million Pound and One Hundred Million Pound note, but they are only for use between banks to back up the currency of bank-note producing banks such as the Bank of Scotland, etc. Then he brought up the proposal for a U.S. \$1trillion platinum coin. The premise is simple: strike a single coin in platinum emblazoned with a 1 and twelve zeros behind it, deposit it in the Federal Reserve Bank, and voila! Our national debt is wiped out. It stems from a workaround exploiting a 1997 law that allows the treasury to "mint and issue platinum bullion coins and proof platinum coins in accordance with such specifications as the secretary [of the Treasury], in the secretary's discretion, may prescribe from time to time". The idea was to allow creation of a commemorative eagle coin, but inadvertently gives the secretary the power to mint coins of any possible denomination. Fortunately, the idea has been ruled out by the White House. And Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore, said he would introduce legislation to close the loophole, stating "my wife and I owned and operated a small business. When it came time to pay bills, we couldn't just mint a coin to create more money out of thin air".

- Bill Van V talked about some of his experiences working at the San Francisco Mint. At one time, the GSA (General Services Administration) decided to remove all the silver that was stored. So the mint melted all the silver dollars that were stored, into bars that weighed about 75 pounds. They were then shipped out.
- Charlie C talked about the oldest coins in the world. Some form of coinage developed independently in three parts of the world. In the 9th century BC, shells were used as a form of currency in China, and the Chinese started producing shells out of metal. But since they did not have a set denomination or stamp, they cannot be considered true coins. India started making coins around the 7th century BC. And for the western world, the first coins were minted in what was called Anatolia, modern day Turkey. Charlie followed Lee G's golden rule of numismatics: Before you buy the coin, buy the book. Even better, it was purchased from and signed by the author at a recent coin show.



Around 610 BC, King Alyattes of Lydia, another kingdom in Anatolia, was the first ruler to ever have his name on coins. The final step in the development of true coins occurred in the reign of Croesus of Lydia (561-545 BC). He was the first ruler to separate the metals instead of using electrum. His gold and silver coins had set denominations, which were easily identified as to value for use in commerce. They featured a lion facing a bull on the obverse, and a punch mark on the re-



verse like the one featured here. This was also a recent auction acquisition. The main denomination of Croesus was a stater, and a smaller denomination was a hecte, 1/6 of a stater. The coin above is a hemi-hecte (half hecte), or 1/12 stater, and is only 1/4" in size! As these coins were so identifiable in commerce, the use of coinage soon spread throughout the know western world.

- Electrum was a naturally occurring combination of gold and silver readily found in nuggets washed down from the mountains. Ionia, on the west coast of Anatolia, first started stamping set sizes of electrum in 680-650 BC. They initially were smooth on one side with incuse punches on the other, so these were essentially prototypes. The one pictured here is a recent auction acquisition. It is 1/2" in size. Soon the



Ionians began minting the very first true coins, with a series of parallel lines on the obverse and punch marks on the reverse, as pictured on the book above. By 650 BC there were faces and animals appearing on the obverse.



- Merle recently went to Virginia City, Nevada, and took a ride on the Virginia-Truckee Railroad. He visited the Delta Saloon, dropped in a few quarters, and ended up winning three Silver Strikes!

- Willie Q found a treasure at the Sebastopol Flea Market. It was a dime and a fractional 10



cent piece both dated 1876. Not bad for \$3. And for Christmas he got some engraved love tokens from his daughter with the names and birthdates of his grandchildren. No more excuses for forgetting birthdays.

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

KIDS KORNER

The January meeting was very well attended with Joel M leading the group. Juniors helped to stamp and get ready the postcard mailers for the coin show. Many thanks to all that helped Lee G with this effort.

At the February meeting, we will discuss getting yourself ready to go to a coin show. We will discuss budget, priorities, and starting a "want list". Juniors who attend will obtain their own hard copy of coin collecting commandments which they will encase in plastic. Thanks to Robert A (really Lois A) for the typing and the reproduction of the 4 x 6 cards. In Feb, I will help with coin show setup at the fairgrounds before the coin meeting. I will try to get to the junior meeting as close to 6:15 as possible.—Rich W

TREASURE HUNT!

There will be a **youth table** at the back of the room where juniors can obtain donated items for their collections. This table will be manned both days of the show to help any boy or girl get started with the rewarding hobby of coin collecting.

There will also be a **Treasure Hunt** both Friday and Saturday where there will be coins available free from selected dealers. The hunt **begins at the youth table** at the back of the room. Many thanks to **Willie** for making the treasure hunt possible again this year. See you at the show!

DRAWING WINNERS:

Membership: Bill Van V, Michael W, Celina M, Kevin Q, Steven A, Jon Maria M, and Dan C

50:50 pot of \$ 124 split with Rosa

Raffle: Jonathan S, Harry D, Jack H, Edwin H, Bill van V, Kevin Q, Bill R, Joel M, Jim C, and Bob B

January Members: 68+

New Members: two joined late in the December meeting: Scott L (# 855J), and James L (#856J)-
WELCOME!

Guests: Yes, several

Auction: 27 exciting items

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

Volunteers for **refreshments** for February are Mike B, Willie Q, Ariana M, and Bill VanV. 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.

1211 W. College Ave.

Santa Rosa, Ca. 95401



UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS

February 15-16, 2013. Redwood

Empire Coin Club's 45th Annual Coin Show. Sonoma County Fairgrounds' Finley Hall, 1350 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa

February 17, 2013 Cupertino Coin Club 41st

Annual Show. Napredak Hall, 770 Montague Expressway, San Jose

March 10, 2013. Livermore Valley Coin Club's 49th Annual Coin Show.

Elks Lodge, 940 Larkspur, Livermore

April 19-21, 2013. Santa Clara Coin and Collectible Show.

Santa Clara Convention Center

April 26-27, 2013. Sacramento Valley Coin Club's Spring Coin Show.

Elks Lodge, 6446 Riverside Blvd, Sacramento

May 5, 2013. 41st Annual Vallejo Coin and Collectibles Show.

Vallejo Veterans Memorial Building, 420 Admiral Callaghan Lane (off Redwood Parkway and turn south on Admiral Callaghan)

June 22-23, 2013. Stanislaus County Coin Club's Modesto Coin and Collectible Show.

Modesto Centre Plaza, 1000 L St (10th and K Streets), Modesto

July 27-28, 2013. Fremont Coin Club 34th

Annual Show. Elk's Hall, 38991 Farwell

Drive, Fremont

August 11, 2013. Annual Fairfield Coin Show.

Fairfield Community Center, 1000 East Kentucky St.

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 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

**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 February 13— Charlie

