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

Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 65, Issue 10, Meeting #755. October 11, 2013

Next Meeting: November 13, 2013

OKTOBERFEST

We had a great turnout for the Oktoberfest meeting of the RECC. Thanks as always to the gang at G&G Market for the chicken-apple sausage, buns, and salads, as well as to those who brought sides and desserts.

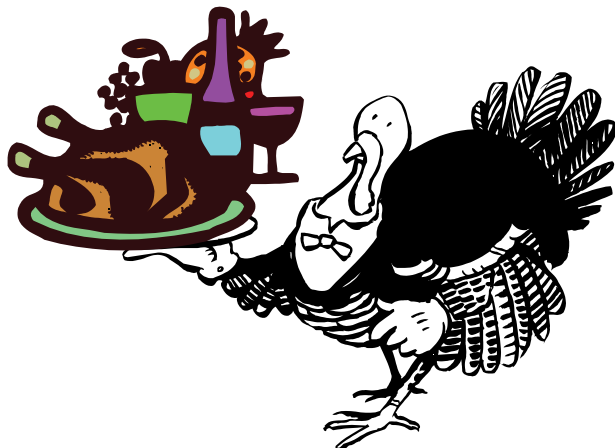
We had five new members join: Bill G, Gavin E, Jeanne and Stephanie S, and Airport Gold and Silver. And Andy Smith became Life Member 71!

Bill Green talked about the Santa Rosa Coin Show he ran. The turnout was modest, not as big as expected— but still good for the first show. The dealer mix was good, they liked the show, and they plan to return next year.

We also had our 14th annual Helen and Roy Roberts Commemorative Auction. There were 71 items donated by members, and it lasted well past the 9PM close of the meeting. The grand total we received from the auction was \$672. Thanks to all of you who generously donated and purchased items.

THANKSGIVING

In November we will have our annual Thanksgiving meeting. For **only \$5**, there will be plenty of turkey, stuffing, gravy, and soft drinks. **Please bring a hot or side dish** (or a dessert) as well. We did not have many people bring goodies in October, but the November meeting hopefully will let us all share a wonderful meal together. It is one of many things we can be thankful for.



ENGRAVING

We had guest Doug Nesbitt join us at the meeting. He worked at the American Banknote Company in New York for 19 years starting in the late 1940s. They print stocks, bonds, and foreign currency there. He was then lured to Washington DC to work at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (B.E.P.) for 25 years. He worked on engraving stamps and the \$1 bill among other things while there.

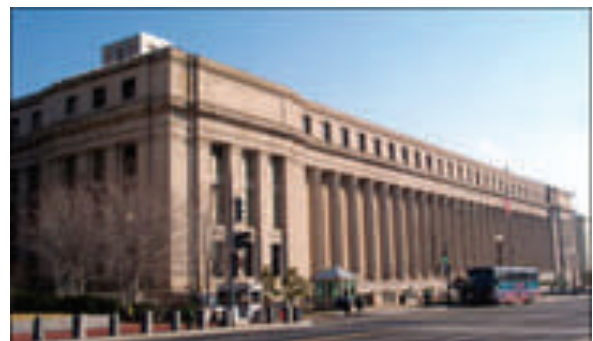
He is a siderographer (sidero= iron, graph= writing), literally an iron writer, a engraver. Prior to 1819, most banks had their own engravers to help produce currency, which made it easy for counterfeiters to reproduce. In 1819



JACOB PERKINS.

Jacob Perkins (a prolific inventor: nail machines, cannon boring, steam power, a refrigerator) developed the technique of engraving onto a steel cylinder, which was then used for printing. The technique initially was not of interest here, but it gained acceptance by the British.

Intricate engravings could be used to produce high quality currency which was much harder to counterfeit. Doug was involved in the engraving process, which now relies on PVC plastic sheets which can be 'welded' together onto a cylinder. He will come back to a future meeting to discuss web printing and other topics.



THE B.E.P. in Washington D.C.

RECREATING HISTORY

There was a nice little Renaissance Faire in Sebastopol in September which most of you probably missed. Besides having men in tights and women in busty dresses, there was a lot of good food and crafts for sale. This was designed as an educational event for kids (and attended by many), so there were displays of falconry, weaving, arms and armor, a cobbler, and even a 'mint'.

The mint was similar to what was used in Medieval times. Dies then were made of iron from 6-10" in size. The lower die, for the obverse, usually had a spiked end that could be anchored in a workbench or log. A planchet was placed on it, the reverse die placed on top, and they were then hammered together— sometimes 2-3 or more times to produce the coin. At the fair the dies were steel and planchets tin, but similar results could be seen.



Can you tell which of these is the real penny of Edward the Confessor? The one on the right is, but the one on the left is a good reproduction. Medieval dies started as smooth surfaces that the Celator (die engraver) used punches and gouges to engrave. The letters and figures are basically lines and curves, so you may be able to imagine how many different shapes could be made with die punches in



the shape of / -) and .

For those of you that like ancient coinage like I do, the Greeks and others mastered the art of die engraving ~2500 years ago and came up with fabulous designs of faces and animals, like the ones you see here. That art was lost in the 'dark



ages' and for much of the early Medieval period. So most of the coins displayed simple designs, somewhat akin to stick figures. Letters were punched in crude fashion, often using abbreviations or single letters to indicate the person, title, mint city, etc.



You can see how simple the portrait of Henry III (1216-1272) is on the penny pictured here. A similar portrait was used by kings for 200 years. Things improved some with the coins of Edward III (1327-1377), like the groat (four pence) pictured next.



It wasn't until the reign of Henry VII (1485-1509) that a more realistic portrait was developed. The coin below was from the first issue of that style. And of course you may recognize his son to the right, Henry VIII.



Getting back to the 'coins' minted at the Renaissance fair, can you tell which Elizabeth I penny below is the real one? The irregular flan on the right is more typical of ancient and medieval hammered coins, but the reproduction is fairly accurate. Although it did not have 'copy' stamped on it, it is easy to tell when looking at it closely. Can you imagine what the real thing could have bought, or who might have owned and used it?



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



KIDS KORNER

Juniors at the October meeting learned some things about Charles Barber and the Liberty Head (Barber) coins of 1892-1916. They looked for letters on liberty's head band and could distinguish good/very good/fine using a loupe. They looked at dimes, quarters and halves and did figure out why there was no Barber nickel. All took home a Barber dime made possible by our club.

At the November meeting, Gary C. has volunteered to do a talk on the Mercury Dime of 1916-1945. **Junior homework:** Look up and read about the Mercury Dime in the Red Book before the meeting. See you Nov 13 at 6:15 sharp.

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.

DRAWING WINNERS:

Membership: Bob T, Bill R, Daren C, Glen M, Christine S, and Bob B

50:50 pot of \$ 100 was split with Lucky Lee G

Raffle: Glen M (Twice), Joel M, Connie P (three times!), Edwin H, Jack H, Jon Maria M, Andy S, Bob McG, Gary C, and Bill R

October Members Present: 67+

New Members: Bill G (#873), Gavin E (#874J), Jeanne S (#875), Stephanie S (#876), and Airport Gold and Silver (#877)- **WELCOME!!!!**

Guests: Yes there were some

Auction: 71 of exciting items

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

Volunteers for **refreshments** for November are for everyone to bring a hot/side dish or dessert for Thanksgiving

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

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

January 24-26, 2014. San Jose 46th Annual Coin, Stamps, and Collectibles Expo.
Double Tree Hotel Bayshore Ballroom, 2050
Gateway Place, San Jose

FEBRUARY 14-15, 2014. Redwood Coin Club 46th Annual Coin Show. Sonoma County
Fairgrounds Finley Hall, Santa Rosa

February 16, 2014. Cupertino Coin Club's 42nd Annual Coin Show. Napredak Hall, 770
Montague Expressway, San Jose

May 4, 2014. Vallejo Numismatic Society 42nd Annual Show. Veteran's Memorial Building,
420 Admiral Callaghan Lane, Vallejo

July 12-13, 2014. California State Numismatic Association (CSNA) 132nd Convention and Coin Show. Veteran's Memorial Building,
420 Admiral Callaghan Way, Vallejo

July 26-27, 2014. Fremont Coin Club's 42nd Annual Show. Elk's Hall, 38991 Farwell
Drive, Fremont

October 18-19, 2014. Delta Coin Club's 50th Annual Coin Show. Eagles Hall, 1492 Bourbon
Street, Stockton

November 2, 2014. Peninsula Coin Club's 35th 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:
newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com

Or call me— 707-573-1252
See you November 13— Charlie

