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

Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 66, Issue 6, Meeting #764. July 9, 2014

Next Meeting: August 13, 2014

JULY NEWS

The July meeting of the RECC was an easy going affair. We had a flea market starting at 6PM, with several members having tables of coins for buying, selling, trading, bargaining, wishful thinking, you name it.

The regular meeting started around 7PM as usual with some reports, then we proceeded right to the main event: Barbeque pork steaks and chicken! There was plenty to go around. But there really weren't any side dishes, just desserts—which is OK because those seemed to be enjoyed. Many thanks to Lee Gong and the chefs at G&G market for the food.

The **August** meeting topic will be **SHOW AND TELL**. Bring an item, talk about it for a couple minutes, and get 4 free raffle tickets! This is usually one of the best and most interesting meetings of the year.

August will also feature **DESSERT NIGHT**. For those who did not bring something to the July meeting, it would be nice if you could bring a dessert to share in August— thanks.

Merle spoke in June about a mini axe from Carrie Nation. While searching on-line for another (for a club member), he found a larger axe souvenir that was very similar. Maybe he is going to start an axe collection now.....

Bob B talked about the Fairfield show on August 10 at the community center (see the last page of the newsletter).

Bill G mentioned that the Concord show went well. For the September 26-27 show here in Santa Rosa you can bring your member badge (or card) and get \$1 off of admission. He will also have a special *club members only* door prize drawing for a 1/10 ounce gold coin. So make sure you let them know you are a member if you go.

There was no auction at the August meeting due to unforeseen circumstances.

IRISH GUN MONEY

How many of you have coins with not only the year minted but also the month stamped on them? The only ones like it in British history were from James II in Ireland. Frank V had two very nice specimens at the July meeting, I have a third denomination— and since nothing else happened at the meeting, I thought this might be interesting to look into further.

James II was king of England from 1685-1688, when he was deposed by Tories upset over his Catholic government appointees. Parliament invited his Protestant daughter Mary with her husband William of Orange to be joint rulers, and James abdicated. He died in exile in France, but not before trying to regain his crown.

While in exile, he formed an army and landed in Ireland in 1689 with hopes of regaining his crown. His army was not well funded, and he quickly came to the conclusion that he would have to issue a token currency which was effectively made up of promissory notes to be redeemed in silver when he reclaimed the English throne.

It was this redemption in mind that 3 of the 4 denominations had the month and the date of issue. They were designed to be redeemed for silver coins following a victory by James II and consequently bore the date in months to allow a gradual replacement. This was so that after the war (in the event of James' victory), soldiers would be able to claim interest on their wages, which had been withheld from proper payment for so long. And because of a shortage of metal, the coins were minted from melted cannons and bells, hence the name "Gunmoney". The dates of issue were 1689 and 1690.

There is one interesting quirk about the dates of issue though. At that time, the year ended on March 25 (not on December 31 like now). Since Gunmoney with the March date was only minted in that one calendar month, you could have a March 1689 and a March 1690 coin minted that month— but you would know which *part* of the month it was minted.

So my half crown coin below (partly enlarged) was minted a month after the March 1689/1690 dated coins.

There are a number of minor variations in the less than 2 year series. The crown coin was the only one without the month included with the date.



The following are a sixpence, a shilling, and a crown.



THE KING OF AMERICAN COINS (?)



This August 6 the ANA show in Chicago will feature the auction of the famous Berg-Garrett specimen of the 1804 silver dollar. There are rarer US coins, but B. Max Mehl coined the term “The King of US Coins” and that label has stuck. Not bad for a coin not even minted in 1804.

US mint records show 19,750 dollars were minted in 1804, but that was a book keeping sleight of hand— they were all coins minted in 1803 and with that date.

1804 dollars were first minted in 1834 at the request of the Department of State for presentation sets of complete coin series. Two particular famous sets were for the King of Siam and the Imam of Muscat. As there were no silver dollars or eagles minted in 1834, the mint chose to create dies and strike those two denominations from the last known date of striking— 1804. And while eagles were actually minted in 1804, mint employees did not realize that dollar coins dated 1804 were not ever minted. They still went ahead and created the dies and produced 8 known specimens.

Around 1859, mint director James Snowden started producing restrikes of numerous earlier coins, new patterns, and at least seven 1804-dated dollars. The same obverse die used in 1834 to strike the presentation coins was dusted off and used in combination with a reverse of the same design as used earlier, but with slightly different details. One was struck over an 1857-dated Swiss shooting thaler, with traces of the undertype still visible. This is the unique Class II in the Smithsonian. At least six others were struck using regular blank planchets.

Of these six (called Class III), the one above is being auctioned. Interestingly, rather than offer the 7 1804 dollars as proofs, Snowden (or his colleagues) jostled them around with other coins to give them the appearance of having been circulated at one time. And now you too can own one if you have a cool \$1million or so in spare change.

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

Coin Collections Wanted! Cash paid, will buy it **ALL**, will travel. Buying coins for 60 years. Please call Frank Villalon at 707-467-0250 or 707-367-0623

Don Rinkor Rare Coins is paying **full spot for 90% silver coins** ... large or small quantities !!
Don Rinkor Rare Coins, 2600 Mendocino Ave
Ste C Santa Rosa, CA 95403. 707-546-2575

KIDS KORNER

As of this printing there is no info on what is up for the kids. There likely will be something fun for them in August.

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.

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DRAWING WINNERS:

Membership: Jasmine M, George W, Jim C, Gary C, Edwin H, and Carson K

50:50 pot of \$ 150 was split with Bill S

Raffle: Jack H (thrice), Lucky Larry, Curtis S (twice), Jon Maria M, Bill R (twice), Gary C, Joel M (YAHOO!), and Irene C (YAHOO!)

July Members Present: 60+

New Members: none

Guests: Matt from Napa, Rudy, JJ, Esther, Philip, Cory, Tia, and probably more

Auction: **No auction due to unforeseen circumstances**

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

Volunteers for **refreshments** for August are for everyone who did not bring a dish in July. We hope to have a great Dessert Night!

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

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

August 10, 2014. Fairfield Coin Club 25th Annual Coin Show. Willow Room, Fairfield Community Center, 1000 East Kentucky (off Pennsylvania), Fairfield

September 26-27. North Bay / Santa Rosa Coin Show. Flamingo Resort Hotel, 2777 Fourth Street, Santa Rosa.

October 10-11, 2014. Contra Costa Coins and Collectibles Show. New location: Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive, Walnut Creek

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

November 14-15, 2014. South Bay / Sunnyvale Coin Show. The Domain Hotel, 1085 East El Camino Real, Sunnyvale.

**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 August 13— Charlie

