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Santa Rosa, Ca. 95401

Redwood Empire Coin Club

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Next Meeting: June 11, 2014

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

We tried something new at the May meeting of the RECC. We had hors d'oeuvres. The club started eating even before the meeting started. So we flew right through the meeting without even having a break, since there was little left by the time that would happen. The raffle started early, but the meeting still lasted until almost 8:45. Poor Merle, he was battling a cold bug and tried to get things finished quickly.

It seems like this kind of format was well accepted, though we will likely have a small break next time.

Speaking of next time, our next meeting in **June** will be **DESSERT NIGHT!** Anyone who did not bring something for the May meeting is asked to bring a dessert for June. The rest of you may bring something too if you wish. Thanks in advance for what should be a fun meeting.

The topic for June will be: **MY FAVORITE SILVER COIN.** Bring yours in or just talk about it and receive 4 free raffle tickets.

Merle asked Harry about how the Vallejo Coin Show went, and the report was: "good". Merle was there, and talked about someone he met there who seemed more of an investor than a collector. This man had just purchased an expensive gold coin though did not seem to know much about it. He also looked at a high grade slabbed St. Gaudens High Relief \$20, but passed on it because it was a counterfeit. Perplexed, Merle asked how he would even know. The man pulled out his smart phone, and showed an enlargement of where a tiny initial was placed by the person who minted the coin (intentionally)- not intended to be passed off as the real thing. Even Merle would have been fooled, because it was a beautiful coin in a PCGS slab- that was counterfeit.

A discuss then ensued about counterfeit slabs. There are certain diagnostics, like the bottom of the insert is a bit worn or torn. Often these slabs have authentic coins, but they have been upgraded several levels to sell artificially. So

stay with a reputable dealer and know what you are looking for.

TYPE SETS

- Gary C started off the topic by discussing the Native American Coins- he is not too impressed with the design or topic. They are as follows:

2009: Three Sisters, featuring a Native American woman planting seeds in a field of corn, beans, and squash



2010: Government- the Great Tree of Peace, featuring the Hiawatha belt with 5 arrows bound by it

2011: Wampanoag Treaty (1621), which features the hands of the Supreme Sachem Ousamequin Massasoit and Governor John Carver, symbolically offering the ceremonial peace pipe after the initiation of the first formal written peace alliance between the Wampanoag tribe and the European settlers



2012: Trade Routes in the 17th Century, which features a Native American and horse in profile with horses running in the background, representing the historical spread of the horse.

2013: The Delaware Treaty (1778), which features a turkey, howling wolf, and turtle (all symbols of the clans of the Delaware Tribe), and a ring of 13 stars to represent the Colonies



Russian gold and silver coins were mostly used by the upper class, so the copper coinage was used by the masses. And speaking of mass, these were big coins!



● Matt A is working on a type set of American eagles on the reverse of U.S. coins. He noted how most eagles are different than ones we see here on the west coast, because they are smaller eastern eagles.

- Guy S has collected coin sets from Canada, Newfoundland, and Mexico. He has now gone from modern Mexico (1905 to present) and is now working on coins from the Mexican Republic, started in 1824. There were coin denominations from 1/16 Real to 1 Real and more. I think Guy is going to have a Real fun time with this type set.



- New member Will C has collected Russian coins for 40 years, long before they became popular and harder to get. Many he obtained from Russian émigrés arriving in San Francisco. He gave a nice talk on some of the sets he has.

Prior to 1706, Russian monetary exchange was in the form of strips of silver wrapped around the wrist. When anyone needed change, a length was broken off to represent the value. Since the start of minting coins in 1706, Russia has always been on the decimal system (like the U.S. adopted in 1792).



Will's collection contains subsets from various rulers, like the 5 Kopek coins first minted in 1761 by Empress Petrovna, daughter of Peter the Great. That year was the first time the Russian coins were of an equivalent weight/value to other European coins.

Another type set of Will's was his 5 Kopek set from Catherine the Great, who reigned from 1762 to her death in 1796.



There were several Russian mints involved in striking these coins. One mint used a metal alloy that contained extra gold and silver ("impurities" which could not be removed), and those coins had twice the value as similar ones from other mints.

And copies of these big coins were once made here in California for Fort Ross. At least the name "Fort Ross" was placed on the bottom of one side to show it was a souvenir and not a counterfeit.

Finally, I just had to find a sample of Catherine the Great in gold. This is a 1767 ten ruble coin courtesy of the Davidlawrence.com website.



HENRY VIII: 3 KIDS, and 6 PENCE

I blame it on Frank Villalon. Or maybe I should give him credit. If you have taken a close look at his inventory at meetings, not only is there a nice selection of American coins, but he often has a few medieval and ancient coins, usually in choice condition.

Long ago he had two coins from England featuring Henry VI and Henry VIII. These were groats, or four penny denominations (yes they were pennies, not cents- the English never did have any cents). And they were relatively affordable for such old coins and in very nice condition, so I bought both. From there I started my type set of English kings and queens, and have all the Williams, Georges, and 6 of 8 Henrys.

Henry VIII is perhaps best known for his six wives. As far as his coinage goes, three things come to mind. Though the pound sterling had been a denomination of account for centuries, a pound coin had never been minted. He is the first English ruler to issue a gold pound coin. It featured the enthroned king, and was thus called a sovereign. Henry was also the first ruler to mint a shilling, or twelve pence coin. He is also famously known for debasing the silver content of coinage later in his reign to save money- adding extra cheap copper to the metal content. At times the silver coins had a definite copper hue showing on the face, earning him the nickname "Old Coppernose".

Henry VIII had three legitimate children, who all ended up as rulers in their own time. To catch you up on his wives and kids:

Wife 1: he married Catherine of Aragon, in part to form an alliance with Spain. She only had a daughter (Mary), and when he got fed up trying he ended up divorcing her- after breaking with Rome, forming the Church of England, and getting his mistress pregnant. That turned out to be....

Wife 2: Ann Boleyn, who also bore him a daughter. With no male heirs, and Ann caught allegedly messing around, she was beheaded.

Wife 3: Jane Seymour, finally gave the king a son, Edward VI. Unfortunately she died from the difficult labor.

Wife 4: Homely Ann of Cleves, was an arranged marriage to try to strengthen alliance with Germany. She was a dud, so he divorced her.

Wife 5: the beautiful Catherine Howard, who lost her head from having affairs with two other men.

Wife 6: Catherine Parr- already twice a widow. She nursed the ailing and bloated monarch until his death, and also raised his three children.

Henry's son Edward was born by Caesarian section, from which his mother died. He was 10

when his father died, and he died at age 16, always being a frail, sickly kid.

The first dates on coins appeared during the reign of Edward VI, first in Roman numerals and then in Arabic numerals that we all use currently. They can be seen on his crown and half crown coins. He was also the first ruler to issue a sixpence coin, which is where my English rulers type set has focused. This instantly became a very popular denomination. The coins are fairly easy to find today, but most are cracked, worn, creased, or holed. The one pictured here was recently purchased at auction, and by far the nicest I had seen in over 10 years of looking for one. You can see how there is a rotation of the dies, as these were all hand struck ("hammered").



When Edward died, his oldest sister Mary became queen. Her father Henry VIII had broken away from the pope in Rome and became Protestant head of the Church of England, which her young brother followed. Because Mary's mother was a staunch Catholic, Mary was too. She married Philip II of Spain mostly for political reasons (his), though he rarely spent time with her. She never had children, and as a lonely, angry, and vengeful queen she took it out on political rivals by burning many at the stake. She died after five years as queen.



Mary's portrait was issued on her groat (four pence) like my example pictured here. The sixpence featured portraits of Mary and Philip. They are fairly rare coins, and almost always well worn. The one pictured below is from the internet, as I do not own one....yet.



Henry's younger daughter Elizabeth became queen at age 25, survived having small pox, and with the defeat of the Spanish Armada led England into the Golden Age. She reigned for 45 years. She also did not have any children, so when she died the next English ruler was King James of Scotland, son of Mary Queen of Scots.

Her coinage is interesting on account of the large number of different denominations. Large quantities were struck of her sixpence, which were easily identified as a denomination as they were dated and had a rose behind her portrait. All of them also had mintmarks at the beginning of the obverse and reverse legends. The dates for these are all known, making it easier to identify poor condition coins with obscure dates. Her sixpence are readily available, but XF coins are scarce due to the thin coins usually showing a lot of wear. The coin below was another recent lucky auction purchase, showing nice detail.



One other innovation in her reign was the first attempt at using a screw press, introduced by Eloye Mestrele (a French moneyer). As part of it was powered by a horse-drawn mill, they became known as milled coinage. This process allowed for a superior quality design, but the machinery was slow and inefficient compared to hand striking. Even from my worn example below you can see more even lettering, dentils and sharper designs.



Finally, you have all heard the saying "Something old, Something new, Something borrowed, and Something blue". The final line is "And a silver sixpence in her shoe", something brides of old used to do for good luck.

EDWARD VIII

A question came up at the meeting about whether any coins were actually minted of Edward VIII of England, who is best known for abdicating the throne to marry divorcee Wallace Simpson. Ironically, a blog from the British Royal Mint helped confirm the affirmative answer: "Edward VIII ascended the throne on January 20, 1936 following the death of his father; King George V. As normal procedure, The Royal Mint immediately began work on a coinage for the new King's reign. Trial and experimental coins were struck during his time on the throne in preparation for circulation. However, less than a year after his accession, Edward VIII abdicated, committing the coins to the confines of collections – never to reach circulation."

The blog was part of report on the recent record breaking sale of an Edward VIII gold sovereign selling for 515,000 pounds (\$868,000 at today's exchange rate!).



Edward also broke a 300 year old tradition dating to King Charles II, where kings and queens had the direction of their portrait reversed in each successive reign. He liked his left portrait, and insisted it face left as did the one of his father George V.

No coins were actually issued within the United Kingdom bearing his portrait and name. The mint had worked on denominations from 5 pounds to farthing (1/4 penny) prior to his abdication, and various patterns were made. A few of these made it into the hands of collectors, and the rest are in the mint collection.

Coins bearing his name but not his portrait were issued for colonial territories of British East Africa, British West Africa, Fiji, and New Guinea.

I probably won't be getting an Edward VIII sixpence for my typeset, since they run ~\$60,000, if you can find one at all.

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 Suite C, Santa Rosa, CA 95403. 707-546-2575

KIDS KORNER

At the May meeting we discussed the continent of Europe, The European Union, and the monetary union. We learned that there are 28 countries in the European Union of which 18 are in the monetary union. Countries like the United Kingdom are in the European Union but do not use the euro as their legal tender. Juniors had fun with my leftover euro coins from France. I did manage to go back home with the paper currency. Information on the euro etc. can be found by using Google to search European Union at Wikipedia.

I will again be out of town in June. Joel will run the junior meeting with the topic being worldwide currency. The currency was donated by Joe Mc C. Again, thanks to Joe and Joel.

Thanks- Rich

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. He will be happy to go over counterfeit detection.

DRAWING WINNERS:

Membership: Kyle H, Bill R, Rodney M, Bob A, Mike C, and Rich W

50:50 pot of \$ 112 was split with Irene C

Raffle: yes we had one. No I did not record who won, since I was too busy snacking since there wasn't a break during the meeting.

May Members Present: 60+

New Members: Loyal S, # 899— WELCOME

New LIFE Members: Tom S # 75, and Claude F #77— congratulations!

Guests: yes

Auction: 44 of exciting items

Adjournment was at 8:47 p.m.

Volunteers for **refreshments** for June are for everyone who did not bring something to the May meeting, for the Dessert Night in June. 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

June 27-28, 2014. East Bay / Concord Coin Show. The Clarion Hotel, 1050 Burnett Avenue, Concord.

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

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 June 11— Charlie

