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

Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 68, Issue 9, Meeting #791. September 14, 2016

Next Meeting: October 12, 2016

GOLD!

We gave away gold at the September meeting. But first we had to have some of the usual business meeting stuff.

Merle confirmed that the coin show date has been confirmed for February 24-25, 2017. The date in the August newsletter was wrong and has been corrected (oops!).

Guy S gave a report on the World Fair of Money Show put on by the ANA in Anaheim this year. There were ~ 1000 dealers, and it took him 2 full days to find all the dealers he wanted to see. He finally found the rare 1761 Russian 5 Kopek that he has been looking a long time for— in the last 10 minutes of the show. He said there were great displays by the ANA and collectors as well. It was a very good show— perhaps not the best ANA show he has seen, but still very good.

Edwin H tried to introduce a guest, needing help from Merle. Steve came to us from Canada, where he is involved with the Canadian Numismatic Association, Ontario Numismatic Association, and Ottawa Numismatic Society. He is going to present a talk at the Vallejo seminar on the state of the hobby as he sees it in Canada. He was warmly welcomed by the club.

OKTOBERFEST

Next month we will have our annual Oktoberfest meeting, with the best wurst in town once again provided by G & G Market (along with buns, sauerkraut, and beverages). Please bring a dessert to share with the dinner.

In addition, we will have our 17th Annual Helen and Roy Roberts Benefit Donation Auction. For everyone who brings a numismatic item to donate, dinner will be free!

For those who were not here way back then or do not know, Helen was our trusty treasurer for many years, and watched every cent we spent like

a hawk. Her husband Roy was past president of the club for a couple years. Later on he ran the auction, quietly chuckling in the back of the room as Merle ran the show. This is all in the days when we were at Coddington, a few doors down from the Post Office.

GOLD!

We had our 6 month Membership Gold Coin Drawing at the September meeting. You needed to be present to win, and fortunately all 3 winners drawn were in attendance. And they were:

3rd place, a 2-1/2 peso Mexican gold piece: Wendell B

2nd place, a 1/10 ounce gold American Eagle coin: Richard R (the guy shows up once in 2 years, gets entered in the drawing, and wins!)

1st place, a 1/4 ounce gold American Eagle coin: Jack H

Honors for Lee

Since Lee G did not make it to the ANA show in Anaheim, Merle was there to pick up an award honoring Lee, and presented it at our meeting. CONECA honored Lee with the 2016 Hall of Fame Award: "For a lifetime of service to CONECA and the Error-Variety Hobby above and beyond the call of duty". CONGRATULATIONS!!!



- Charlie C (yours truly) likes old coins. So I brought in a sample of the very first coin minted in gold. The earliest coins in the western world were made of electrum, an alloy of gold and silver, around 680-670 BC in what is now western Turkey. It was not until the reign of Lydian King Croisos that coins were minted separately in gold and silver, around the year 550 BC. My example is a tiny 1/12 stater, which features a bull and lion on the obverse, and just an incuse punch on the reverse. And to go along with that was a silver stater (double siglos), the largest denomination (and extremely rare example) of first silver coin minted for King Croisos. The fabled King Midas of ancient lore was probably patterned after Croisos, who was very wealthy



- Matt A gave a very interesting talk about counterfeit gold. Technologies are being developed to prevent counterfeiting slabs, and to register slabbed coins so they could be verified with an app and on-line. The counterfeiters are getting highly sophisticated, and the grading companies are working hard to foil that.
- Bill S likes the 2015 \$100 High Relief gold coin. He likes it so much, he has 4 of them, graded MS 70. Mintage was just 50,000. The obverse features a modern version of Liberty, while the reverse shows an eagle in flight with its talons clutching an olive branch



- Loyal S was looking for the 2016 Gold Mercury Dime, and was able to purchase one from Don Rinkor. The 2016 Gold Standing Liberty Quarter is now available for purchase through the U.S. Mint



- Bill C likes the 1850 \$2-1/2 gold piece. It was minted the year California was admitted to the Union. September 9 is Admission Day. Bill's coin is in a gold bezel on a chain, a nice way to display this historic coin.
- Carson K showed off an 1883 \$20 gold "Lib". That is all he had to say – probably awestruck with the big chunk of gold



- Philip A proudly showed off his \$5 gold commemorative for the National Parks 100th Anniversary. It came in a 3 piece set, with depictions of Teddy Roosevelt and John Muir



- Guy S collects a lot of things. He has a few types of ancient gold coins, and brought one in. It was a gold solidus of Roman emperor Valens, who ruled from 364 to 378. It is remarkable how much detail remains on coins so old! Unfortunately, these I-phone photos of his coin don't capture the detail too well.



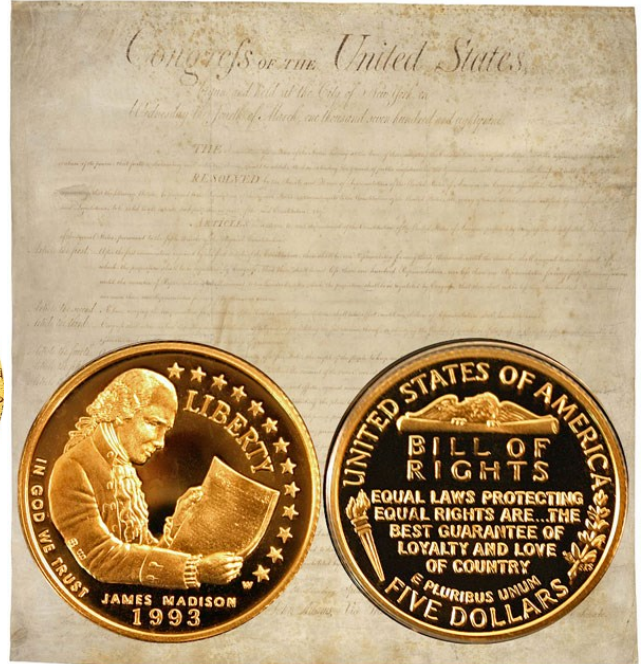
- Gary C stood and talked about the English gold guinea, and the difference between it and a sovereign. A sovereign has a standard value of 20 shillings (one pound). A guinea is valued at 21 shillings. It was originally meant to be a gold pound, but due to a variation in gold value it became worth more. And the name is derived from where the gold came from: the west African coastal country of Guinea. Gary also described what a “spade guinea” is— not a big neutered rodent, but a coin with a large crest and crown on it resembling a spade. It was minted for only 12 years during the reign of King George III.



- Jim C talked about the Carson City Mint gold Bicentennial Commemorative. He had all three of the commems, gold, silver, and copper. They featured the Centennial on the obvers and the Bicentennial on the reverse.



- Jeff B really likes the 1993 Bill of Rights gold commemorative, featuring James Madison (the prime author). His birthday is the same as Madison (but no relation).



- Lee G brought in a vial of gold nuggets and told a story how he found (ahem) them. When he was about 10 years old and growing up in Stockton, there was a prospector down the street. He showed Lee how to prospect (gold pan) for gold. It didn't work. Then in the 1970s, Lee tried his hand at prospecting again, and hated it. So he just went out and bought the vial of gold nuggets.
- Merle brought in his favorite gold piece, a 1907 St. Gaudens High Relief gold piece. It is graded “only” XF 45, but looks better than higher grades he has seen. And it is a beauty to behold.



- Bill G talked about his gold Mercury Dime centennial, which he purchased from the U.S. Mint.



Waaaay South of the Border

When someone mentions Colombia to you, what do you think of?

Coffee? Yes, some of the finest coffee is grown in the mountainous regions of Colombia. And the biggest chain of coffee shops is called "Juan Valdez"

Emeralds? Some of the finest emeralds are mined in Colombia

Pre-Colombian gold? There are fabulous collections still in the country, though probably only a fraction of what was originally present, due to it being melted and sent off to Spain by conquistadores

Cocaine? Yes, coke is easy to get and dirt cheap (probably contaminated with dirt, too)

Flowers? Colombia and the Netherlands are by far the largest growers/sellers of cut flowers in the world. Rose parade? Think of Colombia for the source of flowers

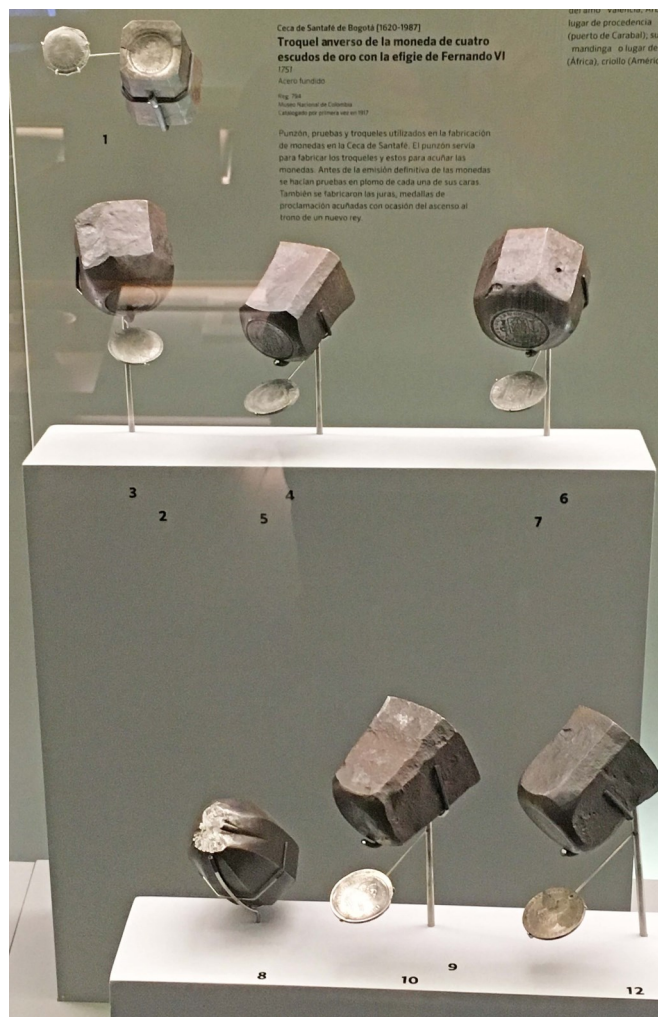
Beer? Nah, most of it is not very good. But my son is starting a brewery in Bogota, a budding new market there.

Coins? You probably don't know much about this.

The mint in Bogota opened in 1621 (long after the Mexico City Mint opened, in 1535). And the building it was housed in continued to be the mint until a new facility was built in 1985. The original building still stands, now as the Casa de Moneda. It houses a very nice collection of coins, currency, minting machinery, and information on the country's history.



The country has an interesting history of how it came to be, with many variations of government and turbulent times. Extensive examples of coins and currency of each of those phases were nicely displayed in chronologic order. There were a number of coin dies, and many engraved plates used to print the currency. In addition, National Museum in Bogota also had some very nice historic displays of the country's numismatic history. If you happen to be in Colombia, these museums are easy to get to and worth seeing.



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.

South Bay Sunnyvale Coin Show

There will be an exclusive and free coin club member only drawing at the November 11-12 show. A 1974-S Silver Ike Dollar graded PCGS P66 will be given away to one lucky member of a coin club. There will also be registration prizes of : a 20th century U.S. Coin type set with 21 coins (21 silver) in wood/glass case; 1942 Mercury Dime graded by PCGS MS64 full bands; and a 2008 U.S. Silver Eagle

KIDS KORNER

There will be a junior meeting in October. I will distribute the remaining donated books from San Rafael Coin shop on 4th Street. In addition, I will bring examples of re- engraved coins including some Halloween examples. Bob and I also will have more mint coins from Canada. See you at 6:15.
Rich

DRAWING WINNERS:

Membership: Christine S, James C, Randon S, Katherine E, Dmitry

50:50 pot of \$128 was split with Zach S. He just got back from 6 months in Finland and was probably happy with this and with eating something besides fish for snacks

Raffle: Michael S, Gary C, Glen M (twice), Mike C, Connie P (twice), Dan C, Matt A, Bill R, Jon Maria M, and Joel M

September Members Present: 60+

New Members: Georgia M joined us— **welcome!**

Guests: yes

Auction: **22 exciting items**

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

Volunteers for **refreshments** for October are **all of us** bringing desserts to go with the Oktoberfest wieners— **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

**October 7-9, 2016. Diablo Numismatic Society
20th Annual Contra Costa Coin Show.**
Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Dr., Walnut
Creek

**October 15-16, 2016. Delta Coin Club 52nd
Annual Coin Show.** Eagles Hall, 1492
Bourbon Street, Stockton

**October 22-23, 2016. Fresno Coin Club annual
Coin Show.** Las Palmas Masonic Center,
2992 E. Clinton Avenue, Fresno

**November 6, 2016. Peninsula Coin Club 37th
Annual Coins and Collectibles Show.**
Napredak Hall, 770 Montague Expressway,
San Jose

**November 11-12, 2016. South Bay/Sunnyvale
Coin Show.** Domain Hotel, 1085 East El
Camino Real, Sunnyvale.

**FEBRUARY 24-25, 2017. Redwood
Coin Club 49th Annual Coin
Show.** Sonoma County Fair-
grounds' Finley Hall, Santa Rosa

**Check out our newsletter at:
Redwoodempirecoinclub.com**

Thanks for reading. Corrections? Additions?
Questions? E-mail us at:
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Or call me— 707-573-1252
See you October 12— Charlie

