

Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 70, Issue 8, Meeting #813. August 15, 2018

Next Meeting: September 12, 2018

August MEETING MINUTES

The August meeting of the RECC was held on the third Wednesday of the month in the main auditorium of the Veterans Building, because the Sonoma county Fair occupied the space the week before. We still had a good turnout, including a couple members who cannot make our normal meeting day. Thanks to those who brought goodies to snack on, it is greatly appreciated. One couple who did not make it to the meeting were David and Wendi A- it was their wedding anniversary and they were presumably celebrating elsewhere—congratulations!

Speaking of food, the **September** meeting will be our **DESSERT NIGHT**. Please bring a dessert to share with the club if you can. The meeting will be back to the second Wednesday of the month, in our usual room.

The topic of the September meeting is **GOLD!** Bring in your favorite gold coin, or just talk about it, and get four free raffle tickets.

Finally, it will be our **SIX MONTH MEMBERSHIP GOLD DRAWING!** We will have 3 or 4 gold pieces to give away to members- you MUST be present to win. For each meeting in the last six months that you attended, you get an entry into the drawing. Great snacks, coin talks, gold giveaways- this is sure to be a great meeting.

NEW NUMISMATIC ITEMS OBTAINED THIS YEAR

- Phil A started the Show and Tell with his latest prize from the U.S. Mint, a 2018-S Silver Reverse Proof Set. Even the packaging is nice, with an image of the Golden Gate Bridge. But the proof coins were really beautiful. The entire set was a reverse proof, not just the silver quarters. Get yours now before they are sold out.....



- Helmut J brought talked about two items. One was a token from Truckee, California, from Bergman's: Good for one 5 cent drink. Apparently the die for the saloon left a space so a stamp could be put on the struck token for different amounts. He also talked about a Harold's Club Casino encased dollar from the 1960s.
- Jim C brought in a currency error note that was very interesting. At the end of the roll of 'paper' used for our bills (which is really linen, not true paper), there is often a piece of tape. His bill still had the tape on it when it was printed. Holding it up to light made it easier to detect- otherwise it blended in with the note as it absorbed the ink colors well. I was not able to get a photo of his bill but found another interesting one on the internet- pictured on the next page.

- Charlie B finally found the Buffalo nickel he was looking for, at Jack Beymer's shop. The buffalo (actually an American Bison, if you want to get technical) used as the initial model was named Black Diamond. But he died in 1915, so others were used as models in later years, including one named Cody. The Lewis and Clark nickel also had a buffalo on it.



- Bill C has been acquiring Russian Kopek coins and has a total face value of 27-1/4 Kopeks so far this year. He mostly gets the large 5 Kopek coins, but has also found some small denomination coins, down to 1/4 Kopek size. And he is looking for more.....
- Mike C has 1938-S Oregon commemorative, one of his favorites. He also has the Iowa commemorative. He became fascinated with Iowa as a kid and told a story of finally going there at age 34.



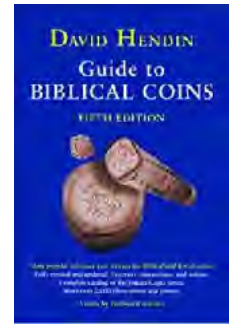
- Andy B was looking for a particular buffalo nickel and was amazed at their prices. What he found, and purchased, was a solid gold buffalo \$50 coin, which he was very pleased about. It really is a nice coin....



- Merle looked at lots of coins this spring and summer and bought several. He is still finding coins minted in his year of birth (1956) or 100 years earlier. He had 1956 quarter and half dollars in Proof 67 cameo. Some of the other coins are below. These particular photos are taken from an iPhone- so you can hopefully imagine how much better they were in person. They just don't get much better than this!



Charlie C (that's me) not only brought in some recent acquisitions, but also gave a longer talk on ancient Biblical coins, with a focus on King Herod. And as Lee G always says: before you buy the coin, buy the book. The best guide is pictured here, David Hendin's Guide to Biblical Coins (5th edition). When asked who know of King Herod, most club members raised their hand. But which Herod were they thinking of? There were several.



Reviewing a map of the region at the time 2000+ years ago may help keep your perspective. There were kingdoms with names that seemed made-up to me when first learning about them, but they were real, and many had coins. There are numerous coins from Philistia (of the Philistines) and of Samaria (of the Samaritans) available today. Samaria is listed as the Kingdom of Israel on this map. Jerusalem is in the Kingdom of Judah (=Judea). And below that is the Kingdom of Edom (or Idumea). This is where Antipater, the father of Herod the Great, was a governor. In his life he banished his first wife, became betrothed to a minor, married her, then murdered her, and eventually he was poisoned. The coins of Idumea are fairly rare and are all simple. They imitate the Owl coins of Athens on one side, and simply have a dome shaped lump on the other.



Herod the Great was born around 73 BC. He had ranking government positions likely because of his father. And with the backing of the Romans, he conquered Judea and Jerusalem in 40 BC. He is known as "the Great" mostly because of his remarkable building projects throughout the region, including several palaces. He founded a city on the coast and named it Caesarea Maritima after Caesar. That city is still partly intact. You can visit it and see a Roman sports arena called a Hippodrome—a large oval track for chariot races with grandstands facing the ocean. There is a section of an aqueduct still standing, and it is where concrete was first used to build a harbor breakwater. Several large wooden rafts would be tied together, loaded with boulders and concrete, and sunk in the desired place. The mix would harden, and further rock could then be placed on top to finish the breakwater.

Perhaps Herod's greatest building accomplishment was a renovation of the Temple in Jerusalem. In its time it was thought to be the grandest one in the known world. It is where Jesus is known to have been, and there are parables about the overturning of the moneylender's tables and the widow's mite particularly related to it.

What is not as well known about Herod "the Great" is that he was paranoid and a dangerous person to be on the wrong side of. He had children from several wives. He murdered one of his wives, and he also murdered one son who he suspected of plotting a coup. Herod had at least one nervous breakdown, and eventually died of a "putrifying" disease. And just before dying, he changed his will for a seventh and final time, naming three sons to split up his kingdom.

Herod issued several coins during his rule, and two are illustrated here. His largest denomination of 8 protot featured a military helmet on the obverse, and on the reverse the legend "of King Herod" (in Greek), date (year 3 of his reign), and a tripod. The next largest coin of 4 protot showed a Macedonian shield on the obverse, and the same legend with another military helmet. In his delusion of grandeur, he envisioned being related to Alexander the Great. And how do we know it is a Macedonian shield and helmet? I also brought in a Macedonian coin from 200 years earlier featuring those designs (the image is a bit dark, but you can still hopefully see the details).



So, Herod the Great died in 4 BC. Many people associate him with the story of Jesus—but it was a different Herod. His son Philip inherited the region of Jordan. His son Archelaus inherited Judea, including Jerusalem.

And his son Antipas inherited the area to the north called the Galilee. The Sea of Galilee is more a lake, and is also known today as the Kinneret.

Herod Archelaus tried to be like his father. He rebuilt the city of Sepphoris (called Tzipori today- it still has fabulous Roman ruins and mosaics); and he built a new city called Tiberius, after the Roman emperor. It was built at the edge of the Galilee. And it was also built on an ancient burial ground, so this Herod had trouble getting people to even inhabit the city—they either had to be paid or were forced to. He also had a shady personality. He fell in love with a woman who was already married, arranged her divorce, and then married her. At a birthday party for him, the daughter of his new wife danced and pleased him, so he promised her anything as a gift. This daughter, Salome, asked for the head of John the Baptist. There is a coin with the image of Salome, but it runs \$15,000-30,000 and I do not have one.

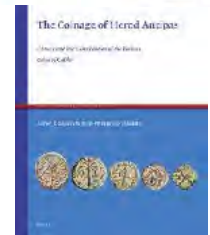
Herod Archelaus is mentioned in the bible with the trial of Jesus. The first part of that trial was in Jerusalem, where Pontius Pilate was the Roman Prefect (governor). Pilate did issue coins during his reign, like the one shown here. It features a lituus (a curved augural staff used for divining information, a pagan symbol which irritated the populace) and inscription (in Greek) “of Tiberius Caesar”; the reverse includes the date “LIZ” or year 17 of Pontius’s rule= 29-30AD. Pilate felt Jesus should be tried in the Galilee where he was originally from, so he was sent to trial there by Herod Antipas. And the rest is history.



Antipas did issue four series of coins, each with several denominations. The obverses all have a wreath surrounding the inscription “Tiberius”. And the reverses mainly feature a reed, a common plant around Galilee. As each series progressed over time, the design became simpler. The first coin shown here is from the earliest series and has a fairly realistic reed plant.



This is one case where I bought two of the coins before I bought the book—because the book came out in print two weeks before our meeting. The third and fifth coins imaged on the cover were purchased before the book arrived. You can see how the image of the plant changed over time. And the square coin is unique. It was actually filed down to that shape and used as a scale weight. Occasionally ancient coins have been found that were cut down to size to use for weighing items, but this is the only one known for this ruler. It is likely the denomination of a *nomisma* (or *solidus*). Other altered coins have been found with a letter N inscribed to indicate the *nomisma* weight. Unfortunately, most of his coins are quite worn and corroded because of the particular alloy used, so finding a nice example can be challenging.



- Finally, Guy S talked about his collecting interests. He has sets from several countries. After completing a set of English farthings from 1900 to 1956, he decided to work on a type set of farthings of each English ruler who minted one. A farthing is a quarter of a penny and was first minted in silver in the 13th century by King Henry III. It was first struck in copper in the early 17th century by King James I. Guy has a nice set so far, but quite a way to go to be complete. But that is the fun of collecting!

These are photos of the Truckee token Helmut J talked about. You can see from the top image that the value of the free drink/cigar would be stamped on the token, so a number of denominations would be possible with one minted token. This one was worth 5 cents in trade. And the encased dollar is very nice.



DRAWING WINNERS

Membership: Andy B, Charlie B, Darren C, Angelo C, and Jim C

50:50 pot of \$62 was split with Art M

Raffle: Glen

Mason (thrice), Philip A, Jack H (thrice), John B, Bill C, Joe, Harold R, Bill R

Gold Coin raffle: won by Steve C!

August Attendance: 55+

New Members: Marlies R, # 961, from Reno, NV— WELCOME!!!

Guests: yes

Auction: 13 exciting items

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

KIDS CORNER

August was a very successful meeting which provided the juniors with a flea market which would better be called a "free market". Many items were selected from the junior table.

The September meeting will be held by Ember Burg as I will again be out of town. Ember and her boys have been regular attendees of our past meetings and are very interested in coins. I am sure she will have a very interesting meeting.

Be there at 6:15- Rich

Volunteers for **refreshments** for September are all of us- it is dessert night.....YUM!

The Redwood Empire Coin Club meets on the second Wednesday of each 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 p.m. sharp.

R.E.C.C.
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UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS

September 15, 2018. 5th Annual Northern California Numismatic Seminar, sponsored by NCNA. Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, 73 Marin Street at Capital, Vallejo. The theme is "Why Collect These", with speakers Scott E. Douglas from Acton, Canada; Dr. David S. Goya, San Mateo; Scott D. Griffin, Fairfield; and one more speaker TBA. Free parking and admission, plus door prizes!

September 21-23, 2018. Coin Expo Santa Clara. Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great American Parkway, Santa Clara

September 28-29, 2018. Sacramento Valley Coin Club's 61st Anniversary Fall Show. The Four Points by Sheraton, 4900 Duckhorn Drive, Sacramento

October 12-14, 2018. Diablo Numismatic Society's 22nd Annual Contra Costa Coin and Collectibles Show. Elk's Lodge, 1475 Creekside Dr., Walnut Creek

October 20, 2018. Delta Coin Club's 53rd Annual Coin Show. Eagles Hall, 1492 Bourbon Street, Stockton

November 9-10, 2018. NorCal South Bay Sunnyvale Coin Show. Domain Hotel, 1085 East El Camino Real, Sunnyvale

November 9-11, 2018. Albuquerque Coin Club's Fall Show. This is the club Gary C joined since moving there. National Hispanic Cultural Center, 1701 4th Street SW, Albuquerque

Check out our newsletter at: **Redwoodempirecoinclub.com**
Thanks for reading. Corrections? Additions? Questions? E-mail us at:
newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com. See you September 12— Charlie