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5850 Commerce Blvd, Suite 100
Rohnert Park, Ca. 94928

Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 73, Issue 4, Meeting #833, April 8, 2020

Next Meeting: May 13, 2020

SOCIAL DISTANCING, MEETING #1

I hope this newsletter still finds you in good health, one and all. The April meeting at the Veterans Building was cancelled due to the current Covid-19 outbreak. It is uncertain if we will be able to meet in May, but I will try to keep you updated as soon as possible. In the meantime, several members did e-mail updates on current collecting interests, so you will see those here.

ZOOM

If the May meeting is cancelled as well, we will at least try to have a virtual meeting on-line using **Zoom**. This is a very simple thing for you to do. We will send you a link in an e-mail message. All you need to do is click that link on your computer or smart phone, and you will be brought into the meeting. A camera/microphone on the computer/phone will be used to bring you into the meeting. If there is a password, that will also be included in the e-mail. For those of you who only get the newsletter by snail mail, please email the club at newsletter@redwoodempirecoinclub.com, and we can send you the link. It will not be placed in the newsletter or published anywhere- this is to maintain the privacy and security of our club members.

CURRENT COLLECTIONS

- Gary C and his wife are into their third decade of accumulating a set of coins with lighthouses on them. This interest was sparked by his wife's mother who had a step on the spiral stairway at the Point Arena Lighthouse dedicated to her. A very inexpensive and common example is the English penny, pictured here. The tower



behind the figure of Britannia is the fabled Eddystone Light, remembered in a sea chanty and a symbol of British Naval dominance in history. Similarly affordable is the 5-cent coin of Barbados depicting the South Point Light, which was transported to Barbados in 1852 and is the oldest lighthouse on the island. Two other British dependencies with lighthouse coins are Jersey, featuring the La Corbiere Lighthouse

in the English Channel, and Gibraltar two pence with the 1841 Europa Lighthouse built to mark the Straight of Gibraltar at the southern tip of Spain. Before the U.S. started the Statehood Quarters Program, Canada



celebrated its 125th year by issuing Provincial Quarters. The Nova Scotia coin features the Peggy's Cove Lighthouse (perhaps the most depicted lighthouse in Canada). And in 2004-2005, Canada produced silver bullion coins with images of other lighthouses. Gary's collection includes the \$20 silver round featuring the Sambro Island Lighthouse (also in Nova Scotia) which is North America's oldest operating lighthouse. Gary is proud of his gold Singapore coin honoring the 150th anniversary of its



founding; the 30 mm coin was acquired from a small-time dealer for the going rate of a half ounce of gold (the coin contained ¾ troy ounce!). And finally, the other pride of his collection is an ancient coin of Roman Emperor Antoninus Pius from 138-161. The reverse of the bronze coin shows a





female figure (Isis Pharia) holding a windblown sail and approaching the Pharos of Alexandria (its famous Lighthouse, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World). There are a lot more world coins with lighthouses, so Gary and his wife have a lot more fun collecting adventures ahead of them.



○ Guy S had this to say about his collecting: As you know I have worked on maybe a 1/2 dozen collections over the years...The big Russian 5 Kopecks are about done (I have about 150 pcs). The early

Mexico type set is my interest of late, the Mexico Republic from about 1823 to 1905. That includes the 1st Republic & 2nd Republic. It is a very interesting set with many copper and silver types...



- From Rich W: The mandatory stay at home order does provide an opportunity to get to those things that we always seem to put off. I plan to revisit my Morgan dollars and remount my best examples. Duplicate coins will be sold, offering to club members first. Will also try to better describe my coins for the benefit of my heirs (something we should *all* consider, especially since we have the time...)
- From Bob A: While sheltering in place, I have been doing indoor things that I have wanted to do but have postponed for various reasons. I have been reviewing my coin collection and updating my needs list. Once the virus runs its course and we can resume a normal lifestyle, I plan to attend our monthly meetings and go to coin shows to try to fill holes in my collection. I will focus on completing my Morgan Dollar Date Set along with my Walking Liberty Half Dollar Set and Kennedy Half Dollar Set. I will also be on the lookout for older Canadian 10, 25, and 50 cent coins.



○ Glen M is currently collecting Mexican silver coins and just received the 1904 5 centavos recently.

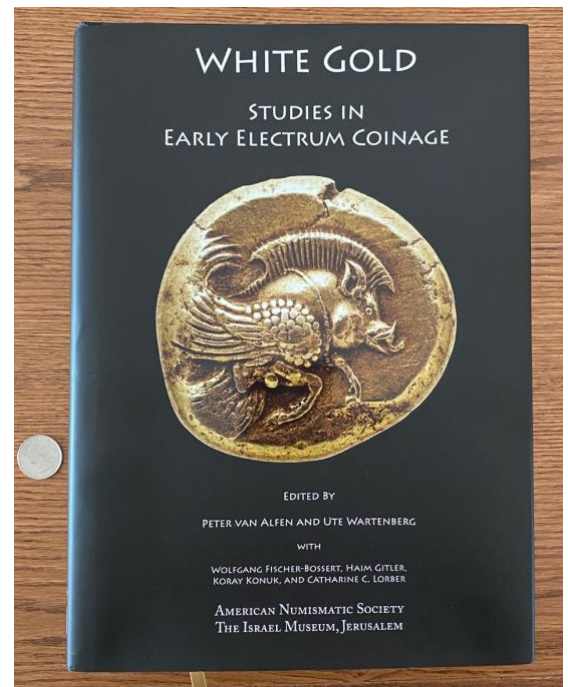
○ Larry C is currently working on three sets:

1. Copper, Nickel and Silver Type Set (1793-1964) – This set is all certified PCGS/NGC with only seven coins needed to complete the collection. This set has been in the works since 1994. Given the high expense on most of the remaining coins, I have a five year timeframe to compete this set. The collection will represent every certified grade from Poor-1 to MS-69 with some “plus” and CAC designations in for those extra special gems.
2. Early Silver Commerative Set (1892-1954) – This set is all certified PCGS/NGC with only eight coins needed to complete the collection. This set has been in the works since 2010. The criteria for this collection is that 80% of the coins must have original eye appealing toning/surfaces. This makes the set more challenging to complete as anybody could go to a national coin show and probably build a blast white, over-dipped and cleaned set in about two days! The grade range for this set is AU-58 thru MS-66
3. Obscure Third Party Grading Services (TPGS) – The picture on the next page explains this most recent coin set pursuit started in 2018. I have to say that this has been a blast putting this set together as it provides a historical account of the history behind third party coin grading companies that didn’t have the same success as PCGS/NGC. In addition, I was awarded 1st Place for this display at the September 2019 DNS “Presentation Night” meeting.

Just like the auto industry, there were several coin grading companies that did not survive or are not recognized today. Failures, mergers and bankruptcies have resulted in the “Big Three” US automakers: GM, Ford, & Chrysler. Similarly, we have PCGS, NGC and ANACS as first tier **TPGS** (Third Party Grading Services). There were over 100 TPGS that many collectors have never heard of. Many of these companies practiced grading techniques that were suspect or graded damaged and even counterfeit coins. Some of them self-slabbbed coins they were selling, thus a real conflict of interest. About twenty or so of these TPGS actually accepted submissions and tried to make it in the marketplace. The percentage of accurately graded coins was still below first tier TPGS. There still remains a few second tier TPGS in business today. The collection on display here is a sampling of about half of those twenty companies. Despite the demise of most, some were groundbreaking, innovative and one (not shown) actually utilized a computer to grade coins. Today, there are four trusted first tier grading services that increase the value of a coin and they’re: PCGS, NGC, ANACS & ICG. Examples of second tier TPGS are: SEGS, PCI & NTC with the remainder considered third tier.



- Charlie C (that's me) has been working on a numismatic reference collection. Recently, this book arrived. *White Gold: Studies in Early Electrum Coinage* is a newly printed text on the very earliest coins, which were initially made of electrum (an alloy of gold and silver). This book was ordered and paid for 1-1/2 years ago, but due to unknown delays, that amount was refunded three months ago (not knowing *when* it would be printed). Shortly after, it was indeed printed, so I ordered it right away- how could I resist a book with a flying pig on the cover! Coming in at 12” X 9”, 704 pages, and 8 pounds, it is a hefty book that is very well written so far and quite interesting. And with the Covid issue, there will now be plenty of time to read it. The idea for the book came about in 2011 with an amazing exhibit in Israel on the subject. The following link will take you to the web site for the exhibit, including a 4 minute video showing the museum exhibit and a fun cartoon video on the invention of coinage:



<https://museum.imj.org.il/exhibitions/2012/WhiteGold/Introduction.html>

- From Mike M: “As many of you know, I am currently working on a Mercury Dime collection. I have acquired 37 dimes out of the 77 minted to be a complete set. My criteria for the set is that they must all be Certified by PCGS and hopefully in Mint State with Full Bands (not always possible). My most recent purchase was a 1923 MS63FB that I won on an Ebay Auction. If you should happen to have any Mercury Dimes that are Certified by PCGS, and want to sell them, please let me know.”



Finally, Merle shared that he is collecting H&K medals of the Panama Pacific International and Panama-California Exhibitions of 1915-6. Here are five of his examples. First is H&K 401, mintage 1500. This was the official Pan Pac medal, minted in silver, bronze, and gilt (like this example). The obverse shows Winged Mercury holding open the Canal locks, while the Argo, symbol of navigation, sails through. The reverse features two women, representing the hemispheres, wrapped around the earth



Next is H&K 407, the Maryland state medal. Under 50 were minted. The obverse features the Maryland State Seal. The reverse honors two of its native sons who, through songs, had made the state famous: Francis Scott Key and James Ryder Randall



This is H&K 409, the Montana medal. The obverse depicts Winged Victory on the prow of a ship, with the Expo in San Francisco in the background. The reverse features a scene from Montana with mining and agricultural equipment in the foreground. 500 were minted



Next is a Panama Pacific Expo medal award, nicely engraved.



Finally, H&K 431, the official medal of the Panama-California Exposition, which was held in San Diego (where Balboa Park currently is). 500 of these gilt versions were minted. The obverse shows Uncle Sam with a pick over his right shoulder, a shovel in the other hand, and the western hemisphere in the background. The reverse shows the S.S. Ancon opening the canal.





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David Y shared this peek at “a few of the shiny items I have enjoyed picking up along the journey”



On-Line Resources

If you find yourself with free time to explore our hobby further, here are a few sources of informative videos

- The ANA (American Numismatic Association) has “Money Talks” videos on several topics available at <https://www.money.org/money-talks-video-archive>
- The ANS (American Numismatic Society) has a number of interesting and videos via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/user/ANSCoins/videos>

R.E.C.C.
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MAY MEETING TOPIC

Whether we meet in person or virtually, the topic for the May meeting is: **What Got You Into Coin Collecting?** If you really cannot remember what got you started in this hobby, then tell us **What Got You Interested In A Particular Area of Coin Collecting.** All of the items in this month's newsletter were forwarded to me from e-mail at newsletter@redwoodempirecoinclub.com, so start thinking about it and send it in!

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

Thanks for reading. Corrections? Additions? Questions? E-mail us at:

newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com. See you (hopefully!) May 13, 2020— Charlie

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.