



Founded March 26, 1949

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

Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 73, Issue 6, Meeting #836, July 8, 2020

Next Meeting: August 12, 2020

SOCIAL DISTANCING, MEETING #4

I hope this newsletter still finds you in good health, one and all. We had fourteen members join together for a RECC Zoom meeting this month, with lots of interesting discussion (below). It looks like we will *not* be able to have a meeting in person for some time, though the Veterans Building staff only notify us a month at a time (shortly before each meeting is to be held). So, we will plan on continuing virtual meetings for now.

A discussion ensued about our annual coin show which is usually held in February. Normally a date for that needs to be set by October, so we have time to see how the Covid pandemic is shaping up. But it is more than likely we may not be able to have that show until there is a vaccine and enough immunity in the community to support a show of 600-800 people. Stay tuned.....

Mike M was able to get Red Books out to all who ordered them. He did a lot of driving about the county to deliver them, which was greatly appreciated.

We have two new members of the club: Eric and Roman S, #s 986J and 987! They have attended Zoom meetings as guests and bring a lot of enthusiasm to the club. Eric is also in the process of launching a coin shop!

Charlie C (that's me!) is going to have a birthday July 14, so the members at the meeting attempted to sing happy birthday in bits and pieces (since everybody cannot be heard singing all at the same time on Zoom). It was really fun and kinda funny listening to you spontaneously singing. Sorry I can't put that bit of the meeting recording on-line to be viewed, because everything gets erased after the newsletter is written.

Rick W asked a very good question about cleaning coins, particularly ones that look too heavily toned. There was a discussion about what is currently happening, as many of the shiny white slabbed silver coins we now see have been dipped/cleaned. And NGC "conservation" is a form of cleaning coins. How it is done makes a difference in what coin graders allow as acceptable or not. Whether or not coins should be cleaned at all is still debatable, as the toning on coins should always remain in some opinions. PVC and other contaminants are a different story. And virtually *all* ancient coins have been cleaned by virtue of how and where they are found. But how they are cleaned also makes a difference. Using a tool to sharpen portraits and inscriptions as well as smoothing out surfaces to make them look better should always be avoided.

Finally, Eric S forwarded the club an article about Chinese "cash" coins, in trying to identify the mystery coin in last month's newsletter. The following web site (mentioned in the article) is by far the best one I have seen explaining how to identify one of the coins. Check it out: <https://en.numista.com/numisdoc/china-23.html>

PATRIOTIC COINS AND CURRENCY

- Andy O started off the Show & Tell with his new curved coin (the third in a series of curved coins) he received from the US Mint. The first in the series was the baseball commemorative, the second was the Apollo 11 commemorative. And this one commemorates the 60th Anniversary of the Basketball Hall of Fame. It comes in gold \$5, silver \$1, and clad 50 cent sizes.





- Bob K ironically talked about the curved 2014 Baseball Hall of Fame coin. Baseball does seem like a patriotic subject, and his P-69 ultra cameo specimen was nice

- Larry C talked about the set seen in the photo here. He

started with a 1776-1976 Bicentennial proof set he had graded, each coming out as a P-69 Cameo. He then added the cent, nickel and dime (also P-69 Cameo) and varieties of the Ike dollar, as well as another Proof set to this collection. He also showed us his 1947 Red Book, the first printing of the first edition. The Red Book has a section on values of old Red Books, just in case you too are interested in starting a collection of them.

- Rick W talked about his 2014 commemorative of the 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, a very appropriate patriotic coin considering the times. His coin grades MS-69.
- Mike C likes the 1926 Sesquicentennial Commemorative half dollar, particularly for the depiction of the Liberty Bell on the reverse.



The coin celebrated the 150th anniversary of American independence. The

obverse features portraits of George Washington and Calvin Coolidge, who was still alive at the time of minting. The only other coin anyone could recall featuring a living person (when minted) was the commemorative featuring Eunice Shriver Kennedy.



- Ron S collects Lincoln cents. His newest acquisition was a 1909 VDB (minted in Philadelphia) doubled die. For those of you (like me) who were unaware of this variety, this is a nice image from the internet.
- Deanna and Helmut agreed with a comment by Ron that all US coins are patriotic.
- Eric S talked about the American frontier being patriotic. He discussed California pioneer gold, particularly the fractional gold which served a small change since that was lacking out west. The Type I examples featured a Liberty Head design and seems to signify patriotic spirit. They were privately-minted mostly by jewelers, in quarter, half, and one dollar denominations from 1852-1857. From 1859 to 1882 some private mints continued to make these, though more as souvenirs, as charms, or for barter. Some featured Washington or an Indian Head in this later series. These are two images of these tiny coins he forwarded for us to see. There is a book available with information about all of these.
- Roman S showed us his 1909 VDB coin, commemorating the 100th year since Lincoln's birth. It was the first U.S. coin to feature a president. This is a photo of his coin- very nice!



- Andy O likes the Bicentennial Quarter, as well as the 1987 commemorative dollar featuring the Constitution (see Mike’s coin image below for an example of that)

- Mike M is proud of a recently acquired 1797 half cent, the 1 over 1 variety. It circulated when George Washington was alive. The reason for the variety is that coin dies were hand made. The engraver apparently punched the 1 too high initially. As dies were too valuable to just throw away, another 1 was punched in the correct position, so that both impressions are seen. Of 127,840 half cents of all varieties made that year, it is estimated that only perhaps 200 survive today- and he has one! Mike’s other favorite patriotic coins are his 2 piece 1987 Constitution Commemorative set.



- Gary C (Zooming in from New Mexico) pretended that he thought the topic was “Poetic Coins” and talked about the coin shown below. His sister recently had a birthday, and the UK recently released a commemorative proof coin in honor of the 250th anniversary of the birth of William Wordsworth. It features

one of the nicer portraits of Queen Elizabeth, and the reverse features a scene from England’s Lake District and a line from a Wordsworth poem. Gary feels it does symbolize patriotism (in England). He has fond memories of walking with his sister in the Lake District (and I agree with him about its beauty-worth seeing if you ever visit the UK). Gary ordered one directly from the Royal British Mint for his sister....and also one for himself.



- Merle talked about H&K Dollars, and the book describing 1033 varieties of the medals created for fairs, exhibitions, etc. One particular area of H&K Dollars he is collecting are ones from Chicago’s Columbian International Exhibition of 1892-1893. It was meant to showcase the 400th anniversary of the ‘discovery’ of America and the progress in the four centuries since. There was a mint set up at the expo to produce medals- and there were 90 different ones! The expo covered 700 acres, half the size of the city of Rohnert Park. There were hundreds of new (temporary) buildings featuring over 65,000 exhibits, with 250 acres being under a roof! Every state and territory was represented along with 46 countries, and the first Ferris wheel and first moving walkway were there. 27 million people attended the expo in the

~6 months it was open, with 21 million paying admission!

Merle’s example is called the Declaration of Independence Dollar, featuring the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. It also has portraits of Christopher Columbus and George Washington. Somewhere between 50 to 250 were minted, and it is unknown how many were unsold and later melted. The reverse shows the Discovery



of America by Columbus and the Landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth. Merle's medal is graded MS 63 and is one of the finest known.



- Charlie talked about these two items from France. We celebrate our independence on July 4. And in France it is celebrated on July 14 with Bastille Day, celebrating the storming of the notorious Bastille prison and releasing all.... 12 prisoners. The 100 Franc note from 1991 features Eugene Delacroix and perhaps his most famous painting. The 1993 commemorative celebrates the 200th anniversary of the Louvre, where the painting is permanently housed. It is entitled "Liberty Leading the People" and is 8-1/2' X 10-1/2' in size! The scene is from the *Second French Revolution*, of 1830. This happened after the king tried to take back many of the liberties from the first French Revolution, and Parisians rose up again and led a revolution dubbed "The Restoration". Although Delacroix was not part of the fighting, he wanted to pay tribute to the rebellion. You can see Liberty here, stepping over dead patriots in her bare feet, her dress partly torn, looking gritty, aggressive, and still carrying the flag as she leads the people. And she didn't even have time to shave her armpits. She carries an 1816 infantry bayonet, the most commonly used and most modern weapon of the revolution. Now that's what I call a patriotic image.



- Finally, Guy S could not join the Zoom meeting, but he did e-mail his three favorite patriotic coins. These three were all issued before the start of the U.S. Mint. First is a 1785 Nova Constellatio cent. It was struck in Birmingham, England and shipped to New York for use. The minting was a joint private venture, and the coins were widely circulated. Second is Guy's 1786 New Jersey cent. The mintage was authorized by the New Jersey General Assembly with a grant to have three million produced. The obverse motto is Nova Caesaria (New Jersey). The reverse motto is the first time we see E Pluribus Unum (One Composed of Many). Finally, there is the 1787 Fugio cent, the first coin issued under U.S. authority. It features thirteen rings forming a chain. A central ring encircles the motto 'We Are One'. The reverse features a central sundial with a sun above it. Fugio (time flies) on the left, the date on the right. And below the dial "Mind Your Business". All these coins are relatively affordable at ~\$200 each.



AUGUST MEETING TOPIC: TRANSPORTATION

Every year at this time we experience those wonderful hot days and warm evenings of summer. One thing that will be missing this year due to the Covid pandemic is Hot August Nights. For anyone who is a fan of old classic cars, it was an amazing gathering of old cars and trucks held in Reno every August. Well, we can have our very own **Hot August Nights Show and Tell** with coins, tokens, and currency that feature **transportation**. Any form of transportation is good, as long as it is on your numismatic item. Horses, cars, boats, planes, rockets, and more. Share your example(s) during the Zoom meeting for the club to see. You may share your screen, or simply e-mail photos and a description to the club at newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com and I can display those photos during the meeting. You can send photos and a description via snail mail as well. Here is the meeting info:

Topic: RECC August 2020

Time: Aug 12, 2020 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84149460518?pwd=Y2dQMXdVN2ovNytlbHpjSzgzb2FCQT09>

Meeting ID: 841 4946 0518

Password: August2020

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Check out our newsletter at: Redwoodempirecoinclub.com
Thanks for reading. Corrections? Additions? Questions? E-mail us at:
newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com. See you (hopefully!) August 12, 2020— Charlie

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The advertisement features a dark purple background with several images of coins and book covers. The main book cover shows a map of the Pacific Coast and various coins. The price guide cover shows a collection of coins and a price list. The deluxe edition cover features a commemorative medal. The text is arranged in a grid-like fashion, with the main title at the top left, the price guide title at the top right, and the book details and price information in the center and bottom.