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

Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 73, Issue 3, Meeting #832, March 11, 2020

Next Meeting: April 8, 2020

MARCH MADNESS!

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health, one and all. We had a healthy boisterous crowd of over sixty people at our March meeting with lots of business, as you will read about. The current COVID-19 situation leaves a big question mark about upcoming meetings, but we will carefully monitor that and try to keep you informed if changes occur.

APRIL TOPIC

The topic of the April RECC meeting will be "The Current Numismatic Collection You Are Working On and How Can the Club Help You Achieve Your Goal"? Not knowing if we are even going to be able to meet, **let's try something new. SEND AN E-MAIL** to newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com and **tell us** what you are working on for a collection and what you are looking for to fill in any holes. Include photos of a coin or two, or even the whole collection! If you do not use the internet, send a letter to 5850 Commerce Blvd, Suite 100, Rohnert Park, Ca. 94928 with the info. **IF we *can* meet** in April, please bring those items in so we can look at them. If not, a newsletter can still go out to keep the club informed of what is going on. Thanks!

For more upbeat news, Merle went over details of our coin show. First of all was a hearty thanks to all who worked on the show. The biggest thanks should go to Merle, who worked very hard to bring in the quality dealers we had, arrange for the venue and security, and a zillion other details. Thanks also to Mike M for handling the food duties, especially the goodies (coffee, bagels, donuts, etc.) each day in the kitchen as well as arranging dinner for the dealers after show set-up Thursday. It was also nice having a food vendor outside the building for lunch meals. Thanks to Bob K for coordinating all the volunteers to set up and take down the show. Thanks to Charlie C for arranging the program and entry table, as well as to all of you who pitched in to help with admissions and raffle/drawing ticket sales. And thanks to Rich W and Ember S for working with kids (and their parents) at the Youth Table.

There were some interesting statistics from the show. Attendance at the Friday show was 344, four more people than Friday's show day in 2019. Attendance Saturday was 368, seventeen fewer than Saturday last year. There were twenty eight dealers, down from last year due to a few unforeseen issues. The cost to purchase gold coins for the Gold Coin Drawing was \$3700, \$300 more than last year, due to gold prices soaring right when we needed to get the coins!

Sales of gold and silver dollar tickets at the show went quite well, thanks to busy club members working at the front table. We were helped tremendously with all of you selling the gold drawing tickets ahead of time. Twenty four members sold tickets ahead of time and were each thanked by Merle. One name was accidentally missed: George C sold \$100 in gold tickets- wow! If we missed any other names, please let us know- everybody needs to be acknowledged and thanked for the hard work we so appreciate. The top three sellers were announced:

3- Charlie C, \$300 in tickets sold in advance. The top two had a friendly rivalry in battling for the top dog:

2- Jack H, \$505 in tickets!

1- Andy S, \$800 in tickets!!

A drawing was held from among the other ticket sellers for a fourth prize, with a 2 peso Mexican gold piece, going to Art M.

Phil A was in New York for his annual visit, so he missed our show. He had his tickets to sell, decided to buy \$10 worth, and sent the check and rest of the tickets back to Merle (from New York). And with that \$10 investment he won the \$20 St. Gaudens gold piece! Merle presented the coin to him, which he gladly accepted.

The winner of the door prize drawing for the show was Rich W! He won a Mexican 2 peso gold piece. And there were two more drawings related to the show. From a list of people who helped set up the show, David S had his number drawn to win a slabbed 1 ounce silver American Eagle. And finally, there was a drawing from among the people who helped with the show clean up, and Bill C won a nice slabbed Morgan dollar!

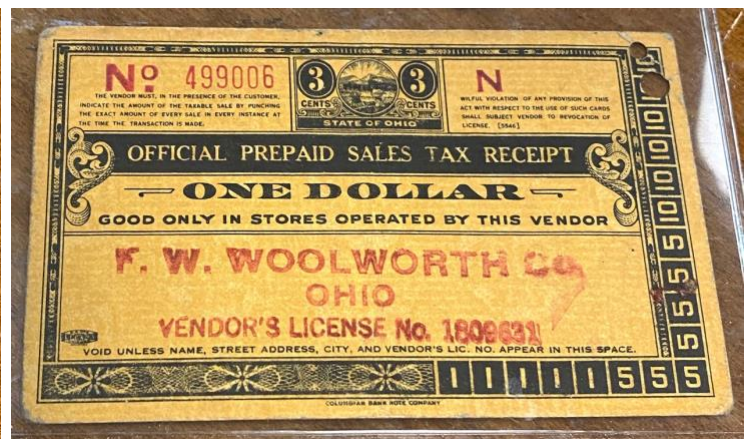
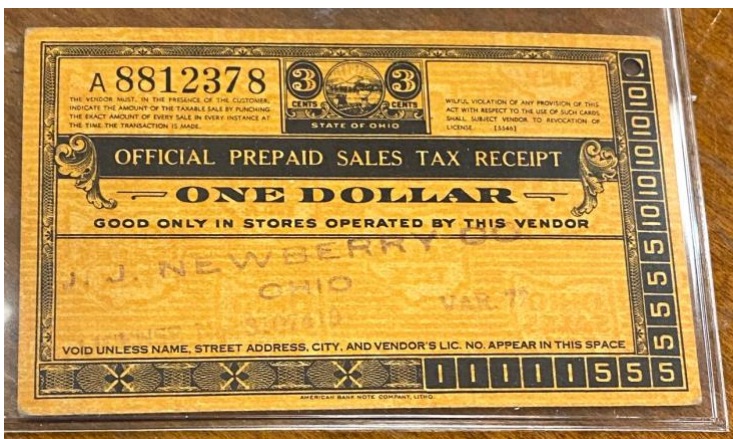
The net profit to the club from the entire coin show was \$822. Was it worth it? You bet! If you have any questions or want more detailed information, please ask Merle—he is happy to provide more details.

TOKEN SHOW CANCELLED/DELAYED

The WESTS Token Show was scheduled for Friday-Sunday March 27-29, 2020. Due to COVID-19 concerns, the event has been cancelled by the Public Health Department. Stay tuned, hopefully it will be rescheduled.

WHAT I GOT AT THE SHOW

- o Dale C started off talking about the 1936 Bay Bridge Commemorative he purchased (but did not bring in; this is a photo of one from the internet). The grizzly bear on the obverse was a composite image of animals in local zoos. Dale was also able to find various other coins to fill holes in his collection.
- o Deanna J bought a 1906-D \$10 gold piece for her collection at the show
- o Helm J bought a 1909-S VDB cent at the show. He sent it in for grading, and it came back “genuine” (cleaned). At least it was the real thing and not a counterfeit, which was a concern
- o Bill R found a 1923-S Standing Liberty Quarter at the show. It is one of the hard-to-find key dates, second only to the 1918-S, 8 over 7 in rarity and value
- o Joe M brought in two paper sales tax ‘tokens’ he purchased at the show. They are from Ohio, and he has been searching for these a long time, including in Ohio, and this is the first time he was able to find them. They have an interesting story. The Great Depression starting in 1929 caused a crisis in state incomes due to declining sales and defaults on property taxes. In 1933, eleven states initially adopted sales tax, and many others followed. These tokens were prepaid sales tax receipts valued at three cents and used so that no sales taxes would have to be paid by customers on purchases under a dollar. Instead, the customer at each store would have these tax ‘tokens’ punched with the value of each purchase, until the dollar was fully spent (you can see that 25 cents was purchased from the holes punched on the token below right). The one key to these tokens was that they could **only** be used at the store with the address stamped on it. So, if you shopped at several stores back then, you would need to have a tax token for *each* store. Both J.J. Newberry and F.W. Woolworth were fairly large department store chains at the time.



- Bill C found a couple fairly rare 5 Kopek coins at the show dated 1775 and 1804, shown below. These big coins seem to be gaining a lot in popularity! Both Bill and Guy S were looking for that type coin. If you ever have any interest or questions about them, they would be the club members who could help.



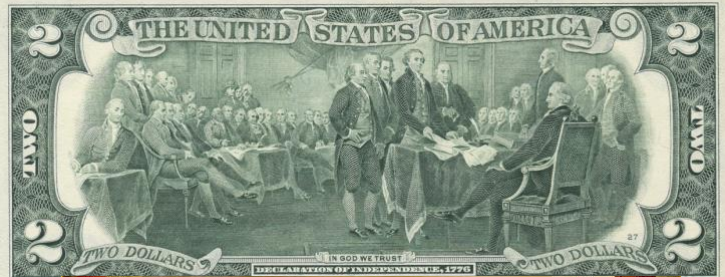
- Dan C found a St. Patrick's token from 1815. He did not have it at the meeting but did have these photos on his phone. The obverse features St. Patrick and has the legend "St. Patrick APOS 432", overstruck on another halfpenny. The reverse features an image of Hibernia (not Britannia) and the date. I could not find specifics as to who struck these and what the obverse legend means.



Dan also purchased a couple ancient coins at the show, including an ancient Celtic coin from around 200 BC!

- Bob K bought a 1964 Kennedy half dollar. So what? It was Proof-68, and blast white!
- David A found a Dansco album for a bargain. Now he can have fun filling it up.

- Rich W is reading the book "The American Spirit". He brought in a \$2 bill to show some things described in the book. It reminds him of Lee Gong, who would make sure the correct



story/information was told about an item. The reverse of the \$2 bill features the image of John Trumbull's painting "The Declaration of Independence, 1776", which hangs in the rotunda of the Capitol in Washington, D.C. Almost nothing depicted is correct. The Declaration of Independence was not signed on July 4. They did not start to sign it until August 2, and only some of the people were present at the time--- it took months to gather all the signatures. In addition, the chairs in the picture are wrong, and the doors are in the wrong place. If you have a chance, go to Philadelphia and visit Independence Hall, where it was signed and see for yourself! There were no heavy draperies on the windows, and the display of military flags and banners was purely imaginary. What was correct in the painting were the faces of every individual. They are *all* recognizable, which was the point of the painting: Trumbull wanted us to know them and remember them.





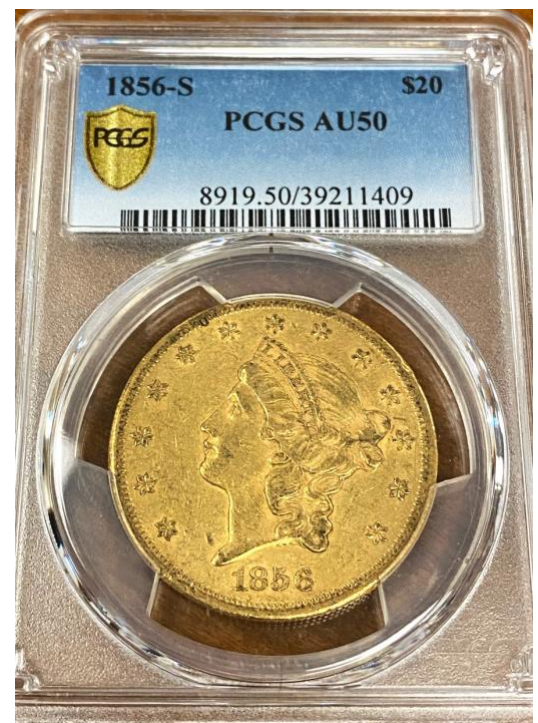
- Scott G remembers another late member of our club, Willie Quarante. Willie's favorite type set was coins with holes in them, and Willie got Scott started in collecting Holey coins. His newest acquisition is a holed Bust Dime! He brought in his collection, contained in two old Whitman Type Set holders. Here are some of his holey coins.
- New member Tim F had two ironic items: a Chinese "Panda" coin, and an empty Corona cigar box
- Charlie C told of his early teenage collecting days, when there was an auction every other month in the east San Fernando Valley. Several Civil War Patriotic and Store Card tokens were purchased then but lost in the 2017 Tubbs fire. One of the dealers at the show had a bunch of them, and four were purchased—two being the exact type previously owned. These tokens were issued mostly in 1863, when hoarding of silver and gold eventually also included hoarding of copper coins. Merchants would produce these cent-sized tokens for small change (at a cost of ¼ cent each, thus making a profit). Patriotic tokens just had patriotic images and slogans, like the first one pictured here: "The Flag of our union/If anyone attempts to tear it down, shoot him on the spot". Store Card tokens often had patriotic images and slogans, but also an advertisement for a business. In uncirculated, these can be a bit pricy; but these clearly used and worn samples were very reasonable.



- Mike C was a bit disappointed in not being able to find mint sets at the show.



- Mike M was looking for U.S. coins from the late 1700s that were affordable.... What he did buy was an 1897 \$10 gold piece for just over the melt price. And now he has decided to start a gold type set.
- Finally, Merle bought an ungraded 1856 \$20 gold coin (100 years prior to his birth year). At just above melt cost, he figured it was XF-45 or AU-50 and a good deal. He sent it in for grading, and sure enough it came back AU-50. It is valued at \$2400-3400, a lot more than the melt price he paid!





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DRAWING WINNERS

Membership: Glenn M, David Y, Helmut J, Rick S, and Bob A

50:50 pot of \$88 was split with David Y

Raffle: Joel M (twice), Glenn M, Mike C, Tim F (twice), Kim S, and Eric

Gold Coin raffle- went to a guest!

December Attendance: 55+

New Members: David G (#981); Molly Wells (#982); Bill Wells (#983); Timothy F (#984, also our newest Life Member #107); and Rick W, (#985). WELCOME!

Frank B is also a new Life Member, #106- congratulations!

Guests: yes!

Auction: 53 exciting items.

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

KIDS CORNER

We will try to keep you informed if there is a regular and junior meeting for April.

Volunteers for **refreshments** for April are open- goodies are welcome, if we do have a meeting.

6 MONTH MEMBERSHIP GOLD DRAWING

3rd prize: 2 peso Mexican Gold: Claude F

2nd Prize: 2-1/2 peso Mexican gold: Kim S

1st prize: 1862 \$1 gold piece, to Guilliano Minadeo!

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

May 3, 2020. Vallejo Numismatic Society 48th Annual Show. Florence Douglas Senior Center, 333 Amador (between Georgia and Florida), Vallejo

May 8-9, 2020. Coin Expo San Jose. Double Tree Hotel, 2050 Gateway Place, San Jose

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

Thanks for reading. Corrections? Additions? Questions? E-mail us at:
newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com. See you April 8, 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.