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Rohnert Park, Ca. 94928

Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 74, Issue 6, Meeting #847, June 9, 2021

Next Meeting: July 14, 2021

SOCIAL DISTANCING, MEETING #15

I hope this newsletter still finds you in good health, one and all. There wasn't much news for the June meeting, other than a few new items from the US Mint. [Our July meeting will be via Zoom again. Please see details at the end of the newsletter.](#)



Andy O showed us his examples of the new Christa McAuliffe dollar and the National Law Enforcement Memorial and Museum dollar. In July the mint is scheduled to release the newer 2021 version of the silver American Eagle. There is a modification of Liberty on the obverse compared to the version released earlier this year, and a new design for the reverse. Both versions are pictured here (images are from the US Mint).



FOREIGN COINS

- Glenn M was not able to attend the Zoom meeting but sent photos of his Great Britain 1823 Half Crown, shown here. It features King George III (the Roman Numeral IV was used later in his coinage) on the obverse, and a "crowned shield in garter and collar" on the reverse.





- Bob A could not join the meeting either but sent these images of two Canadian \$1 coins with native (First Nation) cultural artwork. He also sent a photo of his 2004 \$20 Canadian bill showing one of the works of Bill Reid, a famous artist who is half Haida; the original sculpture of this artwork is in the Canadian Consulate for the UN.
- Riley R told us how his dad collected coins, and as a kid he learned where foreign countries and their capitals were from those coins. He likes German coins and has some from when he lived with his family in East Berlin. Riley has been to over 110 countries with his work!
- Bill R had a paternal grandmother who used to work for the embassy and travelled all over the world. So he has a 'slug' (a lot) of foreign coins from her. He also collects ancient Roman coins and likes collecting the various emperors.
- Joe M collects Notgeld, among other things. Notgeld was emergency money produced by companies and municipalities of mostly Germany and Austria but also a bit in other countries, made necessary by the hyperinflation of World War I. Joe has examples in paper (the most common) but also in porcelain, fabric (linen, silk, velvet), thin aluminum, and even leather. There was even 'sole Notgeld', made from the leather sole for shoes. Apparently made around 1920, there was a 'reprint' by a Bosnian Numismatic Association years later replicating the Notgeld, and examples of that are quite valuable as well. Joe was lucky to purchase a set of three examples with the original envelope. They had not arrived in time for the meeting, but he hopes to show pictures next month. In the meantime, here is a leather example I found on the internet, stamped with a value of 50 gold marks.



- Dan C shared a coin he just won in the raffle drawing of the Albuquerque Coin Club! It is a restrrike Maria Theresa Thaler dated 1780. They are collectible by date from the time of her reign (~1740-1780), and all ~800 million struck since then are all dated 1780.



- Frank V spotted some U.S. pattern coins in a Classical Numismatic Group auction. CNG usually has ancient and Middle Ages coins, not U.S. coins. So, he figured this was an opportunity to bid on these and

hopefully get a few at a good price. And he got all four of these! The 'population' of the Shield Nickel pattern is seven (7!). With resubmissions, it may be an even lower number of known examples. And the population of the three "V" nickels are 11, 12, and 20- all his are PCGS graded. Many patterns are in museums or old collections, so it is rare to see them come to auction. It is interesting to see these 'nickel' patterns in copper and bronze, as well as the 1883 example stating it's 75% nickel and 25% copper

- Neil R talked about the *visual* language differences of coins. Coins face the challenge of being of one color, yet they often depict symbols such as shields and crests which would normally be in color. So how do you represent color on a coin? To give you an idea, the two screen shots from his presentation show coins next to the colorful symbol on each coin. To symbolize red, vertical lines would be in the image. A dot matrix symbolizes yellow; a blank (plain) field symbolizes white; cross hatching symbolizes black; and horizontal lines symbolize blue. So, in the first image to the right, the diagonal line in the crest on the coin has fine vertical lines in it, which represent red like the color version of the crest in the screen shot. Surrounding that diagonal line is a dot matrix, representing the color yellow. Those of you viewing this newsletter in PDF format can enlarge it to see the pattern clearly on the coins. Another more complex color scheme is here on the right. Neil then went on to show different kinds of crowns pictured on coins, signifying different royal titles. Each variety of crown was specific to a title, so knowing the various crown designs would help you identify the relative rank of royalty being represented. Finally, he showed us this image of 1629 thaler from Saxony. It was a larger German state, and there were a lot of families and lands which were inherited- so the crest (coat of arms) on the reverse is filled with symbols.



The obverse features a 'military bust', and a plumed helmet is in front of it. The coin is slightly larger than an American dollar, but a bit thinner. Again, enlarging this in the PDF format allows you to see wonderful detail like this coat of arms enlargement.

- Matt A showed us his 'low tech' coin, wire money from Russia. These were made by cutting a piece of silver wire and hammering it between two dies. They all tend to be oblong, weigh about 1 gram, and were valued at 1 Kopek. Some feature a rider on horseback with a spear, sometimes with a sword, and rarely a bird (in a lower denomination); the reverse featured text in Russian. They were made from the 1360s to the 1710s and are about the size of your fingernail.



- Roman S showed us his People's Republic of China Proof 70 Deep Cameo holographic 1/10-ounce gold coin. The 2003 coin has a denomination of 50 Yu. It is hard to get a good photo of the colors in the coin, which you can imagine in the slabbed photo of his coin. The enlargement on the right is from the internet



- Eric S showed us a toned silver dollar from British Columbia, Canada. He likes the coat of arms and the beautiful purple toning surrounding it. If you look carefully at the British flag at the top of the shield on the reverse, you can see the various types of line shading to represent the colors of the flag.



- Mike M showed us his 1904-A Prussian 20 Mark gold coin. The A is for the Berlin Mint, the capital of Prussia (not Munich, the capital of Bavaria- thanks to Neil for getting this right). Mike doesn't collect foreign coins in general, but people keep giving them to him. So, he puts them in his 3-ring binder and labels the country, denomination, date, material, weight, etc. Neil added that the German coin catalogues value this coin about 2/3 less than the Kraus World Coin Catalog. It is a frustration sometimes for buyers to determine the value of these coins, so a bit of knowledge sure helps. And Frank added that the Germans (and Europe in general) are much stricter in grading criteria. Bottom line: buy the coin like Mike did, not the holder (Mike bought his "raw" and had it encapsulated) and do your homework/research when buying. Don't be afraid to ask a knowledgeable club member for advice, since there are many of us who have specialty experience. Always feel free to e-mail the newsletter- we would try to connect you to the best resource we can.



- Andy O likes the high relief of the silver Mexican 5-peso coins, and he likes English farthings too. A farthing is 1/4 penny and is a bit bigger than a US cent. He likes to collect the coins of English kings and queens.
- Mike C likes to carry the Norway 25 Kroner commemorative coin from 1970 in his pocket. It was minted the year he was born. It commemorates the 25th anniversary of liberation in World War II on May 8, 1945. It is dollar sized and silver. It was likely BU originally, but it now has some 'pocket wear'.



Merle does not have many foreign coins, but he has a type set of English sovereigns. As you can see, four feature the bust of Queen Victoria, from her 'Young Head' variety to the 'Old Head' variety. The first one features a coat of arms on the reverse, and the subsequent varieties feature the famous portrait of St. George and the Dragon designed by Benedetto Pistrucci. The final two coins in Merle's set feature Kings Edward VII and George V. If you haven't noticed yet, look at the direction each monarch faces. It is a very long tradition followed by almost every monarch to have his/her portrait facing the opposite direction of the prior monarch.





- Finally, Charlie C (that's me!): I could not resist bidding on this ~1796 English copper halfpenny at auction in March. How many of you have a coin with a snail? The legend "A Snail May Put His Horns Out" was enigmatic. And the reverse



featured the advertisement of a coin dealer! It interested me enough to research and write an article on it (to be published eventually by the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society on-line). The coin dealer was Thomas Spence, a politically radical activist in the 1790s, advocating for housing rights, women's rights, the rights of children, and abolition. So, it came as no surprise that the snail reference was an allusion that a snail could do whatever it pleases, yet mankind was subject to the tyranny of landlords. Spence was originally from Newcastle but moved to London and initially opened the equivalent of a coffee cart. He was later able to open a small shop on Little Turnstile, a short lane not much bigger than an alley. Besides selling literature there, Spence also joined the craze for producing 'Conder Tokens', mostly with political themes. He even advertised he would make them on demand with any combination of about twenty dies. One token shown above shows two boys playing on a turnstile, a reference to his street address; the reverse shows a coin press. The other shows the famous antislavery design first created in porcelain by Wedgwood in 1787. Unfortunately, King George III and the aristocracy did not like any of Spence's ideas, and he kept being thrown in jail (often without charges or trial). He died essentially penniless in 1812 but left a legacy of wonderful tokens and political challenges to support the underserved.

- A late e-mail addition from Guy S is this "Legal 20 Balboas" coin from Panama, dated 1983 and weighing 3.85 ounces of silver. It is his current favorite, though the real favorites are ancient coins dating to ancient Persia.



JULY MEETING

The **July** meeting will be on-line for (hopefully) the last time. As of now we do not have guidelines from the County as to what is or is not required for a meeting, so we have time to prepare for August. PLUS, Merle will be having open-heart surgery June 25 and will not be able to attend anything in person in July. We hope to have something awesome in-person in August when he should be able to come, hopefully with lots of food!

The topic: **BIRDS, FLAGS, and PATRIOTIC ITEMS**. Get ready to show your numismatic item on Zoom, or send photos to the club and we will get them in the presentation for you. Here is the meeting info:

Time: Jul 14, 2021 07:00 PM Pacific Time. To Join the Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82813281762?pwd=azU0R0pzdSsrNIJESGIVTTdLQnJNZz09>
 Meeting ID: 828 1328 1762 Passcode: 072021
 One tap mobile +16699009128,,82813281762#,,,,*072021# US (San Jose)
 Dial by your location +1 669 900 9128. Meeting ID: 828 1328 1762 Passcode: 072021

Remembering George

It is with sadness that we report the passing of George Arthur, #793, this month. George was a long-time collector and member who really enjoyed the hobby. He had many other hobbies and enjoyed community service. He served in the Navy in World War II and the Korean War. The club sends its condolences to his family and friends.

Check out our newsletter at:
Redwoodempirecoinclub.com
 Thanks for reading. Corrections? Additions? Questions?
 E-mail us at: newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com.
 See you (hopefully!) July 14, 2021— Charlie

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