



Founded March 26, 1949

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

Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 75, Issue 5, Meeting #858, May 11, 2022

Next Meeting: June 8, 2022

MOMS AND COINS

Although the Covid pandemic is not completely over, it remained relatively quiet as we welcomed back some members who have not been to meetings for quite a while. Dave G was present, and he also became Life Member # 112! Laura B was also at the meeting in person, and Lucky Larry M was able to see the meeting on Zoom, along with Frank V. We also welcomed three new members: John B (#992) who is in Modesto and with the Delta Coin Club; Georgia S (#993J)- dad Eric and brother Roman are already members; and Randy D (#994) who also became Life Member 113! Welcome to all.

We had a fun new activity towards the end of the meeting. Frank B brought in a large plastic jar full of cents, and for \$1 each, members could enter a guess as to how many cents there were. The closest without going over would win the jar of cents. There were 19 guesses (meaning \$19 going to the club). And the closest to the actual number of 2447 cents was Roman S, who was within ~ 50 cents! Thanks, Frank, for the fun donation.

It was also Vice President Mike M's birthday. The club sang Happy Birthday to him, and a special cake was made in his honor. He doesn't look any older to us....



2023 COIN SHOW

We have a date for our 2023 Coin Show. It will be Friday February 17-Saturday February 18, 2023. Dealer set-up will be Thursday February 16, and the club set-up will be Wednesday February 15. Merle did confirm the dates for using Finley Hall at the Fairgrounds. And the dates are already listed on CoinZip, which lists all shows nationally. More info will be forthcoming monthly.

JUNE TOPIC: MORGAN DOLLARS

The topic for the June meeting will be Morgan Dollars. Many you collect these in some form, and there is a lot to talk about. Bring yours in, talk about them, and get four free raffle tickets. You can talk about grading, toned Morgans, die clashes, VAM varieties, club medals overstruck on Morgans, special coins within your collection, etc. As always, if you have photos of your coin(s) and would like to share them on the screen during the meeting, please send them in advance to newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com and we will all be able to see your item(s) while you talk. We will also be available on Zoom for those of you unable to attend in person- info is toward the end of this newsletter.

MERCURY DIMES AND SPLIT BANDS

Mike M gave a nice talk about "Mercury Dimes" and Split Bands, his favorite area of collecting. The series ran from 1916 to 1949, with 77 coins (date/mint mark) in the set. They are commonly called "Mercury Dimes" but are properly Winged Liberty Dimes. The cap on her head is often mistaken for the god Mercury, but it is a winged cap representing Liberty of thought.

The dime, quarter, and half dollar all went through a design change in 1916. The designs of Adolph A. Weinman- a student of Augustus St. Gaudens- were chosen for the dime and half. U.S. Mint engraver Charles Barber, whose coin designs were being replaced and who was *not* chosen for the new design, refused to help transfer the new design onto dies. Assistant Engraver George Morgan (who designed the dollar) helped instead. Elsie Kachel Stevens, the wife of poet Wallace Stevens, was the model. And she was a mother, in fitting with the theme of our meeting. The reverse features Roman fasces, a symbol of power. This clearly had something to do with America's impending entry into World War I. Unfortunately, the symbol later became associated with Mussolini and his "fascist" party. There is also an olive branch on the reverse symbolizing peaceful intentions.

Mike has examples of these dimes in grades MS62 FB to MS66 FB, with FB being the “Full Bands” designation used by PCGS and NGC. He also had a Proof 64 dime (all proofs are considered to have full bands), and a MS65 FB Roosevelt dime. [It was difficult to capture adequate images of the bands even with a proper macro lens, as additional side lighting would have shown more depth of those bands. We had to rely on Mike’s excellent descriptions].

Although there are three pairs of bands on the reverse of the Mercury dimes, it is the center set of bands that wear out first. If the center bands are complete and separated, then the other pairs of bands will also be full. It is the *separation* that is key, though the degree of “fullness” can also be seen on higher grade specimens. Examples with the full bands usually were struck with fresh dies under the correct pressure. As the dies began to wear, the bands became less distinct. And that sharpness of detail can make a huge difference in value of the coin. Mike gave the example of a 1918-D dime, which had a relatively weak strike on the reverse. One graded MS-66 would cost about \$1,000. But if it was graded MS-66 FB the value goes up to \$100,000! The photo here is an image from PCGS to show what full bands look like up close.

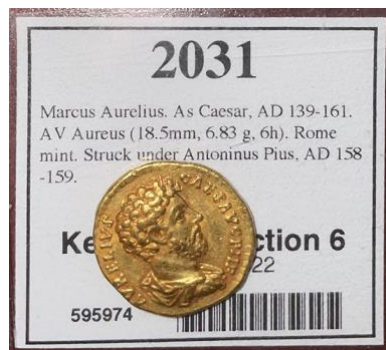
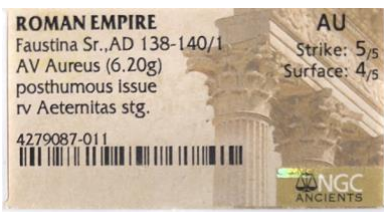
It was nice seeing Mike’s slabbed dimes on the screen, though it was hard to see the difference in bands. It was much easier looking at his coins in-person. And Mike also talked a bit about the Roosevelt dime, where the first part to wear (and thus most important) was the bottom pair of bands on the reverse.



COINS AND MOTHERS



- o Guy S started off the topic with a talk about his ancient bronze sestertius circa 235 AD featuring Julia Mamaea, shown here. She was the mother of Severus Alexander, and Guy also had a denarius of that emperor. A lot of people thought that emperors had a lot of power, but there were occasions when the wife or mother of the emperor was really the one pulling strings. Unfortunately, neither of these two people were popular, and both were murdered in 235 AD. Guy also had a **MOAC- Mother Of All Coins-** his 1986 five ounce proof silver 10 Taler coin from Lichtenstein.



- o Frank V had two amazing Roman Gold coins to show. First was this gold aureus featuring Faustina Senior (also known as “the Elder”) from around 138-140 AD. Most common Roman citizens never saw gold coins like this, since silver and bronze coins were commonly used. The gold coins were very valuable at the time. Faustina was married to Emperor Antoninus Pius. Their daughter Faustina Junior (the Younger) was married to Marcus Aurelius- whose gold aureus was also shown. Marcus Aurelius was a cousin of Faustina Senior (his

mother-in-law). The son of Marcus Aurelius and Faustina Junior was the next Emperor- Commodus. Commodus likened himself to be a great gladiator, and often fought in gladiator fights (although it was made sure nobody would hurt him first). He also “fought” and killed lions in the gladiator ring, although the lions were

wounded enough first to guarantee that he would not be hurt. He was a nasty piece of work who terrorized everybody. Romans tried to kill him, though poisoning initially did not work. Finally, they strangled him.

- o Frank also told a story from the reign of Augustus involving his adopted son Tiberius. This relates to the recent initial invasion of Ukraine by Russia. Augustus sent Tiberius out to quell unrest in the Balkans and Germany. A general under Tiberius went to Germany and sent his three legions marching single file through forested territory, being spread out over fifteen miles. All those Roman troops were picked off by the Germans, and 20,000 were lost! It was 100 years before Rome sent soldiers back to Germany again. And it took 30-40 years to reclaim the lost standards (battle flags) of those legions- which were ransomed for a huge amount of gold.
- o Merle had his own version of a MOAC with his 2019 Apollo 11 50th Anniversary 5-ounce silver coin, First day of Issue and graded PR70DCAM. It was also in a big momma slab. He also has the dollar size in PR70DCAM

and the fifty-cent coin in MS70. Interestingly, the five-ounce coin still has the denomination listed as one dollar. The one- and five-ounce coins won the international COTY (Coin Of The Year) competition in 2019.

- Bill C talked about the MOAC, the 1771 Catherine II one ruble coin made of solid copper. It was 77mm in diameter (3") and 26mm thick, just 1mm wider and thicker than a hockey puck, and weighing 1000 grams- 2.2pounds! The photo is from an example in the National Numismatic Collection at the National Museum of American History. Imagine carrying a couple of those in your pocket! Bill talked about how we have a tremendous historical resource here in Sonoma County with Fort Ross, which the Russians want back. Several schools have programs relating to Fort Ross, with visits there include kids sometimes spending the night, cooking there outside, and participating in activities that help kids earn scrip. Bill was there to help and showed kids the large Russian coins of the period- they were fascinated. Bill mentioned the rare walrus skin scrip used from Alaska to Fort Ross, made by the Russian-American Company (a Russian company). Russians would print the value onto the skin notes to pay the local indigenous population. A very worn example goes for ~\$7,000; nice condition examples auction for up to \$190,000, like the one shown here! These images are from Heritage (ha.com)



- Finally, Charlie C: I couldn't resist bidding on this token when it came up for auction (in London). The symbol of the Isle of Man has always been intriguing, and the reverse of the token features the mirror image of the three legs running in circles, now in the opposite direction. What did your mother always tell you? Don't run with scissors. It is the only oblique reference to mothers I could come up with this one. Maybe it should have been don't run with your spurs on. The symbol is called a triskele, which originated in the stone age as three spirals originating at the center. It was used on coins in ancient times, particularly on those from the Sicilian city of Syracuse, like this drachm from 317-311 BC. It is still in use on a modern-day Sicilian regional flag. The symbol arrived on the Isle of Man around the 13th century AD, and the motto associated with it is "Whithersoever you throw it, it will stand."



The first coin minted on the island was a tradesman's token called John Murrey's pence. The 10th Earl of Derby issued the first official coinage in 1709. Later the English issued coins for the island, like the George III penny shown here. Unfortunately, England undervalued the pennies (compared to ones in England)- people would trade crowns and shillings for Island of Man pennies, then bring them back to England (where they had higher value) and buy back crowns and shillings- making an instant profit. Those early coins are scarce. After 1839, only British coins were allowed to circulate on the island.



But what about the Isle of Man Races token I did get in the auction? It was listed as a circa 1870 token apparently used for entry to the races. And that is where the history gets even more interesting. The first racecourse on the Isle of Man was described in 1687, started by James the 7th Earl of Derby. Only Manx horses (born or bred on the Isle of Man) were allowed to run. This was the precursor to what later moved to England as the Epsom Derby, or simply The Derby. And other Derbys around the world followed, like ours in Kentucky.

There was a racecourse on the Island from 1811 to 1815, but it was not a financial success. Another racecourse was started in 1870, but only lasted two years. This was the course which my token gained entry to. A third racecourse was started in 1912 and lasted until 1931. But that was not the end of racing on the isle.

1907 was the beginning year of the Isle of Man TT (Tourist Trophy), a motorcycle race featuring a 37.7-mile circuit around the island. It became an increasingly popular motorcycle race, and annually draws thousands of spectators. And it is run entirely on roads through towns and the countryside, a twisting course with an average speed in excess of 120 mph! It is the most dangerous race in the world, with 260 fatalities from 1907-2019.



One other interesting bit of trivia about this item occurred. In the auction catalog, it was described as a cliché. You have all heard about the literary term, but have you ever heard of a cliché in numismatics? It took a bit of research to figure out what it meant. The term originated a couple centuries ago in the printing business, where two sheets of paper would be used to print a page. The sheets could then be separated, laid out and viewed together so you would be able to see what would normally be on both sides of a single sheet of paper. The term then was used to describe a process where two thin planchets would be placed together and struck between two dies. The struck planchets could then be separated and displayed together so one could see both obverse and reverse of a coin together. The race token I bought isn't technically a cliché though- it appears to be a single thin planchet that was struck by only one die- so the reverse of the coin shows the incuse mirror image of the obverse. Hopefully that image is clear from the photos.

RECC Zoom Meeting info:

Time: Jun 8, 2022 06:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85837955160?pwd=0k7Kxa6RH7pYGabuZ8xKcZ7qJh4AyR.1>

Meeting ID: 858 3795 5160

Passcode: 062022

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,85837955160#,,,*062022# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 858 3795 5160

Passcode: 062022

DRAWING WINNERS

Membership: Kim S, John B, Wendell B, Deanna J, Angelo C, Ron S

50:50 pot of \$106 was split with David Y

Raffle: Kim S (4 times), Matt A, Glenn M (twice), Bill H, Andy O, Bill C, Merle A, John B, Bill R, and David F

May Attendance: 41+

Guests: Randy- collects old gold and silver coins

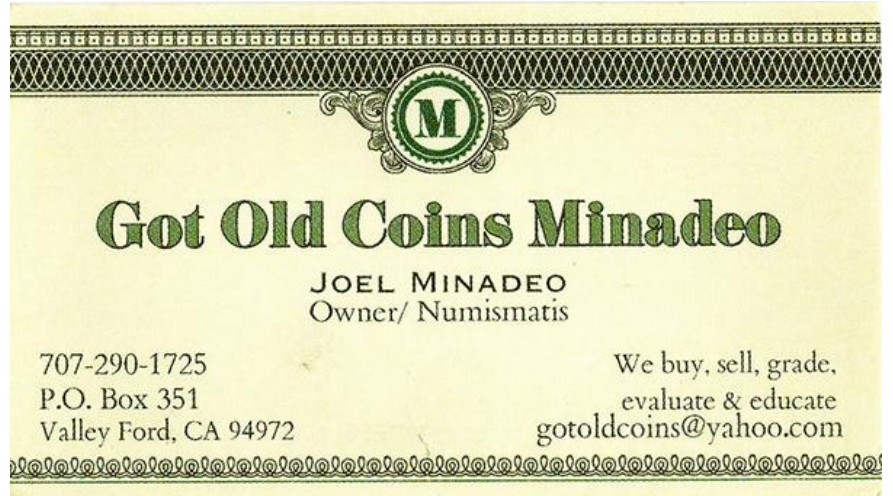
Auction: 43 exciting items.

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

Volunteers for goodies in June are Dale C, Guy S, and Glenn M- thanks!

JUNIOR MEETING

There will be a Junior meeting in June. Rich W will be back and will discuss Morgan Dollars since it will be the topic for the evening. See you at 6PM!



The business card features a decorative border at the top with a repeating pattern. In the center, there is a circular logo with a green background and a white 'M' inside, surrounded by ornate scrollwork. Below the logo, the text 'Got Old Coins Minadeo' is written in a large, bold, green serif font. Underneath, 'JOEL MINADEO' is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font, followed by 'Owner/ Numismatis' in an even smaller font. At the bottom left, the contact information is listed: '707-290-1725', 'P.O. Box 351', and 'Valley Ford, CA 94972'. At the bottom right, the services offered are listed: 'We buy, sell, grade, evaluate & educate' and the email address 'gotoldcoins@yahoo.com'. A decorative border with a repeating pattern is at the bottom of the card.

Got Old Coins Minadeo
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Buying & Selling

Rare Coins
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Currency
Watches

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Rohnert Park, Ca. 94928

UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

June 24-25, 2022. Concord Coin Show, Clarion Hotel, 1050 Burnett Avenue, Concord

August 13, 2022. Fairfield Coin Show. Vacaville Moose Lodge, 6585 Gibson Canyon Rd, Vacaville

August 21, 2022. Sacramento Coin Show. Lions Gate Hotel, 3410 Westover Street, McClellan/Sacramento

September 9-10, 2022. CoinExpo San Jose. DoubleTree Hotel, 2050 Gateway Blvd., San Jose

February 17-18, 2023. REDWOOD EMPIRE COIN CLUB's 53rd Annual Coin Show. E.L. Finley Building, Sonoma County Fairgrounds, 1350 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa

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

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

newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com. See you **in person at the Vets Building** June 8, 2022— 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.