



Founded March 26, 1949

Celebrating our 75th
Anniversary in 2024!



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

Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 76, Issue 7, Meeting #872, July 12, 2023

Next Meeting: **August 16, 2023**

FREEDOM COINS

We had another nice turnout for the July RECC meeting. The topic of the night is about Freedom, but Merle started out the meeting by announcing the topic for August: **Odd Denomination Numismatic Items!** Think of all the strange denominations that have existed over the years: 2 and 3 cent pieces, “not one cent” pieces from the Civil War era, 4 dollar gold coins (I sure hope someone brings in a Stella.....), fractional and Continental currency, etc. That doesn’t even get into foreign or ancient odd denominations. We are sure you can come up with some good and exciting examples for next month. Bring it in, talk about it, and get four free drawing tickets!

Speaking of August..... due to the Sonoma County Fair, our meeting will be the **third Wednesday, August 16**. It will be held on the opposite side of the Veterans Building in the **Lodge Room**.

Mike M will be back in town for the August meeting. He will be taking orders for the 2024 Red Book, including the Mega Red. Mike gave these prices for the order (all are plus shipping- the more orders, the less the shipping cost to all):

Spiral bound Red Book \$9.88

Bound Hardcover Red Book \$10.98

Bound Hidden Spiral \$13.73

Bound Large Print \$16.48

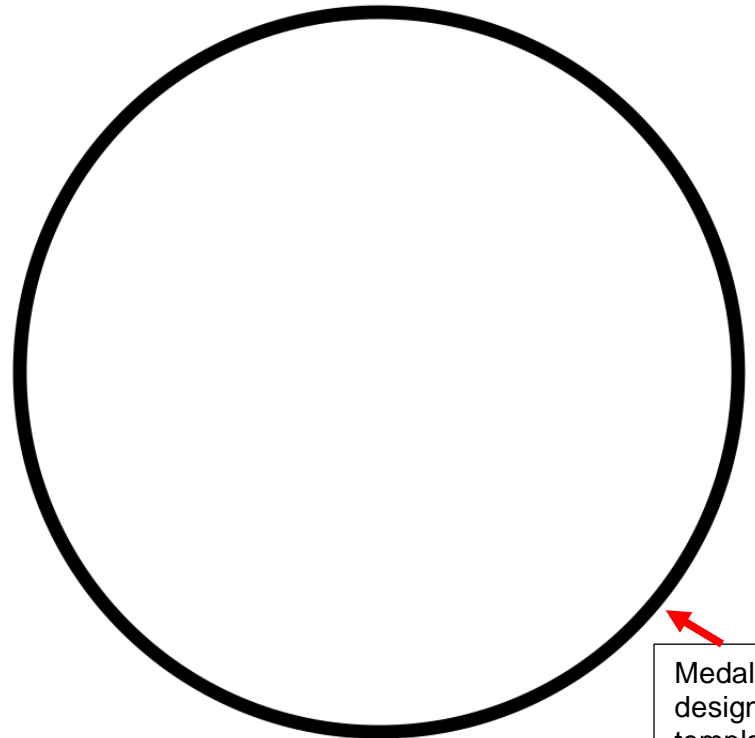
Mega Red \$44.99 (normally 59.95)

See Mike M at the August meeting if interested-thanks.

Looking even further ahead, 2024 will mark our **75th Anniversary** as a club! We are just starting to make plans, with several ideas including a club medal, club wood, club mirror, a special brochure (to be ready for the 2024 coin show), maybe a dinner banquet?

We are looking for a design for a 75th anniversary medal- **this is your chance to design a medal and become famous!** Please come up with a design. We will discuss this again in August and may even have a contest to determine the winner. Here is a blank template- go ahead and start designing! Any thoughts or suggestions to help celebrate? Let us know!

As an FYI- all e-mail to redwoodempirecoinclub.com is automatically forwarded directly to me (Charlie), so a real person (me) will see your message and forward it or reply when appropriate- thanks.



Medal
design
template

COIN DEALER SPOTLIGHT: SETH CHANDLER

Most of you probably know that Jack Beymer sold his coin shop and inventory to Witter Coins in San Francisco. Seth Chandler, the owner, was happy to join us at the July meeting and tell us about himself as well as plans for the shop here in Santa Rosa. Seth's shop also kindly donated the equivalent of two boxes full of coin supplies to the club- and (not surprisingly) everything was gladly snapped up by appreciative club members.

Seth started collecting coins as a kid in Jacksonville, Florida when he was four years old. He later would go to coin clubs and learned a lot about collecting and people. A friend of his joined us at the meeting, and they remember meeting at the back of Sunny's Restaurant around age 10-12—setting up tables and chairs for a meeting. He feels that collecting has always been about people and their stories.

He feels he is the #1 numismatic firm on social media, and there are a lot of young collectors now in the hobby. The Covid era brought in a lot of collectors, particularly with digital access to collecting now being so easy. Three years ago, he started a program called Witter Coin University. They are about to have their third annual event in a couple of weeks. They raised \$175,000 with the help of other dealers to provide scholarships for forty young numismatists to come to SF for eight days of education! These kids now are smart and computer (and smart-phone) savvy.

His plans for Jack Beymer's shop are to remodel, paint, put in more display cases and show a lot more coins. There is a 10-foot "bullion screen" showing current metals of prices. It will be called Witter Coin of Santa Rosa, and it will have a very different look in 2-3 months when all the remodeling is done.

FREEDOM COINS

- Gary C started off with something from his America the Beautiful series (2010-2021) collection. The most Yankee Doodle Dandy designs were from 2013, starting with the Fort McHenry, Maryland quarter. Site of the famous battle in 1814, near the end of the War of 1812. As British attacked from Chesapeake Bay, Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the words to the Star-Spangled Banner. You can see bombs bursting in air, and the 15-starred flag still there. And Gary is amused at the enormous nose on Thomas Jefferson with the Mount Rushmore, South Dakota quarter. It is a different perspective than most tourists get when visiting the monument.



- Guy S mentioned that we have "liberty" on all our coins. His vote for the best freedom coin(s): the reverse of the 1976 Bicentennial three-coin proof set. The quarter reverse features a drummer. The half dollar shows Independence Hall in Philadelphia, and a small motto "200 years of freedom". The dollar reverse features the Liberty Bell. If you ever have a chance to go to Philadelphia, you can walk up to the Liberty Bell. It is awesome, it is awe-inspiring, it is massive, it is freedom.
- Phil A also brought in a Bicentennial three-coin set for the same reason Guy did. This is Phil's set pictured for the obverse photo. And he brought something else: at the March meeting he showed his Britannia coin with Charles III. He had been looking for one with Queen Elizabeth. Well- he found it, and here it is!
- Deanna J showed her U.S. Constitution 200th Anniversary dollar commemorative. The obverse features the constitution, a quill feather pen, "We the People" and "Liberty." The reverse shows a bunch of people standing under the motto "E Pluribus Unum", and below the people it says Dollar 1. Images of her coin are on the next page.



- Mike C has a pocket piece which is a 1970 Norway 25 Kroner celebrating the 25th anniversary of VE Day. 1970 is his birth year, and FRIGJØRINGEN means “the liberation.”



- Rich H remembers getting a shiny new nickel at age 5. It was one of the new 1938 Jefferson nickels! And he spent it, of course. Years ago, in London he bought an August 9, 1851 facsimile from The Illustrated English News describing California at the time, with an engraving of a scene from the Russian River! He read a paragraph from the paper, refuting rumors that the countryside in California was “deficient of natural beauty.” It went on to describe the wonders of the Sonoma County from the oak plains to the “redwood pine” forests, and of the rocks of the Russian River containing 25-30% gold!

- The club received an e-mail inquiry (via the internet from a woman in Linden, PA) about a 1975 wooden flat left in an estate, asking about any possible value. The message was forwarded to Merle, as he is the expert in the topic. He contacted the person to find more information: apparently her parents had never even been to Santa Rosa- they somehow got it in Las Vegas! Though of little monetary value, Merle offered a very generous price plus shipping to add it to his collection- and told us the rest of the story. A member of our club, Bill Feist, did a three-year series of woods for the club. The first was for our 25th



anniversary in 1974, with a value of 25 ¢. He made one for the 26th anniversary with a value of 26¢. And the third year was for our 27th anniversary with a value of 27¢, which was also the bicentennial year 1976. It has the motto “200 Years of Freedom” and is Merle’s freedom topic piece for tonight. He already had all three of

these, now he has a second 26¢ wood. They are made from a 1/16" thin slice of balsa or bass wood, pressed and stamped.



○ Charlie C (that's me!) started thinking about this topic after the June meeting. That happened a couple days before Juneteenth, which celebrates the end of slavery-- the June 19, 1865 date that word of slaves' freedom finally reached Galveston Texas, at the far western edge of the Confederacy. The abolition of slavery occurred about six decades earlier in Britain. The symbol of a chained slave in supplication was first seen with the porcelain piece to the left, manufactured in 1787 by Wedgwood. Yes, that famous porcelain factory was founded by abolitionist Josiah Wedgwood. The design was



produced for the Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade and featured the motto "Am I Not A Man and A Brother". In 1788 a consignment of the pieces was sent to Benjamin Franklin and was distributed among American abolitionists-- worn in jewelry and hair ornaments and set into snuff boxes. It was used on English Conder Tokens of the 1790s, like this penny, halfpenny, and two farthings (1/4 pennies).



In 1837 the American Anti-Slavery Society in New York commissioned a New Jersey firm to issue copper tokens featuring a female slave kneeling with the legend "Am I Not A Woman & A Sister". The reverse was patterned after the American large cent, with the N in United reversed to try to avoid being considered a counterfeit. It was minted in 1838, and although the treasury department did indeed stop its production, a number did end up being produced and distributed. An order for these tokens with the male slave was supposedly cancelled or destroyed, but a few were produced and still exist.



One note about the image originating in 1780's England: the upper classes of the time did not kneel to pray at the time these were minted (although the image is in supplication and not prayer). The image appealed to the white European desire to convert slaves to Christianity and the European ideas about humility. The images are now seen by some as disempowering to Black people, compared to images created by Black artists of the same time showing standing slaves breaking their own chains.

AUGUST ZOOM INFO: August 16, 2023 RECC Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8089156698?pwd=R1UwYVhhemtUZ1VWQm85NmJQeHJ1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 808 915 6698

Passcode: May2020

DRAWING WINNERS

Membership: Roger N, Charlie C, Wendell b, Joe McC, and Rusty D

50:50 pot of \$82 was split with Bill R

Raffle: Rusty D, George C, John B, David Y, Chris H, Bill S Jr., Bill S Sr., Bill R (four times), and one other I forgot to write down- sorry.

July Attendance: 40+

New Members: Richard Siri, Sr. (#1013)


Guests: Seth Chandler of Witter Coin Santa Rosa and several other guests

Auction: 16 exciting items. **This was Andy's last time handling the auction- thanks so much! Glenn M will take over his duties in August.**

Adjournment was at 9:52 p.m. sharp!



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UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

July 29-30, 2023. Fremont Coin Club's Annual Coin Show. Elk's Lodge, 38991 Farwell Dr., Fremont

October 13-15, 2023. Contra Costa Coin and Collectibles Show. Elk's Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive, Walnut Creek

October 21, 2023. Delta Coin Club's 57th Annual Coin Show. Eagles Hall, 1492 Bourbon Street, Stockton

March 3, 2024. Livermore Valley Coin Club Show. Livermore Elks Lodge, 940 Larkspur Drive, Larkspur

The Redwood Empire Coin Club meets on the second Wednesday of each month **except next August, which will be the third Wednesday.** 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.

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 main auditorium**

August 16, 2023— Charlie