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Anniversary in 2024!



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

# Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 76, Issue 11, Meeting #876, November 8, 2023

Next Meeting: December 13, 2023

## LOTS TO BE THANKFUL FOR

There was a lot going on at the November RECC meeting. There was one thing that was omitted, and I apologize for not remembering on time. Our meeting was a few days before Veterans Day. A number of members past and present have served in the armed forces. A big thanks to each and every one of you for your service, it is greatly appreciated.

Merle filled us in on our **COIN SHOW** coming up **February 16-17, 2024**. We have sold 24 of 63 available tables. Several token dealers have been invited as well- the Wests Token Show and NATCA annual show will be a part of our show. Many have already committed to coming, including the #1 token collector in the country driving out from Pennsylvania! This is in addition to the full complement of coin dealers invited and planned for, so we expect a great show attendance. Bob K started signing up volunteers at the November meeting. Set-up for the show will be at our Wednesday February 14 meeting (feel free to bring your Valentines, we will have pizza for them); clean-up will occur after the Saturday February 17 show ends.

Our **December** meeting will be held in the **Main Auditorium of the Veterans Building**, aka "The Big Room". It will feature a **FLEA MARKET** from 6-7:30. Tables will be set up in the room, bring all your inventory for buying/selling/trading- numismatic items only please. If you have a light, it may help seeing items at your table. It will also be **DESSERT NIGHT!** *Please bring a dessert* to share with the club if you can. This is the most awesome meeting of the year for goodies. And speaking of goodies, **SANTA MERLE** will be there handing out gifts to every club member. There will be one wrapped **GOLD COIN** among the gifts you choose- but you **must** be present to choose your gift. Finally, we will have nomination and election of officers during the meeting.

Seth Chandler from Witter Coin (both the San Francisco store and the Santa Rosa location- formerly Beymer's) gave several talks. He always likes to discuss things he is passionate about, and the enthusiasm shows. Collecting a specific set requires dedication. Once you get that second coin in the set- you are all in, whether it takes six months or twenty years to complete. He suggests starting with an album, like Dansco, to house your collection. One set he really loves is the seated half dimes. It is a shorter series than most other seated Liberty denominations and most dates are relatively affordable. He worked at a coin shop around age 14 and remembers the shop owner with a nearly complete set in an album- and then selling all the coins. Seth asked for and received the empty album, and it is now almost filled up. And it is not necessarily filling a hole in the album, but finding the right coin for what it is. He likes to look at the album periodically to study the coins, reminisce where he got them, etc. He feels all the Seated Liberty coins are one of the best values on the market, with rarities being much more affordable than other type coins.

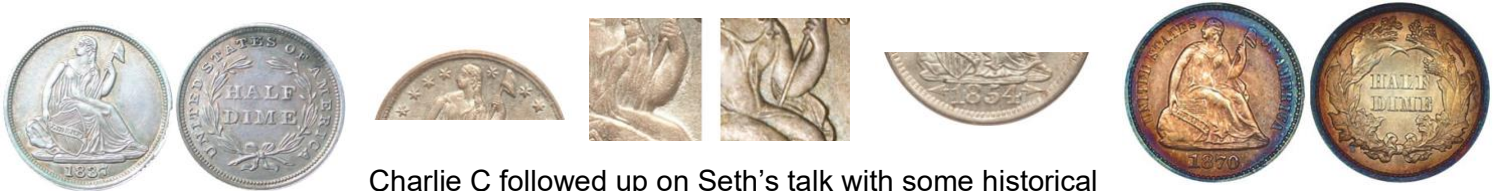


Another set Seth talked about is this three-cent silver set. It was put together in the 1950s and placed in this Wayte Raymond album. There was sulfur in the cardboard of the holder, which has nicely toned these coins. Nowadays people with sets like



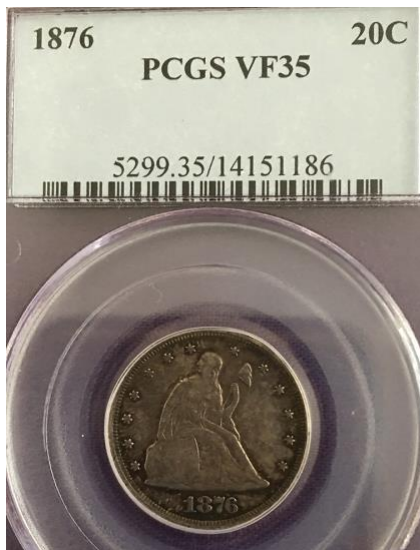
this tend to have the coins all certified. But it is nice being able to see the entire set in a single album.

Seth's shop in Santa is still a work in progress. He is in the process of hiring just the right person to run it. Renovations are progressing nicely, and he aims for it to be a collector-oriented shop. Joe B was at our meeting and was introduced. He spent five years at PCGS, developing PCGS Paper Grading service. His wife is from Santa Rosa and he was happy to move up from Southern Cal to join the Witter team. And finally, Seth talked again about the education program he supports (see the July newsletter for info on it) and the state of the market- which is pretty hot right now. He notes that a lot of people are selling bullion, which is the opposite of the past in a good market. He doesn't recommend buying by guessing the market- just buy if you find a good coin, as they can be very hard to find anytime.



Charlie C followed up on Seth's talk with some historical bits about the Seated Liberty design. The photos above show design changes: from no stars → stars were added → drapery was added below elbow → arrows added at date → a legend was placed on the obverse. The obverse features a cap held up by a rod. That symbol originated about 200 BC with the Roman ceremony of freeing a slave called manumission. A slave was touched by a staff or rod of manumission, the head was shaved, and a cap (called a pilos or pileus, known from ~800 BC as a peasant cap) placed on the head. The symbol was adopted during the French Revolution and changed slightly to a Phrygian cap (named after a European region of Phrygia, also dating to 800 BC). The cap represents Liberty, not just of an individual but of an entire nation. The cap was red and supported by the rod of Liberty. That rod supported a Liberty cap on early American coinage and was on the Seated Liberty coins. An ironic part of that belongs to the 1861 New Orleans half dollar. It was produced by the U.S. Mint initially. The Confederate Army seized the mint, and because there was a good supply of silver remaining, they continued to mint 1861-O half dollars. You cannot tell a U.S. Mint 1861-O half from a Confederate-minted half. The Confederate States of America then tried to produce its own half dollar. They used the *same 1861-O obverse die*, and the reverse featured a large Liberty cap-- ironic for a country fighting to deny the freedom of slaves. Jefferson Davis, the CSA president, was well aware of the meaning of the Liberty cap and likely would not have approved the design. But he was given one of the four trial pieces, and had it in his pocket when captured- along with other US Liberty Seated coins. The half was stolen, but later recovered.

One other item of the Liberty Seated coinage is that the design was patterned after the British coins featuring Britannia seated on a throne. That image first occurred around 119 AD on coinage of Emperor Hadrian- who conquered Britain, built a wall, etc. The design reappeared in the late 1600s on coins of Charles II and has been on British coins since. That design provided inspiration for a painting of a seated Liberty, which was then adopted for the new U.S. coinage. Of course, America did not want anything to do with having a king or queen, so a throne was not part of the design. Instead, Liberty is sitting on a .... rock. Nobody knew the significance of the rock, and I could not find any reference to it. Several members did provide good possibilities though. We do know the seated figure was chosen rather than trying to squeeze details of a standing figure onto small coins.

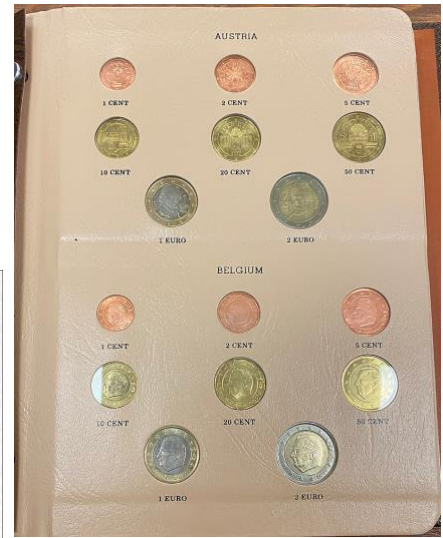


#### NUMISMATIC ITEMS WE ARE THANKFUL FOR

o Mike M started off being thankful for the 1876 20¢ he recently bought. He is always grateful for each new coin he gets! He feels this is one everybody needs in their type coin set. There were over 1 million 1875 20¢ pieces (from all mints), and under 25,000 of the 1876 (all mints). The final 2 years of the series are much rarer and more costly. He was going to get a VF 30 but decided to go for it and got this nice VF 35. He also mentioned that Dansco albums (for type sets) are now available on eBay through Wizard Coin Supply, which has all the other albums available too.



- Phil A was in Italy a while back and was happy to find a coin store in Florence. So, he walked in- and discovered Euros. He had never thought of collecting Euros before, and they are beautiful sets. He decided to start yet another type set, this one of first year of issue Euro coins from each country that produced them. He brought the first of two Dansco albums he has obtained for the collection, and each country's set was easy to visualize. There are twenty countries using the Euro, with Croatia being the newest one to issue Euro coins. Phil has sets from all of the countries.



- Paul C is thankful for these two Peace Dollars that recently came in. They are difficult to find with attractive toning, and he likes these.
- Helmut J is grateful for a couple things. First is for his wife Deanna. He is thankful for Erik sending one of his Redfield Hoard Morgan Dollars in for grading, expecting to get MS 62. It came back MS 63+ (1898-S). And he likes big silver, being thankful for Guy selling him this five-ounce coin from Samoa featuring Kon Tiki. It reminds him of being in elementary school when his teacher made him read Thor Heyerdahl's book on Kon Tiki, and then watching the documentary a month later.



- Joe McC just came back from a Portland coin show. While in the area he went to Columbia Coin, where Jack Beymer used to buy coins long ago from Harold (now 95- his son runs the shop). Joe decided to do a currency type set of two notes, and while at the Portland show he was able to get this note. It is one of few National Bank Notes with an illegal title: "The United States National Bank of Portland". It was illegal to use "United States" in the title, and this is one of a few that got away with it. He got this note for a very good price. The other note Joe is looking for is from Ohio and has the longest name of any bank in the US: "Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers Co-Operative National Bank of Cleveland, Ohio". Wow, that is a mouthful. He saw one in Walnut Creek, not in great condition, and for way more than he wanted to spend. So he will keep looking... The other item he picked up in Portland is a 1923 Silver Certificate. He collects these by block number, a form of type set with currency. This note only has seven numerals in the serial number, unlike eight numerals you see in current notes. Back when this was made, there was no leading "0" in the number. They just started with 1 and kept increasing as bills were printed.
- Rich H had a National Currency note from Appleton, Wisconsin- about 25 miles south of Green Bay. It is dated June, 1913. He hasn't been back there since moving to Santa Rosa in 1986.



- Guy S got hooked on coins around age ten. Around age twelve he came across a Russian five Kopek coin dated 1771. He had it for a few years then loaned it to a teacher to teach a summer class-



and he never saw it again. As an adult he has long been searching for a 1771 five Kopek to replace that original. By going to shows, he found a few other old five Kopek coins, and by then was hooked on getting the whole series. Originally, he was only looking for dates, but then learned that there were five different mints producing these coins! After about thirty years, he has the set about as complete as possible. There are 130 pieces in the set, and a few rarities are only in museums. They begin with Peter the Great in 1723 and run through Alexander I in 1810, when they changed to smaller size. It is a fun set to collect, and he is thankful he got hooked on it. Two examples are shown above.

- Glenn M likes to go metal detecting. He has been looking a long time for a W-mint marked quarter and is grateful he finally found one after several years of searching. It was a 2020-W Salt River Bay quarter. This is a photo of one from the internet.



- Rick S told a cautionary tale: his dad obtained some slabbed Morgan dollars, including an 1881 CC PCGS MS64. It turns out it is a fake. There are lots of subtle clues pointed out by Don Rinkor. Even PCGS holders are being faked. So that \$35 bargain slab you find at a garage sale may not be what you think it is- be careful. Tom M commented that eBay has a lot of fake ancient coins in fake PCGS holders showing up.



- Merle is thankful for this club. He is thankful for the proof three-cent silver collection he has, particularly this coin. Prior to 1873 collectors were able to obtain a proof example by sending a nickel to the mint. That covered the three-cent piece cost, one cent for mailing, and one cent profit for the mint. If only the mint would do that today..... When he began collecting the series, he looked for high-grade examples like this 1861 example. The yearly mintage of the proof three-cent coins was 1000. An 1873 law was passed stating that those not sold were to be melted, resulting in some very low existing numbers for some dates. 600 of the 1861 pieces ended up being melted, meaning only 400 (at most) still exist. And trying to find a PCGS Proof 65 example was not easy- only 26 have been assigned that grade to date by PCGS.

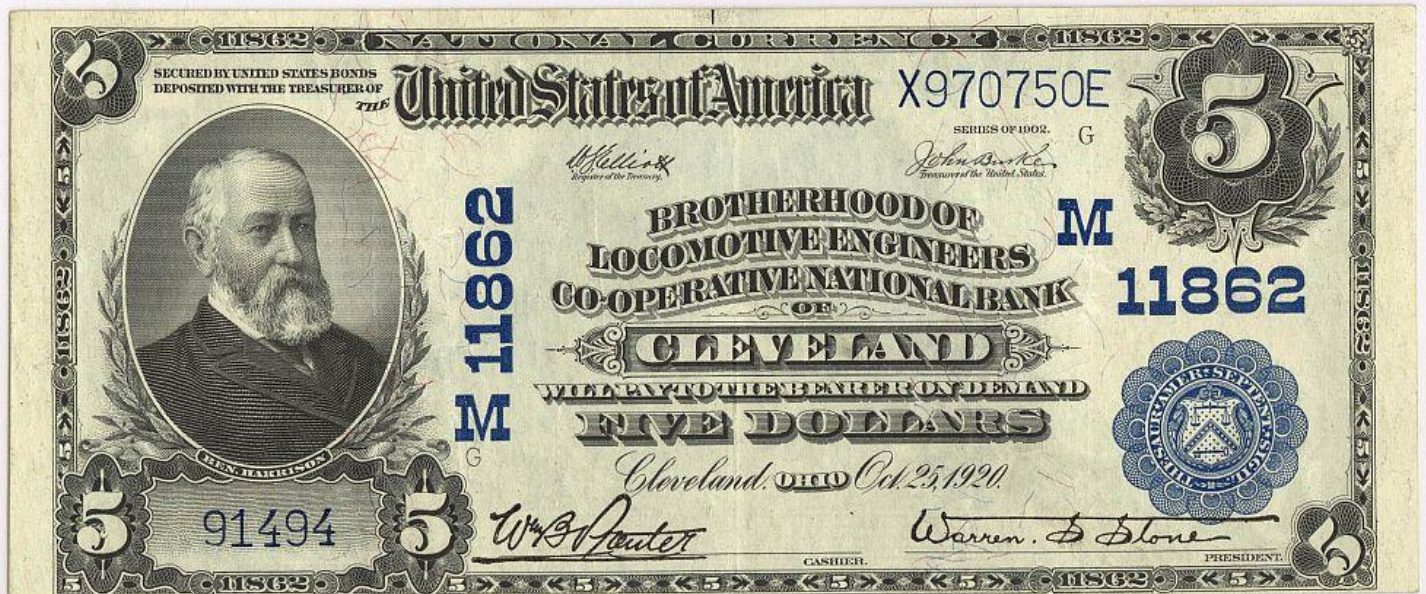


Merle actually has two of those. He had been complaining to a friend that he couldn't find one- and the friend found one and gave it to him as a birthday present! Around the same time he had been bidding on one at a Heritage auction, and got that second one.

- Charlie C (that's me!) finished up the discussion. I am thankful for family and had the chance for visits right after the October meeting. Went to New York, then a wedding in Boston (more family added!), and finally to North Carolina. While there my brother-in-law said he wanted to give me something, had put it in an envelope and placed it where he couldn't lose it- then forgot where that was. A day later he found the envelope and gave it to me. Inside was this gold coin. It is magnified here because it is only 15mm in diameter, smaller than the 17.9 mm diameter of a



dime. This is a Louisiana Purchase Exposition dollar. It had been sitting in a family bank vault for decades, and it is possible his grandparents may have purchased it at the expo, but there is no documentation. The Louisiana Purchase Exposition is better known as the St. Louis Worlds Fair. It was planned for 1903 but delayed for a year so as to get more participation. Fifty nations had exhibits, as well as 43 of the current 45 states being represented. A total of 19 million people attended the fair. Two gold dollars were minted- the very first commemorative gold U.S. coins. They were dated 1803-1903, for the centennial of the Louisiana Purchase, and designed by Charles Barber. One of the dollars (the one I received) featured Thomas Jefferson, who facilitated the Louisiana Purchase- a huge swath of land for 4¢/acre. The other dollar coin featured William McKinley, who facilitated the expansion of territory to include Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines. Plus, he had been assassinated in 1901 by a deranged anarchist, so it served as a memorial to him. The cost of each gold dollar: \$3. 125,000 of each variety was minted (250,000 total), but a total of 215,000 remained unsold and were melted down. That leaves a net of about 17,500 of each variety surviving.



Just for fun, here is an image of the note Joe McC is looking for- with the longest bank name.

### JUNIOR NEWS

November's meeting was mostly about ancients. Nolan and Brandon each received two coins to add to their collections. We also discussed timelines from 2030 BC to 1 AD, 4 AD and 500 AD.

At the December meeting, there will be a table with free items for juniors. See you then- Rich

### Membership Renewal

It is that time of year to start renewing your membership. If you receive this newsletter on-line, a renewal application should also be available on-line, just print it out and send it in or bring it to a meeting. For those getting a paper copy of the newsletter, renewal forms are included- same instructions. And for those of you who are Life Members, you are already paid up forever. Thanks!

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## DRAWING WINNERS

**Membership:** David Y, Ember S-B, Steven C, Mike M, and Joseph McC

**50:50** pot of \$78 was split with Glenn M

**Raffle:** Joel M (twice), Bill r (at least twice), David Y (twice), Helmut J, Glenn M, Bill S Jr., Steve E, Bill C, Deanna J

**November Attendance:** 56+

**New Members:** Tom M #1018 and Jim H # 1019- WELCOME!


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

**Auction:** 47 exciting items.

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



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### UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

**February 16-17, 2024. Redwood Empire Coin Club's 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Coin Show.**

E. L. Finley Building, Sonoma County Fairgrounds, 1350 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa

**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. 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 **MAIN AUDITORIUM** in **December**, at 7:00 p.m. sharp.

Check out our newsletter at: **[Redwoodempirecoinclub.com](http://Redwoodempirecoinclub.com)**

Thanks for reading. Corrections? Additions? Questions? E-mail us at:  
[newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com](mailto:newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com).

See you **at the Vets Building in the Main Auditorium** on December 13, 2023— Charlie