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Redwood Empire Coin Club

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MAY NEWS

Something happened, or didn't happen, at the May meeting which is a first for the RECC in recent years. We had a real exciting topic planned, and nobody had anything to talk about it. But that is OK, there were some other presentations. And of course there was food, thanks to our volunteers.

Richard W. talked about some considerations for a new composition of our U.S. coins. It costs 2 cents to produce a 1 cent coin, and 9 cents to make a nickel. In the past aluminum, ceramic, and plastic trial pieces have been made. It will be interesting to see where things go.

He also talked about fractional currency. He recently bought both a 15 and a 50 cent sample. We have the most current and informative book, signed by the author, in our collection, by Kravitz.

Back in the 1860's, \$1.75 bought a week stay in a boarding house. As the Civil War loomed, all coinage was hoarded. There were attempts at tokens, wooden nickels, and promissory notes to help with change. At one point a New York bank finally stopped accepting paper money for gold and silver, prompting more hoarding.

In 1862 the U.S. started issuing postage notes for small change, which developed into fractional currency notes, issued through 1876. By then the US Mint was producing adequate amounts of coins again. Over the time the fractional currency was produced, \$368 million was raised printing the paper notes, which helped finance the Civil War for the north!



INSIDE THE CURRENT S.F. MINT!

Joseph M. went to the recent coin show at the Granite Lady, the old US Mint. Afterward, he went on a tour of the current U.S. Mint. He would not divulge how he managed to get the invitation, though he cryptically said it took more than an act of Congress.

He was led on a tour where he literally was able to walk up to each operating machine, for each and every step in the minting of proof sets. He even described how the planchets are hand washed to get rid of contaminants before being struck. One of the doors to a safe there weighed 14 tons, but could be opened with the push of a finger since it was so well balanced. The floor moved up and down to lock it!

The mint has 5 floors, two underground and three above ground. It was built on solid granite and is a very stable building, and it has incredibly tight security. Apparently even the process for getting a tour is a closely guarded secret.....

JUNE TOPIC: FATHER'S DAY

The topic for the June meeting is **"What Coin or Numismatic Item Represents Father's Day to You?"** I have a real good one for that, I hope many of you do as well. Bring in a coin or just give a talk, receive 4 free raffle tickets.

Speaking of Father's Day, Merle asked the club if anybody knew when Father's Day became official. Well, here's the story.

Credit for originating the day is given to Sonora Smart D. of Spokane, Washington. Her father, a Civil War Veteran, raised her and her five siblings after their mother died in childbirth. She reportedly got the idea in 1909 while listening to a Mother's Day sermon. Local religious leaders supported the idea, and the first Father's day was celebrated on June 19, 1910—the month of her father's birthday.

In 1924 President Coolidge gave his support in its observance, but it was not until 1966 that President Lyndon Johnson officially proclaimed it a national holiday. Observance on the third Sunday in June was decreed by law in 1972.

Although it was originally largely a religious holiday, it has been commercialized with sending of greeting cards and gifts. Some observe the custom of wearing a red rose to indicate their father is still alive, and a white rose if he is deceased.

I am fortunate to be able to visit my father again this year (in Port Angeles, Washington) shortly before Father's Day. He is a coin collector, a club member, and the one who got me interested in the hobby. (And yes, I *will* be at the June meeting here so nobody else needs to take notes).



COINS I WOULD LOVE TO OWN (BUT CAN NOT AFFORD)

#3

A number of years ago I started a collection of English sixpence. Most of you know the ditty "Sing a song of sixpence, Pocket full of rye....". Some may not know the 5th line of the saying: *Something old, Something new, Something borrowed, Something blue, and a silver sixpence in her shoe.* Those, and the seemingly strange denomination drew me to the collection. Of course I later learned that a sixpence is half of a shilling, or was at least, when jolly old England counted change by the dozen.

The denomination was started by Henry VIII's heir Edward IV in 1551, and produced until decimal coinage was started in the reign of Elizabeth II. They were initially about the size of a current U.S. quarter, and of thin hammered silver. Many couples in the olden times could not afford a wedding ring, and sometimes the silver sixpence was bent around the finger as a substitute.

I thought it would be nice to extend the English sixpence collection across the pond to the American colonies. The first coin from an English territory was actually minted in the Sommer Islands, now known as Bermuda. They are all very rare and usually corroded, being mostly copper etched by the salt water there. I was easily outbid 2 years ago on a sample for auction that went for over \$37,000. I actually wasn't even in the ballpark or even the parking lot with the bidding on that auction.

The first sample from an American colony was the New England coinage minted in Boston in 1652 by John Hull (as the colony's appointed mint master). Prior to that, wampum was often used as the currency, valued at 6 to a penny. There is one known New England threepence, 8 known sixpence, and a handful more known shillings, though they are very rarely seen at auction. I believe one of them will be up for auction at the upcoming A.N.A. show this fall in Boston. A sixpence from the John J Ford Collection was sold at auction by Stacks in 2005 for \$160,000. I think I'll stick with English sixpence.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads may be placed by any club member, up to 2 per month. They run for two months. Buy—Sell—Trade—Want Lists OK. Notify Charlie at each meeting (or mail to club P.O. Box, or even call) to get your ad in

BUYING COIN COLLECTIONS large or small. Will travel. Frank Villalon 707-467-0250

FOR SALE- PROOF SETS! 1968, 1970-2002. Sell individually at 'Bid', or make an offer on the whole group. Call or see me at the club meeting— Charlie 573-1252

FOR SALE- Silver PROOF SETS! 92-94, 96, 98-2006. Sell individually at 'Bid', or make an offer on the whole group. Call or see me at the club meeting— Charlie 573-1252

FOR SALE- Prestige PROOF SETS! 1990, 1992, 1997. Will sell at 'Bid'. Call or see me at the club meeting— Charlie 573-1252

FOR SALE- MINT SETS! Most dates from 1977-2006. Will sell at 'Bid'. Call or see me at the club meeting— Charlie 573-1252

Yes these are nice sets. No, I am not getting out of coin collecting. I am collecting different coins and would like these to go to a good home at a reasonable price to club members.

Kurt G. is current putting together a grading set of Trade Dollars. He needs an 1877-Trade Dollars in G. Kurt would like nice original, not cleaned coin if possible, with no chop marks. If you have one you think Kurt may be interested please contact him at (415) 302 -4694 or kq@ginterinv.com. Thank you!

GOODIES— sorry, I do not recall getting a list of volunteers to bring goodies in June. Any and all would be welcome. Thanks!

DRAWING WINNERS:

Membership: Bill B., Bruce S., Richard W., Curtis S., James A., and Charlie C.

50:50 pot of \$124 was split with Carol E.

Raffle: Paul R., Lee D. (twice), Bob B., Jack H., Harry D., Jonathan S., MaryJo J. (twice), Bill B., Joseph M., and Martha V.

May Members: 62+

New Members: Jordy M. ((#799), and Angelo C. (#800). WELCOME! MaryJo J. also says she joined, we just need to find the app in the mail

Guests: Yes, several

Auction: exciting items

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

There *will* be a **Junior Member** meeting in June.

Volunteers for **refreshments** for June: anyone who can, I guess.

The Redwood Empire Coin Club meets on the second Wednesday of every 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 PM sharp.

R.E.C.C.

1211 W. College Ave.

Santa Rosa, Ca. 95401



UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS

June 27, 2010. Alameda Coin Club Show.

Alameda High School Gym, Oak Street
at 2200 Central Avenue, Alameda

July 10-11, 2010. Modesto Coin, Stamp, and Collectibles Show.

Stanislaus County
Coin Club. Modesto Centre Plaza, 10th
and K Streets, Modesto

July 31-Aug 1, 2010, NorCal Coin Show IX.

Elk's Lodge, 2800 Redwood Parkway,
Vallejo

August 8, 2010. Sacramento Coin Show.

Red Lion Inn, 1401 Arden Way, Sacra-
mento

August 15, 2010. Fairfield Coin Club's 21st Annual Show.

Fairfield Convention
Center, 1100 Kentucky, Fairfield

August 21-22, 2010. Fremont Coin Club 38th Annual Coin Show.

Elk's Lodge, 38991
Farwell Drive, Fremont

October 1-2, 2010. Sacramento Valley

Coin Club Annual Fall Coin Show.

The Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd.,
Sacramento

October 9-10, 2010. 13th Annual Contra Costa Coin Show.

Diablo Numismatic
Society. Holiday Inn, 1050 Burnett Ave
nue, Concord

November 19-21, 2010. Santa Clara Coin, Stamp, and Collectibles Expo.

Santa
Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great
American Parkway, Santa Clara

November 14, 2010. 30th Annual Coins and Collectibles Show.

Peninsula Club.
Napredak Hall, 770 Montague Express
way, San Jose

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

Thanks for reading. Corrections? Additions?
Let me know—573-1252.

See you June 9— Charlie

