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1211W. College Ave.
Santa Rosa, Ca. 95401

Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 63, Issue 9, Meeting #733. December 14, 2011

Next Meeting: January 11, 2012

HOLIDAY FUN

Everybody was in a good mood for the December meeting of the RECC, including our youngest member. You could just tell she was waiting in anticipation for the arrival of Santa Merle. And sure enough, he arrived with gifts for everybody in the club. And there were a lot of you—82! Thanks to all who brought desserts, they were all delicious as usual. There was some business, but most of the meeting was just purely a nice time to hang out with good friends. And several members also set up tables for our flea market—sorry it was not advertised in last month's newsletter.

COIN SHOW UPDATE

So far 65 of 67 tables for our show have been sold, with someone interested in the last 2. This guarantees a very nice selection of coins and currency for all your shopping needs. Of course the show doesn't go on without help from members. Bob K is taking names of people to help set up and take down the show. We will also need people at the front tables welcoming guests and selling raffle tickets, so reserve the dates—February 17-18.

Also please keep selling those Gold Coin Drawing tickets! It makes a difference in the financial success of our show. And there are gold coin prizes for the top 3 sellers, as well as for one other lucky seller.

JANUARY TOPIC

The topic of the January 2012 meeting will be **Show and Tell**. This is always one of the best meetings, with a very interesting variety of coins and topics discussed. Give a 3 minute talk (even if you don't have the coin with you), and win 4 free tickets to the raffle.

DUES

Please remember to renew your membership dues. You can mail them, or just bring them in at the next meeting. Adults are \$7.50



per year, Junior Members just \$3. Or you can be a life member for \$100, or \$65 if you are over 60, or \$25 if you are over 80.

Merle talked about the Presidential Dollar production. So many have been made but not used, that it is costing the government millions just to store them. President Obama directed the mint to stop making them except for collector needs.

Joe M talked about something his mother-in-law had recently given him before passing away at age 100. She got them from a bank when young: 1934-S and 1935-S Peace Dollars. In MS-65, the 1934-S costs ~\$4500, and the 1935-S ~\$550! Only she turned these into....buttons! They were new holey dollars given to Willie Q for his famous collection. HO HO HO!

ELECTIONS

We had nominations opened up for officers of the club, but no new names came up. With a near unanimous vote, the current board (Merle, Lee, Mike, and Charlie) was re-elected for 2012.

IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME
(More ranting from a rabid numismatist)



I bought this really cool coin recently. Just had to have it. And I broke Lee Gong's cardinal rule of collecting in doing so: I did *not* buy the book before the coin. Because 'the book' is a 2 part series that costs \$150 and would likely never be used again. Plus there are excellent references on the internet which allowed me to research it more, and it was purchased from a very reputable dealer I have known for years.

What is so cool about it? First of all, it is a big chunk of a bronze coin, weighing a full ounce. Second, it initially looked like it had been colored by a blue crayon, but that is the actual patina. Nothing hokey like the chemical-induced 'rainbow toning' seen on so many modern coins. But most importantly was the history related to the coin itself.

The story is just like a Mel Gibson movie: evil ruler overtakes a population and desecrates their holy site; the people get ticked off and against tremendous odds beat back the bad guy. A celebration allegedly follows, expecting to last one night, but ending up going on for eight nights. Sadly, Gibson *has* talked about making this into a movie.

The story is true. The coin is from Antiochus IV of Syria, who was beaten back by Judah "The Hammer" Maccabee and his followers. In reclaiming the desecrated temple, they lit an oil lamp that had just enough oil to last one night, but it supposedly burned for eight nights. You may have heard it mentioned as the story of Hanukkah. It has been retold yearly for two millennia, but what once was a true story about a people's determination against odds and the miracle that occurred has now become more a time of commercialism and consumer spending. Much like the story of a special birth on December 25— the spirit of Peace on Earth and Goodwill toward Man— has given way to Black Friday, pepper spray, and far too many versions and perversions of Christmas carols. But then I digress.

The really fun part of this coin has been doing more thorough research. Antiochus ruled the Seleucid Empire from 175-164 BC. At one point he almost

conquered Egypt. But he encountered a Roman general who demanded to know if he would go against the Romans in doing so. The general drew a circle in the sand around Antiochus and demanded an answer before he could step outside of it, which is where the term 'line in the sand' originated.

Looking at the coin itself, the obverse is a representative form of the king in the image of Zeus (a bit of an ego, doncha think?) The reverse is a bit harder to figure out due to wear, patina, and the fact that it is in Greek. This is where the internet helped, with the web site www.wildwinds.com being most helpful. The reverse is an eagle (supposedly standing on a thunderbolt). And the Greek inscription reads ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΝΤΙΟΧΟΥ right, ΘΕΟΥ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ left (more or less). I was able to match my coin with one on the website to confirm that I did indeed purchase Antiochus IV, not one of his evil relatives.

It is really nice to be able to hold a tangible piece of history in your hand. I'll try to remember to bring it to the January meeting. It also will likely get harder and harder to own even relatively common coins like these, as more countries are forcing agreements with the U.S. State Department to strictly limit importation to the U.S. (while the rest of the world has no restrictions). Non-profit organizations like the Ancient Coin Collector's Guild (www.accg.us) valiantly try to help. Better get them while you can.

KIDS KORNER

The December meeting was well attended by junior members. The kids found a table where they were able to "shop" from the special Kid's Korner free table which offered albums, books, jewelry, coins, loupes, plastic tubes/sheets, and foreign currency. Again, all the free items were made possible by our generous adult members.

In January, we will begin to expand our coin world to Europe with a discussion of British coins and currency.

Questions for January:

1. Why is the unit of British paper currency called "the pound"?

2. On what U.S. coin does the word penny appear?

choices:

A. the Lincoln cent

B. the Indian head cent

C. the flying eagle cent

D. the two cent piece

E. the large cent

F. the half cent

G. the three cent nickel

H. all of the above

I. none of the above

Answer at the Jan 11 meeting at 6:15 sharp!

Rich W.

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

WANTED: **Merle Avila** would like to buy your “Good For Tokens” that have the name of a town on them from anywhere in the USA. Please call: Days- 707-585-3711;

Eves- 707-824-4811.

Or e-mail Merle@avilaarchitects.com

CASH PAID for coin collections any size. I’ve been buying coins for 56+ years! **Frank Villalon** 707-467-0250

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NEW LECTURE SERIES

Lee Gong will be giving an **ADVANCED COLLECTING** talk at the beginning of each meeting. He will begin at 6PM. This will be very interesting and informative, geared to all adult and advanced Junior members.

DRAWING WINNERS:

Membership: David A, Steve C, Edwin H, Kent M, Rick S, and Scott (or was it Casey) M

50:50 pot of \$ 118 was split with Jasmine (who happened to pull her own blue ticket!)

Raffle: Jack H, Lucky Larry, Bob B, David L, Joel M, Curtis S (twice), Edwin H (twice), Jim C, Lorenzo V, and Zach S (twice)

December Members: 82+

New Members: Norman E, # 832, and Katie P # 833J— WELCOME!

Guests: Yes, several

Auction: 17 exciting items

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

Volunteers for **refreshments** for January are Charlie C, Mike C, Adrianna, and David L— thanks!

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.

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UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS

January 27-29, 2012. San Jose Coin Club's 44th Annual Coin, Stamp, & Collectibles Show.
Doubletree Hotel, 2050 Gateway Place, San Jose

February 17-18, 2012. Redwood Empire Coin Club's 44th Annual Coin Show. Sonoma County Fairgrounds' Finley Hall, 1350 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa

February 19, 2012. Cupertino Coin Club's 40th Annual Coin and Collectibles Show.
Napredak Hall, 770 Montague Expressway, San Jose

March 11, 2012. Livermore Valley Coin Club's 49th Annual Coin Show. Elks Lodge, 940 Larkspur, Livermore

May 6, 2012. Vallejo Numismatic Society's 40th Annual Vallejo Coin Show. Vallejo Veterans Memorial Building, 420 Admiral Callaghan Lane, Vallejo

August 12, 2012. 22nd Annual Coin Show, 1000 East Kentucky Street, Fairfield

November 4, 2012. Peninsula Coin Club's 33rd Annual Coins and Collectibles Show.
Napredak Hall, 770 Montague Expressway, San Jose

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

Thanks for reading. Corrections? Additions? Questions? E-mail us at:
info@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com

Or call me— 707-573-1252
See you January 11, 2012— Charlie

