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

Redwood Empire Coin Club

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Next Meeting: August 15, 2012

JULY NEWS

AUGUST MEETING: 3RD WEDNESDAY

We will have a meeting in August. But because of a conflict with the Sonoma County Fair, it will be the **THIRD** Wednesday, August 15. And it will probably be in the big room in the center.

The topic will be: **SHOW AND TELL**. Bring in any numismatic item, give a talk, and receive 4 free raffle tickets.

And that's most of the news from the July meeting. We had a flea market set up prior to the meeting. We had delicious pork steaks and chicken prepared by the experts at G&G Market, most people brought desserts or side dishes. And we had lots of time to eat, talk, and discuss coins.

Thanks to Don Rinkor for donating coin books to the Junior members. Thanks to Joel M for leading the Junior meeting and handing out the books. Next month Rich W will be gone for the August Junior meeting, not sure who will run it.

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Since there wasn't anything discussed during the meeting, this is a good time to take up some newsletter space with a bit of research. This comes courtesy of an article about the one dollar bill, entitled "Who Was Hayim Solomon", provided by Willie Q. Some of this may be familiar, with a few interesting twists.

George Washington's financial advisor and assistant was a Jewish man named Hayim

Solomon. When American soldiers were freezing and running out of food during the cold winter of Valley Forge, it was Hayim who marshaled the Jews of America to provide relief aid for those stranded troops. He reportedly gave \$300,000, a huge sum at the time (and he died penniless). Without this help the young American Army likely would have been defeated by the British.

And here is where some of the article is likely inaccurate. Look at the back of the one dollar bill, which depicts the Great Seal of the United States of America. The stars above the eagle are in the shape of a six-point Star of David. And look at the shield on the eagle (turned upside down)- it looks like a menorah. The story goes that George Washington insisted on their representation so we should never forget

the Jewish people and what they have done in the interest of America. But the Great Seal was commissioned in 1776, and completed in 1782 while Washington was busy fighting the war. And he did not become president until 7 years later. Charles Thomsen, who designed the seal, made comments on all the symbolism and did not say anything about these two symbols being related that way. But it is an interesting coincidence and can still serve as a reminder. See the next page for more symbolism.



The pyramid on the left side of the bill is dark on the western side. It has been interpreted to mean the country was beginning and we had not explored the west, though this has not been documented either. It was intentionally left unfinished, meaning the country still had yet to finish growing. The pyramid symbol itself stood for "strength and duration".



The eye above the pyramid is the all-seeing eye, an ancient symbol of divinity. Ben Franklin, on one of three successive committees to help create the seal, wanted a symbol to reflect divine providence. His committee's design suggestion was rejected by congress— someone else came up with the pyramid idea, but his committee did suggest the eye. There are suggestions the eye is a relation to the Masons, but Franklin was the only Mason on any design committee. And the use of 'the All Seeing Eye' as uniquely Masonic first appeared in 1797, 15 years after the adoption by Congress.



The Latin above the pyramid, ANNUIT COEPTIS, means "God Had Favored Our Undertaking". The Latin below, NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM, is frequently stated to mean "a new order has begun", but the governments translation of this phrase is "a new order for the ages". At the base of the pyramid is the Roman Numeral 1776.



There are 13 stars above the eagle's head, representing the 13 colonies. There are clouds surrounding the stars that some say represent any clouds of misunderstanding rolling away, but there is no documentation confirming this.

And the shield is unsupported, meaning the country could stand on its own. The shield consists of red and white stripes, with a blue bar above representing Congress. The colors are taken from the American flag and officially, the red represents hardiness and valor, the white represents purity and innocence, and the blue represents vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

The circle on the right hand side is on every National Cemetery in the United States, and a slightly modified version is the seal of the President. The bald eagle was selected as a symbol for victory for two reasons: it is not afraid of a storm, is strong, and smart enough to soar above it. And it wears no material crown, since we had broken from the tyranny of the King of England. The banner in the eagle's mouth reads E PLURIBUS UNUM, meaning "many from one".



The eagle holds arrows and an olive branch in its talons. The official meaning denote the power of peace and war. And it has been interpreted to mean that we want peace but will never be afraid to fight to preserve peace. The eagle faces the olive branch. In times of war it faces the arrows.

They say the number 13 is unlucky. This is an almost worldwide belief. But think of this: 13 original colonies; 13 signers of the Declaration of Independence; 13 stripes in our flag; 13 steps on the pyramid; 13 letters in the Latin above; 13 letters in E PLURIBUS UNUM; 13 stars above the eagle, 13 plumes of feathers on each span of its wing; 13 stripes on the shield, 13 leaves on the olive branch and 13 olives; and 13 arrows in the claw. And for minorities: the 13th Amendment.

Hey— that is thirteen 13s! I think I'll go play the Lotto.



Thanks to Willie for the interesting article. If ANY of you wish to write one, please let me know at the meeting. Or even if you have a suggestion, please pass it on. All photos of details were done with a digital microscope, like the kind sold at coin shows.

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.

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

No new ads in months. Do you have something numismatic to buy, sell, or trade? Classified ads are free!

COIN COMMANDMENTS

Rich W, Lee G and others have been compiling a list of 'commandments' about coin collecting, which will be a launching point for a future Junior Member meeting. The following are ones we have come up with. But who said we have to stop at 10?

1. Before you buy the coin, buy the book
2. Never clean a coin
3. Handle coins by their edges
4. Store coins properly in a safe place
5. Establish a budget and buy only coins that you can afford
6. Establish a prioritized want list
7. Do not talk over coins
8. Be very careful removing coins from 2 X 2 holders to avoid scratching
9. Own and use a loupe to inspect coins under magnification
10. Always be courteous to coin dealers at their place of business.

DRAWING WINNERS:

Membership: Jonathan S, Lucky Larry M, Celina M, Willie Q, Curtis S, and Jon Maria M

50:50 pot of \$ 96 was split with Mike C— two months in a row!

Raffle: Connie P, Harry D, Frank C, Philip A, Jon Maria M, Jerry St. G, Lucky Larry M, Phil R, David A, and Darren C

July Members: 58+

New Members: none this meeting

Guests: Yes, several

Auction: 25 of exciting items

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

Volunteers for **refreshments** for August are all of you that were not able to bring in a dessert or side dish for the July meeting. 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.

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UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS

July 28-29, 2012. Fremont Coin Club's 40th Annual Coin Show. Elk's Lodge, 38991 Farwell Drive, Fremont

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

August 17-19, 2012. Santa Clara Coin and Collectibles Show, Santa Clara Convention Center.

September 16, 2012. Livermore Valley Coin Club's Fall Coin Show. Elks Lodge, 940 Larkspur, Livermore

September 29, 2012. CSNA Annual Northern California Educational Symposium. Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, 734 Marin at Capital, Vallejo

October 13-14, 2012. Diablo Numismatic Society 16th Annual Contra Costa Coin Show. Crowne Plaza Hotel, 45 John Glenn Drive (off Concord Avenue)

October 20-21, 2012. Delta Coin Club's 47th Annual Fall Coin Show. Eagle's Hall, 1492 Bourbon Street, Stockton

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 August 15, 2012— Charlie

