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Santa Rosa, Ca. 95401

Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 67, Issue 4, Meeting #773. April 8, 2015

Next Meeting: May 13, 2015

APRIL NEWS

Well, here goes. Since your loyal RECC Secretary was not at the meeting, these notes come courtesy of Wendy A and her magic Smart Phone. Please pardon me if there are any inaccuracies (for shame!).

There were presentations about two coin shows coming up: the Vallejo Show May 17, and the Concord Show June 26-27. Details are always on the last page of this newsletter.

The topic for June is: Hors d'oeuvres Night! That is right- everyone is encouraged to bring a tasty little hors d'oeuvre to share with the club. And of course feel free to bring a Show and tell- we always love to hear about coins.

Thanks to those who (hopefully) brought goodies to the April meeting.

MY CURRENT COLLECTION

- Phil A started out with looking for the \$5 gold U.S. Baseball commemorative.



- George W likes Mercury dimes, Walking liberty quarters and halves, and Peace dollars because they have gorgeous designs on them.



- Edwin H collects a lot of things including Pandas, Koalas, and Maple leaves (coins, of course). He found some coins in an ad for \$100, from the Westminster Mint? Wish I was there to say more.....



- Merle: at the last show at the Flamingo he was talking with someone about Barber Coinage. He feels it is one of the most boring group of series we ever had, with the same image on all denominations. The dimes, quarters, and halves all have 16 proofs in each series though, all with mintages of under

1000, with reasonable prices. He is collecting Proof Cameo Barbers. He has 9 or so of them so far.

- What year did we make the most different varieties? 1866, including different denominations and mints. There were 24 different pieces, and Merle is also trying to collect that set... maybe.
- Bill G is still looking for a couple dates of Liberty Head nickels in MS 64, very difficult to find. Merle told how to go on the Heritage website (ha.com) where you can look up populations in the different grading services, what they sold for, and even offer to buy some off prior auction winners.

- Glenn C talked about WW II history. The reason we have steel cents was because of copper rarity during the war time. With all the extra steel planchets left over at the time, the U.S. Mint then made steel coins for Belgium

- Davis A collects copper rounds.....
(continued on page 4)

NUMIS NOMINIBUS: COLLECTING COINS WITH NAMES

Ever since King Alyattes first put a ruler's name on coins around 610 BC ("Walwet", for those of you who know how to speak ancient Lydian), it gradually became a more popular way to advertise who was 'da boss'. In more modern times merchants also put their names on tokens as a form of advertisement. A few collectors in the club have quite a lot (Jack's seem to be popular establishments).

I do have love tokens with Chas, Uncle Charlie, and my initials CC; a token from Charlie's in Anselmo, NE; and yes, the ubiquitous Chuck E Cheese token. But it was a quirky find at a coin show a year ago that sparked a new interest: Charles the Bald of France. You know the story— just had to have it. And it got me thinking: why not collect coins with my name on it? There is no royalty in my bloodline. My family has more outlaws than in-laws. But the idea still was appealing.

But just collecting one of each King Charles misses the point— it is finding out who each one was that makes it so much more interesting. Take Charles the Bald for instance. Nobody really knows if he really was bald, or if perhaps the nickname was a joke and he was really hairy. Perhaps the most likely origin is that he was born owning essentially no land (unlike his brothers, who inherited a lot); he did acquire a lot of land while king. He was the son of Louis the Pious and grandson of Charlemagne.

How about this 11th century French coin from Charles the Simple. The inscription simply matches his name: Car(o)lus Rex, King Charles. And the stick figure on the reverse may seemingly explain his nickname. For a country to have invented such wonderful things as toast, fries, and the kiss, France sure wasn't too artistic with it's early coins. Fortunately the Paris Mint changed that with its wonderful coins and medallic art in the last couple centuries. And Charles really was not simple. His nickname 'simplex' or the simple is misleading: it was given to him meaning straightforward as in loyal or without guile.



How about Charles the Wise here?? Was he really so smart? Apparently so. Early in his reign he overcame



many rebellions. But in order to obtain freedom from the English for his captive father, he had to conclude the Treaty of Bretagne in 1360, in which he abandoned large portions of south-western France to Edward III of England and pay a huge ransom as well. With his skill as a ruler he rebuilt the country's wealth and was able to win back all that land. Unfortunately, after his death in 1380 his son Charles the Bad took over with a disastrous reign which allowed the English to regain large parts of France again.



Here is a coin from Charles VIII (the French version of Roman Numeral IX). At least they got the date right, MDLXIX (1569).



Charles' reign was dominated by the French Wars of Religion. He died childless at age 23. Hmm, nothing much interesting about this king. But there were 10 total French King Charlies, including Charles the Victorious, Charles the Affable, Charles the Fat, and the greatest of all: Charlemagne, Charles the Great. I have a long way to go to collect them all



And there are Charlies in other countries. England has had two so far. Charles III (to be) is still waiting in the wings to follow mum Queen Elizabeth II, but like the energizer bunny she keeps going and going. The first English King Charles believed in the divine right of kings to govern according to their own conscience. His religious policies (including marrying a Roman Catholic) as well as his huge taxes without the consent of Parliament led to the English Civil War. Eventually he was beheaded after being captured and tried for treason. The coin below is from my English sixpence collection.



Charles I was succeeded by the Commonwealth, and for a short time Oliver Cromwell was the Ruler of that government. I don't know of any other rulers named Oliver, so if that is your first name, here is an easy one for you to complete a set. The portrait even shows the lovely wart on his lower lip. But this sixpence of mine is one of about 24 known. The half crown or crown may be easier to find, but still a bit pricy.

When Cromwell died, his son did not prove to be an effective ruler, so Charles II (the son of Charles I) was brought back from exile in France to rule England. This King Charles was popularly known as the *Merry Monarch*, in reference to both the liveliness and hedonism of his court and the general relief at the return to normality after over a decade of rule by Oliver Cromwell and the Puritans. He sure looks chipper in this sixpence of his.



Finally, Spain had its own King Charles'. When I started writing this article I had forgotten that I already had coins of two of them.

Years ago at a coin show I spotted a Spanish 8 reales "milled dollar" that couldn't be resisted. Here was a nice example of the first coin pictured in the Red Book. It also was most likely the coin General George Washington tossed across the Delaware River one icy winter to see if it was frozen over. The American tale of him tossing a "dollar" is historically inaccurate, since the U.S Dollar was not produced until long after the War of Independence.

My final coin in this set was a lucky find in a 'junk box' of a store in Tijuana, Mexico as a kid in the 1960s. I got this 1804 Mexican 1/2 Real of Charles IV for about 50 cents. Somehow I don't think the rest of the King Charles coins for this type set will be so cheap.



And there is yet one more late addition to this type set. This is a 4 Real coin of Carlos (the first) and Joanna of Spain. They issued the first coins from Europe for the New World. This one was minted in Mexico City between 1542 and 1555. Joanna was the daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella, and heir to the Spanish throne. She married Philip the Handsome, and they had a son named Charles. Both Johanna's mother, Isabella, and her husband, Philip, died young. By all reports this made Johanna mentally unbalanced. Her son claimed co-regency with Johanna, and had her imprisoned in the castle of Tordesilla. He then ruled in name with her, but effectively he ruled alone.

Here we have Carlos I of Spain, who ruled from 1516-1556. But he was also Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor (some of the prior French Charlies were also Holy Roman Emperors as well).

As Charles was the first king to rule Castile, León, and Aragon simultaneously in his own right, he became the first King of all of Spain. In the New World, Spain conquered the Aztecs of Mexico and Incas of Peru, then extended its control across much of South and Central America. Charles oversaw the Spanish colonization of the Americas. Charles provided five ships to Ferdinand Magellan whose voyage – the first circumnavigation of the Earth – laid the foundation for the Pacific oceanic empire of Spain and began Spanish colonization of the Philippines.

He was a pretty powerful man with lots of inherited nobility. His full formal title was: Charles, *by the grace of God*, Holy Roman Emperor, forever *August*, King of Germany, King of Italy, King of all Spains, of Castile, Aragon, León, of Hungary, of Dalmatia, of Croatia, Navarra, Grenada, Toledo, Valencia, Galicia, Majorca, Sevilla, Cordova, Murcia, Jaén, Algarves, Algeciras, Gibraltar, the Canary Islands, King of Two Sicilies, of Sardinia, Corsica, King of Jerusalem, King of the Western and Eastern Indies, of the Islands and Mainland of the Ocean Sea, Archduke of Austria, Duke of Burgundy, Brabant, Lorraine, Styria, Carinthia, Carniola, Limburg, Luxembourg, Gelderland, Neopatria, Württemberg, Landgrave of Alsace, Prince of Swabia, Asturia and Catalonia, Count of Flanders, Habsburg, Tyrol, Gorizia, Barcelona, Artois, Burgundy Palatine, Hainaut, Holland, Seeland, Ferrette, Kyburg, Namur, Roussillon, Cerdagne, Drenthe, Zutphen, Margrave of the Holy Roman Empire, Burgau, *Oristano* and *Gociano*, Lord of Frisia, the Wendish March, Pordenone, Biscay, Molin, Salins, Tripoli and Mechelen. *Whew— I'll just stick to simply collecting Charlies.*



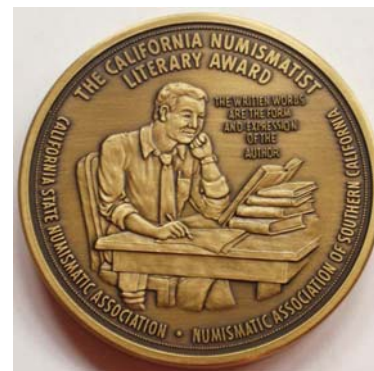
- Lee G got up to embellish on Glenn's tale (and put in some corrections). One of Lee's excellent collections is of coins minted in the US for other countries. He always buys the book before he buys the book. One came out in 1969 on this subject, he bought it in 1973. A few years later at a coin show he bought a coin we made for Belgium, and that started him really looking for more. Copper in WW II was used mostly for bullets, and the mint ended up testing several alternatives. This is how the steel cent came to being. But because the steel was hard, the dies tended to crack and we only minted steel cents for a year. But..... There were a few steel planchets that got into the 1944 production (they cost \$10-15,000 each now). We have made 792 types of coins for other countries, not just the ones for Belgium. Lee was going to just do a type set, but decided to collect *all* the dates and varieties– trying to get all 792 different coins!



- Joe Mc C collects sales tax tokens. They were made of metal, plastic, cardboard. Someone at the show asked him about one (knowing Joe collected these), and he wasn't initially too excited because they are very common and inexpensive. But this one was copper, which was used only for patterns. Joe bought it, looked in the book when he got home, was able to identify it easily as pattern # 3 with about 50 known. He took a closer look sometime later and realized he had initially been mistaken, that this token was pattern # 8, listed in the book as a Rarity 10, meaning it was the only 1 known (he later found there are 3 known). The only hitch was that the man who sold it to him said he had a second one at home! Unfortunately he did not get the man's name or number. None of this would have even happened if word through our club had not spread that Joe collected these.

I was not able to be at the April meeting, but did want to share a new addition to my collection. The Numismatic Association of Southern California and the California State Numismatic Association publishes a quarterly journal titled 'The California Numismatist', or TCN. It is worth paying the dues just to get the journal, capably edited by Greg Burns. Merle has a regular feature on tokens with each issue.

Every year TCN announces awards for articles published, in several categories. There are up to 3 awards per category. And for 2014, the George Bennett Literary Award for Articles on Ancient Numismatics, second place, went to yours truly. Granted, there may have only been two articles on the subject last year, but I will take it. It was for the article "A Tale of Two Coins" that was initially in this newsletter.



An interesting sideline to this is the person the award is named after. Ironically, as a kid in the 1960s (which sounds like a real long time ago), I used to go to a coin auction every other month at the Golden Valley Auditorium in the Van Nuys (southern California). It was run by auctioneer George Bennett, who also ran some larger auctions. I obtained my Civil War tokens and some other interesting coins for good prices– what could be afforded by a teenager.

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

Cash paid for coin collections. I have purchased coins for over 60 years— I will travel to your location.

Please call Frank Villalon 707-467-0250

KIDS KORNER

The April meeting fell victim to conflicts with school etc. The usual attendees were not there, but hopefully will be back in May.

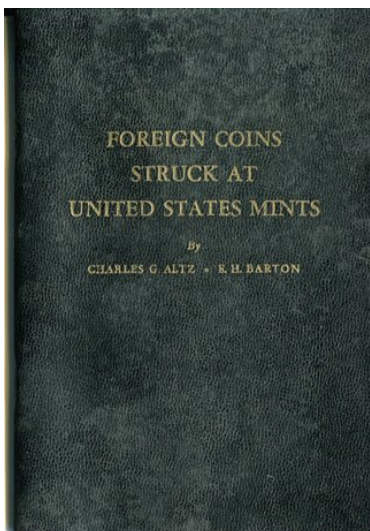
The May meeting will be "La noche de las monedas de Mexico". Joel M has volunteered to discuss the coins of Mexico. Joel does an excellent job with his and other juniors- don't miss this one.

Thanks to Jack Free for the Red Book donations.

BEFORE YOU BUY THE COIN.....

Since Lee mentions this expression over and over, I wanted to let y'all know that the book he mentioned in his talk IS available. I had to search used book dealers on the internet (there are some excellent sources). 'FOREIGN COINS STRUCK AT UNITED STATES MINTS ', by Charles Altz and E.

H. Barton was published in 1965. I found a copy for \$25, and there are several more at various prices. I hope to bring it in for you to look at. I do not know if I will start this collection or not, but it should be interesting to thumb through as a reference.



DRAWING WINNERS:

Membership: Rodney M, Mike W, Mike B, Lucky Larry M, Michael S, and Mike c

50:50 pot of \$??? was split with Merle A

Raffle: Curtis S, Michael S, Bob B (twice), Andy O (twice), Edwin H (three times!), and Connie P

April Members Present: 52+

New Members: Katherine E (# 917) and Dick C (# 918)- WEL:COME!!!!

Guests: yes

Auction: yes, there was one

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

Volunteers for **refreshments** for May are for everyone to bring something for hors d'oeuvres

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

May 1-2, 2015. Sacramento Valley Coin Club Annual Spring Coin Show. Points by Sheraton, 4900 Duckhorn Avenue, Sacramento

May 17, 2015. Vallejo Numismatic Society 43rd Annual Show. Florence Douglas Senior Center, 333 Amador (between Georgia and Florida), Vallejo

June 20-21, 2015. Stanislaus County Coin Club's Modesto Coin and Collectibles Expo. Modesto Centre Plaza, 1001 L St., Modesto

June 26-27, 2015. East Bay/Concord Coin Show. Clarion Hotel, 1050 Burnett Ave., Concord

June 28, 2015. Alameda Coin Show. TBA

July 25-26, 2015. Fremont Coin Club's 43rd Annual Show. Elk's Lodge, 38991 Farwell Drive, Fremont

August 9, 2015. Fairfield Coin club's 26th Annual Coin Show. Willow Room, Fairfield Community Center, 1000 East Kentucky off Pennsylvania

September 4-6, Santa Clara Coin Show

September 26, 2015. 2nd Annual NCNA Seminar. Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, 73 Marin Street at Capital, Vallejo

October 9-11, 2015. Diablo Numismatic Society 19th Annual Contra Costa Coin and Collectibles Show. Elk's Lodge, 1475 Creekside Dr., Walnut Creek

November 1, 2015. Peninsula Coin Club's 36th 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:

newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com

Or call me— 707-573-1252
See you May 13— Charlie

