



Founded March 26, 1949

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

Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 67, Issue 3, Meeting #772. March 11, 2015

Next Meeting: April 8, 2015

MARCH MADNESS

Well, it wasn't really madness. It was just another usual St. Patrick's meeting. Thanks to Lee G and the gang at G & G Market, we had plenty of absolutely delicious corned beef, cabbage, carrots, potatoes, and rolls. Plus a few side dishes, some desserts, and plenty of beverages. No wonder we had 76+ members show up!

Besides eating, the meeting was entirely business. We did not even have time for our topic of "What I Got at the Coin Show". The meeting for April will feature the topic "What I am Still Looking For". This is always a great way to let other club members help you out with your collecting needs. AND, if you have everything you want already for your collection (if such a thing is possible), then by all means talk about what you got at the coin show. Anybody who brings in an item and gives a 3 minute talk will receive 4 free raffle tickets!

Merle talked about the ANA show in Portland. The last time he went, there were very long lines to get in the door. This time, there were maybe 25 people at the start. It seems attendance was poor the days Merle was there, but he did not go on the weekend. He did see Cliff Mischler, Larry Gayl and Bob Campbell from the ANA at the show.

Congratulations to Lee G for being a new grandfather! Son Devin (Life Member #8) and his wife Jennifer had 6 pound 15 ounce Jackson Logan Gong born on March 5. Best wishes to them!

Jack F donated a shirt to the club auction. It was signed by the model whose image is found on the Sacagawea dollar, Randy'L He-dow Teton.



Gene Berry, the Northern California director for the SCNA (California State Numismatic Association) was present at the meeting. He encouraged all club members to sign up for the club. The best part of it is the quarterly journal "The California Numismatist". It is an extremely well written journal loaded with relevant articles to our region of the country. Merle writes a regular column on tokens, and I have even contributed an article (more likely to come). For just \$25 it is worth it, and helps support the hobby.

SHOW WRAP UP

Merle gave a final accounting of facts and figures from our February coin show.

- ◆ Attendance Friday was 380, Saturday also 380
- ◆ Total attendance of 760 was down 189 from last year.
- ◆ There were 46 paid dealers, and 80 total (some tables were sublet).
- ◆ The cost to purchase the gold coins for the drawing was \$3346
- ◆ Friday gold ticket sales were \$334
- ◆ Saturday gold ticket sales were \$433
- ◆ 39 club members sold tickets prior to the show
- ◆ Total gold ticket sales were \$6090, leaving a net of \$2744. This helps pay our rent, mailings, beverages, food, etc.
- ◆ Thanks to ALL who sold tickets.
- ◆ The third highest ticket seller was Jon Maria M, who won a 2-1/2 peso gold piece
- ◆ The second highest seller, at \$1000 in tickets, was Curtis Smith!
- ◆ And the highest seller, at \$1200, was Connie P, who missed the meeting to go to Spring Training. Curtis and Connie will get their gold pieces from Merle.
- ◆ Among the rest of sellers, a 4th place was drawn: Jeremiah— won a gold piece.
- ◆ And among the workers at the show, a final prize was drawn, going to Riley R!
- ◆ Merle has a full accounting if you wish to see it.

SAVE OUR HOBBY

Friends, Romans, Countrymen: lend me your ears. I write to bury a ridiculous U.S. MOU (memorandum of understanding), not to praise it. The evil that men do harms our hobby and the historical integrity of the world. The good is essentially ignored for unfathomable political reasons.

Shakespeare is probably rolling in his grave, and most if not all of you are probably rolling your eyes, scratching your heads, and going huh?

The U.S. State Department and U.S. Customs have already drastically limited our ability to bring Greek, Punic, Etruscan, and early Republican coins struck in Italy into our country legally. They are now trying to expand that to Roman Imperial coins (more on that later). In essence, this means that it will be illegal to import or bring them into the US without special clearance. But they will be available for anyone to purchase in Italy or Europe. Anywhere BUT the United States. The initial thrust of this was to protect culturally sensitive and historical items, particularly unique sculpture and artwork, from being pirated out of Italy— which makes sense. It is also meant to protect illegal looting of buried hordes, which also makes sense. But coins were so common, and spread so far beyond the borders of Italy with the Roman empire, and are mostly so numerous, that including coins in this memorandum is just a joke. It won't protect them if they are still widely sold to the rest of the world. And do you wonder how a U.S. custom's agent will know how to tell apart something that was found buried elsewhere in Europe and collected 'legally', though made in Italy, versus something found in Italy? Or if a coin left Italy *before* the original MOU on 1/19/11, or *after*?

The Ancient Coin Collectors Guild and Classical Numismatic Group have been asking members of their organization to write our government protesting this action (I sure did). By the time you get this, it will be too late for the RECC members to do anything since the deadline to comment to the government will expire.

But there is a MOU with China (which is perfectly OK counterfeiting US coins by the gazillion and pawning them off on our markets, but won't let older stuff out of their country to collectors), with Cyprus, possibly Egypt, others. What next? France? Spain? Russia? All I ask is that you keep aware of biased (though well intentioned) acts and put forth your opinion if there is a chance. Before there isn't one. I guess it is time to start a collection of "The Twelve Caesars".

WHAT ARE THE ROMAN COIN PERIODS?

Another way to ask this is "what is the difference between archaic, Republican, and Imperial Roman coins? Here goes an attempt.

The earliest Roman coinage was *aes rude*, large irregular lumps of bronze. These were eventually replaced in the fourth century BC with *aes signatum*, large cast ingots decorated with either a branch (*ramo secco*), or several other designs. By the middle of the third century BC, *aes grave* became the standard regional currency. These new coins were cast in several denominations (as, semis, triens, quadrans, and uncia), each with its own particular design and denoted with respective marks of value. The **Roman Republic** was the period of ancient Roman civilization beginning with the overthrow of the Roman Kingdom, traditionally dated to 509 BC, and ending in 27 BC with the establishment of the Empire. The **Roman Imperial** era began in 27 BC with the Roman Senate's granting of extraordinary powers to Octavian and him adopting the title Augustus. It is considered to end with the fall of the Western Roman Empire in 476 AD. Most of the coins of this era feature the bust of the emperor or a family member on the obverse. The following are a few examples. Get 'em while you can (or if you can).



These aes grave are big suckers, and hard to find with real clear details because they were cast.



This sesterius of Vespasian is one of my prize coins. The rest pictured here are on my 'wish list'.



Julius Caesar

Constantine II

CLASSIFIED ADS

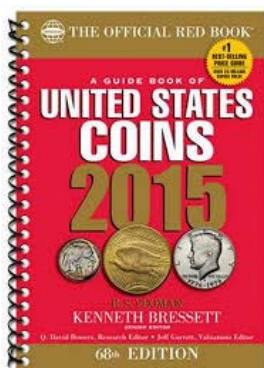
Classified ads may be placed by any club member, up to 2 per month. They run for two months. Buy—Sell—Trade—Want Lists OK. Notify Charlie at each meeting (or mail to club P.O. Box, or even call) to get your ad in

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

RED BOOKS

Lee G will be selling Red Books again this year, at the next meeting. These are the spiral bound issues. The regular price is \$14.95, and these will sell for \$8.75. He has only 17 to sell.



Perhaps the most famous Roman Republic coin is this issue of Marcus Junius Brutus commemorating the assassination of Julius Caesar on March 15, 44 BC (the ides of March).



We recently learned the sad news of the passing of Phil Richardson, Life Member 34, husband of Ellen. Phil was a regular member who really seemed to enjoy the meetings and friendship of club members. Our condolences go out to Ellen and the rest of his family.

3

DRAWING WINNERS:

Membership: Anthony V, Gary C, David A, George W, Harry D, and Jeff B

50:50 pot of \$ 146 was split with Carson K

Raffle: Irene C, Joel M (thrice), Jon Maria M, George W, Michael S, Carson K (twice), Guy S, Andy O

March Members Present: 76+

New Members: Billy W (#914), and Cheryl S (#915)- **WELCOME!!!**

Guests: Yes

Auction: 67 exciting items

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

KIDS KORNER

The March meeting was attended by Jasmine, Giulia, and Carson. They all received many nice things made possible by Jack Free and Joe McC.

Merle asked What were you looking for at the coin show? and What are you still looking for? The answer to both of these questions is: More junior members to attend our meeting. We had many juniors at our show table, but no new ones at the March meeting.

The next meeting is 8 April at 6:15. See you then- Rich W.

Volunteers for **refreshments** for April are any of you who can help put. No fooling- we forgot to take volunteers at the last meeting.

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

April 3-4, 2015. 2015 Wests Token Jamboree,
Western Token Society, Clarion Hotel, 1401
Arden Way, Sacramento

April 17-19, 2015. Santa Clara Coin Show

May 1-2, 2015. Sacramento Valley Coin Club
Annual Spring Coin Show. Points by Shera
ton, 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 Commu-
nity Center, 1000 East Kentucky off Pennsyl-
vania

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 Creek
side 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:

n e w s l e t t e r -
ter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com

Or call me— 707-573-1252
See you April 8— Charlie

