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

Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 67, Issue 4, Meeting #774. May 13, 2015

Next Meeting: June 10, 2015

MAY MEETING MINUTES

The May meeting was supposed to be Hors d'oeuvres night, and thanks to those who brought something in. There weren't many of you, and much of the food went fast. Or else you were all just a bunch of hungry buggars. So we have another plan for June:

DESSERT NIGHT!

Yes, that is right, one of our favorite meetings. One would think we were more about food than coins. I guess they do go hand in hand. SO, for everybody who did not bring something to the May meeting, please bring a dessert to share with the club for the June meeting.

And yes, we *will* talk about coins. It will be **SHOW AND TELL!** Bring in a coin (if you can) and give a three minute talk, and get 4 free raffle tickets. These are always one of the most interesting meetings— and there is usually a very interesting variety of items being talked about.

Thanks again to Wendy A for taking minutes and recording the May meeting, so this newsletter could be sent to you.

Edwin H talked (or at least tried to) about the upcoming Vallejo Show

We want to wish Frank V a speedy recovery from a very serious illness, and hope to see you at the next meeting.

TYPE SETS:

- ◆ David A started off the discussions with his search for the last hole in his holey coin type set, a Seated Liberty dollar. He found one that has been repaired, and will keep looking for a truly holey one.
- ◆ Charley B talked about a new type set of 'bent coins', and he already has a couple. They are the 2014 National Baseball Hall of Fame commemoratives. He has two of the first strike

coins signed on the slab by Pete Rose— just to make sure the signature was authentic! He also has a photo himself with the coin designer Cassie McFarland, who he has know a long time.



- ◆ Carson K is starting a silver dollar collection, and just got his first sample!



- ◆ Charlie C expanded on the article in last month's newsletter about coins with kings named Charles. There seems to be more to the story of the silver 4 Real coin of Johanna and Carlos of Spain. The story goes back to the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain. Ferdinand was

king of Aragon, and Isabella was queen of Castile (which centuries earlier had been Castile and Leon). Together, they united all the regions of Spain to form a powerful country. They were the ones who funded the explorations of Christopher Columbus. They had five children. One daughter was Catherine of Aragon, who married Henry VIII of England; she had a daughter (the future "Blood Mary" of England), but because she could not produce a male heir Henry eventually divorced and exiled her. Another daughter was Johanna, who married Phillip the Handsome at age sixteen, and had six children— four girls became queens and two boys became kings. Phillip died after 10 years of marriage, and Johanna's mother Isabella died two years prior. Because of this and other stresses, she was mentally unstable (and called Joanna the Mad). Her son Charles became 'co-regent' while she was still alive and nominally the rightful ruler, but he

essentially took over complete rule of all Spain. This explains the legend of the 4 real coin pictured, Johanna and Carlos being mother and son. You don't see that too often on coins.

◆ Lee G is still working on his collection of coins the U.S. Mint produced for foreign countries. For a long time he has wanted the two types of gold produced for Saudi Arabia, and has finally obtained them. And it is an interesting story. Back in 1945 and 1947, Aramco (Arabian American Oil Corporation) was the company purchasing oil from Saudi Arabia, and it was charged \$3 million *per year* in royalties *just for the privilege* of purchasing their oil. That just does not happen any more. But they also demanded the purchase be in gold. So Aramco purchased the gold from Fort Knox at the standard American Standard rate of \$35 an ounce (while the market rate was much higher—remember, it was not legal to own gold at that time), and had the U.S. Mint produce the 'discs'. Initially some of the gold was used to make jewelry. But later, much the gold was melted and sold to India where the price of gold was \$70 an ounce! In 1945, 91,120 large gold disks were minted, adorned with the American eagle and the words "U.S. Mint -- Philadelphia." These bullion coins weighed 493.1 grains, slightly more than a troy ounce, and were 91 2/3 percent gold and 8 1/3 percent copper. The fineness was that of the British sterling system then current in the Middle East. The United States standard was only 90 percent gold. These large disks were valued at 4 pounds (sterling). In 1947, Aramco contracted for 121,364

discs with the same design, but weighing just 123.27 grains and valued at 1 pound. Those coins actually saw some popular use in Saudi Arabia and traded for about \$12, or 40 silver Saudi riyals. But the popularity declined after Swiss and Lebanese counterfeiters began striking coins that were similar but less valuable. Today both sizes of the Aramco bullion coins are quite rare and many counterfeits are in circulation. The genuine large disks have fine lines in and around all the letters; the counterfeits have small dots. Counterfeit small disks often show a large indentation above the M in Mint.



◆ Glen C talked about his type sets of uncirculated, proof, and silver proof U.S. coins, as well as his type set of Cypress coins.

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

COIN CLUB MEMBER ONLY drawing: at the June 26/27 East bay/Concord Coin show, there will be three registration prizes, all gold. And there will be a separate drawing for coin club members who notify them at registration: a Canadian 1 gram gold piece, and a PCGS MS-63 Franklin Half Dollar. Need not be present to win.

Last Show and Tell Item

- ◆ Former RECC Secretary and Life Member Guy S mentioned that he has a number of type sets he has formed over the years, from Canada, Newfoundland, U.S., and Mexico. And once you are started on one, it can always be upgraded or expanded. For instance, with his Mexican type set, he is expanding into the early Mexican Republic coins. Below are a few examples.



DRAWING WINNERS:

Membership: Edwin H, Robert C, Dan C, Bill Van V, Lee C, Jerry St. G, David V, and Steven T

50:50 pot of \$ 100 was split with Dale C

Raffle: Bill C, Mike B, Matt A, George W (thrice), Jon Maria M, Randon S, David A, and Cal G

May Members Present 56 ++

New Members: Dmitry L, # 919, and Dan S, # 920— WELCOME!

Auction: 47 exciting items

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

KIDS KORNER

Rich W is working on setting up a kids meeting run by Joel M.

Volunteers for **refreshments** for June are for everyone to bring something for Dessert Night, especially those who did not bring an hors d'oeuvre for the April 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.

1211 W. College Ave.

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UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS

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 June 10— Charlie

