

# Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 70, Issue 4, Meeting #809. April 11, 2018

Next Meeting: May 9, 2018

## APRIL NEWS

The April RECC meeting was the usual mix of food, fun, friendship, and yes- coins. We had 5 new members join: Ember, David and Aaron B; Robert M; and Andy B- welcome to all!

The only real news was the plan for May. The topic in May will be: "What Cool Numismatic Item I have Decided to Sell". Honest- that is what Merle made up. So, if you are getting tired of some of your cool coins or want to sell some to get some other cool coins—bring them in, talk about them, and get 4 free raffle tickets. Or, if you are like me and do not plan to sell anything but still have something cool, bring it in and talk about it. Who knows, you may just find something cooler that you will just have to get.....

The May meeting will also be DESSERT NIGHT! For those of us who did not bring some goodies to the April meeting, please bring a yummy dessert to share with the club in May- thanks!  
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### TYPE COLLECTIONS

- ❖ Rich W has finally completed his Dansco Album of U.S. type coins (not including gold). Interestingly, dealers mostly cannot even get one of the albums for you, but they are readily available on eBay. Rich also likes to make up his own albums, including one he has for a set of Canadian tokens.
- ❖ Guy S said that Type Sets are the backbone of a lot of collections. He bought an album for a Newfoundland type set. Prior to joining Canada in 1949, Newfoundland had its own coins. They are all low mintage, but relatively affordable- and Guy had a nice complete set (it had only two pages to it). He also has a US type set, as well as completing the modern Mexican Coin set (which he also brought in). Now he is going back in time with a Republic of Mexico type set he is working on. Guy also recently went to the ANA headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and visited its numismatic museum. It displayed type coins going back to the beginning of coinage all the way to the present. One other fabulous collection there is the Harry Bass collection, with an amazing set of US gold coins and US patterns. It is definitely a worthwhile museum if you ever have a chance to go.
- ❖ Matt A decided to do a different kind of type set, one based on the metal of the coin. He brought in his set of coins minted of nickel.
- ❖ Mike C is now working on his type set of modern \$5 gold commemoratives. He got a few of them from yours truly at the meeting (I changed my mind, decided to start next month's topic early).
- ❖ Charlie C (yours truly) collects mainly ancients, including ancient error coins. Since ancient coins were all hand struck, many are off center, from just a little to quite a lot- so those hardly count as errors. But there are some others that are interesting- and possibly intentionally done. The set brought to the meeting were all related to the Widow's Mite. That coin type relates to a parable in the New Testament about giving charity to the Temple in Jerusalem. Wealthy people were known to take some money out of their purses to donate. But Jesus gave praise to the widow who gave two tiny coins- all that she had- to the temple, that she was worthier than the others. The tiny coins she gave were most likely 'prutah' coins of Alexander Jannaeus, since they were the most plentiful and the smallest coins in use at the time of Jesus (even though Jannaeus ruled 100 years before Jesus- his coins remained in circulation for a long time). These coins were smaller than

the lowest denomination Roman coin, the 'as'. But there was no 'mite' denomination ever made. When the King James Bible was being produced, the 'minute' Widow's coin was translated to a 'mite'. The typical Widow's Mite coin featured a star within a circle on the obverse, looking like a wagon wheel; the reverse featured an anchor. Charlie brought in two types of the prutah coins issued by Alexander Jannaeus, and errors of the same: one double struck WAY off center; one a brockage (where a coin gets struck and then sticks to the die; another coin being struck will then show a mirror of the stuck coin's image; a counterstamp with an anchor (not an error coin); and finally a double struck coin purposely done to look like an 'eye'.



❖ Joe C brought in a fascinating album of depression era scrip. Depression scrip was used during the depression era (1930's)

as a substitute for government issued currency. Because of the banks closing temporarily and the lack of physical currency, someone had to come up with another form of currency to keep the economy going and a way for trade to continue. This was currency tied to municipalities and often real estate taxes- usually redeemable at a certain date. And sometimes if not redeemed on that date, they would be worthless! I forgot to take photos of some of his examples, which were really fun to look at. The image here is from the internet.

❖ Finally, Merle talked about So-Called Dollars. In 1963 Harold E. Hibler and Charles V. Kappen wrote a book (which he brought to the meeting) on 'So-Called Dollars', which were dollar-sized tokens "of an exposition, commemorative, monetary, and kindred nature"- like state fairs. These are all cataloged and given "H&K" numbers. The first one listed is the 1826 Erie Canal Completion Medal. Ironically one is coming up for auction with Heritage. They were struck in white metal and silver (much rarer). Three were struck in gold, like the one sold for \$200,000 in 2014 pictured here.



The H&K book listed medals up to the 1963 World's Fair in Seattle, then the authors died, and interest was lost in the medals. 10-15 years ago they were not often collected. The late RECC member Bill Weber had one of the best collections. Along came Jeff Shevlin, the "So-Called Dollar Guy", who started collecting and slabbing the medals, as well as updating the H&K book and printing his own collecting guide. There has been a significant rise in interest of these interesting medals, and Merle brought his examples from California fairs. His 1894 Mid-Winter Fair (San Francisco) medal featured a "Firth Wheel" (before becoming known as a Ferris Wheel). Merle also brought examples from the 1915 Panama Pacific Exposition held in San Francisco (a building still exists, as well as many sculptures which have since been scattered around the Bay Area); the 1915-1916 Panama California



Exposition; and the 1939 Golden Gate Exposition on Treasure Island. Merle also has several of the Wells Fargo 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary medals produced in 1902 for bank employees.



#### In Memorium

It is with sadness to report the passing of Jon Maria Marish, long time RECC member. She passed away in her sleep on the night of April 14. She was always supportive of the club and active in others. Our condolences go out to Edwin H and the rest of her friends and family.

## DRAWING WINNERS

Membership: Steve C, Dale C, Bob K, Jeff B, Rick S

50:50 pot of \$102 was split with Curtis S

Raffle: Bill C, Glen M (4 times!), Curtis S, Andy O, Bill R, Tiffany S, Jack H (twice), and Joe D

Gold Coin raffle: a 1/10 ounce gold coin was won by Mike B!

April Attendance: 50+

New Members: Ember B(951) David B(952J) and Aaron B(953J); Robert M (954J); and Andy B (955)—WELCOME!!!!

Guests: yes, several

Auction: 44 exciting items

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

## KIDS CORNER

April's meeting was attended by Robert M, Aaron B, and David B. It was a lively meeting discussing different ways of assembling type sets. Each received three high grade type coins from the grab box. In addition, Joe Mc C brought in a box of donated items which the juniors picked from.

In May we will look at foreign coin type collecting e.g., Europe, Euro coins, etc.

See you in May at 6:15- Rich

Volunteers for **refreshments** for May are **all of you** who did not bring something to share in April (that is most of us). Please bring a yummy dessert to share with the club- thanks!

The Redwood Empire Coin Club meets on the second Wednesday of each 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 p.m. sharp.

R.E.C.C.  
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## **UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS**

**May 6, 2018. Vallejo Numismatic Society 46th Annual Show.** Florence Douglas Senior Center, 333 Amador (between Georgia and Florida), Vallejo

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**July 28-29, 2018. Fremont Coin Club's 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Show.** Elk's Hall, 38991 Farwell Drive, Fremont

**September 15, 2018. 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Northern California Numismatic Seminar,** sponsored by NCNA. Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, 73 Marin Street at Capital, Vallejo. The theme is "Why Collect These", with speakers Scott E. Douglas from Acton, Canada; Dr. David S. Goya, San Mateo; Scott D. Griffin, Fairfield; and one more speaker TBA. Free parking and admission, plus door prizes!

**September 21-23, 2018. Coin Expo Santa Clara.** Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great American Parkway, Santa Clara

**October 20, 2018. Delta Coin Club's 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Coin Show.** Eagles Hall, 1492 Bourbon Street, Stockton

Check out our newsletter at: **[Redwoodempirecoinclub.com](http://Redwoodempirecoinclub.com)**  
Thanks for reading. Corrections? Additions? Questions? E-mail us at:  
[newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com](mailto:newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com). See you May 9— Charlie