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5850 Commerce Blvd, Suite 100
Rohnert Park, Ca. 94928

Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 72, Issue 6, Meeting #823. June 12, 2019

Next Meeting: July 10, 2019

JUNE NEWS

The June 2019 RECC meeting was mostly about Show & Tell, but we did talk about the exciting meeting planned for July. We will have our annual **Barbeque Dinner Night!** Vice President Mike M has already arranged with Lombardi's to provide **barbequed half chickens, potato salad, Bush's baked beans, tossed green salad, and rolls with butter!** ALL of this for only \$10, and no need to bring a side dish! We will have special hors d'oeuvres brought by Deena and Helmut J, as well as desserts from four volunteers. Can it get any better?

Well, after announcing the great barbecue coming up, President Merle announced the Topic for the July meeting: **COINS AND SUMMER.** And then there was silence in the room, as we all tried to figure out what that could mean. But think about it: what does summer mean to you? Time in the sun? There must be a number of coins with suns on them. Time at the beach? There must be a lot of coins from tropical islands/countries. How about travel? There are tons of coins with monuments, parks, places to see (think of state quarters, commemoratives, etc.). Use your imagination and bring in something (numismatic) that has a tie in to summer- talk about it- and get four free raffle tickets!



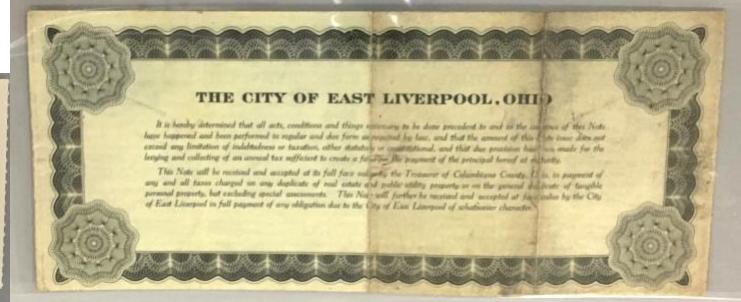
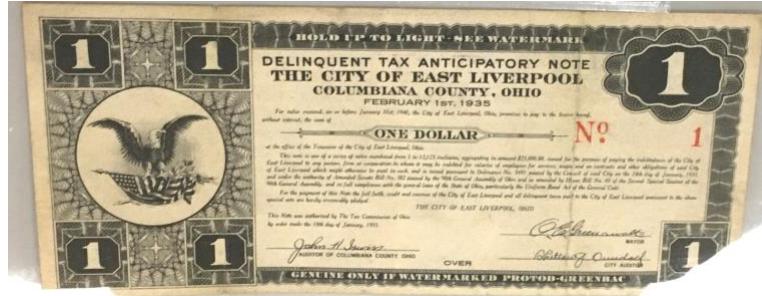
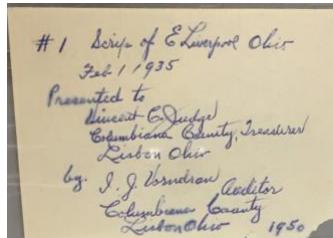
OBSOLETE COINS AND CURRENCY

Obsolete: 1. No longer in use or no longer useful; 2. Of a kind or style no longer current: old-fashioned. Merriam-Webster's definition confirms that most of Numismatics is about collecting obsolete items, though many of you also collect current items as well. There was an interesting variety brought in at the June meeting:

- Andy S started off with an August 20, 1849 State Bank at Morris (New Jersey) \$3 bill **payable to A. Smith.** He didn't say how long it took to find a note with his name on it....



- Joe M discussed the meaning of “obsolete”, with its varied definitions and topics. He discussed currency notes from the depression, when cities often did not have the cash to pay people and needed another method. He showed us a 1935 note from East Liverpool Ohio valued at \$1. Amazingly, it was *Number 1* of 12,125 notes issued. He also included a hand-written note verifying the provenance of the note. And he talked about ways to search for items on eBay, since they are not all listed in a standard way. This note had a less common listing, and Joe was able to buy it at a fraction of its value.



- Mike C had a stack of obsolete currency notes and showed some of them. Included were these two gold certificates. He also recently obtained some U.S. WW II notes from North Africa, silver certificates, and more—including the only small-sized red seal note.
- Joel M had a nice 1874 10 cent fractional currency note (below), with some very interesting marks on the reverse side. The photos are a bit wonky, as they were shot on an iPhone from an angle, trying to avoid the glare of the currency holders. Sorry about that.....



- Merle brought in his collection of proof three cent silver coins (all slabbed, of course). The series started in 1851, as a way (supposedly) to easily pay for three cent stamps. Proof issues (supposedly) began in 1858, but he has an 1857 proof (60 were made)! The only date he does not have is the 1869 9/8 issue—he has only seen it once at auction. His goal is to have a full set of Proof- 61 through Proof-66 in each year they were minted. In the days these coins were minted, you could send the U.S. Mint a nickel to purchase a proof coin; The mint would mail the coin, use a 1 cent stamp for postage, and keep 1 cent for profit. In 1873, all unsold silver coins were melted, so remaining mintages of these are all low, all at 1000 or usually much lower.

- Finally, Charlie C talked about the coin pictured here- a “Mercury Dime” found in Precita Park in San Francisco. It was on the surface of a well-trodden path, in plain sight but the same color as the earth path and easy to miss. It is one of several of my favorite obsolete coins. The 100th anniversary gold version of this coin designed by Adolph Weinman was beautiful, as was the gold version of his Walking Liberty Half Dollar. There was a quiz given for the club members, to see who knew the 6 lowest mintages (after the key 1916-D), as well as on several other aspects of the dime. In 1916 there was a competition held for new coin designs. The director of the mint thanked Chief Engraver Charles Barber for his entry (which was not chosen) and instructed him to assist winner Adolph Weinman with engraving the new dies, but Barber was a sore loser and refused. So Assistant engraver George Morgan (who designed the Morgan Dollar) helped instead. Who was the model? Elsie Stevens, the wife of poet Wallace Stevens. They rented an apartment from Adolph Weinman, a couple floors below him. Elsie was also likely the model for the Walking Liberty Half Dollar, as you may observe from an enlargement of that image, to the right.
- But it should not be called a Mercury dime, because it is not Mercury! Why? First, Mercury was a male god (and there were a number of female goddesses, like Athena, Goddess of War). Second, the cap on Liberty is tight fitting and without a brim. Mercury wore a hat with a brim called a petasos. Pictured here are a Roman coin and a sculpture with Mercury wearing a petasos.



Finally, the symbol on the reverse is called a fasces, Latin for ‘bundle’. The symbol dates back to the Etruscans, about 700 BC, and was used later by the Romans as a symbol of power of life or death. It consists of an executioner’s axe surrounded by a bundle of rods, tied with a red ribbon. In Roman times, the rods were about five feet long, and the higher the ranking of a person, the more rods in the bundle. The fasces was lowered as a gesture respect or salute in Rome. And its meaning: the power to kill mercifully with the axe, or to wish you were dead as you were beaten to death by the rods! The Romans really were a brutal society. The fasces symbol was adopted by Mussolini’s Fascist Party in Italy prior to WW II. Fortunately, the symbol has not kept its gruesome connotation in modern times and is used in several countries. But there was clearly symbolism with its use on the dime in 1916. It was a time that the U.S. was about to enter WW I. The branch wrapped around the fasces symbolized a desire for peace, surrounding a warning that we had the power of life or death in the threat of war. The other two new coin designs of 1916 also had patriotic symbols: the Standing Liberty Quarter has an olive branch for peace in her right hand, and a shield of protection in her left hand. The Walking Liberty Half Dollar features Liberty draped in the American Flag.



OOPS, I DID IT AGAIN.....

The topic of the May meeting was Numismatic Errors. I made an error of omission with the newsletter and forgot to include the two items Merle brought and talked about. The first is a ‘wooden nickel’ from Sambo’s Restaurant, which was on Farmers Lane in Santa Rosa. As you can see here, both the obverse and reverse were printed on the same side; the other side of this wood is blank!



Merle's other item was an encapsulation error. It has a token from the Post Exchange at Angel Island, and was mistakenly mislabeled as from the Post Exchange at Fort Miley (^{done by NGC...}). The token below is one of several that are from Fort Miley. Feel free to make corrections to the newsletter any time you note an error or omission.

(C1908) GOOD FOR 5¢
POST EXCHANGE
TOKEN XF 40
FORT MILEY, CALIFORNIA
3045763-015



NGC



DONATIONS

As you may know, the costs of operating the Coin Club over the last few years have increased greatly. Rather than raising Membership dues, the RECC Board has decided to seek donations. Many organizations, like the A.N.A., have done this successfully.

All donations are tax deductible within the limits of the law. Our club is a non-profit 501 (c) organization, and you will receive a tax receipt with each donation. We will also gratefully acknowledge each of you in the monthly newsletter. If you cannot afford a monetary donation but would like to donate Numismatic items instead, we may be holding a special auction of those items at our Club meetings. Please see any of our Board Members at the next meeting and they will be glad to accept your donation.

Thank you in advance for your generous donation and continued support!

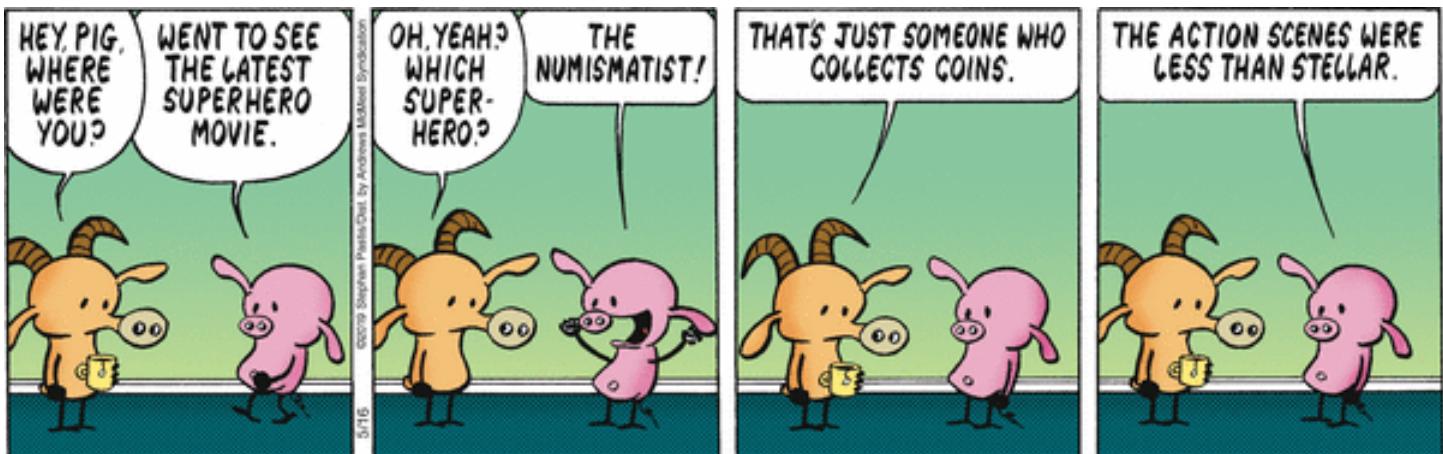
Many thanks for the following generous donations:

Michael S. Turrini, \$200

Ron S, four Barber Quarters

Bill R, \$500!

WOW! We greatly appreciate the support.



Thanks to Santa Rosa's own Stephan Pastis for this great cartoon.

GET WELL SOON!

Please send your thoughts and prayers to Georgia McK and Cal G. Georgia had surgery on one hand, then fell and broke the other; so, she was in casts on both hands for six weeks; she then needed more surgery on the first hand and is *finally* out of casts and getting better. Cal had an infection in a toe that required surgery, and now he is finally recovering too. They both hope to make the July barbecue dinner, and we hope to see them then.

DRAWING WINNERS

Membership: Bill S, Matt A, Jeff B, Bob K, and David A

50:50 pot of \$78 was split with Glen M

Raffle: Bill R (four times!), Loyal S, Bill S (twice), Dan C, Joel M, Glen M, and Matt A

Gold Coin raffle: 1/10 ounce American Eagle gold (value of \$151): Glen M

June Attendance: 45

New Members: Benjamin W, #976J-WELCOME!

Guests: yes

Auction: 28 exciting items

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

KIDS CORNER

Ember S-B led the kids meeting in June and will do so again in July- see you at 6PM!

Volunteers for **refreshments** for July are Glen M, Ed and Art M, and Tiffany and Bill S. In addition, Deanna and Helmut J will bring an hors d'oeuvre, hopefully their famous deviled eggs

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

July 27-28, 2019. Fremont Coin Club 46th Annual Show. Elk's Hall, 38991 Farwell Drive, Fremont

September 14, 2019. C.S.N.A. and N.C.N.A. Joint Numismatic Educational Forum. Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, 73 Marin Street at Capital, downtown Vallejo. Four speakers with the theme of "Transportation Items in Numismatics": Geoffrey Bell, New Brunswick Canada; Jeff Shevlin, Carson City Nevada; Kyle W. Lubke, Palo Alto CA; and Matthew M. Malvini, San Jose CA. FREE!

August 18, 2019. Fairfield Coin Club's 30th Annual Coin Show. Willow Room, Fairfield Community Center, 1000 East Kentucky off Pennsylvania, Fairfield

September 13-15, 2019. CoinExpo Santa Clara. Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara

Check out our newsletter at: **Redwoodempirecoinclub.com**

Thanks for reading. Corrections? Additions? Questions? E-mail us at:
newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com. See you July 10— Charlie