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

Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 73, Issue 8, Meeting #837, August 12, 2020

Next Meeting: September 9, 2020

SOCIAL DISTANCING, MEETING #5

I hope this newsletter still finds you in good health, one and all. Our July meeting was on-line via Zoom- once again- with 19 attendees. David D from the Diablo Numismatic Society joined as a guest (of Larry C, who could not attend- we missed ya).

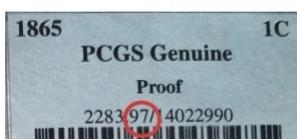
We have been formally re-approved by the IRS as a non-profit organization. Many have donated to the club over the years, which is greatly appreciated. We will continue to maintain that status.

Meetings for the foreseeable future will continue to be on-line. The Fairgrounds is alternately refunding and crediting our monthly rent costs of the Veterans Building. There have been no changes to the treasury balance, though some costs (mailing the newsletter and certain printing supplies) will still be generated. We are still in very good shape financially as a club.

Prior to the topic discussion, Ben W shared that he was recently given an uncirculated green seal \$2 bill.

We discussed the recent spike in gold and silver values (though it had dropped in the last day). Antique stores with coins on display often had them overpriced. But with the increased bullion value, and some of the stores having 25% sales, lots of those were being snapped up. In addition, a couple other items Helm J obtained this way were a \$10 gold certificate and a Daniel Boone commemorative (slabbed).

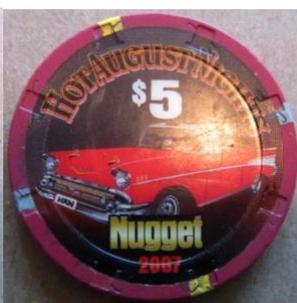
We continued the discussion about 'cleaning' coins, as well as about coins returned from PCGS as "Genuine". There is a code number listed on those genuine coins that do get slabbed. Merle shared this copy from an insert that comes from PCGS with those coins; the info is also available on-line at their website. Now you can determine for what reason PCGS designated a coin 'genuine' and did not give it a regular grade.



PCGS "GENUINE" COIN CODES WITH DESCRIPTIONS			
CODE	REASON	PRINTED DESC.	HOLDERED
82	Filed Rims	✓	✓
83	Peeling Lamination	✓	
84	Holed & Plugged	✓	✓
86	No Decision	✓	
90	Not Genuine	✓	
91	Questionable Color		✓
92	Cleaning		✓
93	Planchet Flaw		✓
94	Altered Surfaces		✓
95	Scratch		✓
96	Refund, No Service	✓	
97	Environmental Damage		✓
98	Damage	✓	✓
99	PVC Residue	✓	

TRANSPORTATION

- o Andy O started off the talk with his tale of going to Hot August Nights in Reno yearly from ~ 1997 to 2007, in his 1968 Le Mans (also pictured here). His brother lives in Reno, so he had a place to stay. These are various casino chips he has picked up over the years.





- o Bob A could not get his slide presentation to work, so he talked about his collections. He and his wife were both transportation workers (he worked for Caltrans), and there are lots of memorable items that were collected over the years. He has nearly 50 transit tokens for systems, bridges, and tunnels in the U.S. and Canada. He also has several medals honoring BART, the SF-Oakland Bay and Golden Gate Bridges, the new Carquinez (Alfred Zampa) Bridge, and the Mackinac Bridge in Michigan. He has medals honoring the Wright Brothers Flyer and the Air Mail First Flight. He mentioned the two Union Pacific Railroad tokens in aluminum, shown here. He has a number of automobile related medals, and a lone coin: the 1936 S San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge commemorative half dollar. Finally, Bob has a poster at home honoring the first Carquinez Bridge, which was opened in



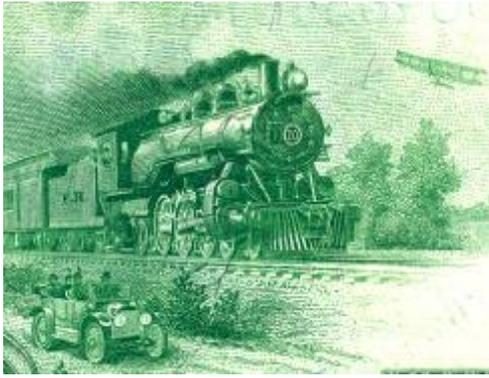
1927 on the day Lindbergh landed in Paris!

- o Ben W showed off the 1996 XXVI Olympiad Swimming Half Dollar from the Atlanta Games. It was a gift of his swim teacher!
- o Matt A showed this photo of a 1791 Liverpool halfpenny token, also known as a Conder Token. It features a three masted sailing ship on the obverse. The Latin inscription on the reverse translates to "God has bestowed these blessings on us". The edge of these tokens also has an inscription "Payable at the warehouse of Thomas Clark. XX". Nobody was quite sure about the birds in the Liverpool Coat of Arms on the reverse. Turns out to be a "lever bird", a mythical creature that is the symbol of the city of Liverpool. It is usually represented as a cormorant. And in its beak is a branch of laver seaweed, a pun on the name of the city. [The name Liverpool is derived from Old English *lifer*, meaning thick or muddy water, and *pol*, meaning pool or creek]. These halfpennies were 29.1mm in diameter, just under the size of our half dollar.



- o Erik S showed us his son Roman's favorite coin: a 1925 English gold sovereign featuring King George V on the obverse, and Pistrucci's famous design of St. George and the Dragon on the reverse. The coin he showed is raw, so it can be held in their hands; they also have a slabbed 1908 example.
- o Mike C showed us segments of his 1914 \$20 Federal Reserve note. Initially it looked like just a typical old large sized note. But looking more closely at the reverse, there are several modes of transportation in the design.





- Mike M inherited a number of items from his father, who was a 'train nut'. These two 1 ounce silver bars among them. The centennial of "The General", 1872-1972 is the subject of the first one (blank on the reverse). The Golden Gate Bridge is the subject of the second, among a series of "Wonders of America" produced by the Hamilton Mint.



- Helm J showed us a car wash token from Healdsburg, which he found in a Coin Star machine (the business no longer exists). And he showed a North Carolina quarter featuring the beginning of air travel. Finally, he showed a 1998 car racing coin from the Isle of Man.

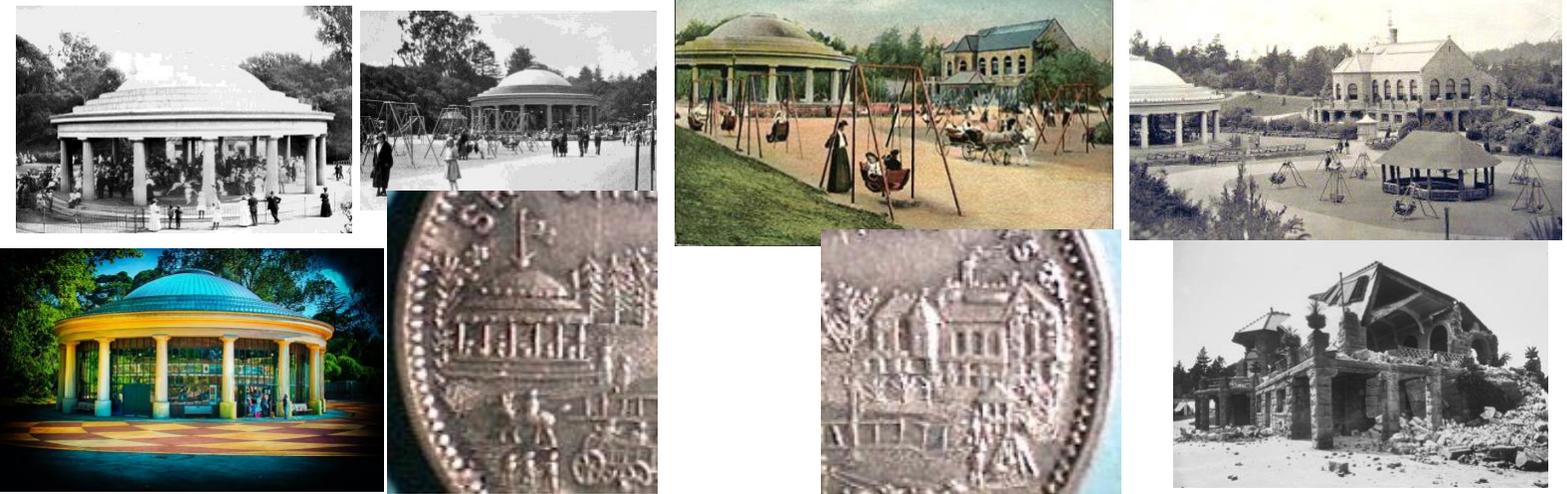


- Merle talked about these tokens featuring "Sharon's Quarters For Children", better known to us as the children's playground and carousel in Golden Gate Park. It is the oldest public playground in the United States. It was built with funds left by Senator William Sharon. Initially the \$50,000 was to build a large marble archway into the park (with the inscription "Golden Gate Park, Sharon 1884"), but public outcry led to better ideas. A large lake where the playground now stands was filled in, and a playground and lodge were built. Completion of the lodge was delayed because stone masons and materials were being diverted to build Stanford University- and Leland Stanford owned the railroad which carried the material. When completed, the lower floor of the lodge was used to store items for loan to playground patrons: six bicycles, six tricycles, six baby carriages, two donkeys, and three croquet sets. Three carousels have been housed in Golden Gate Park since the playground opened. The current carousel was built in 1914 and operated at amusement parks in Los Angeles and Portland before being installed in Golden Gate Park in 1940 (after a stint at the World's Fair on



Treasure Island in 1939. The carousel was shut down for restoration in 1977 and reopened in 1984, with its 62 colorfully painted menagerie animals ready for a new generation of riders.

There were four different tokens from Sharon's Quarters. The fourth one (not pictured) just had an additional counterstamp on it. They were first used January 1, 1892, when you could purchase two tokens for five cents. They were made of aluminum, so they are hard to obtain in good condition. The tokens shown above are shown from the oldest to the newest varieties, with variations in the shape of the carousel dome. We also found some historic photos (and a postcard) showing the buildings, including the damage to the lodge after the 1906 earthquake.



- Finally, Charlie C (that's me!) talked about ships on coins, over the years. The fun part about this was looking at the coins again and deciphering ancient inscriptions. The first is a di-shekel of 330 BC from the city of Byblos in Phoenicia, an ancient civilization famed for its seafaring. The inscription is only partly visible on this coin, and is in Phoenician- which is very similar to Aramaic and Nabatean, which is why many experts can still read it. It says AYNEL MLK GBL (in Phoenician)= Aynel King of Gebal (Byblos). He was the last of the Phoenician kings, because Alexander the Great conquered the region during his reign. It features a lion attacking a bull on the obverse. The reverse shows a hippocamp (half horse/half fish) below a ship carrying three hoplites: soldiers with shields.



Next is a coin of the Seleucid Empire, which was the 'eastern' half of Alexander the Great's territory (after he died). It covered parts of Greece, southern Turkey, the Levant, Syria, and all the way east to the Indus River in India. It was minted in Tyre, the main city of what was Phoenicia, in 169 or 168 BC by Antiochus IV (notorious for his role in the sacking of the Temple in Jerusalem and inciting a rebellion there). The inscription is in Greek and Phoenician, translating to "Of KING ANTIOCHUS/ [belonging to] Tyre, mother of the Sidonians". Sidon and Byblos are just north of Tyre on the Mediterranean coast. The prow of a ship is seen on the reverse.



This Roman denarius of Emperor Hadrian was minted between 119 and 122 AD. Roman coins often have long inscriptions, like the one on this coin: IMP CAESAR TRAIAN HADRIANUS AVG/PM TRP COS III. What does it mean? IMP= Imperator, supreme army commander; CAESAR (one rank below Imperator) TRIAN (Trajan) HADRIANUS (Hadrian) AUG (Augustus, supreme ruler). Caesar Trajan Hardian Augustus was his formal name once named emperor; PM= Pontifex Maximus, chief priest; TRP= Tribunicia Protestate, civil head of state; COS III= Consul III, for the third time. That is a lot of info and a lot of titles on one small dime-sized coin! And it has a galley on it, which is not surprising since Hadrian travelled during much of his rule, from England to Egypt.



This gold Angel coin of England's King Henry VII was minted between 1485 and 1509. Its value was 6 shilling 8 pence. The obverse features Archangel Michael and the Dragon (symbolizing the devil), a precursor to St. George and the dragon. St. Michael does have wings, so I suppose it counts for transportation. And there is a ship on the reverse. This was purchased long ago from club member Frank V- we sure miss you Frank!



Finally, this medal from the 1915 Panama Pacific Exposition in 1915. The obverse features Mercury holding open the gates of the canal. In his right hand is a caduceus, a symbol of commerce. [The medical symbol most people think of when they see this really is a staff or rod with a single snake entwined around it]. The ship sailing through the locks is the Argo, the mythical ship of Jason and the Argonauts. It symbolizes navigation.

SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 TOPIC: LABOR

Mike M worked hard to come up with this topic. Since **Labor Day** is in September, our topic next month will be in honor of **Labor**. Tell us about a numismatic item from **the year you started your first job**. An alternative is to tell about a numismatic item **you labored hard to get**. This should be fun and interesting!

Here is the info to attend via ZOOM:

Topic: Redwood Empire Coin Club
 Time: Sep 9, 2020 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85778674132?pwd=dWl4S0hNdmhwNk5VVBkYVg3M0d4dz09>

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Last minute Show & Tell: Guy S couldn't get his computer to work, so here are his two entries. First is a 1947 Canadian Dollar with two people in a canoe; and a 1950 Mexico 5 Peso "railroad".



1889-CC
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Check out our newsletter at: Redwoodempirecoinclub.com
Thanks for reading. Corrections? Additions? Questions? E-mail us at:
newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com. See you (hopefully!) September 9, 2020— Charlie

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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.