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5850 Commerce Blvd, Suite 100
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Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 73, Issue 1, Meeting #830, January 8, 2020

Next Meeting: February 12, 2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Happy New Year everybody! We went right back to business to start off the year. As soon as people began to arrive, we went to work putting labels and stamps on postcards to mail out for our upcoming show. With a big group effort, the task was done in time to start the regular meeting. Bob K went around the room to arrange for volunteers to help set up for the show and to clean up afterwards. Set up will be at 5pm Wednesday February 12- prior to our regular meeting. There will be pizza for all those who volunteered to help (after we are finished, of course)! Many thanks in advance.

Please turn in your Gold Coin Drawing tickets **to Merle** by noon Saturday February 15. They need to be checked in and registered to make sure everything is accounted for prior to the drawing. Merle discussed the challenge of getting dealers signed up for the show. We already have a good amount, but several others won't be able to make it due to illness, moving, and other issues. We expect more dealer sign-ups, and plan on having an excellent variety at the show.

FEBRUARY MEETING TOPIC

The topic for the February meeting is "**WHAT I AM LOOKING FOR AT THE COIN SHOW**". We do this every year for a reason. As a club, we all have various interests and areas of expertise. So, if you are looking for something specific, others may be able to help look, or even have what you want!

LOCAL NEWS

Andy S goes through bags of cents on a regular basis and has scanned about 17 *million* so far for key dates. In just the last week he found his first 1909-S VDB cent, in ~XF condition! He brought it in and showed it on the projector we use.

Bill C likes to buy rolls of half dollars to go through. He recently purchased two rolls. There was a silver half in one roll, and several in the other roll: two 1964 Kennedy halves, six Franklin halves, and a Washington Carver half!

Larry C's Diablo Numismatic Society had an October 2019 show. Our club purchased raffle tickets and won a slabbed silver American Eagle dollar coin! One lucky volunteer who helps with the set-up or take-down for our show will get that coin.

Bill G reminded us of two shows he organized. One is the East Bay Concord Show January 17-18 at the Clarion Hotel, and the other is the South Bay Sunnyvale Show March 13-14 at the Domain Hotel. When you go, remember that there is a Club Members Only coin drawing at each of the shows- don't forget to let them know you are there!

BEST NUMISMATIC ITEM OF 2019

- Dale C obtained his first "CC" silver dollar, an 1890-CC in ~XF.
- Guy S talked about two coins. One was a German 500-year commemorative from the Lee Gong benefit auction. Even though it had a pin soldered on the back, it was a nice coin, and the

silver alone was worth much more than his winning bid! He wore it to the meeting. His other favorite was the \$5 gold coin he won at last month's Gold raffle!

- Matt A obtained a beautiful PCGS-slabbed 1834 Half Dollar. It had excellent details when viewed with the projector.
- David Young likes half dollars and brought in an amazing pair: Kennedy and Franklin half dollars in P-68!
- Larry C made the purchase of the year. The U. S. Mint produced an American Eagle one ounce silver **enhanced** reverse proof coin. This enhanced reverse proof coin has the same frosted background as a reverse proof coin, but what sets it apart are the multiple polished and frosted finishes applied to different isolated design elements. The selective polishing and frosting dramatically enhances the visual impact of the design. With a mintage of only 30,000, he knew there would be high demand for the \$65.95 coin. He called in the first 15 minutes of sales and was fortunate to get one. This is one of the very key dates for the entire series, and they are now going for up to \$1200. Way to go Larry!



- Bob K showed us a 1941 Walking Liberty Half Dollar in P-66....that was not his. Roger N had bought it last year, and Bob just had to get one for himself. Show he then also showed us the 1941 Walker in P-66 that he did get! Both were beautiful coins- it was fun looking at the two side-by-side
- Jeff B showed us his "punched up" dollar, which was a real Morgan dollar with the obverse portrait literally punched up into a full 3-D coin. He was going to put it in the auction
- Mike M collects "Mercury" dimes, mostly in MS condition, but just had to show off a 1938 dime in P-64. It was easy to see the full split bands on the projected image



○ Merle brought in a few prized acquisitions from 2019. He has a number of Masonic pennies from the Sebastopol lodge. And he was able to find the die used to produce *all* the Sebastopol lodge pennies (there was only one die ever made)! In addition, he was able to obtain the only three known tokens from El Campo. What, you have never heard of El Campo? It is where Paradise Beach Park is on the East shore of the Tiburon Peninsula. It was established by the San Francisco & North Pacific Railroad in 1891 and attracted large crowds who arrived by ferry to enjoy its natural beauty and protected location. Amenities included a dance pavilion, bowling alley, row boats, and picnic tables. Two of the tokens are aluminum, the other is brass.

○ Merle also brought in tokens from the two Nevada County towns he was missing in his collection. One was from Gaston, a small mining town on the Gaston Ridge at an elevation of 5062'. Gold mining began there in 1856, and millions of dollars in gold was extracted by the early 1900s. The other was from Hills Flat, an unincorporated community 1/2 mile from Grass Valley.



Finally, Charlie C (that's me) did a PowerPoint presentation about his favorite find of 2019. In one auction lot of about 40 coins, a group of them were from the Lodz Ghetto of WW II Poland. Many would be hard to see with the overhead projector, so the PowerPoint images were easier to see. Lodz was the second largest city in Poland and was taken by the Nazi army in 1939. It was renamed Litzmannstadt after the German commander who captured Lodz in WWI- the Germans had to give it back to Poland after losing that war.

The Nazis then proceeded to move 160,000 Jewish citizens to a slum-like northern part of the city, surrounded the 1.5 square mile section with barbed wire, and sealed it off from the rest of the world. Lodz was the largest ghetto of WWII. With a population that size, manufacturing continued to be used for the German war effort. But initially there were schools, hospitals, and even a post office. And since most ghettos and concentration camps used their own scrip instead of money, it was developed for Lodz as well.

Lodz currency was printed in May 1940, but not distributed until July 1940 when the Reichsmark was banned. Lodz bills were in denominations of 50 pfennig to 50 marks. Even with a warning on the reverse about severe consequences if counterfeiting is tried, apparently it *was* tried inside the ghetto. But... all the bills had a special mark to guard against counterfeiting. Below are two and ten mark notes, with enlargements where a tiny dot was placed (to the right of M on 2 mark note, in the h on the 10 mark note).



As mentioned, there was a post office. But stamps cost 10 pfennig, and the smallest note was 50 pfennig. Cutting notes was not effective, so it was proposed to produce coins- and Lodz became the only camp in Nazi occupied Europe to produce coins. A few trial 5 pfennig pieces were made. The one here is a pattern in nickel- and is unlisted in all reference books (may be unique). Production was started on the 10 initial pfennig coin pictured here, but it was soon halted because: the '10' was too similar, the used of 'German oak leaves' next to the Star of David was unacceptable, as was the use of "ears of corn" on the reverse.



So, an entirely new design was created, and coins were finally produced in 10 pfennig as well as 5, 10, and 20 mark denominations. The 5 and 10 mark coins were produced in both magnesium and aluminum. It was

initially thought the magnesium came from downed aircraft. But the photo here shows what a downed aircraft looks like. It is part of a P-52 Mustang that crashed on Mt. Tam around WW II. It seems odd to think enough metal could be gathered to produce the numbers of tokens produced from wrecks like this. Later interviews with surviving ghetto members who were involved with the minting confirmed that metal for the coins was provided by the Germans.



Pictured here, the magnesium versions on the left column are much more corroded. Because of this and because most of those coins were used to help start fires in the Ghetto, far fewer exist. The 20 mark on the right was only made in aluminum. Only 700 were minted before the ghetto was closed, so it is the rarest of the regular series. And to help prevent counterfeiting, a tiny triangle was placed below the R in MARK on the obverse.

Only 870 Jews were found in Lodz when liberated by the Soviet army. Perhaps 10-20,000 others from the ghetto survived after being transferred to other work camps. All others perished. Most camp money was either burned, buried, or lost, so these few remaining samples are important reminders of what happened.



IN MEMORIUM

It is with sadness that we need to report the passing of Life Member #46 Bob Belleau, in late December. Bob was one of the regulars from Vallejo that came to our meeting. He also was past President of the Fairfield Coin Club and was active with the Vallejo Numismatic Society. Bob was a private person, but sure loved the company of fellow coin enthusiasts, and he will be missed by many.

For Sale: Proof American Silver Eagles in original US Mint packaging. Twenty coins dated 1986 to 2005, one of each date. Sold as a set, only \$785. Call Rich at 415-827-0045 if interested



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KIDS CORNER

We will have a short meeting after setting up for the coin show at 5. I will bring donated Lincoln cents which will be available only to juniors that show their collection or have a want list to add to their collection. Also will discuss getting ready to go to a coin show. See you about 6:30-Rich

DRAWING WINNERS

Membership: Dale C, Wendell B, Mike C, Derek W, Bill R
50:50 pot of \$86 was split with new member Ron C
Raffle: Bill S (three times), Tiffany S, Jerry St. G, Joe D (three times), Jack H, Kim S, and Roger N
Gold Coin raffle- 1/10 ounce American Gold Eagle won by Lucky Larry M
December Attendance: 50+
New Members: Ron C, #979- WELCOME
Guests: yes!
Auction: 43 exciting items
Adjournment was at 9:00 p.m. sharp!

Volunteers for **refreshments** for February are anyone willing to bring something to share. We will have snacks at the fairground after set-up, but I am sure there will still be an appetite for goodies during the meeting. Thanks!

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

January 17-18, 2020. East Bay Concord Coin Show. The Clarion Hotel, 1050 Burnett Ave, Concord

February 14-15, 2020. REDWOOD EMPIRE COIN CLUB'S 52nd Annual Coin Show. Finley Hall, Sonoma County Fairgrounds, Santa Rosa, CA

February 16, 2020. Cupertino Coin Club 48th Annual Coin Show. St. Joseph's Church Hall, 10110 N. De Anza Blvd, Cupertino

March 1, 2020. Livermore Valley Coin Club's 57th Annual Coin Show. Elk's Lodge, 940 Larkspur, Livermore

March 13-14, 2020. South Bay Sunnyvale Coin Show. The Domain Hotel, 10085 East El Camino Real, Sunnyvale

March 27-29, 2020. WESTS Token Show

May 3, 2020. Vallejo Numismatic Society 48th Annual Show. Florence Douglas Senior Center, 333 Amador (between Georgia and Florida), Vallejo

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

Thanks for reading. Corrections? Additions? Questions? E-mail us at: newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com. See you January 8, 2020— Charlie

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.