



Founded March 26, 1949

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

# Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 73, Issue 4, Meeting #834, May 13, 2020

Next Meeting: June 10, 2020

## ZOOM: SOCIAL DISTANCING, MEETING #2

I hope this newsletter still finds you in good health, one and all. Once again, the meeting for May was cancelled due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, and it may be a while before we can meet in person. For the first time ever, we had a virtual meeting on-line via Zoom, with 12 or 13 members attending. The meeting lasted an hour, was adjourned at 8 p.m. sharp by Merle, with plans to meet on-line again next month (invitation and instructions are below).

Zoom is a simple way for us to hold a meeting on-line. There are other platforms available, but this one was tried prior to the first meeting and things went well. All that is needed is a computer/laptop/tablet with a microphone and camera. A smart phone also works well with the Zoom App, though it does use a lot of battery life, so it is best to stay plugged in to a power source if you choose to meet by phone. Info for the next meeting and some instructions are later in this newsletter.

Merle had no business, other than the update on meeting cancellations.

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Mike M did have some business: **Red Books are available!** He will arrange a group order once again, so let him know **by May 26** if you want to get one. Prices are:

**2021 Red Book** spiral bound large print \$17.00

**2021 Red Book** spiral bound standard size print \$9.00 or Hardcover \$10.00

**2021 Mega Red Book** Perfectbound 30% larger \$28.00

**2021 Official Blue Book** Paperback \$10.00 or Hardcover \$12.00

He will be placing the book order on May 26th, so anybody who wants one can call his cell phone at (707) 318-7096 and **leave a voicemail message** telling him what you want and your contact information. He will deliver the books to anyone who lives along the 101 corridor between Healdsburg and San Rafael, and if you live outside that zone, you will have to pick it up in person once we can meet.

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### HOW YOU BECAME INTERESTED IN COIN COLLECTING

- \* Merle started off the discussions with a story of working at his dad's office at age 6 for 25 cents/hour, 40 hours a week. He then would buy \$6 in coins with each paycheck. He ended up buying his grandmother's coins and some from other family members. He then progressed to buying entire coin collections, keeping the best coin(s) and selling the rest.
- \* Mike M remembers at age 3-4 going to his grandmother's house in San Francisco 1-2 times a week and looking at coins. Aunts and uncles would also give him peace dollars- he was really impressed by their big size. Then in 1964 the Kennedy half dollars came out, and he had to get some of them. He doesn't know where any of those early coins went. When clad coins came out in 1965, he started saving silver coins found in circulation, and still has them.
- \* Matt A shared that his father was searching through bags of coins in the 1950s even before he was born. He would buy \$25 bags of wheat cents, and coins were laid around the house and "nobody could touch them!". As he got older, he joined his dad in searching through the rolls. The best find? His father found a 1909 S-VDB that graded PCGS XF 40!
- \* Rick W remembers as a kid when his aunt would come out from Minnesota to visit every September and would bring him silver dollars. He was fascinated by the size and beauty of them. Many years later, all

the silver dollars were stolen. Then in 2002, someone convinced him to invest \$10,000 in Morgan dollars, which he did and then just put them away- no further interest in coins. Fast forward to about 8 months ago, and he discovered eBay coins, and got hooked. A visit to a San Francisco coin show and others allowed him to not only see more coins but also meet collectors and dealers, leading to him joining our club. He loves our club! He loves the value and beauty of coins, tokens, currency, and the hobby.

- \* Larry C remembers his dad bringing back dollar coins from a casino slot machine. When he was 13, the main way to get coins was through the mail from Littleton Coin Company. In the early 1990s he went to a Diablo Numismatic Society show, which was an eye opener about dealers, coin clubs, certification. It has taken many years to learn grading details and value- he is now feeling much more confident in his abilities as a well-educated, passionate, serious collector.
- \* Benjamin W was rolling up cents to take to the bank to cash in, when he came across some Indian Head cents. He did not know what they were, asked his mom, who did not know about them. So, he called his dad, who remembered finding them some time ago. Since then, Ben started collecting coins, went to a coin shop and initially bought some Franklin half dollars. Then his grandmother visited and ended giving him a bunch of coins. Favorite coin is a 1922 Peace Dollar, representing peace after the end of World War I. He has also learned a lot from the coin club. All of this in just the last 1-1/2 years!
- \* Helm J was 13 when the KOA Campground opened in Petaluma. A local metal detecting club had a 'hunt' on the property, where one of the cow fields behind the KOA was 'peppered' with a lot of silver coins. He just watched the hunt. The next day he went back to the property with his Sears "Bounty Hunter" and ended up finding 230 Mercury dimes that had not been detected the previous day! In the 9<sup>th</sup> grade at Petaluma High School he could walk to Wells Fargo Bank, and he would get rolls to look through during lunch. Bills coins soon opened up in Petaluma, which kept his interest going.
- \* Deanna J would keep coins in her jewelry box as a kid. As a kid in the 1970s, anything from the 1940s seemed old and was kept. Her grandfather would give her clad Ike dollars, though she was always hoping to get one of the Bicentennial dollars. She still has that jewelry box and some of those coins, but now collects gold coins.
- \* John B got started collecting in 1948-9 while living in a foster home in Vallejo. As a way to get out, he would take what little money he had and walked up and down the stores on Tennessee Street, going through their change drawers and picking out more S minted coins (including S-VDBs!). Once a month he would go to his grandmother in San Francisco, who took him to a shop on Polk Street where he would sell his finds. With that money he would also buy rolls. The Lady in the SF shop was like a guru to him, teaching him a lot and helping with his collecting. He tended bar in Coddington Saddle and Sirloin in 1962, where they used to give out silver dollars in change (until 1964). Nobody really wanted the dollars because they were so heavy in the purse or pants pocket. He would go through the silver dollars and pull out the CCs and better dates. He would also get together with a delivery man at the time to get more coins. Over time he built up a good collection, and eventually bought a house with the proceeds of selling it. Now he helps his grandkids collect.
- \* Darren remembers when 8 years old and a neighbor giving him a 1921 Morgan Dollar. Then his dad would get \$10 in cents to search through. Darren found a 1909 S-VDB and a 1931 S that way. A trip to Yankton South Dakota to visit his grandfather resulted in a gift of a handful of silver Washington quarters, which he still has. If he had to sell his coins, he would still keep that first one, the 1921 Morgan dollar.
- \* Bob K remembers at age 4 when his grandmother moved in after her husband had passed away. She would buy rolls of cents at the bank, and he would go through them with her and fill up blue coin albums. Around the time he joined Boy Scouts he lost interest in coins, until 10 years ago. A buddy from church mentioned how much fun the club was, and he joined our club. He also had the ability to start collecting really nice gold coins. It has been fun going to shows with club members as well. He really enjoys the hobby.
- \* Helmut also shared three items, which we could see from his camera: a Lucky Lager token from San Francisco; a 'spinner' from the Rainier Ale Company, and a beautiful button from the PPIE (Panama Pacific International Exposition) in 1915

- \* Rich W e-mailed the following: “As a junior, I collected Lincoln cents and the common nickels and dimes in the “blue albums.” Then I stopped until 1993 when a fellow at work had a Morgan dollar he wanted to sell. \$9 seemed a bit much at the time but I really liked the appearance of this used 1882 O. That started the twenty year hunt for all 97 minus the 95 proof. Don Rinkor supplied the 93 S in VG 10. Next I went on to Barber quarters etc., etc. Add RECC along the way and it has been an outstanding experience. Particularly because of the friendships of fellow members.
- \* From Guy S: “ What got me into collecting was when my aunt Esther gave me a small box of foreign coins in 1952... I was hooked from there. I have now re-acquired most of them and have a small box of ‘originals’. My latest venture is an early Mexico Republic type set of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Republics, about 1830-1905. I already have the modern Mexico type set 1906-to date. It is all very historical and interesting.
- \* From Bob A: “When I was a youngster, my parents exemplified the benefits of hard honest work. They explained that they were youngsters during the Great Depression and learned to make the best with what they had. Living during those hard times involved taking care of and maintaining what you have. It also involved learning about what is valuable. One day my mother took me to our local bank to set up my own savings account. I soon started to deposit money (it wasn’t usually a lot) periodically into the account. Every now and then my parents would go to Reno to drive by the church where they were married and to stop in at a casino to “contribute a few bucks.” After they returned, my mother gave me a silver dollar that she had won. I had never seen a big coin like that before, and it’s made of silver!! Since one of my western heroes was the Lone Ranger, who shot the bad guys with his silver bullets and who rode a beautiful horse named Silver, I decided then to save the coin. I still have it. It is a Peace Dollar, the first coin in my collection. As I got older I started saving Kennedy half dollars because they had silver in them and also because I held President Kennedy in high esteem. I learned that most U.S. coins do not contain silver. I also learned to check the change that I got from the cafeteria where I worked. I was able to pick up a few Mercury Dimes that way. So that is how I got into collecting coins. I give my mom and the Lone Ranger full credit for steering me into the numismatic world.
- \* Frank V e-mailed images of three very Roman coins he obtained in the past year, all from the Prieur Collection- famous among specialty collectors of Roman coins.



To the left, one of three known examples of a variety of Emperor Septimius Severus.

To the right, the only two known examples of a variety of Emperor Caracalla!



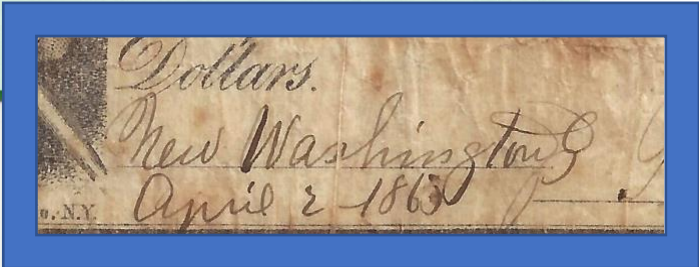
- \* Joe McC also e-mailed the image below, a recent acquisition from Heritage’s weekly U.S. Currency Internet Auction. It is an example of what can go wrong at the Grading Services. Can you spot/tell what is wrong? This obsolete note was issued by Peter Miller, whose signature is at the bottom right. It is listed as catalog # 1916-01 by author Wendell Wolka. The 3 cent note is from April 2, 1863 and has is serial # 309. It is in Very Fine 20 condition and there may be 5 known samples. Joe has met Mr. Wolka at a number of coin shows, and he has all the currency books Wolka has authored. So when Joe saw this at auction he was determined to purchase it- and he did! The “error” on the PCGS listing is not the

town of New Washington, which is correct. It is the state that is incorrect. Look closely at the enlargement here, and you should see an “O” after New Washington—the town is in Ohio, not Vermont.



Peter Miller  
New Washington, VT Wolka 1916-01  
3¢ April 2, 1863  
Serial #309

Very Fine  
**20**



\* Finally, Charlie C (that's me): my father grew up on a 600 acre ranch his father owned in Santa Barbara. Gophers were a problem for livestock, so my father got 5 cents for every gopher he would catch. When I was a kid, my dad gave me 8 or 10 very worn Liberty Head nickels that he had received- at least the date was still visible. I also got part of Indian Head cent and Lincoln cent collections he gathered from circulation. I kept the coins but lost interest in collecting until an adult here in Santa Rosa. Joining the RECC was a huge boost to my collecting interests. Frank V used to set up coins for sale at the meetings. One meeting he had two old English coins, groat (four pence) pieces of Henry VI and Henry VIII. They were reasonably priced, and I couldn't resist—and that is how I became interested in old English coins. And from there I figured, why not try to collect all of the eight Henry's. I wrote an article published July 2003 in the Numismatist entitled "Hammered Henrys", but it wasn't until last year when I finally purchased my eighth different Henry coin. First here is Henry I. He was hunting with his older brother King William II (both were sons of William the Conqueror) when big bro was 'accidentally shot' and killed. Henry happened to be nearby and was crowned within 3 days.



Henry II 'Short Cross' Penny	Henry III 'Long Cross' Penny	Henry IV Halfpence
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\* Henry II issued this next "Short Cross" penny to improve the quality of coinage. It worked well, because the next several rulers used the exact same design. A problem with the design was that people would

clip silver off the edges and save the clippings for extra bullion value. So, Henry III came out with the “Long Cross” coins. Henry IV had financial troubles, so he reduced the amount of silver in each coin.



Henry V Groat (four pence)  
London mint

Henry VI Groat  
Calais (France) mint

Henry VII Groat

Henry V was a soldier king with legendary energy. He had firm control over England and won back much territory in France that had been lost by prior kings. Unfortunately, he died young, and 11 month old Henry VI (and regents ) took over, losing most of the French land his father fought hard for- Calais was the lone French area still under English rule. Henry VII was the first to issue coins with a more realistic profile image like the one seen here. And Henry VIII had 6 wives.



Henry VIII groats, with portraits  
when young and older

## Jun 10, 2020 07:00 PM – our JUNE ZOOM MEETING

To Join Zoom Meeting- click on the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81177171520?pwd=Qm50MHcwdUs0VVdoM1FZbWhOZTlFdz09>

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Meeting ID: 811 7717 1520

Password: June2020

To join our meeting, you should simply click on the link above, either from your computer/tablet or even your smart phone. A box usually pops up saying “open zoom.us?”, just click on “yes”. The screen should give you a choice to [Join With Computer Audio](#), click on that bar. There may be a “Test Speaker and Microphone” option, which is good to do if you have not done this before, just to make sure they are working.

By the time we have the meeting in June, you may need to have the Zoom App on your computer or phone, because of increased security needs. They are easy to sign up for to get the free version.

Once you are ‘in the meeting’, make sure the video and audio tabs in the lower left corner of the screen are turned on. And you can see all the members by clicking on the “gallery view” in the upper right corner of your screen, or just watch who is talking by clicking on the “speaker view” tab there.

Finally, if you have photos to share, there is a “Share Screen” option where you can share what is on one of the screens of your computer (you will see choices). Just remember that we will all be able to see whatever you show, so if you have items on your desktop (for instance) that are sensitive, make sure they are not visible. I used the photos screen option so that I could show pictures directly. Holding coins up to the camera may or may not work but is always an option to try. Hope to see you in June!

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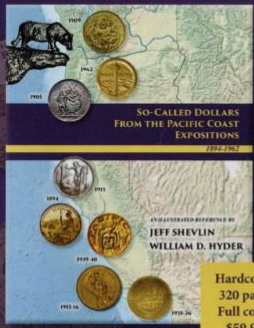
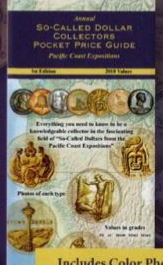
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 Thanks for reading. Corrections? Additions? Questions? E-mail us at:  
[newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com](mailto:newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com). See you on-line hopefully June 10, 2020— Charlie