



Founded March 26, 1949

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

Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 74, Issue 8, Meeting #849, August 11, 2021

Next Meeting: September 8, 2021

WE'RE BACK!

After over a year of meeting virtually, we were finally able to meet in person at the Veterans Building! We counted at least forty-four members and guests. The room is so big and spacious that all were able to sit well spaced and everyone kept masks on except when eating. Several members also set up tables for our Flea Market starting at 6PM. It was sooooo nice seeing familiar faces and catching up with each other. And yes, we talked about coins.

Mike M did a fabulous job arranging for all the food for our Barbeque night: chicken, green salad, homemade beans, potato salad, rolls- plenty for all. In addition, we had not just one but two cakes. The first one here is to celebrate our 70th Anniversary as a Club Member of the ANA. That will be formalized at the ANA Convention in Chicago this month, and a plaque will be mailed to the club. The second cake was to celebrate Charlie's birthday (that's me!). The actual date was last month, and the club sang 'Happy Birthday' over Zoom. But Zoom cannot synchronize everybody's audio, so hearing 16 people sing last month somewhat in tune but quite out of synch was.... entertaining. So, it was nice to hear 44 people sing it in unison. And both cakes were cut early for people to snack on until dinner was served shortly after the 7PM meeting start.

Merle mentioned that we had 16 monthly meetings on-line via Zoom and were apparently one of the first clubs to do so, soon followed by many others. Being able to successfully hold those meetings with a good turnout (as documented in the newsletter) was commented on by clubs as far away as Pennsylvania. Thanks to those of you who were able to attend via Zoom, and thanks to those of you who kept up with the club by reading the newsletter. As an experiment, a new webcam was tried on the laptop at the meeting to see how well we could capture some of the talks tonight. It appears to work well, so we will try to add Zoom capability to future in-person meetings for those of you unable to make it in person. It may take a bit of adjustment but hopefully we will get these hybrid meetings to work.



TALKS

There was no specific topic for the meeting, but it was nice that there were several members who shared coin stories.

- ◆ Phil A told a story of working years ago at a gas station. A man drove up in a hurry to get gas, gave him a bag of coins to pay for it. The coins did add up to the cost of the gas. And among them were an 1830 half dollar, a Morgan dollar, and five Mercury dimes! Phil exchanged those with his own money so he could add them to his collection.
- ◆ Guy S talked about having a box of coins given to him by an aunt when he was ten years old and remembering specific coins. Those were lost over the years, and he has been working on trying to find



examples of those specific coins. He showed an 1811 Mexican 1/2 Real coin he obtained from dealer Allan Berman- who has just about everything- for \$17! It was a very nice example. The coin at the left is an 1814 example from the internet. And

he found a proof 1951 British five-shilling coin with the famous St. George & the Dragon design by Pistrucci in Don Rinkor's 'junk box' for \$1.50. You don't have to spend a lot to get some nice coins!



- ◆ David B described how he went through lots of rolls of coins bought from a bank, along with his brother and mother. Occasionally there would be a slight bulge in the paper wrapper suggesting something different in the roll. From two boxes of cents, he found several 'wheaties' and some foreign coins, saying it was a lot of fun.
- ◆ Andy and Jack have been looking at rolls of coins for years, with a total of over \$20 million in face value examined. They have found a 1909-S VDB and a 1922 Plain cent, a 1916-D dime, and many other valuable coins over the years.
- ◆ Frank V e-mailed these images of love tokens made into jewelry. Most of us have seen individual love tokens. It is less common to see them made into jewelry like this, and they are sure interesting. And I would bet that he checked the dates of those Barber dimes (at least) to see if an 1894-S happened to be attached. Have you ever seen precious stones set into a love token like on the bracelet on the left? Very nice- thanks Frank!



- ◆ Merle had a nice story about tokens, of course. It started with an article by Q. David Bowers. The article is about the Cliff House in San Francisco. It was originally built in 1863 and later renovated. It was purchased in 1883 by Adolph Sutro, damaged when an abandoned schooner full of dynamite exploded in 1887 and destroyed in a fire in 1894. Sutro rebuilt it into a grand eight story building reopening in 1896. Sutro also owned the adjacent Sutro Baths and had a streetcar bringing hordes of people to the site. It was what was inside the Cliff House and Sutro Baths that Q David Bowers wrote about. There were several types of automatic musical instruments inside, including a very large Welte "Orchestrion" pictured here and two more in the baths. Sutro died in 1898, but the Cliff House and Baths continued to operate. Unfortunately, a fire in 1907 destroyed the Cliff House and all the instruments inside. A third Cliff House (the one still present today) was built by Sutro's daughter and other investors, opening in 1909. And it housed a museum with a collection of coin-operated pianos and orchestrions gathered in the early 20th century. The museum closed in 1965, and the entire collection was acquired by Bowers in the 1960s and distributed to various collectors and museums.

Pneumatic Concert Orchestrions

With Perforated Paper Rolls
Wonderful Imitations of Orchestras Used with Great Success in
Restaurants, Cafes, Candy Kitchens, Etc.



Orchestrion in the Dining Room of the Cliff House,
San Francisco, Cal.

The cases are of elegant Renaissance designs, richly carved and finished in polished quartered oak.

The instruments contain all the latest improvements, including the automatic rewinding of the music rolls and are of the best workmanship throughout. They will be furnished with a rickel-in-the-slot device if desired.

Welte Orchestrion at the Cliff House.

The Cliff House



◆ So, what about tokens? The Cliff House has nine different tokens known to have been made. Of those, five have only one known example. There is a dime-sized token that Merle has been trying to get for several years. It is the “good for” pictured



here, and it would play one of the coin-operated orchestrions at Sutro Baths- the one at the Cliff House apparently was not coin-operated. They were the equivalent of a big juke box at the time. Note the misspelling of Orchestrion. The token pictured here was bought by yours truly (me) at the last WESTS Token Show here in Santa Rosa before Merle could get *his* hands on it! It took Merle a few more years to find an example for himself. It has some fun details, including a horse-drawn cart and a person on a bicycle. Merle also

has the H&K Dollar featuring the Cliff House.

- ◆ Finally, Charlie C (me again) had an ancient coin dated 66/7 AD to show, and asked members to guess the portrait while being given some clues. The obverse (left) image features Aristobulus, King of Lesser Armenia. The reverse (right) features the (in)famous Salome. Sometime around 25-29 AD she was asked by her mother to dance at the birthday party of her stepfather Herod Antipas- *the* Herod mentioned in the bible during the lifetime of Jesus. Salome’s dance charmed Antipas, and she was granted “whatever you ask me, I will give you- up to half my kingdom”. On the advice of her mother, she asked for the head of John the Baptist, as told in Matthew 14 and Mark 6. This is the *only* coin minted with her portrait. She may have been a beauty and a good dancer, but the portrait is not flattering. Of course, she was likely a teen at the time this happened. She went on to marry her great uncle Philip (the son of Herod the Great), but he died. So she later married her cousin Aristobulus, the great grandson of Herod the Great- and had three children with him. This coin was minted in the 13th year of his reign which is 66/7 AD. So, her portrait is from a date considerably after the time of John the Baptist.



This is also a good example of one of the countless people who were real, not just an old story- and are depicted on coins. Cleopatra is another good example. There are several ancient Egyptian coins that feature her profile. And they are not particularly flattering, but probably depict her well. Coins often feature the only known portraits of ancient kings and queens, and it sure is fun to hold that piece of history in your hand.

Many thanks to Paul C for donating two items to the club: a slabbed quarter from the America the Beautiful series, and a slabbed 1942-S Full Bands Mercury Dime- thanks!



If you do not have a lanyard with your name badge, please send an e-mail to: newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com
We will try to have one ready for you at the next meeting.



For Sale: 2011 25th Anniversary Silver Eagle (5 sets) in original unopened box from the U.S. Mint. Ready to send for MS grading to PCGS for "First Strike" or NGC for "Early Release" designation. **\$3,600.** Each set contains 2011-W Proof

Silver Eagle; 2011-W Uncirculated Silver Eagle; 2011 Bullion Silver Eagle (no mint mark); 2011-P Reverse Proof Silver Eagle; 2011-S Uncirculated Silver Eagle. The last two were only offered in this set. 99,882 sets sold out in 4-1/2 hours!

Also. One (1) 2011 25th Anniversary Silver Eagle set, pictured here. Proof coin has beautiful rose colored toning obverse & reverse. \$650.

Mike B. (707)318-3701, chevysack@sbcglobal.net



SEPTEMBER TOPIC AND MEETING

We will be meeting **in person** again for the September meeting. The topic: **"ANY NUMISMATIC ITEM YOU BOUGHT, SOLD, OR JUST WANT TO TALK ABOUT FROM THE PANDEMIC PERIOD"**. Bring in your item(s) and we will try to show them on the screen. Even better, you may send photos to the club at newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com, and they will be prepared for showing with our slide projector during the meeting.

In addition, we will try to also have the meeting **on-line via Zoom** for those of you unable to attend in person. It may take a bit of time to work out some kinks, but the test of a webcam in August worked well. It even gives you a chance to be in the membership drawing and future membership gold drawings even if you aren't there in person. Here are the details:

Time: Sep 8, 2021 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada). Join RECC Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86280593856?pwd=eGJTN1p6SWI3U0lrc1JlTVJhaEt4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 862 8059 3856

Passcode: 092021

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,86280593856#,,,,*092021# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcFJmA2BT>

A few covid cravings: Conder Token halfpennies from England, 1794 and 1795. Thomas Spence was a radical social reformer who kept getting thrown in jail. And he also sold books and minted tokens, often with political and sometimes nonsensical motifs. I sure can't afford U.S. cents from 1794-5 in this condition!



DRAWING WINNERS

Membership: Art M, Ron S, James A, Riley R, and Phil A

50:50 pot of \$104 was split with Dan C

Raffle: Andy O, Bill C, Celina M, Bob K, Matt A, Glenn M, Aaron B, Kim S (three times), and a few I missed

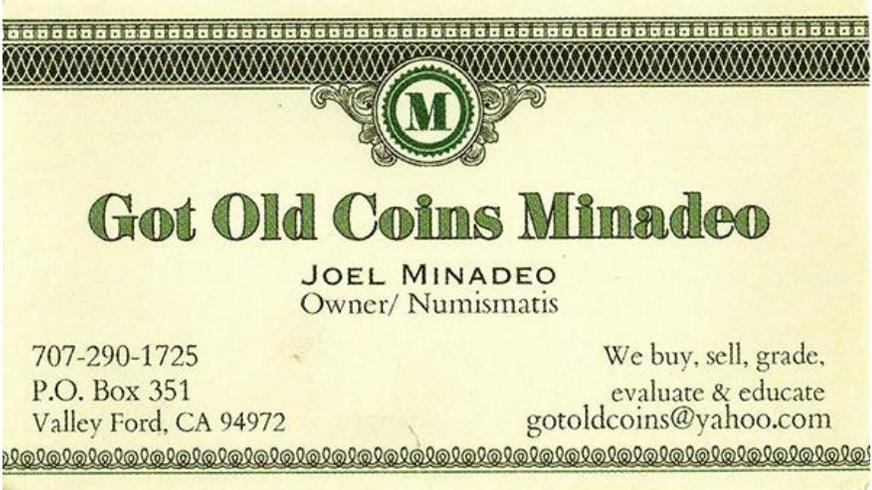
August Attendance: 44+

Guests: yes!

Auction: not this time

Goodies for next month: Art M, and anyone else who wants to bring something yummy

Adjournment was at 8:20 p.m. sharp!



The business card features a decorative border at the top with a repeating pattern and a central emblem containing the letter 'M'. The text is centered and reads:

Got Old Coins Minadeo
JOEL MINADEO
Owner/ Numismatis

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Valley Ford, CA 94972

We buy, sell, grade,
evaluate & educate
gotoldcoins@yahoo.com



The image shows a silver dollar coin in a clear plastic holder. The coin is a 1889-CC Morgan Silver Dollar, featuring the profile of Liberty. The holder's label includes the following information:

1889-CC
PCGS MS64+DMPL
The TexasCoins Collection
97191.64+/82122296

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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 **in person at the Vets Building** September 8, 2021— 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.