



Founded March 26, 1949

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

Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 75, Issue 2, Meeting #860, July 13, 2022

Next Meeting: August 17, 2022

PATRIOTIC COINS

We had lots to celebrate at the July RECC meeting. Several members returned for the first time since Covid broke out, including Tiffany S- who became Life Member #114. Congratulations! We also have a new member, Beverly S, #995, who joins her husband Erik S and kids Roman and Georgia in the club- Welcome!

Besides celebrating patriotic coins and our 4th of July holiday, the meeting was also a day before France's Bastille Day (celebrating the start of the French Revolution) as well Charlie C's birthday. Naturally there was cake and a rousing chorus of singing Happy Birthday- thanks to all!

We also had a weenie roast! A charcoal barbecue was set up outside the Veterans Building, with Jerry St G, Bob K, and Roger N doing the grilling. VP Mike M organized the entire affair and brought baked beans and potato & macaroni salads. A few of us had the same idea and all brought watermelon- nearly every bite was gone. And, of course, the cookies someone brought went fast. A "tip jar" was left at the auction table for anyone who wanted to chip in to help with the costs. Thanks again to Mike M for all the planning and hard work.



AUGUST CHANGE OF DATE

There is a change of date for the August meeting. Since the Sonoma County Fair runs the first two weeks of August, the Veterans Building will not be available for us. **Our August meeting will be the third Wednesday, August 17.** Our usual meeting room was not available that date, so **we will meet in the room on the opposite side of the Veterans Building** as well. We did meet there once several years ago for the same reason.

The **TOPIC** for the August meeting: **SUMMERTIME NUMISMATIC ITEMS!** Carnivals, fairs, baseball games, camping- all sorts of things happen in the summer. Bring in your numismatic item related to summer (or talk about one you know about) and get four free raffle tickets!

Before the talks about our topic, we had three other presentations. Bill C, a licensed mineral broker, brought in something to add to last month's talk on Morgan dollars. He mentioned the Carson City Mint, which was within twenty miles of silver mines and the mills on the Carson River. He brought in a chunk of the Comstock Lode to show us! The silver-grey rock was full of silver oxide, about 250-500 ounces of silver per ton of rock. The rock would be taken to the Carson River crushing mills, and then extracted using toxic metals like mercury. That silver ended up at the CC Mint.

Mike C was able to join us and mentioned going to an antique shop in Benicia that he frequents, and often gets a discount. Besides the usual overpriced coins, he spotted a 1917-S Buffalo nickel that seemed undegraded and ended buying it for \$40. He took it to a coin dealer in town and sold it to the dealer for \$175! That makes up for things he probably overpaid for in the past.



David G talked about his collection of challenge coins. Their history goes back to World War I pilots, who were usually a bunch of wealthy young men who were already pilots and went to Europe to join foreign air forces. They would produce medallions for their own unit and carry one with them. One pilot who was shot down over Germany and captured was wearing a flight suit and not a typical uniform. Showing his captors the medallion saved him from being shot as a spy. When a group who have been given a medallion are at a bar, one person can challenge the others to show their medallion. If someone does not have theirs, he owes everyone a drink. But if everyone does have their challenge coin, then the challenger has to buy the drinks. David does not remember challenge coins from when he was in the Navy in the 1960s. He finally was given one for the Military Order of the Purple Heart. And they have proliferated. He went on to discuss the various ones he has in his collection and donated one to the Club Auction.

PATRIOTIC COINS

- Phil A started off the topic with five patriotic coins he brought in (too late to photograph individually for showing on screen- they are pictured here together): 1) 1918 Illinois Centennial, obverse designed by George Morgan, reverse designed by JR Sinnock and taken from a statue based on the Illinois State Seal. 2) 1922 Grant Commemorative, obverse featuring U. S. Grant, reverse featured Point Pleasant House in Ohio where Grant was born; designed by Laura Gardin Fraser. 3) 1982 George Washington 250th Anniversary of his birth. 4) 1987 Constitution Bicentennial. 5) 1990 Eisenhower Centennial featuring dual portraits of Eisenhower on the obverse (as a general and as a president), and the reverse features his retirement home in Gettysburg.



- Rich W had three coins to show. The first was the 2007 George Washington Dollar coin with an error- no edge inscription. Apparently, the mint had difficulty for a few years getting the edge inscription onto coins, and eventually abandoned it altogether. Next was the Lewis and Clark bicentennial commemorative. There is still part of the Oregon Trail preserved in Oregon and beyond for people to visit. Finally, he brought in his two Jima Commemorative coin, with the famous image of the American Flag being planted on the island. The photograph was taken by civilian Associated Press (and San Francisco Chronicle) photographer Joe Rosenthal. Joe lived next door to Rich's aunt in San Francisco and signed the photo for Rich. Joe never made a cent from this famous photo.



- Guy S feels all our coins are patriotic since they all state "Liberty" in the motto. He brought three early American coins to show us. First is the 1785 Nova Constellatio, the first coin to have a "US" for United States. Next was his 1787 Fugio Cent, designed by Benjamin Franklin. Finally, he had a 1786 New Jersey cent, which had been privately struck. Just for fun Guy also had modern Gallery Mint reproductions of two of his coins.

- Mike C was in the Coast Guard, stationed in Alexandria Virginia (near Washington DC) in 1981. The annual picnic there featured the Master Chief Petty Officer, the top enlisted person in the Coast Guard. A half-dollar sized presentation piece was given to everyone there, and Mike brought in the one he got. Sorry I didn't get a photo of it. The 1926 Sesquicentennial commemorative featuring the 150th anniversary of signing the Declaration of Independence is one of Mike's favorites. It features the portraits of George Washington and Calvin Coolidge on the obverse, and the Liberty Bell on the reverse.



- When Bill H was eighteen, he was in Long Beach California to start a tour on the USS Hornet. He went into the USO there, was impressed, and tries to go into various USO shops when he can. He saw a proof 1991 USO commemorative and bought it- it means a great deal to him.

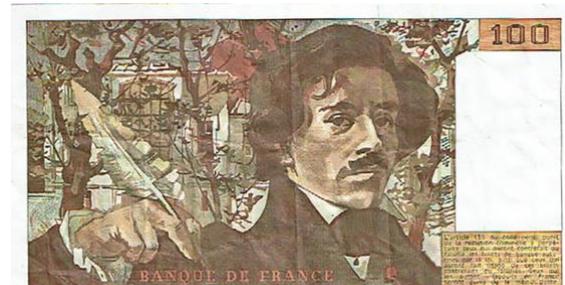


- Mike M likes this patriotic 1804 half cent. It has a nice early depiction of Liberty, and great details for an early American coin over 200 years old. Not much happened in 1804, but here are a few things: the Lewis and Clark Expedition departed May 14, 1804. On July 11, 1804 was the famous duel between Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton. Thomas Jefferson defeated Thomas Pinkney in the 1804 presidential election.

- Erik S talked about this MS-64 BN Fugio Cent. It has been recently reclassified by PCGS as the first Federally contracted coin, struck by James Jarvis. In February 1787 Congress authorized Benjamin Franklin's design for the cent, which had been used on the 1776 Continental Dollar. On the obverse, "Fugio" is Latin for "I fly". A sunburst, a sundial, and the motto "Mind Your Business" are all part of a pictogram meaning time flies, so mind your business and take care of your affairs. The reverse features a linked chain of thirteen links. There are several varieties of the central motto of "We Are One" and "United States". An estimated 298,577 were delivered to the U.S. Treasury. PCGS recognizes sixteen different varieties as well as six different restrikes.



- Merle brought in and described three medals. The first shown here is a gilt bronze medal commemorating the centennial of American Independence. It was struck in 1876 at the U.S. Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. The next piece was also struck at the same expo and features the famous painting of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It is a dollar sized coin, an H&K dollar. The third item is also an H&K dollar, this time from the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. It features the same painting of signing of the Declaration of Independence, while the reverse has a scene of Columbus "discovering" the New World as well as one of the Landing of the Pilgrims.



Gary C joined us from New Mexico via Zoom, but the computer screen froze midway through the meeting, and he would not have been able to share. He did send on this info about his choice for a patriotic item (pictured above). "Two days before the Club meeting I was doing inventory on my safe deposit box and ran across this note. The French excel at red-white-and-blue flag-waving patriotic imagery. The artist Eugene Delacroix was born in 1798, which means he came into the world nine years after the French Revolution and six years after Miss Liberty's debut on federal-issued U.S. coins. Delacroix was a teenager when Napoleon Bonaparte was in his prime. By the late 1820's, France had a monarchy again. The painting reproduced on the 100-Franc note represents not the French Revolution, but the July 1830 Revolution in Paris, which resulted in the deposition of King Charles X. For his own part, Delacroix stated that if he could not fight for his country, he could at least paint for his country. He was 32 years old at the time, and not fighting for his country turned out to be a smart idea, he lived to be 65. This image of Miss Liberty came along some 56 years before the French gifted a much more modestly clothed Statue of Liberty to the U.S. to stand in New York Harbor. Presumably, the heavier robes are needed because it gets cold out there on Liberty Island. A comment about her head gear: in the original painting (included above, ~ 8'X10' in size!) it was meant to be a red Phrygian Cap, symbolizing freedom. Now if you pull out a Standing Liberty Quarter, you may see what looks like a cute lock of hair hanging off the back of her head as she looks to the right. I think the designer, MacNeil, had the Phrygian Cap in mind. MacNeil also tried to reprise the "drop-top" version of Liberty in 1916 and 1917 but ended up dressing her in chain mail for subsequent issues from late 1917 to 1930. On the original painting by Delacroix, Miss Liberty's face is much more painterly, the lips are full and red, and the eyes are expressive. On the 100-Fr note, I am a bit disappointed that the face looks more like a stick figure - not what I would expect to see on a proud nation's currency. One more comment about French currency: I find it rather endearing that the notes come with a paragraph in a box about the unlawfulness of counterfeiting and a summary of Article 139 of the Penal Code.

- Finally, Charlie C showed what patriotic coins around the ancient world looked like. Each country or city-state had its own symbol and often its own god/goddess. They were proudly put on their coinage, which could be recognized around the ancient Greek world. The classic one most people recognize is from ancient Athens. Their Goddess Athena adorned the obverse, and the city emblem of an owl was on the reverse. This was recognized far and wide in the ancient Greek world and was even imitated as far away as the Arabian Peninsula. King Croesus of Lydia, on the western edge of modern Turkey, was the first ruler to produce coins separately in gold and silver. The mythological King Midas was likely modeled after Croesus, who was incredibly wealthy but not very smart or lucky. But his lion attacking a bull, as seen on this 1/12 gold stater and silver stater, were also widely



recognized. Thessaly, north of Athens, was famous for its horses. The locals put a horse on all their coins, either grazing or prancing, but easily recognized as from that one area. Likewise, the small island of Rhodes, also known as the Isle of Roses, had an image of a rose to identify their coins. The last three coins shown here are all Phoenician. But each from a different city which proudly showed its own symbols. First is the city of Arados, featuring both a stag and a bee. Far to the west, the Greek city of Ephesus had the same city symbols. Arados differentiated theirs by spelling out the name on their coins. The Phoenician city of Sidon was noted for its port and sailing prowess, so a Sidonian galley was often featured on their coins. And finally, the Phoenician city of Tyre featured its local deity Melqart on the obverse and the symbolic

eagle on the reverse- also recognizable far and wide. There were a many more areas in the ancient Greek world that were proud to show their patriotic symbols on coins.



ZOOM INFO FOR AUGUST: Aug 17, 2022 06:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88378168446?pwd=bnJkUHk4SkYyZ1JvaDgvZW04eTI5UT09>

Meeting ID: 883 7816 8446

Passcode: 082022

One tap mobile

+16694449171,,88378168446#,,,,*082022# US

+16699009128,,88378168446#,,,,*082022# US (San Jose)

DRAWING WINNERS

Membership: Joe M, David S, Frank B, Erik S, and Angelo C

50:50 pot of \$44 was split with Glenn M

Raffle: Phil A, Kim S (twice), Bill S (twice), Glenn M (twice), Gary C, Guy S, Bill C, Charlie C, Mike C

April Attendance: 38+

Guests: yes!

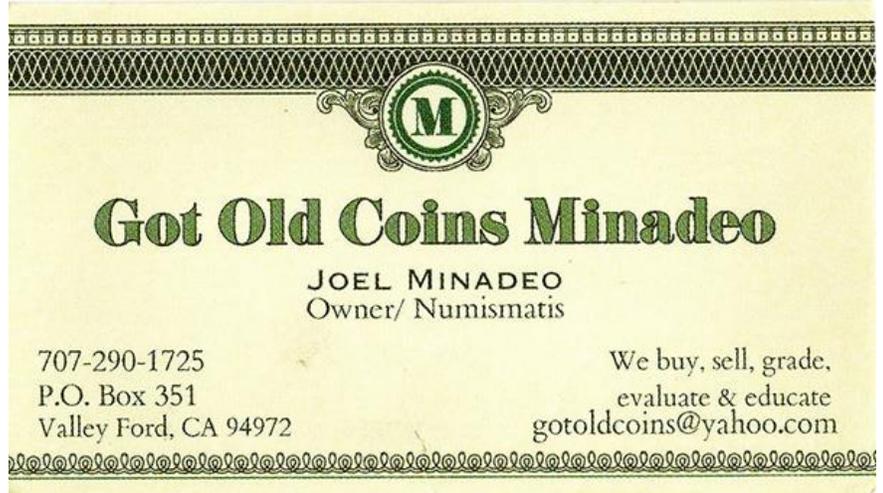
Auction: 46 exciting items.

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

Volunteers for goodies for August were Rich W and Guy S- thanks!

JUNIOR MEETING

There will be a junior meeting at 6:15 in August for Junior Members (adults are welcome too!). The subject will be patriotic coins for those who missed last month.
Rich



The business card features a decorative border at the top with a repeating pattern. In the center, there is a circular logo with a green background and a white 'M' inside, surrounded by ornate scrollwork. Below the logo, the text 'Got Old Coins Minadeo' is written in a large, bold, green serif font. Underneath, 'JOEL MINADEO' is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font, followed by 'Owner/ Numismatis' in an even smaller font. At the bottom left, the contact information is listed: '707-290-1725', 'P.O. Box 351', and 'Valley Ford, CA 94972'. At the bottom right, the services offered are listed: 'We buy, sell, grade, evaluate & educate' and the email address 'gotoldcoins@yahoo.com'. The card has a light yellow background.



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UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

August 21, 2022. Sacramento Coin Show. Lions Gate Hotel, 3410 Westover Street, McClellan/Sacramento

September 9-10, 2022. Coin Expo San Jose. DoubleTree Hotel, 2050 Gateway Blvd., San Jose

October 7-9, 2022. Contra Costa Coin and Collectibles Show. Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive, Walnut Creek

February 17-18, 2023. REDWOOD EMPIRE COIN CLUB's 53rd Annual Coin Show. E.L. Finley Building, Sonoma County Fairgrounds, 1350 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa

The Redwood Empire Coin Club meets in **August** on the **third** Wednesday of the month. The Club's meeting location is the **Veterans Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa** (opposite the County Fairgrounds across from Highway 12), at 7:00 p.m. sharp.

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** August 17, 2022—
Charlie