



Founded March 26, 1949

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

Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 75, Issue 2, Meeting #856, March 9, 2022

Next Meeting: April 13, 2022

LUCKY COINS

We had almost no business at the March RECC meeting. It was enjoyed by all since we were able to remove our masks- except those who remain unvaccinated. I don't even recall seeing one mask! Thanks to everyone who brought desserts—some were even green in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

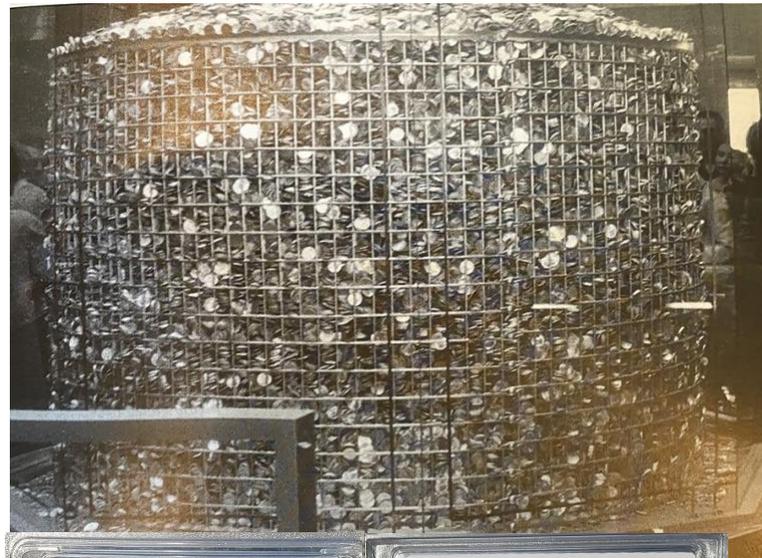
The only business was planning for the April meeting. It will be **CLUB APPRECIATION NIGHT!** We will provide **PIZZA for all** who attend! If you want to bring a salad or dessert to share, feel free- but it isn't necessary.

The topic next month, since it will be shortly after April Fools Day, will be **FAKES, FORGERIES, and BEING FOOLED!** Perhaps you were fooled into buying something that wasn't as advertised, and have tips to share? Or you have a story about a counterfeit coin/holder? Even reproductions or mislabeled items can be shown. Bring in your item(s), give a short talk, and get four free coin drawing tickets! If you want an image of your item shown up on the screen, just e-mail it to the club ahead of time- thanks!



Before the topic of the evening, Merle shared his search to find out what a pile of 1 million silver dollars looked like. The Seattle World's Fair in 1962 featured

a display of \$1million in silver dollars, sent by truckloads from the Philadelphia mint. The medal of the display shows a pyramid of coins. But after years of searching, Merle finally found this photo of the actual pile. You can see the shadow of people on the outer edges of the photo to get an idea how tall the stack was. The dollars were contained within a display of clear glass blocks. The dollars were available for sale at the fair individually or in a bag of 100 (for \$1500 including delivery). You just couldn't bring them home at the time- they were all shipped after the fair was over. There were over 200,000 Peace Dollars within the display, placed on the outside since they were newer and shiny. 1 million silver dollars stacked one on top of the other would reach a height of 8,800 feet. The Space Needle is 600 feet high for comparison. They weigh 30 tons! And if you lay them side by side, they would extend 23 miles! Merle also talked about the fair's Space Needle medal he recently acquired, in 24 carat gilt bronze. Only 22-75 were minted, and we do not know how many were sold (with the rest being destroyed).



LUCKY COINS AND CURRENCY

- Phil A started off the topic discussion with his lucky Panda collection. He has all the silver Panda coins from China except the first four years. He was lucky to get the newest one from 2022 in time for the meeting, and brought the brochure for the coins as well.



- Guy S was lucky to be in the right place at the right time when he first received coins as a gift from his aunt when he was ten years old, starting a life-long hobby. One coin he has always liked was the silver siglos denomination from ancient Persia. At one time he had forty of them!

- A year ago Tim F went on a fishing trip in San Diego. He brought twenty Morgan Dollars to give out to the crew of the fishing boat as a tip. A year later he went fishing again on the same boat. The only crew member still working on the boat was the cook, who remembered Tim. The cook became a collector after receiving that silver dollar as a tip and showed Tim a box full of his collected coins. A lucky dollar tip created a new numismatist!

- Deanna recently went metal detecting on her own (meaning no Helm around). She found 45 cents (half were Wheaties), and twelve silver dimes (three Mercury dimes)- the oldest a 1917-S dime! That was her lucky dime find.

- Bill H brought his lucky coin, a challenge coin from the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. He described how challenge coins were used, as mentioned at our prior meeting as well. It was given to him by a member of the Honolulu Coin Club- they reportedly have fun meetings.



- Joe McC brought two items he was lucky to purchase (and is very happy to own). They are 50 and 100 billion Mark notes from 1923 Germany, produced in a time of great inflation. And they are made of linen! These notes are known as Notgeld, and besides regular paper, they were made of silk, leather, porcelain, and other materials.



- Ember's lucky coin is a 1974-D Lincoln cent, from the year she graduated from high school. She is still in touch with all her high school friends, so it is her lucky penny to remember all her friends from back then.
- Rich W remembers a talk given by Charlie C (that's me!) about love tokens. They are coins with one side smoothed out and then specially engraved, usually for a loved one. At carnivals and fairs of days long past, often one could pay a vendor two dimes- the cost of a dime to engrave the second dime with your choice of

writing/initials. Some love tokens were enameled in different colors. Blue symbolized birth, black symbolized death, and red symbolized usually something romantic. One challenge for love token collectors is to find one with your own initials on it. It so happened that Charlie had one with RW initials engraved on it and sold it to Rich. Rich also showed us his “flipping coin”, a two-tailed Kennedy half dollar. He bought it at a coin shop in Chico, mainly because of how seamlessly the two sides were joined into a single coin. Finally Rich talked about a medal featuring Charles M Schultz. Rich starts off every day reading Peanuts. Even if not considered very funny, Schultz admitted that he just wanted to put a smile on peoples’ faces every day.



- Merle talked about a particular 1861 three cent silver coin in Proof-65 that he was interested in. He remembers talking with a friend about it before it came up for auction, and he was outbid. It turns out his friend was the winning bidder and gave it to Merle as a birthday present! That was lucky, and very nice of his friend. Merle gave us an image of his 1861 Proof-62 three cent coin- the Proof 65 must be incredible looking. The U.S. Mint produced 1000 proofs of each year, melting those that were not sold. Only 400 were sold in 1861, so 600 were melted! You could send a nickel to the mint, it would send you back a proof three cent piece, using a 1 cent stamp, and keeping 1 cent for profit.



- Finally, Charlie C talked about old stuff....again. This time it was not a coin, but something dating prior to the invention of coins (which was about 650 BC). Prior to coins, precious metal was used as a payment for some financial transactions. This was usually in the form of silver, and occasionally gold. Silver would be poured into flat bars and cut or hacked apart like a chocolate bar. These pieces were called 'hacksilber' and have been found throughout much of the ancient Greek world. The financial transaction involved weighing the silver on one side of a balance scale with a balance-weight or scale-weight on the other side. These scale weights were of standard amounts, specific to the region they came from. This was necessary because each region of the ancient world had its own weight standard. For instance, Athens maintained an attic standard (17.3 grams to a tetradrachm), while Egypt, Phoenicia, Judea, etc. had their own standard weight for commerce. Merchants doing international trade often kept scale weights of different regions with them for business transactions. Early scale weights dating from the 3rd-2nd millennium BC were often cupcake shaped, or even shaped like a grain of barley. Most were made of stone, and they had a flat bottom to prevent rolling off the pan of the scale. Weights from ~1500 BC to 800 BC were often in the shape of animals: many types looked like ducks, but there were birds, fish, frogs, cattle, sheep, scorpions, and even some in the shape of human heads (particularly from the Phoenicians). There are lots of these weights that have been found particularly

from the ancient Middle East, and their weight corresponds to the region they originated from. What I showed was this scale weight in the shape of a sphinx! It was one of three different-sized weights in an auction in Tel Aviv- and the nicest of the three. Because of the prices, it was the only one I could afford to bid on. In 25 years of collecting, it is the only time I had seen this kind of scale weight even available at auction. As with all antiquities exported from Israel, a certificate from the Israel Antiquities Authority was needed and was obtained prior to shipping the item to me. Once it arrived, I decided to take photographs of it. And when I looked at the image of the bottom of the weight, I noticed there was a faint inscription! Inscribed scale weights are extremely rare. I asked the world's expert on inscribed scale weights (Robert Deutsch) in Tel Aviv, and he confirmed it was truly one of them- and worth five times what I paid for it! It was surprising that in all the years it had been examined and in a collection in Israel, that it was not noticed. Good thing I have a good lens for taking photographs! He said the inscription probably says "5 shekels", based on the Egyptian/Ugaritic shekel weighing 9.12 grams (the sphinx weighs 46.5 grams- pretty close!). I was really lucky to be the winning bidder on this scale weight, and even luckier that it has an ancient inscription on it.



APRIL ZOOM INFO

The April meeting will be available on Zoom. Here is the info to join us:

Time: Apr 13, 2022 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82062610104?pwd=NXY0azhod0ZjdFFBYW5lWjJ5UXNRUT09>

Meeting ID: 820 6261 0104

Passcode: 042022

One tap mobile +16699009128,,82062610104#,,,,*042022# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 820 6261 0104

Passcode: 042022

DRAWING WINNERS

Membership: Bill Van V, Deanna J, Steve C, George C, and Bob K

50:50 pot of \$98 was split with Rick S

Raffle: Guy S (twice), Glenn M (thrice), Tim F, David Y, Bill Van V, Joe D, Bill H, George C, and Bill R

March Attendance: 46+

Guests: none

Auction: 34 exciting items.

Adjournment was at 8:41 p.m. sharp!

KIDS CORNER

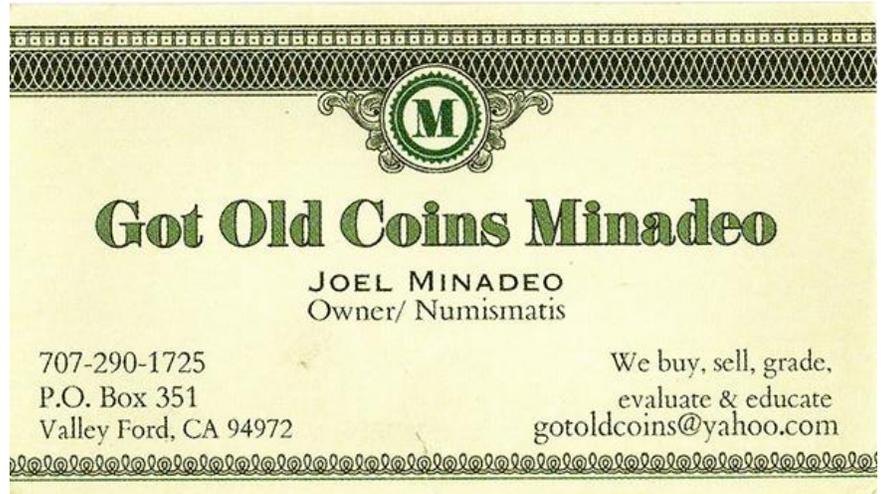
At the junior meeting Aaron and David found many Kennedy halves on Aaron's want list. David is near completing his collection of Eisenhower dollars then he wants to begin a Mercury dime collection. In April, I will set up a junior free table with new donations.

Free pizza and free coins at the same meeting! Life is good.

See you at 6:15 PM in April- Rich

Thanks Phil!

Phil A donated \$10 to the club at the meeting- thanks for the generosity, we appreciate it!



The business card features a decorative border at the top and bottom. At the top center 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. On the left side, the contact information is listed: '707-290-1725', 'P.O. Box 351', and 'Valley Ford, CA 94972'. On the right side, the services offered are listed: 'We buy, sell, grade, evaluate & educate' and the email address 'gotoldcoins@yahoo.com'.



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PIZZA NIGHT IN APRIL!

UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

April 8-10, 2022. Albuquerque Coin Club Spring Show. Marriott Pyramid Hotel, Albuquerque NM

May 6-7, 2022. Sacramento Valley Coin Club Spring Show. Four Points Sheraton, 4900
Duckhorn Dr, Sacramento

June 24-25, 2022. Concord Coin Show, Clarion Hotel, 1050 Burnett Avenue, Concord

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** April 13, 2022—
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.