



The Coin Courier

"Official Publication of the Baltimore Coin Club"

Baltimore Coin Club
P.O. BOX 43681
Baltimore, Maryland 21236

June- July 2005 Edition

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Courier Comments | Ernie Turnes |
| Calendar Events | <i>The Coin Courier</i> |
| Time for a Change Ernie Turnes is Stepping Down as President of BCC | Bill Stratemeyer |
| President's Message | Ernie Turnes |
| A Few Notes – June 16 | Ernie Turnes |
| Counterfeit or Alternated Morgan Silver Dollars | Al Johnbrier |
| The Red Planet | Don Curtis |
| Misstruck Coins and Error Pieces | The Official Red Book |

BALTIMORE COIN CLUB

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| President: | Ernie Turnes |
| Vice President: | Roland Shepard |
| Treasurer: | Don Kern |
| Secretary: | Bill Ayres |
| Editor, <i>The Coin Courier</i> | Nick Kurlick |

COURIER NOTES

Ernie Turnes

* You missed a good meeting if you weren't at the church on April 21. After a short business meeting, Tom had each club member explain his reasoning for his entry in the "\$10,000 Coin Portfolio" contest. Choices range from one coin to 20 different coins, in some cases with multiples of the coins chosen. Most selections were keys or semi-keys, but some selected late-date material. It will be fun to follow our progress. Entries total 22.

* The officers announced the contest prizes. First place will win a \$10 gold bullion coin; second place will get a \$5 gold bullion piece and third will receive a proof silver Eagle. We will track our progress as the year goes on and winners will be announced in April 2006.

* Also at the April 21 meeting Tom announced a few additions to our Program calendar.

May 19—Video, Civil War Gold (Republic shipwreck)

June 16—Al Johnbrier, Silver Dollars, Silver Dollar Roundtable, counterfeit and altered coins

September 15—David Godkin, foreign coins

* Remember that August 18 is Young Numismatists Night. Bring a young collector or potential collector that night. Our YN fund continues to grow but we need more young collectors to spend it on.

* The May 2, 2005 issue of *Coin World* carries an ad from a dealer who wants to buy proof sets and mint sets. "Paying Top Prices!", states the ad. He offers \$2 each for 1985 and 1987 proof sets (a little more than twice face—for proof coins). The price skyrockets for proof sets from 1971, 1972, 1982, and 1983— \$3 each. He also offers \$3 each for mint sets from 1971, 1972, 1979, 1980, 1984, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, and 1992. I know prices are a function of supply and demand, but "top prices"?

* Be on the lookout. An article in the April 25, 2005 issue of *Coin World* states that a New Jersey coin firm placed rare coins in circulation during National Coin Week (April 17-23). The occasion was the firm's 50th anniversary. The coins are all Lincoln cents--a 1955 Doubled Die Obverse, a 1914-D, three 1909-S, and 50 1909 VDB.

* As my wife and I left a new restaurant on Main Street in Bel Air the other day I looked down at the sidewalk and saw a Lincoln cent. When I picked it up (as I always do) and looked at the reverse I was surprised to see that it was a Wheat cent.

When I flipped it over again I was even more surprised, as it is dated 1920, not one from the 1940s or 1950s as you might expect. It is in Good condition. Not a great find, but not a bad one either. I put it in a 2x2 and documented the circumstances so my 2 year old grandson will know the story when he gets it.

If BCC members would rather receive their newsletter electronic, then send a message to the following address to enter in the data base: cybera@comcast.net

Stored in our BCC cabinets are fourteen silver metals and the dies.

Vice President – Roland Shepard has to step down due his work schedule.

BCC Members must elect a new President and Vice President in July

2005 Baltimore Coin Club Calendar of Events

| | | |
|----|-----------|--|
| 7 | July | Theme- The Bust (coin) that I like Best |
| 21 | July | Program |
| 4 | August | Theme- Nickel Night |
| 18 | August | Program Young Numismatist Night |
| 1 | September | Theme- My Latest Acquisition |
| 15 | September | Program |
| 6 | October | Theme- The Ugliest Coin/Piece in My Collection |
| 20 | October | Reunion Night (Colonial CC & Hanover Numismatic Society) |
| 3 | November | Theme- Paper Currency (US, foreign, scrip, etc.) |
| 17 | November | Program |
| 1 | December | Theme- My Best or Worst Buy from the US Mint |
| 15 | December | BCC Holiday Party |

Time for a Change Ernie Turnes is Stepping Down as President of BCC

Bill Stratemeyer

Ernie and Peg Turnes will be moving soon to Myrtle Beach South Carolina

You both are very special people and will be missed very much

Ernie Turnes served as:

1. BCC President two times
2. BCC Vice President
3. BCC Recording Secretary
4. Editor of the BCC Courier
5. Chaired many committees
6. Gave Presentations
7. BCC Ambassador – inviting many to our meetings
8. Special Friend

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ernie Turnes

Members of the Baltimore Coin Club,

At our May 5 meeting I mentioned that my days in the club are numbered as my wife and I have decided to move to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. At that time I said that I didn't know the time table but the schedule is now shaping up. We have sold our house in Forest Hill and will go to settlement on July 29. A few days afterward we will move into an apartment in Myrtle Beach as our house is being built.

While we both look forward to being close to the beach and in a warmer climate in a new home, the most difficult part of our decision was the part about leaving friends. For me that certainly includes you. I have always enjoyed the club and being in the company of club members. For me, and I hope for you, the meetings have always been fun. We have a great organization and I'm sure that it will only continue to improve as time passes.

With this farewell I wish each of you only the best.

Sincerely,

Ernie Turnes

A FEW NOTES-JUNE 16

Ernie Turnes

A few notes from our June 16 meeting. It was an eventful night.

Not only will I be stepping down as President because of my move to South Carolina, our VP **Roland Shephard** will also be stepping aside--because of a change in his work schedule. This may be the only time in club history where the two top offices are vacated at about the same time. June 16 was Roland's last night with us. (Hopefully, **Jonathan** will continue to be able to attend.) July 7 will be my final meeting. (Thanks for your service, Roland.)

Walt Kitner has agreed to chair the Nominating Committee. Elections will probably be over by the time that this is printed. Thanks, Walt.

Bill Stratemeyer has agreed to be the club contact with the church--to reserve rooms, get equipment, etc.

BCC cast its ballot for ANA President, VP and Board of Governors.

Al Johnbrier gave an interesting presentation on the Silver Dollar Roundtable and counterfeit and altered coins, passing around several examples.

Tom Palmer presented an interim report on the status of our \$10,000 portfolio contest.

Correspondence included a letter from the wife of **Merle Hess**, long-time BCC and Hanover Numismatic Society member. Merle's health is failing. Keep him in your prayers.

Bob Ruby read a letter from the Hanover club inviting BCC members to their meeting/picnic in August.

Jose Garcia-Garcia is getting married in July. The club extended a warm "Congratulations!" (Along with the obligatory kidding).

Counterfeit or Alternated Morgan Silver Dollars Al Johnbrier

Discussed various counterfeit and alternated Morgan Silver Dollars, then he passed each around for the BCC members to examine. He had assortment of the different types of counterfeit and alternated Morgan silver dollars to include: 1883-O that was chemically treated, 1883-S that was whizzed (you could see the scratches), 1886-O that was a cast coin (it had a rough and grainy look), 1888-S that was polished (this coin had an nice shiny appearance and looked like an uncirculated coin from a distance), 1894-S that was another cast coin, 1898-S that was added mint mark, 1900-P that was chemically treated and had a silvery look almost proof-like (this could be passed as a high quality coin until inspected properly). Al mentioned other counterfeit Morgan dollars to include the 1889-CC in which the 'CC' was added to the plain Morgan and the 'C' to the right is a little larger. Then, we discussed the recent buy back by the some of the Grading Services for the micro 1886-O. Al is the current President of the National Silver Dollar Roundtable (NSDR) and he recommended that Morgan and other silver dollar enthusiasts should join NSDR. The membership is \$25. For more information and membership application contact: Joann Johnbrier, PO Boxes 913, Bowie, MD 20718-0913.

The Red Planet

By: Don Curtis

The Red Planet is about to be spectacular! This month and next, Earth is catching up with Mars in an encounter that will culminate in the closest approach between the two planets in recorded history.

The next time Mars may come this close is in 2287. Due to the way Jupiter's gravity tugs on Mars and perturbs its orbit, astronomers can only be certain that Mars has not come this close to Earth in the Last 5,000 years, but it may be as long as 60,000 years before it happens again.

The encounter will culminate on August 27th when Mars comes to within 34,649,589 miles of Earth and will be (next to the moon) the brightest object in the night sky. It will attain a magnitude of -2.9 and will appear 25.11 arc seconds wide. At a modest 75-power magnification.

By August 27, Mars will look as large as the full moon to the naked eye.

Mars will be easy to spot. At the beginning of August it will rise in the east at 10p.m. and reach its azimuth at about 3 a.m.

By the end of August when the two planets are closest, Mars will rise at nightfall and reach its highest point in the sky at 12:30a.m. That's pretty convenient to see something that no human being has seen in recorded history.

So, mark your calendar at the beginning of August to see Mars grow progressively brighter and brighter throughout the month.

Share this with your children and grandchildren.

NO ONE ALIVE TODAY WILL EVER SEE THIS AGAIN.

INFORMATION: MISSTRUCK COINS AND ERROR PIECES

The frequency of error and type coins have increased with the state quarter program since the US Mint issues five new designs each year on the reverse of the Washington Quarter. Provide the following information for the collector on misstruck coins and error pieces.

Excerpts are from **THE OFFICIAL RED BOOK**
A GUIDE BOOK OF UNITED STATES COINS
EDITED BY KENNETH BRESSETT

- 1. CLIPPED PLANCHET:** An incomplete coin missing 10-25% of the metal. Incomplete planchets result from accidents when the steel rods used to punch out blanks from the metal strip overlap a portion of the strip already punched. There are curved, straight, ragged, incomplete and elliptical clips.
- 2. MULTIPLE STRIKE:** Coin has additional image from being struck again off center. These minting errors occur when a finished coin goes back into the press and is struck again with the same dies. The presence or absence of a date will affect values.
- 3. BLANK or PLANCHET:** A blank of metal intended for coinage but not struck with dies. In the process of preparing blanks for coinage the pieces are first punched from a strip of metal and then milled to upset the rim.
- 4. DEFECTIVE DIE:** Coin shows raised metal from a large die crack, or small rim break. Generally, coins show evidence of light die cracks, polishing or very minor die damage are of little or no extra value.
- 5. OFF CENTER:** Coin has been struck out of collar and incorrectly centered with part of the design missing. These are misstruck coins that were made when the planchet did not enter the coinage press properly. Coins that are only struck slightly off center, with none of design missing are called Broadstrikes. Values are for coins with approximately 10-20% of design missing from obsolete type coins; 20-60% missing from modern coins.
- 6. BROADSTRIKE:** A coin that was struck outside of the retaining collar. When coins are struck without being contained in the collar die they spread out larger than a normal piece. All denominations have a plain edge.
- 7. LAMINATION:** A flaw with a fragment of metal peeled off the coin's surface. This defect occurs when a foreign substance such as gas oxides or dirt becomes trapped in the strip as it is rolled out to the proper thickness. Lamination flaws may be missing or still attached to the coin's surface.
- 8. BROCKAGE:** Mirror image of the design impressed on the opposite side of the same coin. These errors are caused when a struck coin remains on either die after striking, and impresses its image into the next blank planchet as it is struck, leaving a negative or mirror image. Coins with negative impressions on both sides are usually mutilated pieces made outside the mint by pressing coins together.
- 9. WRONG PLANCHET:** A coin struck on a planchet intended for another denomination or of the wrong metal. Examples of these are cents struck on dime planchets, nickels on cent planchets, or quarters on dime planchets.