



The Coin Courier

"Official Publication of the Baltimore Coin Club"

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

May 2007

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BALTIMORE COIN CLUB

President:	Walt Kitner
Vice President:	Larry Kuhn
Treasurer:	Joe Adam
Secretary:	Jose C. Garcia-Garcia
Editor, <i>The Coin Courier</i>	Nick Kurlick

COURIER COMMENTS

The Courier expresses the deep sorrow in the loss of our BCC member Bob Maxey, who recently passed away. BCC membership will miss his interest in coin designs and Morgan dollar varieties.

The Courier requests articles from members on experiences, information, and other interests. Courier appreciates any comments to information and material.

The Courier tips its hat to Jack Pyror for his generous donation of state quarter rolls to the BCC Young Numismatist program.

What You Missed

BCC Members presented various unique collectibles on non-numismatic theme night. There was a talk about Match-Box cars, a bullet collection, Bethlehem Steel memorabilia, stamps, and other interested collections. The Annual BCC dinner had our secretary Jose C. Garcia-Garcia and wife discuss Cuban paper currency.

On Thursday April 5, 2007 current President Walt Kitner of the Baltimore Coin Club presented Don Curtis with the past President's Metal and thanks him for a job well done.

Bill Stratemeyer

2007 Baltimore Coin Club Calendar of Events

5	April	Theme – My Favorite Copper Coin
19	April	
3	May	Theme – My Unusual Error Find
17	May	
7	June	Theme – My Favorite Type ½ Cent
21	June	
5	July	Theme – My Favorite Type 1 Cent
19	July	
2	August	Theme – My Favorite Type 3 Cent
16	August	Young Numismatist Night
6	September	Theme – My Favorite Type 5 Cent
20	September	
4	October	Theme – My Favorite Wooden Nickel



BCC Presidents Message

I can't believe it has been a year since I became president of the Baltimore Coin Club (BCC) for the 2nd time, and now it's time for me to step aside for our newly elected President Walt Kitner. I would like to thank Walt for volunteering for his second term as President. Walt was elected President of BCC back in the early 90's, before I even joined the club. I also want to congratulate the other elected officers for the upcoming year, Jose Garcia 1st term as club Secretary, Larry Kuhn for his 2nd term as club Vice President and Joe Adam for his 2nd term as club Treasurer. If you missed our clubs Banquette on April 15th, you missed another very good presentation on Cuba's Paper money by Jose. As in the past his presentation was top notch and very interesting. Jose also has his own web site www.CoinBrowser.com; which he has put a lot of time and effort into developing, I encourage everyone with internet access to check his site out. BCC is also going to be an honorary host club for the upcoming ANA Convention in Baltimore in 2008. A number of BCC members that are also Maryland State Numismatic Association (MSNA) members are already in the planning stages this convention and show. The first Baltimore, Washington Coin Show held downtown this year (March 07) was under new management, by the Whitman group. Whitman has agreed to pay BCC \$500.00 for manning the public registration for the three day show, as well as reimbursing each person his parking fee for helping out. I would like to thank Bill Stratemeyer and Patty Finner (ANA Board member) for working with Whitman on our behalf and for getting our compensation raised. Thanks to all the members that help out at the registration desk. In closing, I want to pledge my continued support of our club, in any way that I can.

Don Curtis
Last President Message

**Coin Show Baltimore Convention Center
November 10 thru 12, 2006**

enjoyed being involved with the Whitman Baltimore Coin and Currency Convention this year.

Here is a list of the Baltimore Coin Club volunteers.

1. Bill Ayres two days
2. Walt Kittner
3. John McConnell two days also helped set up on March 21th
4. Joe Adam
5. Ron Sheridan
6. Tom Palmer
7. Don Levin
8. Bill Lenz two days also helped set up on March 21th
9. Don Curtis Chairman on March 24th
10. Nick kurlick
11. Karl Keller
13. Larry Kuhn
14. Joe Burford & wife two days
15. Jose Garcia-Garcia & wife
16. Joe Mashinski
17. Frank Murphy Chairman on March 25th
18. Sandon Cohn
19. Bryce Doxzon
20. Fred Cook also helped set up on March 21th
21. Bill Stratemeyer Chairman on March 23rd also helped three days also helped set up on March 21th
 - a. Courtney Stratemeyer page on March 21th
 - b. Caity Stratemeyer page on March 21th

The Baltimore Coin Club will receive \$500.00 for manning the public registration desk, also will pay for parking for the volunteers.

Each BCC volunteer also received a souvenir currency sheet from the show.

Special Note!! Mr. David Crenshaw (General Manager of Whitman Coin and Collectibles) wants to thank the Baltimore Coin Club for a job well done.

If at all possible please consider helping at the next show.

Thank You,

Bill Stratemeyer

Information on Coin Club Themes

The first steel was produced at Sparrows Point in 1889 by the [Pennsylvania Steel Company](#). By the mid-20th century, Sparrows Point was the world's largest steel mill, stretching four miles from end to end and employing tens of thousands of workers. It used the traditional open-hearth steelmaking method to produce ingots, a labor- and energy-intensive process.

Purchased by [Bethlehem Steel](#) in 1916, the mill's steel ended up as girders in the [Golden Gate Bridge](#) and in cables for the [George Washington Bridge](#), and was a vital part of war production during [World War I](#) and [World War II](#). The mill was serviced by three railroads: the Western Maryland, Penn, and B&O.

By 1961 the mill was producing 672,000 tons of steel per year. But changes in the steel industry, including a rise in imports and a move toward the use of simpler oxygen furnaces and the recycling of scrap, led to a decline in the use of the Sparrows Point complex during the 1970s and 1980s. The Sparrows Point plant is now owned by [Mittal Steel](#) following its acquisition of [Bethlehem Steel](#) successor company [International Steel Group](#) in 2005.

The first issue of the Cuban peso was a series of banknotes in 1857. The currency continued to be issued only in paper form until 1915, when the first coins were issued. In 1959, when [Fidel Castro](#) took power, one peso equaled one USD. It lost value due to the U.S. [blockade](#) and the suspension of the sugar quota. This suspension was the principal economical force driving Cuba to seek out a new economic partner, the Soviet Union. When [the Soviet Union dissolved](#) in 1991, the peso lost much of its value and the exchange rate fell to 125 pesos to the USD. Recently, it has become more valuable, fluctuating between 23 and 25 pesos to the dollar. [Banknotes](#) in circulation are 1, 3, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 pesos.



Numismatic Information

Numismatics is the scientific study of [currency](#) and its [history](#) in all its varied forms. While **numismatists** are often characterized as students or collectors of [coins](#), the discipline also includes a much larger study of [payment](#) media used to resolve [debts](#) and the exchange of [goods](#). Lacking a structured [monetary system](#), people in the past as well as some today lived in a [barter](#) society and used locally found items of inherent or implied value. Early money used by primitive people is referred to as "Odd and Curious," but the use of other goods in [barter](#) exchange is excluded, even where used as a circulating [currency](#) (e.g., prison [cigarettes](#)). The [Kyrgyz](#) people used [horses](#) as the principal currency unit and gave small change in lambskins.^[1] The [lambskins](#) may be suitable for numismatic study, but the horse is not. Many objects have been used for centuries, such as [conch shells](#), [precious metals](#) and [gems](#).

On April 17 BCC Membership watched the remaining of Making U.S. Currency and Paper Money from the Modern Marvels on the History Channel.

We watched our old blue jeans being processed to become paper money. The blue jeans were bleached to lose their color and the cotton fibers were mixed with flax to generate the specialize paper for engraving the U.S. paper dollars. The paper bills consist of 79% cotton and 25% flax to create the U.S. currency. Cotton was used instead of wood pulp since cotton had larger fibers. U.S. paper currency has 'Water Mark', denomination strip, and random color in the paper as security measures against counterfeiters. The camera crew could not observe several processes such as the special coating on the paper that seals the surface for printing. The specialize paper is manufactured by one company, then the paper is shipped to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) for the BEP to print our paper money in sheets.

Below are just a few examples of U.S. paper currency.



Words From The Past - #13

By: Don Curtis

The Year was 1943

Excerpts from minutes of past Baltimore Coin Club meetings as written by the club Secretary Mr. Philip G. Straus:

February 4th, 1943 – the regular meeting of the club was held on this date, with 15 members present.

The banquet committee gave a preliminary report and recommended that the Annual Banquet be held at the Hotel Belvedere on Saturday, March 20th, 1943 at 6:30 P.M. Mr. Straus made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Williams that the report of the Banquet Committee be accepted and the price be \$2.00 per person (passed).

At the request of Mr. Cockey, the secretary read an exceedingly interesting and instructive paper entitled "Wartime Gold Output and Demand", written by Mr. Cockey, upon conclusion, a motion was made by Mr. McCormick and duly seconded by Mr. Lohrfink, requesting Mr. Cockey to submit his paper to "The Numismatist" for publication (Passed)

This being Past Presidents' night, the president opened the occasion with very humorous anecdotes pertaining to past regimes. He then introduced Mr. Williams, our 1st President, who gave a brief sketch of the founding of the club and also displayed a rare lot of early Baltimore Tokens. Mr. Duffield, our 2nd President then took the floor and confined his remarks to his diligent research relative to the "Metallic Issues from the Cook Mint in Annapolis" Our 3rd President and nationally known auctioneer, Mr. McCormick, entertained us with some interesting episodes which occurred during his administration and also exhibited an exquisite Proof Gold Set of the year 1888. Next came our 4th President Mr. Perlitz who mentioned numerous interesting and constructive things which took place during his term of office and finally our 6th President, Mr. Cook, not only displayed a number of coins from his collection, but unsuccessfully tried to explain the elaborate plaques which he designed, executed and presented to all of the preceding speakers.. Unfortunately Mr. Cockey and Mr. Stewart, our 5th and 7th Presents respectively, were unable to be present. Nerveless, a really beautiful plaque, the first of its kind, from the Cook mint in Annapolis was on hand for presentation to MR Stewart, but in his absence the secretary was asked to deliver it to him.

February 18th, 1943 – the regular meeting of the club was held on this date, with 19 members present.

The secretary announced that he had written to the Washington Numismatic Society, Western Maryland Coin Club, and the Numismatic Society of Frederick extending an invitation to all of their members to be present at our Annual Banquet. Mr. Duffield mentioned that he had written Mr. Cessna of the Western Maryland Coin Club to be our guest speaker on that occasion.

Mr. McCormick spoke regarding our financial status and laid stress on the fact that our income is insufficient in respect to our expenditures. Mr. Smythe there upon suggested that we hold only one meeting a month, but the consensus of opinion was that such a change would be inadvisable. A motion was made by Mr. Perlitz and duly seconded by Dr Schaefer that our next regular meeting that our By-Laws be amended changing the dues for active members from \$2.00 to \$3.00 per annum (Passed).

Mr. Cook read an excerpt from a Service Magazine and we were all delighted to learn that our fellow member, Captain R. W. Hungerford, U.S.N., has been awarded the "Legion of Merit" by President Roosevelt.

EDITOR'S CORNER

What is a volunteer in today's environment? Volunteer is a person who [voluntarily](#) undertakes or expresses a willingness to undertake a service: as one who renders a service. This is an appropriate definition for our BCC members who perform such duties as a club officers, set-up guys, prize guys, Bill guys – there are others with different names - , program guys, show registration people – there has been several spouses - and other club related activities. These volunteers have committed their time, energy, and money to assist with club activities; so that our club can remain as a social and technical gathering of common interested people to discuss our acquisitions, interest, information, errors, and other assorted collectible and numismatic media.

BCC has a historical record of its volunteer representation assisting at the various coin shows to maintain a stable financial basis for the club's treasury to acquire club prizes, assist with club social dinners, donations, and other club activities. The BCC requests that membership continue to support club activities and encourage your fellow member to assist with the different volunteer functions.

Stop the Presses! Copy boy where is that copy boy when you need him. Must insert this new flash – the BCC Newsletter Union has declared a strike and walked off the job for higher wages – this could delay the publishing of the next edition. Well, we have published the newsletter under various conditions. Wait a minute how can these volunteers declare a strike for increased wages. Time and negotiations will allow the workers to return to their positions to circulate the next BCC Newsletter.

This editor's theme has been servicing the BCC membership by allowing the members to present articles and information for circulation. Copy and repeat articles from other media and publications does not assist the club. People can always subscribe to those publications. The editor will review different publications and other numismatic material to provide a different point of view and generate discussions. The editor requests suggestions to incorporate into the newsletter with the only regret that we could more frequently publish the newsletter. If one seeks a quality newsletter, then subscribe to the multitude numismatic media who have professional writers and other resources to create periodicals, magazines, journals, etc. Allow the editor to paraphrase a famous quote – Ask not what your newsletter can do for you. But ask what you can do for your newsletter and club – we attempt to satisfy the majority.