

May 2010



The Coin Courier

"Official Publication of the Baltimore Coin Club"

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

Baltimore Coin Club 75th Anniversary Medal



CONTENTS

Calendar Events
President's Message
List of BCC Public Registration Volunteers at March Show
Numismatic Definitions
Baltimore's Numismatic Hall of Fame
Evolution of the Lincoln Cent Reverse
Words from the Past
Editorial Corner

The Coin Courier
Ken Finkenbinder
Bill Stratemeyer
The Coin Courier
Millard Hajek
Millard Hajek
Don Curtis
The Coin Courier

BALTIMORE COIN CLUB OFFICERS

President:	Ken Finkenbinder
Vice President:	Sandon Cohen
Treasurer:	Joe Adam
Secretary:	Paul Efford

2009 Baltimore Coin Club Notes and Calendar of Events

3	June	Theme:	My Favorite U.S. Coinage Series
17	June		
1	July	Theme:	Notgeld (paper or coins)
15	July		
5	August	Theme:	My Favorite Copper Series
19	August		Youth Numismatist Night
2	September	Theme:	My Favorite Maryland Stock Certificate
17	September		
7	October	Theme:	My Favorite Foreign Coinage Series
20	October		Reunion Night Dinner
4	November	Theme:	Flowing Hair and Bust coins
18	November		

President's Message

As I begin my second term as President of the Baltimore Coin Club, I wish to thank all you the members who have allowed me a second term as your President. I will continue to try my best to do my best for the club. As of this writing we have gotten past the Winter BANC and Whitman shows, both of which were a big success. As always I would like to thank Bill Stratameyer for organizing both. I also wish to thank all the Club members who Helped the sets-up and tearing down of the BANC show and those who helped with the Whitman registration. We will be doing shows again in June, please help where you are able. As you all know the money that is made at shows goes a long way to running this Club.

Our Banquet in March was well attended at Pappas' restaurant. Many thanks, to Bill Lentz for making this a big success.

The Club is still in need of a program and Y/N chairman. It is likely that again this year we will team up with Catonsville Coin Club for Y/N night in August. This was big success last year. Anyone who wishes to help in either area please let me know.

On January 5th this hobby lost one of it's long time supporter's in the person of Bill Ayres. Bill was active in all facets of Numismatics in the Maryland area, belonged to many Clubs and organizations for many years.(past President of this and other Organizations) He is said to have "Collected Collectors". Bill was a true Gentleman and will be missed by all.

We are saddened in the recent passing of Jack Pryor on 18 March 2010, who was very active in Numismatics and a past President of BCC and known for his interest in collecting 17 September items for that was his birthday.

Ken Finkenbinder
President Balto. Coin Club

Baltimore Coin Club
Public Registration Volunteers
March 4 thru 7 2010

I would like to thank of the BCC members that helped at the show.
Bill Stratemeyer

Bill Stratemeyer
Mark Humphry
Keith Connor
Ken Finkenbinder
Bill Lenz
Ed Craig
Karl Keller
Joe Burford
Margie Burford
Joe Adam
Jerry McConnell
Mike Maguire
Don Levin

Larry Goldman
Don Curtis
Sandon Cohen
Bryce Doxzon
Joe Mashinski
Todd Stratemeyer
Fred Cook
Nick Kurlick
Ron Sheridan
Tom Davis
Allan Jefferson
Gene Dixon
Frank Murphy

Numismatic Definitions

1) Replicas Are paper money and coins reproductions of famous and historical coins and paper money distributed for decades by marketing firms and souvenir vendors. Confederate paper money is a well known example that one can purchase at the various souvenir shops during your visit of the 'Civil War' battlefields and southern historical places.

2) Counterfeits Are forgeries of paper money and coins to deceive the public in the normal course of trade. Man has generated counterfeit currency since the initial commencement of printing and minting of money. Recently "numismatic" counterfeits have increased from various oversea foreign backed facilities. The individuals have become skilled in their craft deceiving collectors and dealers.

3) Alterations Are paper and coinage money that have been changed by addition, removal, or change of a design feature using such techniques as polishing, sandblasting, acid etching, toning, or plating of the surface of a genuine piece. One must thoroughly examine their 1937D Indian Head or Buffalo nickels to verify that the three legged animal is indeed authentic and has not been polished or modified to represent 'three legs'.

BALTIMORE'S NUMISMATIC HALL OF FAME

The numismatists represented on these cards have made a significant contribution recognized by their peers to the hobby of coin collecting. Each had amassed an outstanding collection of coins and or tokens that have been unequalled by others in our hobby. These *Legendary Numismatists* are the foundation of **THE BALTIMORE DYNASTY of NUMISMATICS!**

Note: These Numismatists are the selection of the writer. You may or may not agree, so if you have a candidate that you deem worthy, let's hear from you.

Mill Hajek

ROBERT GILMOR, JR. (1774-1848)

The man who put Baltimore on the numismatic map was **Robert Gilmor, Jr.**, a successful export merchant. Gilmor used his hard earned profits to collect paintings, autographs, minerals and coins. Not until 1838 would the first book on American coinage see publication, and 20 years later the first full-time coin dealer hung out his shingle in the U.S. He was probably the first American collector to attempt systematically to complete a set of U.S. coins by date (not by mint mark), for this mode of collecting did not become popular until after 1893. Gilmor bequeathed his collection to his nephew, Robert Gilmor, Jr. The nephew sold the collection privately in 1861.

MENDES ISRAEL COHEN (1796-1879)

Robert Gilmor's torch was taken up by **Colonel Mendes Israel Cohen**, a soldier and banker. Young Mendes was only 16 when he joined the army during the War of 1812, and was among the garrison at Fort Mc Henry who assured that the star spangled banner was still there to be seen by Francis Scott Key. Just when Colonel Cohen began collecting coins is uncertain, but it seems likely that he became a numismatist by 1835 when he returned from his world travels to reside in Baltimore. His collection was particularly rich in U.S. gold coins. In 1875 he decided to sell his collection and engaged America's leading coin dealer Edward Cogan to catalog the collection for auction.

WALDO NEWCOMER (1867-1934)

Starting after **T. Harrison Garrett**, but finishing before John Work Garrett, Baltimore banker and railroad executive Waldo Newcomer battled adversity to build nearly a complete American coin collection. He began collecting coins around the turn of the century, only to have his collection burgled in 1913 - by the electrician who installed his burglar alarm. Newcomer set about rebuilding his holdings with great energy and a seemingly bottomless checkbook, and in 1916, when the A.N.A. convention was held in Baltimore, he mounted a dazzling exhibition. In 1932, suffering from heart trouble, he decided to sell his collection to the leading coin dealer of the day, the colorful B. Max Mehl.

THE GARRETT FAMILY

T. Harrison Garrett (1849-1888), the scion of a family substantially involved in mercantile and railroad interests, had become a numismatist while an under-graduate at Princeton. By 1885, his collection was conceded to be second only to **Lorin Parmelee** of Boston. His collection passed on to his son **Robert** after a boating accident took his life in 1888. He added mainly current coins to the cabinet and eventually swapped the collection to his brother, diplomat **John Work Garrett** (1872-1942) who added to the family holdings. He died in 1942 and upon his widow's death in 1952, the superb coin collection was bequeathed to The Johns Hopkins university.

LOUIS ELIASBERG (1896-1976)

American banker and Numismatist, **Louis E. Eliasberg** kept busy in the hobby of numismatics by adding pieces to his collection that would eventually become the first complete collection of United States coinage by date and mint mark ever formed by anyone which none of his illustrious predecessors could attain. He became interested in coin collecting while recuperating in the hospital when a member of the Baltimore Coin Club took him some auction catalogs to help pass away the time. He was a Life Member of A.N.A. and eagerly displayed his collection to fellow club members who were in awe and some of his very scarce and expensive pieces.

FRANK G. DUFFIELD (1867 -1954)

A personal friend and associate of Dr. Heath, Founder of A.N.A., **Frank G. Duffield** was Editor and Business manager of the Numismatist for 27 years - 1915 to 1942. He also served as President of A.N.A. from 1914 to 1915. An avid token collector and Editor of books on tokens, he was very active in numismatic circles in Baltimore. He was revered as the most outstanding member of the Baltimore Coin club and held membership number 1 in that organization. In honoring Duffield's contribution to the token community, MD TAMS created a prestigious award, The Frank Duffield Award for Outstanding Service to the Society.

MELVIN FULD (1901-1987)

Melvin Fuld, a lifelong advocate of token and medal collecting, especially Civil War tokens along with his son George authored the republication of *U.S. Civil War Cards* and also collaborated on the publication of *Token Collector's Pages*. Melvin's favorite collecting area was calendar medals which appeared in ANA's Numismatist Token Collectors pages column. He had received many honors for his accomplishments including the Sandra Rae Mishler Exonumia Cataloging Award, 1972; the Krause Ambassador award, 1970; the Numismatic literary Guild Best Columnist award, 1971; TAMS Honorary Membership #3; the MD TAMS Honorary Life membership #1, 1979, among others.

GEORGE FULD

George Fuld, a lifelong advocate of token and medal collecting has been a 50-year member of the ANA. He served as president of the Society of Tokens, Medals and Obsolete Paper Money for two years in the early 1960's before it divided into the Token And Medal Society and the Society of Paper Money Collectors. He later served as editor of the *TAMS Journal* and has been honored with the A.N.A. Medal of Merit, five Heath Literary Awards, the Silver Medal of the Token And Medal society. Fuld has presented hundreds of programs at numismatic functions and is best known as one of the greatest collectors of numismatic literature and civil war tokens.

OSCAR H. DODSON (1905- 1996)

Dodson, a former naval Admiral, is a writer, lecturer, world traveler, history professor and a museum director. A lifelong student of numismatics, he was appointed by President Truman to the Annual Assay Commission in 1948. Admiral Dodson is the author of *Money Tells the Story* and has published articles on numismatics. He served for four years as president of A.N.A. and from 1959 to 1965, he was the Director of the National Bank of Detroit's Money Museum. In 1966 he was the director of the World Heritage Museum of the University of Illinois. He spent the majority of his naval career at sea and at each port of call, he broadened his numismatic knowledge. as well as his collection.

WALTER H. BREEN (1928-1993)

Breen was the President of the Foundation for the Gifted Child, Inc. and was founder and president of Numismatic Authenticators.

He was the author of U.S. Coins and Paper Money section under numismatics in the Encyclopedia Britannica; co-author of Penny Whimsy with Dr. W.H. Sheldon, Fantastic 1804 Dollar with messrs. Newman, Bressett and Glaser; U.S. Pattern, Experimental and Trail Pieces with Dr. Judd. Breen was associate editor, Standard Catalog of United States Coins, 18th and subsequent editions, and columnist of Bristles and Barbs in Coin World from 1963. He holds the Heath Literary award, 1952; and fifth prize, California Poet Laureateship, 1962.

JOHN B. HENRY (1909-1993)

John Burgess Henry recognized that Maryland needed a state-wide numismatic organization and founded the Maryland State Numismatic Association in 1972 and became its' first President. His collecting interests were Civil War tokens, large cents and old U.S. paper money. He donated his extensive cabinet to MSNA in 1984 with the charge that it for educational purposes and to display it at MSNA's annual convention. John was an antique collector and searched the outskirts of Maryland to add many treasures to his collection of antiques. He was awarded the Krause Publications Numismatic Ambassador honor in 1991.

A. VERNON TAYLOR (19XX-1985)

Vernon was instrumental in the founding of the Maryland Token And Medal society in 1979 and was the first editor of the ***MD TAMS Journal***. He held life memberships in MD TAMS, MSNA, ANA and was a member of the ANS. He was the recipient of the Bronze "Mishler Exonumia Catalog Award" for his book on the "Bonnie Blink Corn Husking Pennies" and authored an article "Medallic Art of Baltimore Sculptors Hans and Hans C. Schuler" which appeared in the ANA August 1985 Numismatist and was reprinted in pamphlet form. His specialty was the packers and pickers checks of Anne Arundel County. As an active speaker and exhibitor, he visited many coin clubs in Maryland.

***References:** The Civil War Token Society, Whitman: Coin Prices : United States Coin Collecting Supplies, Google Books, Coin Link Resources, Anchorage Coin Club Newsletter April 1994, Maryland Historical Society, Wikipedia the free encyclopedia, Nation Master*

For many of you, the names of some of these giants of numismatics are quite familiar. Our generation has seen the collections of the Garrett family and Louis Eliasberg sold at auction, breaking sales records at the time of the sale. Old-timers of the Baltimore Coin Club surely remember John B. Henry who spearheaded the founding of the Maryland State Numismatic Association. Some other prominent past members of the Baltimore Coin Club include Oscar Dodson and Frank Duffield who held membership number one. Maryland Tams members should remember Vernon Taylor who was instrumental in founding that Society and was the first editor of the ***Maryland Tams Journal*** and the Fuld's, George and Melvin both very prominent in the hobby for collecting tokens and in particular, Civil war tokens.

Do you have a candidate who should be included in the "***Baltimore's Numismatic Hall of Fame***"? **Let's hear from you!**

Millard Hajek

Evolution of the Lincoln Cent Reverse . . .

Lincoln Wheat Ears Reverse (1909-1958)

During its' lifetime, the Lincoln cent reverse has seen some modest changes. The first issue of the Lincoln cent "Wheat Ears" reverse occurred in 1909. During its' lifetime, the Lincoln cent reverse has seen some modest changes. The first issue of the Lincoln cent "Wheat Ears" reverse occurred in 1909 with the last issue in 1958.



To commemorate the One Hundredth Anniversary of the birth of Lincoln, the reverse design was changed in 2009. Four different designs were issued and their official designations are: Birthplace, Formative Years, Professional Life and Presidency.

Lincoln Memorial Reverse (1959-2008)



The reverse was redesigned in 1959 with the Lincoln Memorial replacing the Wheat Ears design until the last issue in 2008.

Lincoln Cent Shield Reverse 2010



The reverse of the cent was redesigned in 2010 with a shield as the focal point of the design.

Words from the Past - #19

By: Don Curtis

The Year was 1944

Excerpts from minutes of past Baltimore Coin Club meetings as written by the club
Secretary-Treasurer Mr. Plummer Wiley:

September 7, 1944 – *President Straus called the meeting to order at 8:15 PM with 23 members and 1 guest Mr. John K. Boyd, present.*

President Straus announced the death of Mr. Ezra C. Miller who passed away on August 26th, 1944.

Secretary Hutter reported on the ANA National convention in Chicago which he attended. He announced that we shall be asked to sponsor the 1945 National Convention in Baltimore. After a brief discussion, the Board of Governors agreed to study the matter thoroughly when the formal invitation is received and to report their findings to the Club. Mr. Hunter also asked that his resignation as Secretary-treasure be accepted as his business has called him back to Cumberland. His resignation was accepted with regrets and a rising vote of appreciation for his fine service in office was extended to him.

Mr. Plummer Wiley was thereupon elected Secretary-treasure to complete Mr. Hutter's term of office. Mr. Hutter turned over the Club's books to Mr. Wiley and also \$174.80 which was the amount on hand as per statement rendered.

September 21, 1944 – *President Straus called the meeting to order at 8 PM with 20 members present.*

Mr. Austin stated that interest in numismatics and in the Club could be promoted by always carrying a coin or two and discussing coins with friends whenever an occasion presented itself.

Mr. Schmidt, Chairman of the Program Committee, announced that Mr. Eliasberg has invited the Club to another exhibit of coins and notes from his collection at his office on November 16th.

President Straus reported on his correspondence with Mr. Martin F. Kortjohn, president of the ANA, concerning holding the 1945 National Convention in Baltimore. He announced that a Board of Governors meeting will be held on October 5th at 7 PM to fully discuss this matter.

Mr. Joseph P. Smyth presented a carefully prepared talk on "Silver Crowns of France". He reviewed Early History as it related to France and gave a remarkable dissertation of French History. His extensive exhibit of French Crowns was magnificent. Those present not only considered his talk and fine exhibit a real treat, but gave him a rising vote of appreciation.

October 5, 1944 – *The meeting was called to order at 8:15 PM by President Straus with 18 members and 1 guest, Dr. Edward W. Zelinski, present.*

Mr. Sheckells, Chairman of the Display Committee, announced that arrangements were being made for exhibits in the windows for the Baltimore Federal Savings and Loan Association, Liberty Federal Savings and Loan Association and Richardson, Incorporated and inside the lobby of the Union Trust Company.

A letter from the General Secretary of the ANA, dated September 16th, was read. This letter was in reply to our request to the ANA to have applicants for membership in this

area to be referred to our Club before final action be taken on them. The reply did not agree to notify in all cases, so the matter was considered closed as far as we are concerned.

Vice-President Smyth reported for the Board of Governors that the Board was making progress in securing data concerning the advisability of extending an invitation to the ANA to hold the National Convention in Baltimore in 1945. He stated that the Board was thoroughly investigating the matter and would bring their recommendation before the Club in the near future.

NOTE: *A letter dated October 10th was sent to Mr. Glenn R. Ostreder of the Chicago Coin Club asking specific questions about the 1944 ANA convention held in Chicago. The questions and answers received from Mr. in a letter dated October 24th, 1944 from Ostreder of the Chicago Coin Club are listed below:*

- 1. How many persons attended the 1944 Chicago Convention and how many attended the Banquet. Answer: We did not have a complete record of the attendance, 271 were present at the Banquet.*
- 2. How much was the Registration Fee and what activities did it include? Were badges sold separately? Answer: Registration was \$4.50 and included banquet, badge, ladies entertainment, and men's smoker. Those who did not wish to attend the banquet paid \$2.00 registration and received badge which entitled them to all activities except the banquet.*
- 3. How many Anniversary Medal's were sold and the selling price of the same? Did their sale result in a profit? Answer: Medals sold at the convention, approximately 100 at \$2.50 each. The medal cost was over \$2.00 each to produce.*
- 4. Who held the Auction and how much did the Chicago Coin Club receive for the privilege? Answer: The Club ran the auction and realized approximately \$100.00 profit – better to sell this privilege.*
- 5. What were the rates for advertisement in the Official Program? Full Page, Half Page, Quarter Page, Inside Cover and Outside Cover? Answer: Advertising rates were \$20.00 per page, \$10.00 half, \$5.00 quarter, outside back \$40.00 and inside back \$30.00. Incidentally these prices were entirely too high, should be cut in half – many advertisers complained.*
- 6. What were the charges for exhibition cases and from whom were the cases obtained? Answer: No charge for exhibition cases. These are owned by ANA and shipped to whatever city holds convention.*
- 7. Was there a Bourse and, if so, how much was the cost for the booth? Answer: Yes, the Bourse tables were sold at \$10.00 per table*
- 8. What policing and insurance were provided and what was the cost? Answer: Policing cost \$30.00 (2 days), Insurance on \$50,000 – 2 days \$25.00, no maximum specified for any one exhibit.*
- 9. Did the convention result in a profit or loss to the Chicago Coin Club and did the ANA contribute toward the expenses? Answer: Convention expenses was wholly on the shoulders of the Coin Club, nothing contributed by ANA, a moderate profit was realized.*

NOTE: *At the November 2nd, 1944 meeting, Mr. Smyth reported for the Board of Governors that, the accumulation of considerable data and an exhaustive study of the same, the Board recommended that it would be inadvisable for the Club to extend an invitation to the ANA to hold the National Convention in Baltimore in 1945.*

EDITORIAL CORNER

Recently the Baltimore Coin Club (BCC) membership had a few discussions on concepts to increase meeting attendance and entice new people for membership. BCC has deviated from its once renowned status as an educational club serving paper money, coin, and exonomia enthusiasts. This is not unusual for such issues encounter by clubs through-out the nation since members move and membership decrease by 'natural causes'. Even though, BCC membership discussed such ideas as an organized auction list that would be distributed weeks before the BCC meeting. There really is no single solution that would increase membership and meeting attendance. Most people might enjoy a club auction, but it is rather unusual for most numismatists to assemble any type of material for an auction since they do not have great volumes of items or any kind of inventory to submit.

Thus, the BCC Newsletter would like the membership to respond to the following questionnaire that would entice you to not only attend more meetings and become very active with club affairs such as office, assistance at shows, demonstrations, numismatic discussions, present an educational session, etc. Your identity will remain anonymous.

- 1) Do you enjoy the period before the business meeting commences to discuss various numismatic interest and other fellowship activities?
- 2) Have you become disinterested in assembling or expanding numismatic or collection items?
- 3) Do you consider yourself specialized or advanced collector in which majority of the time the BCC auctions rarely displays items that you would consider purchasing even at local or national shows?
- 4) Identify those changes to the current BCC format that would entice you interest to return and attend meetings on a regular basis.
- 5) Do you know other individuals who collect coins, paper money, tokens, stock certificates, exonomia that would be interested in attending and joining our BCC membership?
- 6) Would you attend more frequently if BCC would present a routine program schedule that includes quizzes, videos, slide shows, display, etc.?\
- 7) Do you have any recommendations to enhance or improve the BCC subject matter or type of discussion tropics to present or not display?

You can submit your responses by email. If you select to send them by regular mail, then send them to the BCC address with attention to the BCC Newsletter Editor that way your correspondence will be handled properly.

Thank you for your attention,
BCC Newsletter Editor