

March 2012



The Coin Courier

"Official Publication of the Baltimore Coin Club"

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

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BALTIMORE COIN CLUB OFFICERS



Ken Finkenbinder
President

Jack Mitchell
Vice-President

Joe Adam
Treasurer

Fred Cook
Secretary

2012 Baltimore Coin Club Notes and Calendar of Events

Holiday Party December 15, 2011

Once again BCC held a Holiday Party. Thirty two people attended and there were three guests from the Colonial Coin Club. Mitzi Stratemeyer was to be our guest speaker, but Mitzi was ill and not able to attend. Bill Stratemeyer stepped in and gave Mitzi's presentation. The presentation was about her mother and father and all immigrants coming to the United States at the turn of the century.

There was lots of good food and door prizes and a good time was had by all.

Larry Goldman and Stacey Davis were missed!

Nice to see Jerry McConnell again!

Bill Stratemeyer

Note: The BANC show winner of the gold 2 1/2 peso is Brian Donnelly of Odenton MD.

1	March	Theme:	Washington Quarters
15	March	Theme:	Annual BCC Dinner
5	April	Theme:	Early Half Dollars before 1982
19	April	Theme:	Barber Half Dollars
3	May	Theme:	Walking Liberty Halves
17	May	Theme:	Ben Franklin and Kennedy Halves
7	June	Theme:	Early Dollars
21	June	Theme:	
5	July	Theme:	
19	July	Theme:	
2	August	Theme:	
16	August	Theme:	Young Numismatist

Baltimore Coin Club Contest

The BCC guessed on the closing prices without going over on the closing market price for Gold and Silver at 30 December 2011.

Gold was \$1,565.80 and Silver was \$27.85

The Winners:

Frank Murphy selected gold at \$1,525.00

Don Levin selected silver at \$27.85

President's Message

Happy New Year to all. Another year has passed. Here's wishing all of you a Happy, Healthy and prosperous new year. As we begin anew, let us remember the good times and the not so good time of the past year. The first BANC show has already passed. Alan Jefferson has taken over the reins from Bill Stratemeyer. The show seemed to be well attended overall. Thanks to all who helped to make it a success. The Whitman show is coming in late March and Bill is looking for someone to help him with the registration scheduling etc. As usual we will need all members to assist in the show. You all know that this is a Big money maker for our club. March 15, will be our annual Club dinner at the Bowman Restaurant, again. Last year's was a big success and I am sure that this year will be too. Along those line all four club officers will be 'reinstated' at this time. Since no one wants any of the positions you are stuck with us for another year. President Ken Finkenbinder, Vice President Jack Mitchell, Secretary Fred Cook, and Treasure Joe Adam. The 'program' schedule is moving along, in February we had large cents with halves and dollars will be looming in the near future. The Theme/Programs has been a success and enjoyed by all. Thanks to all who have presented, without your assistance there would be no program.

Ken Finkenbinder (Editor modified the original message)

Our BCC Sunday volunteers at the Whitman Show



**Whitman
Coin Show Baltimore Convention Center
June 16 thru June 19, 2011**

Public Registration *Chairman: Bill Stratemeyer*

BCC Members Assisted with public registration:

Thursday November 17th

Keith Connors	Ken Finkenbinder	Fred Cook	Jack Mitchell
Nick Kurlick	Al Jefferson	Ron Sheridan	

Friday November 18th

Jim Bosewell	Bill Lenz	Joe Burford	Margie Burford
Frank Murphy	Joe Adam	Ron Grauer	Nick Kurlick
Jack Mitchell			

Saturday November 19th

Jim Bosewell	Mark Humphrey	Don Curtis	Don Levin
Joe Burford	Margie Burford	Bill Lenz	Larry Goldman
Fred Cook	Al Jefferson	Gene Dixon	Jack Mitchell
Joe Mashinski	Frank Murphy	Dennis Webb	

Sunday June 19th

Sandon Cohen	Bryce Doxzon
Mark Humphry	Ken Finkenbinder

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

Words from the Past - #23

By: Don Curtis

The Year was 1945

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

April 5th, 1945 - *The meeting was called to order by President Straus at 8:30 PM with 18 members present and 5 guests. In the absence of Mr. Schmidt, Chairman of the Programs Committee, Mr. Wiley stated that orders were accepted for copies of the Banquet photograph at \$1.00 per copy, 40 cents of which will be used to offset the Banquet deficit.*

Mr. McCormick suggested, in the interest of promoting numismatic knowledge and study, that the Question Box be revived. He also suggested that the meetings start promptly at 8 PM in order that the meetings would be over earlier and more time is available for numismatic chats.

In the absence of Dr. Schafer, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Kern presented the list of nominees for office for the ensuing year as previously reported:

*President: Philip G. Straus
Vice-President Joseph P. Smyth
Secretary-Treasurer John R. Sheckells
Librarian-Curator Henry C. Brogden*

Board of Governors *{John M. Cook
{Charles W. Hass
{S. Stewart Hooper
{Dr. Edward Plummer*

The meeting was then open for nominations from the floor, and for each officer and member of the Board, a motion was made and seconded and passed that the nominations be closed and the Secretary was instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for each candidate. The new Officers and Members of the Board were then installed by Mr. Charles E. McCormick, the earliest Past President in attendance.

An auction was held and commissions earned aggregated \$1.8. The meeting was thereupon adjourned.

April 19th, 1945 - *The meeting was called to order by President Straus at 8:15 PM with 19 members present and 2 guests.*

Mr. Straus appointed the following Committees for the coming year:

Program Committee - *Mr. Joseph P. Smyth, Chairman*

Mr. William Perlitz

Mr. Plummer Wiley

Membership Committee - *Mr. Elmer Schmidt, Chairman*

Mr. John P. Kern, Jr.

Mr. Arnold Lohrfinck

Display Committee - *Mr. Walter Ehrhardt, Chairman*

Mr. Karl Kerzel

Mr. Murray Heiserman

Mr. Heiserman acted as Election Teller and the following members were elected

Mr. Paul A. Henson (Member #102)

Mr. W.S. Lydecker (Member #103)

Mr. Schmidt read the itemized Report on the Banquet which showed that a profit of \$1.86 resulted and the same was turned over to the Club. Mr. Schmidt thanked those members who had assisted.

Mr. Wiley read the Treasurer's Report for the past year showing \$148.94 cash on hand. The Report was accepted as read.

Mr. Straus reported that arrangements are being made to provide for printing an insert for the Constitution & By-Laws carrying an up-to-date list of all members.

Dr. Scharfer extended his thanks and appreciation to the club members for the cards and flowers received during his recent illness.

Mr. Straus had an exhibit of Large U.S. Cents and misstruck large cents.

Mr.

McCormick had a display of large Canadian Cents nearly all of which were in uncirculated red condition.

An auction was held netting the club 64 cents in commissions. The meeting was then adjourned.

May 3rd, 1945 - The meeting was called to order by President Straus at 8:20 PM with 16 members and 2 guests present.

Mr. Smyth, Chairman of the Program Committee, reported that Mr. McCormick would exhibit and talk on Numismatics and Coins of Canada at our next meeting.

Mr. Ehrhardt, Chairman, of the Display Committee, was absent. Mr. Straus reported that his exhibit at the Union Trust Company would be followed by an exhibit of medals and decorations.

A letter from Mr. W.L. Wilson, a member of the Board of Governors of The A.N.A., requesting that the Baltimore Coin Club endorse his name as a candidate, was read. It was agreed that this letter would be written as soon as nominations are open. (Letter written May 15, 1945)

The pending application of Mr. Oscar Rudoff was voted upon and he was elected to membership in the Club. (Member #104)

A query placed in the question box read as follows: "Why is the design of the Great Seal of the United States as a mint medal different from the seal as shown on the dollar bill?" This question caused much discussion and it developed that some members had mint medals and other data at home pertaining to the subject and it was agreed that materials relative to same would be exhibited at the next meeting. Mr. E. Schmidt also agreed to bring dies of the seal of The State of Maryland.

After a short recess, an auction was conducted by Mr. C. McCormick netting the Club \$1.85 in commissions. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 PM.



Why Collect Coins?

There are many excellent reasons why you might want to collect [coins](#). For starters, they tell unique stories. A coin's design, [mint mark](#), [condition](#) and composition can offer a glimpse into history and a better understanding of the past.

Some people collect coins in the hope that they will appreciate in value. Some coins have intrinsic [bullion](#) value (such as silver, gold and platinum coins). Others become valuable because they are rare.

Coin collecting, one of the oldest hobbies, was once practiced only by kings and the wealthy. That's why coin collecting often is called the "king of hobbies" and the "hobby of kings."

Coin collecting became increasingly popular in America during the 1930s when United States [commemorative coins](#) became widely available. Today, there are millions of coin collectors in the United States alone. The thriving coin-collecting community, which includes clubs throughout the United States provides numerous opportunities for collectors to meet and trade.

A Brief History of Coins

From ancient Egyptian coins to today's circulating cents, coins have a rich and fascinating history. The first coins date back to 650 B.C. - more than 2,600 years ago - in Lydia, an area that today is part of Turkey.

The first United States coins were copper cents, which were struck at the Philadelphia Mint in 1793. At that time, production was manually intensive and the coins were struck one at a time. Today, about seven hundred coins can be produced in one minute.

Check out the United States Mint's [Virtual Tour](#)— a behind the scenes look at how we produce both circulating coins and numismatic products! Visit our "[How Coins Are Made](#)" pages and our "[Birth of a Coin](#)" section for an animated introduction to the minting process. Although designed for children, this special addition to our H.I.P. Pocket Change™ site provides straightforward information suitable for adults as well as kids.

(copied from US Mint internet page)

Editor's Corner

The major grading services provide a valuable assistance to the numismatist population with their authentication and grading (of course, their primary reason for existence) efforts. We may disagree with their labeling grades to our coins in which we anticipated a higher mint state grade for our submitted coins and paper money. Yet, the grading services have evolved to become so authoritarian similar to ancient gods living on mount Olympia. The grading services do not realize that they are just contractors tasked to evaluate our merchandise. Consider the following reasons to determine if you as a reader also experienced a similar situation or understand how these grading services have become the central point in numismatic world.

Let's discuss the submittal process: the collector/numismatist will prepare their coins, complete the forms, and provide payment; then ship their package with insurance to their favorite grading service(s). The grading service employs multitude of personnel of various disciplines as administrative, grading, authenticating, encapsulating, packaging, financial, and management. When one reviews the grading services' web pages, there isn't any information or details on their storage and handling areas or practices of our merchandise. What are the environmental conditions of the storage area? Do they use dehumidifiers or desiccants to maintain a dry atmosphere? The grading service can explain their process without revealing trade secrets. Besides, many of their personnel have experience from their competitors and probably have suggested improvements to their new employer.

Now, the collector anxiously awaits the arrival of their slapped coins to view the grading or authenticating label for identifying a variety or error and the grade. They received the package from some type of mailing delivery service and they hurry home to their excluded space to open the package. And, they are surprise to discover that their coin is not in one of those new improve encapsulated holders, but in another plastic flip with a statement denoting their coin is genuine with a major scratch. Of course, there may be some coins encapsulated with the genuine tag and denote a scratch; even though the coin's grade is a mint state type with or without the scratch.

There is extreme disappointment from the numismatist/collector as one observes the facial expression of the individual, who opened the grading service package. It is difficult for numismatist/collector to comprehend that their coin is genuine without a grade is clearly the reason to submit their coin to the service for evaluation. Generally, the coin submitter knows the coin is genuine - what is its grade? Why can't the service identify its grade? The coin is probably MS-65 without the scratch, then denote it MS-63 or MS-62 with a scratch. Certainly, the scratch does not remove the coin from uncirculated status just lowers the grading state.

This is just a comment or could be a challenge for the grading services to improve customer relationships and provide satisfying service. Yet, we (include the editor) will continue to submit coins, paper money, etc. to the grading services for their expertise service to encapsulate our collectible items in containers that will maintain the integrity for future years.