

October 2013



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 Finkerbinder
President

Jack Mitchell
Vice-President

Fred Cook
Secretary

Joe Adam
Treasurer

President's message:

Hello everyone as summer ends and the last BANC show has concluded, Just a moment of reflection. The three BANC shows were all lightly attended. Advertising was increased but attendance was still down. We cannot compete with the RAVENS, but we must find a way to get more people to attend. These shows are a money maker for each of the clubs and supply operating funds for our Clubs. Dealers are not going to set up if they do not see a chance to sell items. Let us set a goal for future shows to have everyone try to bring at least one person to the show. Maybe some of these persons might even join our Club! Whitman show in coming 7-10 November and as usual we need help with registration all 4 days.

Our annual Holiday dinner WAS TO BE the first meeting in December, but Bill has advised me that the Kitchen will not be available on that date due to a Church function. Thus the Holiday Dinner will be held the 2nd meeting in November (Nov. 21). We are still looking for someone to organize this function.

The annual March dinner will be held once again at Pappas's Restaurant on the 3rd Thursday of March. Cost will be \$21.00 for club members and \$41.00 for guests.

As always many thanks to the members of this Club who make the shows and the dinners work for all of us (esp. Al and Bill).

Ken Finkenbinder

Note: Al Jefferson will coordinate the Holiday Party dinner. Submit to Al Jefferson if you will attend and what dish that you will bring for this dinner. Wayne Sponsky will present some interesting stories and information.

2013-2014 Baltimore Calendar

3 Oct	Jefferson Nickels
17 Oct	DVD On "Building a Collection of US Type Coins" Part I
7 Nov	NO BCC MEETING (Whitman Show)
21 Nov	Holiday Party (Wayne Sponsky Talk on Identification Theft
5 Dec	DVD On "Building a Collection of US Type Coins" Part II
19 Dec	DVD On "Building a Collection of US Type Coins" Part III
2 Jan	Theme Night
16 Jan	Theme Night

What You Missed at BCC Theme Night

Nick Kurlick presented early Lincoln cents providing unique details and information on the designing of the Lincoln cent by Victor David Brenner. Did you know that Victor Brenner joined the American Numismatic Association in 1894? President Theodore Roosevelt desired to present each person who worked on the Panama Canal for their 2 years' service. President Roosevelt sat for Victor Brenner who was designing this Panama Canal service medal in which the President's attention was drawn to a plaque of a profile bust of Abraham Lincoln by Brenner. President Roosevelt and Brenner had mutual admiration for Abraham Lincoln. President Roosevelt commissioned Victor Brenner to design a new cent commemorating the 100th anniversary of Lincoln's birth.

THE BUFFALO NICKEL

by Sandon L. Cohen

The five cent piece struck from 1913 to 1938 and usually referred to as the “Buffalo” nickel may be regarded as the most quintessentially “American” coin for its realistic depictions of a Native American on the obverse and of an American bison--usually and erroneously referred to as a “buffalo”--on the reverse. James Earle Fraser, the famous sculptor, allegedly used a composite portrait of three Indian chiefs—Iron Tail, Two Moons, and John Big Tree, who were from different tribes—for the obverse portrait. Fraser modeled the bison on the reverse from Black Diamond, a bison at the Central Park Zoo in New York City. Those who attended the 1985 ANA convention in Baltimore may remember poor old Black Diamond's stuffed and mounted head on display.

The coin has something of the appearance of an ancient coin in that the design takes up most of the surfaces. This design works well on a nickel-sized coin, which is what Fraser had in mind. (It doesn't look as good, in my opinion, on the larger commemoratives and bullion coins issued in recent years.) Unfortunately, the deep recesses of the obverse and reverse dies being in opposition to each other led to poor strikes that marred the appearance of many of these nickels.

The original design of 1913 depicted the bison standing on a mound with “Five Cents” inscribed thereon, which words wore off quickly. Consequently, the design was modified later in 1913 to remove all but the top of the mound so that the Buffalo appears to be standing on a plain, with “Five Cents” deeply incised in the protected space beneath. The date, which was placed atop the Native American's shoulder, also wore off easily; but nothing was done to remedy this problem, so many well circulated pieces today are dateless or have dates restored weakly by chemical solutions. Mint engraver Charles Barber further modified the dies for the 1916 and subsequent issues, making the word “Liberty” stronger and other minor changes.

All mint marked pieces before 1929 are scarce and in demand in higher grades. The 1926-S has the lowest mintage, with only 970,000 struck. Many mint marked pieces, especially in the 1920's, are weakly struck and/or from worn dies and don't show a full horn on the bison even in Uncirculated condition. The priciest coins in a circulated date and mint mark set are 1913-S on plain (“Variety II”) (\$340 in Good in *Coin World's Coin Values*), followed by 1913-D Variety II, 1914-D, and 1921-S. In Gem Uncirculated-65 the 1926-S has the highest list price in *Coin Values* at \$77,500, with most of the other “S” mint coins from 1918 through 1927 also commanding five figure prices in that grade. Certain die varieties are also avidly collected, especially the 1914, 4 over 3; 1916 doubled die, 1918-D, 8 over 7; 1937-D 3 legged bison and 1938-D, D over S. All of these are expensive in all grades except the 1938-D, D over S. The “Red Book” and “Coin Values” now include listings for the 1935 doubled die reverse and the 1936-D 3 1/2 legged bison as well. Additional varieties are listed in the “Cherrypickers' Guide” and other specialized references. Fortunately for most of us, circulated specimens of this fascinating coin are still available for as little as \$1 for circulated pieces and \$30 or so for nice uncirculated specimens.

Additional Source: W. Breen, *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins* (Doubleday 1988), pp. 256-58.

Words from the Past – #25

By: Don Curtis

The Year was 1945

Excerpts from minutes of past Baltimore Coin Club meetings as written by the club Secretary–Treasurer John R. Sheckells

August 17th, 1945 -The meeting was called to order by President Straus at 8:15 PM, with 18 members and 1 guest present. The guest was Corp. Berens now stationed at Aberdeen and who is a member of the Richie Coin Club. The program for this meeting was an exhibit of unusual coin by each of the members. Mr. Smyth, Chairman of the Program Committee introduced each member.

Mr. Austin exhibited a \$600 note of the U.S. Insurance of Baltimore dated Jan. 27, 1834, this note was endorsed on the reverse side to guarantee payment.

Mr. Brogden exhibited a Lord Baltimore shilling and the Baltimore three pence in very nice condition. Mr. Brogden stated that the three pence piece was minted on Market St., which is now Baltimore St. near Calvert St., which is very close to the Club's meeting place.

Mr. Frazier exhibited Proof sets of 1936 to 1942 in the new Lucite or Plexiglas holders and stated that he had ordered this type holder for his small cent collection.

Mr. Lohrfinck exhibited a beautiful 2 Thaler piece of Saxony known as the Champaign Thaler.

Mr. McCormick exhibited a 2 pfennig piece of Germany which was given to him by a German sailor for running an errand and which is the coin which aroused his interest in coin collecting.

Mr. Perlitz exhibited a very fine Solidus of Constantine X who ruled from 1057 to 1059. This cupped shaped gold coin was held by the Greeks to be Sacred and was carried by some of the soldiers as a lucky token.

Dr. Plummer exhibited a gold coin of Poland dated 1925, issued to commemorate the 900th anniversary of the Polish Kingdom. In addition, Dr. Plummer showed a specimen of the one-half Daler Plate money issued in 1710 by Charles XII of Sweden.

Mr. Schmidt exhibited a 1 Thaler piece of Salzburg issued by Count Paris of Lodern. Mr. Schmidt stated that no specimen of this piece was in the Smithsonian collection.

Mr. Sheckells exhibited a copy of a book printed in 1850 titled "New Varieties of Gold and Silver Coins". This book was published by Eckfeldt and DuBois, assayers of the Mint.

Mr. Smyth exhibited a Proof Crown of George IV often regarded as the most beautiful silver coin of Great Britain. Mr. Smyth explained that Regent St. in London was named at the time that a Regency was established due to the mental condition of George III and that George IV came into power at the death of George III when the Regency was dissolved.

Mr. Straus exhibited 2 specimens of the 1907 \$20.00 gold pieces one with wire edge and one with flat edge. Both pieces carried the Roman date. Mr. Straus explained that these pieces were designed by St. Gaudens and they were issued in the year that he died.

An auction was held netting the Club 67 cents commission after which the meeting was adjourned.

The Coin Courier Interview by Fred Cook

How long have you been collecting coins? 15 years

How did you get started collecting coins?

It was 1958 and my Aunt was the first in the family to have a color TV set. Every Sunday we went to her house to watch the Ed Sullivan show. My cousin and I were running through the house and my Aunt Mabel grabbed me, she sat me down on the floor in the family room. Brought out this large wine bottle and dumped the contents on the floor. On the floor laid several thousand cents. My Aunt handed me this small blue folder full of empty cent slots. She said "fill it up". It took me about four years.

What was the most interesting find in circulating coins?

The 1942/1 Dime VF35 PCGS

What do you collect?

I started with Lincolns and then moved to nickels, dimes, quarters, halves, and dollars. Now, I concentrate on early copper.

What numismatic clubs and organizations do you belong to?

BCC, Middle River, Harford coin Huskers, but started with the Hamilton Coin Club.

Tells us about a few of your most prized numismatic Items!

Probably, my 1799 and 1804 large cents, 1793 half cent, 1793 chain cent. My sentimental favorite is a 1909-S Lincoln in AG that I found in a roll of cents left on my desk when I went on active duty in the Navy in 1967. It was found by my Dad.

Just an Editor

Should the America Numismatic Association Board of Governors Be Dissolved?

What is the main purpose of the Board of Governors for the America Numismatic Association? One has to believe that their main function is to remove and select people for the Executive Director office. There is the appearance that one elected ANA board group selects the Executive Director, and then the subsequent elected board dismisses or chooses not to renew contract of the current Executive Director. This revolving executive director office has occurred for the past several years. Members should question the Board of Governors selection process and reasons for removal of these executive directors. The Board of Governors maintains silence on critical issues relating to the ANA. This elusive process only questions the integrity of the selection process of every former ANA Board of Governors. The membership becomes very frustrated with the inability of the ANA organization to perform their charter functions with education of the hobby and enlisting new membership. Membership enrollments have decreased immensely due to the political maneuvers of the ANA to include Board of Governors and Executive Directors. One could have the opinion that the appearances of former ANA Presidents had ergo agendas and did not want to listen to new ideas or practical reasoning, for they thought that they operated the ANA organization. The ANA President and Board of Governors failed to communicate with the membership to inquire members concerns with the ANA affairs. The President and Board of Governors considered their purpose to manage the ANA budget, operations, and other duties. This is completely a misconception. The Executive Director should perform all required duties and only request approval from the Board of Governors for the yearly financial plans. If the Executive Director uses by the Board of Governors because they are not installed to micromanage the ANA operations the office and funds for personal reasons or criminal activities, then they should be replaced. But, ANA committee should arrange to perform the investigation comprise of members at large to generate a report on their determinations. The Board of Governors removes executive directors and selects new executive directors at a frequency that the membership must challenge their selection process, individual's integrity, and reasoning for selecting this candidate over others. There is the possibility that former President's selected individuals that they were familiar and do not institute a thorough selection criteria. Observe the proceedings of an ANA conventions or any other associated convention and determine the number of former and current Executive Directors, ANA Presidents, and ANA Board of Governors, who visit or assist registration and salutations to volunteers for their efforts. There is a significant possibility that you can determine that numerical sum using the fingers on one of your hands. When will the ANA operate and function for its membership and cease these legality proceedings? The ANA must implement a proper ethical operation within in order to maintain current members and enlist future memberships. Thus, the ANA may have identified that Executive Director who can accomplish such a monumental feat.