

January 2014



The Coin Courier

"Official Publication of the Baltimore Coin Club"

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

CONTENTS

President's Message
Club Notes and Calendar
Baltimore Coin Holiday Party
Survey
November Whitman Show
Replacing Tokens and Food Stamps
The Coin Courier Interview
Be Alert about Fakes
Words from the Past #27

Ken Finkenbinder
BCC Editor
William Stratemeyer
BCC Editor
William Stratemeyer
BCC Editor
Mark Humphrey
BCC Editor
Don Curtis

BALTIMORE COIN CLUB OFFICERS



Ken Finkerbinder
President

Jack Mitchell
Vice-President

Fred Cook
Secretary

Joe Adam
Treasurer

President's Message

Another year has passed and the Club is doing well, so I will end the year and begin a new one with a short message. Here's to one and a heartfelt wish for a happy and healthy New Year for all....Ken

Club Notes: The BANC shows have been cancelled due to multiple coin shows and dealer participation as announced by Alan Jefferson (BANC Manager)

2013-2014 Baltimore Calendar

(BCC Requests members to sign up for Theme Night)

2 January	Seated Dimes
16 January	Theme Night (Tentative: Barber Dimes)
6 February	Theme Night (Tentative: Mercury Dimes)
20 February	Theme Night (Tentative: Roosevelt Dimes)
6 March	Theme Night (Tentative: Twenty-Cent)
20 March	Annual Dinner at Pappas on 1725 Taylor Ave at 7pm \$21 BCC members only and \$41 guests
3 April	Theme Night (Tentative: Early Quarters)
17 April	Theme Night (Tentative: Standing Quarters)



Baltimore Coin Club
Holiday Party November 21, 2013

There were thirty two guests at BCC Holiday Dinner. The food was excellent as always. The desserts were many and there were special candies that Ron Graver's daughter sent. (EXTRA SPECIAL) Thank You!!

Ron Shederian and his wife were on hand, Ron was BCC President in 1975. It was so nice to see them again.

The guest speaker was Detective Mr. Wayne Sponski from the Baltimore Police Department. The main topic was identity thief, the fastest growing crime in the world. Wayne discussed the many ways you can protect your personal credit and credit cards. Wayne stated that the Whitman Coin Show in Baltimore soon will be the largest coin show in the US. With this, many thieves and scams are present. So be careful – don't be a victim.

William I. Stratemeyer

Survey

BCC newsletter request membership to submit their recommendations on articles topics and editorial discussions for future BCC newsletters . Appreciate addressing the following inquiries.

- 1) What subject matter or articles that BCC should include in their editions (remember BCC CAN NOT copy numismatic publications articles without their consent).
- 2) Should BCC newsletter continue with the editorial discussion?
- 3) Are there any articles in BCC that should increase or decrease frequency? Explain.
- 4) What articles in BCC newsletter that you have great appeal and interest? Explain.
- 5) Submit any question or suggestion on the BCC newsletter.

Whitman Coin Show at the Baltimore Convention Center November 7 thru 10, 2013 Public Registration

A special thanks to all that volunteered. Many of our club members worked more than one day.

1. Keith Connor	3 days	16. Don Curtis	1 day
2. Nick Kurlick	2 days	17. George Southoff	1 day
3. Fred Cook	2 days	18. Larry Goldman	1 day
4. Jack Mitchell	1 day	19. Gene Dixion	1 day
5. Ken Finkenbinder	2 days	20. Dennis Webb	1 day
6. Ed Craig	3 days	21. Margie Burford	1 day
7. Len Brokos	2 days	22. Todd Stratemeyer	1 day
8. Mark Humphrey	2 days	23. Don Levin	1 day
9. Bill Stratemeyer	3 days	24. Joe Mashinski	1 day
10. Bill Lenz	2 days	25. Frank Murphy	1 day
11. Joe Adam	1 day	26. Sandon	1 day
12. Ron Grayer	1 day	27. Bryce Doxzon	1 day
13. Joe Burford	2 days		
14. Burt Larichiuta	2 days		
15. Alan Jefferson	1 day		

Whitman Coin and Collectables gave each volunteer one book.
13 copies of American Gold and Platinum Eagles – Edmund C. Moy
14 copies of American Silver Eagles – John M. Mercanti
Note: Arthurs were on hand to sign books.

Thank you!!
William I. Stratemeyer
Public Registration Chairman

Replacing Tokens and Food Stamps?

Technology supplants the archaic tokens and food stamps in modern commercial market with the deployment of debit or credit cards. Current welfare programs electronically saved someone's benefits onto plastic debit or credit cards identifying the money that they can use to purchase food items in the grocery/supermarket stores.

It is amazing that we return utilizing barter means that occurred in the past. Now, State of Washington has deployed wooden tokens as their exchange process at the Tacoma Farmers Market. When one determines on how much money they want to spend at the market, then they use their plastic cards to obtain these 'Farmer Market' wooden tokens instead of paper vouchers. The person uses these wooden tokens to purchase farm fresh or high quality processed foods. One cannot use these wooden tokens to purchase hot foods, alcohol, or other non-food items. This market place is in Tacoma, Washington state on Broadway Street.

The Coin Courier Interview

Baltimore Coin Club would appreciate if members could complete this questionnaire and also they can remain anonymous if they so choose.

- 1) Identify how many years that you have been collecting numismatic items?
I started in 1952, so over 60 years.
- 2) List the various numismatic items that you collect.
Large cents, Indian heads, Lincolns, Liberty nickels, Buffalo nickels, Mercury dimes,
Walkers, Franklins, Morgans, Peace dollars, and Ike dollars.
Type coins as well as foreign coins and currency, and some Gold type coins.
- 3) How did you start collecting numismatic items and or material? My uncle started me in stamps, but a friend and I switched to coins in the early 1950's.
- 4) What is your main focus of your collection interest? I am more of a collector than an Investor. My investing is in securities. Walkers are my favorite coin!
- 5) What items or series that you are most proud to display? I love the Walkers, but I don't display much since most of my collection is in Safe Deposit Boxes.
- 6) Describe your most memorable event or purchase or find of numismatic items or material?
I now like helping young kids get started in the hobby. I often give out coins at the Whitman Coin Shows.
I paid \$90 for my 1916 – d many years ago.

Mark Humphrey

Be Alert about Fakes

The numismatic publications recently have generated stories, articles, and commentary about the increase of fake silver bullion circulating in the numismatic commence. The stories and accounts by dealers have increased in which they have either been victims of fraud by individual con-artists. Dealers have been approached by these con-artists selling fake silver bars. When the dealers examine the bars closely taking into count the bar dimensions and weight, then they discover that the bars are not the correct silver bar specifications. There is a similar situation with silver eagles. Yes, dealers have been approached in which someone attempted to sell them fake silver eagles. The dealer noticed a different quality in these fake silver eagles, then the US Mint silver eagle coins. The dealer checked the weight of these fake silver eagles and discovered a variation from the normal US Mint silver eagle specifications. You can read these events in your favorite numismatic circulation. There are several important pieces of information that you should consider or observe when purchasing bullion silver. Buy your silver eagles and bars from a reliability dealer and not from someone soliciting that they can give you a deal on pieces of silver below market prices. Or, someone who enters the show and has this supply of silver eagles or bars who wants to sell them, for they need the money. Now, the discussion has been focusing on silver fakes, but you must be aware of that gold fake bars and other numismatic items have entered the numismatic commence. Stories of other precious metals have not circulated the numismatic media, or become a momentary impact to dealers as the silver and gold bullion fakes. One wonders what they must consider to prevent themselves from becoming a victim of fraud by carrying a pocket balance with them when purchasing bullion material. You must have a keen eye and knowledge of the bullion coins when purchasing them from unknown sources. So, show some fortitude when walking and searching the numismatic items when attending a flea market, for that venue is the most likely means for con-artists or unaware merchants to sell fake silver and gold bullion.

Words from the Past – #27

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

September 6th, 1945 -The meeting was called to order by President Straus at 8:10 PM, with 25 members and 2 guests present (Mr. Miller and Mr. Alcarese). Mr. Wiley, the Librarian & Curator stated that the copy of the Numismatist containing the article on Baltimore Coins & Tokens will be bound and placed at the disposal of the club members. The Secretary read a letter from the Editor of the Numismatist in reference to the Leaved Dime. It was moved and seconded that the Librarian

buys the most recent issue of the index of the Numismatist with the club voting in favor.

The Question "What is meant by first and second bronze", was very ably answered by Mr Duffield, who stated that the Roman Emperors issued bronze coins and that the size of them is as follows:

First Bronze about the size of our half-dollar

Second Bronze about the size of our quarter-dollar

Third Bronze about the size of our small cent

It was a pleasure to have the attendance of one of our out-of-town members – Mr. Alfred Hunter, who talked about his experiences at a recent meeting of the Chicago Coin Club, especially the auctions and lotteries for the junior members.

An auction was held netting the Club 94 cents in commission after the meeting adjourned.

September 20th, 1945 *-The meeting was called to order by President Straus at 8:15 PM, with 25 members and one guest present. Mr. Smyth of the Program Committee reported that this evening there would be an exhibit and talk by Mesers Straus and Lohrfink on Gold Coins of the World.*

In the absents of the Chairman of the Display Committee Mr. Straus reported that the exhibit at the Union Trust Co. has been placed and consists of fractional currency most of which is in crisp condition. There was considerable discussion in regards to securing a projector and the President stated that one could be purchased for about \$150.00. Mr. Heiserman stated that he is trying to purchase a lens from some of the War Surplus stock and if he is successful the cost of a projector to the club would be very nominal.

In the exhibition, Mr. Lohrfink showed some beautiful Gold coins of the world and briefly talked of the history of them. Then Mr. Straus also exhibited Gold coins of the world. In addition Mr. Straus showed a Coin Tester patented in 1855. The small device was so designed that any denomination of gold money could be checked for weight and for thickness. This was possible by the use of a 1 and 2 Drachma weights. Mr. Straus had secured a copy of the Patent papers on the coin tester and the scale was used by members present. Dr. Schaefer displayed a beautiful gold plated bronze medal commemorating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Ben Franklin. He also exhibited a very high relief medal. This was a Lancaster Indian medal of George Washington.

The club held an auction netting \$3.56 in commission after which the meeting was adjourned.