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Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 73, Issue 8, Meeting #838, September 9, 2020

Next Meeting: October 14, 2020

SOCIAL DISTANCING, MEETING #6

I hope this newsletter still finds you in good health, one and all. We had at least twenty one members at the September meeting, from as far away as Idaho (Frank V) and New Mexico (Gary C)! There was no business to report, with only a minor change in the treasury to cover mailing costs of the newsletter. We did have a few coin discussions prior to the topic.

Mike C finally completed his goal of collecting fifty mint sets each from the years 1964 to 1998! That would be about 1750 mint sets! There are no plans to go back to 1947 with the first mint set though.... He has removed all his sets from the thin cellophane they came in (which can cause scratches and break down and cause toning) and put them in tubes, so he now has a roll or more of everything.

Merle then related how the first edition of the Red Book, in 1946, started listing proof sets right away. But mint sets were like an unwanted step child and were not listed until 1981! The listing included the issue price, face value, and current value. The 1947 mint set cost \$4.87, continued until 1960 when mint set issue prices went down to \$2.40; in 1968 the cost went to \$2.50, in the 1970s it went up to \$6.

Helmut J sorted through 10,000 wheat cents. He found some minor errors, but no rare dates. He and Deanna did go looking for and found an example of a Sharon Park/SF Children's Playground token, after seeing Merle talk about them last month!

Larry C has a 1954 proof set in a sealed box- it has never been opened. He posed the question: do you leave it sealed, or do you go ahead and open it up? Opinions differed.

Gary C in New Mexico mentioned his club is honoring a member, similar to the way our club has the Willie Quarante award each year. And Walt Ostremeki will be addressing his club next month.

LABOR and NUMISMATICS

- ⇒ Bob L started collecting pennies and nickels in blue Whitman folders when he was eight. Over the years he has collected the wheat back cents in XF to 1939, and in BU from then to 1959, all for his Dansco holder. There was only one coin he had to work long and hard to find in a nice XF condition to match the condition of the rest of his album. With the help of a fellow club member, he finally got that XF 1909-S VDB!
- ⇒ From Frank V: in the late 1950s, he and his younger brother would visit banks and be allowed to go through rolls of coins. Apparently if there were any they wanted they just paid the equal amount back to the bank. His brother put together a full set of Lincoln cents, and Frank put together a complete set of Buffalo nickels from the bank finds!
- ⇒ John B started working at age nine in 1949, setting pins in a bowling alley for one cent per set. He has picked up about 100 1909-S VDBs over the years. He sold a lot of them to buy a house. He also has a lot of beer tokens. Recently he went to Community Outlet (market), and in change was given a 1968 Kennedy half dollar. He asked if the clerk had any more and ended up buying fourteen more of them for \$7. They are 40% silver.
- ⇒ Riley R started going through coins his dad brought home at age six. His dad was able to get a hold of parking meter change. There was a list of dates which he was told to save. He remembers finding a 1942/1 Mercury dime! And he was able to upgrade his collection with nicer coins as they were found.



⇒ Mike M has a collection of mint sets from 1955 and on, and now is working on the remaining earlier date sets. He showed a 1964 mint set from the first year he started working, pulling weeds for a neighbor. His first actual paycheck came in 1972, and he showed a proof set from that year.



⇒ Helm J started 'working' at the Liberty Golf Course in Petaluma in 1972. People would tee off on the first three holes, and many golf balls went sailing way off course out of bounds and become lost. Helm would find those balls and sell them back to the golfers at the 4th tee! He showed a 1972 "Ike" dollar and a 10 Mark silver coin from the 1972 Olympics in Berlin. His actual first paycheck was from working at the KOA Campground in Petaluma in 1976, and he showed his 1976 Bicentennial Proof Set.



⇒ Gary C talked about a \$5 gold piece. In January 1914 Henry Ford announced up to a \$5/day pay for assembly line workers. This is prior to labor unions, tax withholding, etc. The going wage had been \$2.25/hour. Ford would pay \$2.50/hour plus \$2.50 in 'bonuses' if you met certain criteria or did certain things; not everybody qualified. Of course the pay



was given in small change, since a \$5 gold piece was a very large amount of money at the time, which would be hard to spend. Legend has it that part of the reason for this incentive was to pay a living wage so workers could afford a car like the Model T.

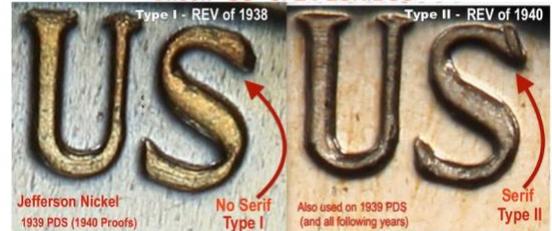
⇒ Matt A began his career as an architect in 1977. He is fond of Lincoln cents and Jefferson Nickels because they feature buildings. Monticello, on the reverse of the nickel, has had some varieties of how the steps are featured early on, as the graphic to the right explains. Matt is trying to collect all those varieties (straight vs wavy steps). It is a hard set to complete (though Mike C did have the full set at one time).

⇒ Eric and Roman S are working on a U.S. type coin set. They labored to finish the first page, and just filled in the last hole. There are eleven more coins to go to complete the set. It is a really fun set to collect. Merle has been working on his for fifty years, usually upgrading a coin or two every year- it just keeps getting better and better!

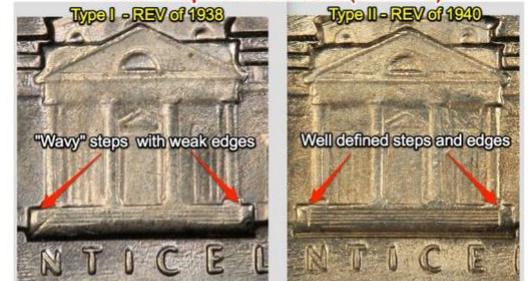
Jefferson Nickel 1939 P,D,S REV Types

Type I: Rev of 1938 Type II: Rev of 1940

Check "US" of E PLURIBUS



Check Steps of Monticello (If visible)



| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1939 P 12 million Type I | 1939 P 108 million Type II |
| 1939-D 875,000 Type I | 1939-D 263 million Type II |
| 1939-S 3.3 million Type I | 1939-S 3.3 million Type II |
| 1939 P Mintages Unknown for Type I and Type II | |

Note 1940 Proof Type I nickels also were made



⇒ Guy S had a newspaper route around 1955. Some customers would pay him with whatever loose change they could scrounge up. He once got an 1864 L Indian cent in VF+ condition! He also joined a coin and stamp club in Junior High School. The teacher who ran the club was mostly a stamp person, but Guy liked coins and could actually buy a U.S. large cent about once a month for 25 cents! He still has an 1818 large cent in VF-XF condition from the time.

⇒ There is a funny scene from the movie 'Men In Black', where an applicant states he is "the best of the best of the best". Larry C, who started work at age 13 in a bowling alley keeping scores, has a coin that is the "best of the worst". The 1866-S quarter dollar seen here has the lowest grade a coin can be given, Poor 01. It labored a long time in circulation to get that worn. But it is a really nice example of the scarce coin (only 28,000 minted) with clear features on both sides. Larry paid a premium for the coin, as apparently there are 'low ball registry sets' and a lot of collectors wanted his coin. He also sent it in and got a



CAC sticker for it! That may sound crazy, but the CAC service certifies the best ~10% of coins within *each* grade as the nicest. Larry discussed the process of getting a CAC sticker. It costs \$15 per coin that is accepted; you do not pay if a coin flunks the CAC standard. But it is best to send in a bunch of coins together to save on shipping/handling, insurance. Larry feels that it truly is a worthwhile service to get that green bean put on a slab, since there are so many slabbed coins out there. Now, an expert grader will have confirmed the quality of the certified coin with each label (from *all* coins known within the grade). Of course, you should always buy the coin because you like it, not just because of a shiny green sticker.



⇒ Andy O got his first paycheck in 1971. He talked about labor depicted on coins. First is this 1 Franc coin from Luxembourg, featuring a workman stoking a fire. In the background is a mountain and two smokestacks. Next is a 1979 Egypt 5 Piastres featuring arms and wrenches. His Czechoslovakia 1 Koruna coin features a woman planting a linden tree. The Chamber of



Commerce in France issued a number of denomination coins for several years featuring Commerce and Industry. Not sure how it represents labor when Mercury is seen lounging



back on a throne. The Dominican Republic 25 centavo coin of 1991 shows a cart full of sugar cane pulled by two oxen. And finally, he had a 50 Pfennig coin from Germany featuring a woman planting an oak sapling.



⇒ Merle showed two items. One, a mint set he purchased in 1959 for \$3. He was working for 25 cents an hour, and regularly passed by a coin shop near Main Street and Bodega Avenue in Sebastopol, where he got the set (the mint issue cost was \$2.40). He also showed a 1959 proof set, purchased from a fellow club member in the last 5 years.

⇒ Charlie C (that's me!) finally started the first real job after four years of college, four years of medical school, and three years of Family Practice residency. It was 1986, the year of my son's birth- the reason to start collecting coins again. It was the also the year the Statue of Liberty Centennial coins were produced. This was the first time a 50 cent clad commemorative was produced. The Ellis Island mention is important since that is where the families of both maternal grandparents came through when arriving from Europe.



⇒ There is another side of labor that has been addressed in numismatics with anti-slavery medals and tokens. Slavery has been present around the world throughout history from at least the time of the Egyptians to, sadly, the present (in one form or another). In 1503, barely 10 years after Columbus "discovered" America, the Spanish colony of Hispaniola (currently Haiti/Dominican Republic) began to import Africans. This was the beginning of the Atlantic Slave Trade, said to be the largest mass migration in world history. As the movement to abolish slavery grew in Europe in the 1700s, Denmark was the first country to abolish the slave *trade* (though it



didn't completely take effect until 1802). A number of people and organizations arose to oppose the capture and enslavement of Africans, particularly the British Society for the Suppression of the Slave Trade. That society was heavily influenced by the Religious Society of Friends- the Quakers. Around 1795 the Quakers issued this half penny anti-slavery token. The motto "AM I NOT A MAN AND A BROTHER" was a rallying cry of abolitionists in the 18th and 19th centuries. The image of an African slave in chains originated in a plaque designed by Wedgwood in 1787 (Josiah Wedgwood was also an abolitionist). The reverse features clasped hands and the motto "May Slavery & Oppression Cease Throughout the World". Another token produced around the same time is this next white metal token with a similar obverse image and inscription. The reverse inscription "WHATSOEVER YE WOULD THAT MEN SHOULD DO TO YOU, DO YE EVEN SO TO THEM." was taken from the New Testament of the Bible (Matthew 7:12).



Thomas Spence was a well-known reformer and agitator for human rights in England, who produced a series of tokens for anti-slavery and other issues as well. One token produced in 1795 is this farthing (quarter penny) with the same obverse (and the word JAMES below the man), and a reverse inscription: Advocates for the Rights of Man: Thomas Spence, Sir Thomas More, Thomas Paine 1795. James was the die engraver for the numerous tokens protesting injustice that part time coin dealer Thomas Spence produced. Sir Thomas More was a noted 16th century humanist. Thomas Paine wrote the first article (in 1775) suggesting that enslaved African Americans should be emancipated, and that slavery should be abolished. Paine is perhaps more well known for writing *Common Sense* in 1776, pamphlets encouraging the American colonies to declare independence from England. And this last farthing token from Spence has the familiar obverse, and a reverse featuring Adam and Eve, with the motto "MAN OVER MAN HE MADE NOT LORD".

In 1807 Britain passed the Slave Trade Act, abolishing the slave *trade*. In 1833 legislation abolished the practice of slavery itself in all of Britain and its colonies. A number of British medals commemorated this, including several for British colonies (including one in Sierra Leone that also had an Arabic inscription prohibiting slavery, meant to inform and deter Arabic-speaking slave traders).

In 1619 the first Africans were brought to Jamestown (Native Americans had already been enslaved shortly after its founding in 1607). Within a short time, the African American slave trade grew tremendously. Although Congress abolished the *African* slave trade in 1807, it had no effect on slaves already here. Perhaps the best known American anti-slavery token also addressed women's rights (remember, We The People pertained only to white males, not to African Americans, Native Americans, or women). It was commissioned by the American Anti-Slavery Society at 143 Nassau Street, New York and struck by the company Gibbs, Gardner, & Co of Belleville, New Jersey. The obverse features a kneeling African American woman in chains with the motto "AM I NOT A WOMAN & A SISTER 1838". The slogan was made popular by Philadelphia abolitionist Elizabeth Margaret Chandler. The reverse motto "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA/ LIBERTY 1838" has an intentional 'error': the N in United is reversed, an attempt to help deter counterfeiting.



This only lightly touches on the numismatic subject of slavery. For a very thorough and well written article, please check out *Medallic History of Slavery* by Benjamin Weiss. It is a 265 page book available for free at <http://www.historicalartmedals.com/MEDALLIC%20HISTORY%20OF%20SLAVERY.pdf>.

- Frank V Frank V had two items to share, both tokens (reminding him of Merle) with errors (reminding him of Lee Gong). Both were 1942 tokens from the Federal Coin Exchange in Cleveland, with an off-center clip and an off-center brockage.



⇒ Finally, Bob A was unable to attend the meeting, but sent this in. He labored hard to find a love token for his wife, with a search including several persons and considerable time. He worked part time and did odd jobs for friends until he became employed full time in 1963. He has numerous coins minted in 1963 from the U.S, Canada, and several other countries. He also has a 1988 Canadian commemorative dollar honoring the Saint-Maurice ironworks. It shows two steelworkers pounding steel on an anvil.



October Meeting Topic:
MOST BEAUTIFUL COIN/UGLIEST COIN

We haven't had this topic in years, and actually had a contest with it once. Please share what you feel is the most beautiful coin (whether you own it or just want it) and your ugliest coin. You will be able to share your screen during the meeting, or you can e-mail photos to the club at newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com, and it will be included in a slide show for everyone to see. Info on the meeting is here:

Topic: Redwood Empire Coin Club
 Time: Oct 14, 2020 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83705056122?pwd=M1IGNGpMV09xcnFXWINGaFVnUmMyQT09>

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UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS

Check out our newsletter at: **Redwoodempirecoinclub.com**

Thanks for reading. Corrections? Additions? Questions? E-mail us at:
newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com. See you (hopefully!) October 14, 2020— Charlie

The Redwood Empire Coin Club meets on the second Wednesday of each month. The Club's meeting location is the **Veterans Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa** (opposite the County Fairgrounds across from Highway 12), in the "**Dinner Room**" on the east side of the building, at 7:00 p.m. sharp.