



Founded March 26, 1949

Celebrating our 75th
Anniversary in 2024!



5850 Commerce Blvd, Suite 100
Rohnert Park, Ca. 94928

Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 76, Issue 8, Meeting #873, August 16, 2023

Next Meeting: September 13, 2023

ODD DENOMINATIONS

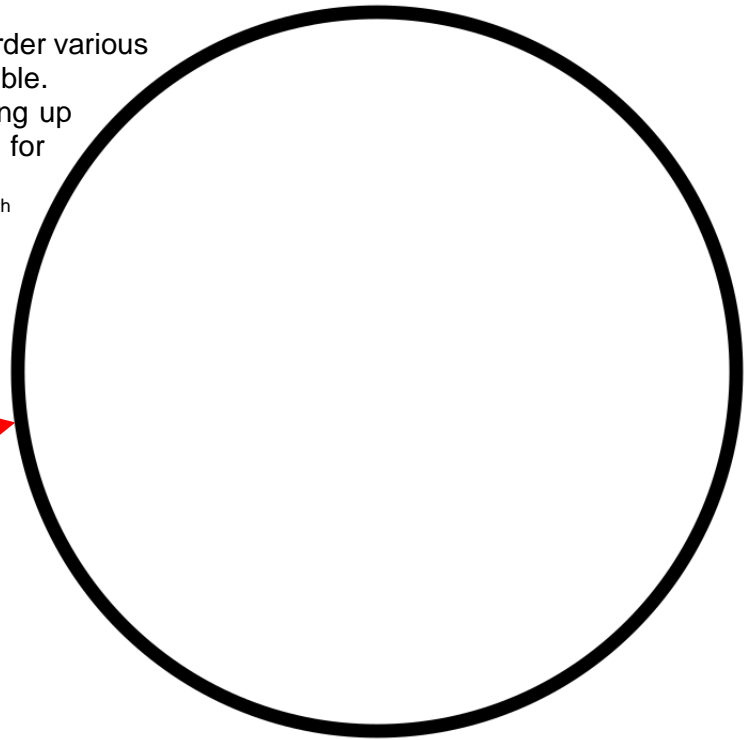
The theme for the August meeting was odd denominations. Looking ahead to next month, the theme for **September** will be: **Your most BEAUTIFUL and/or Your most UGLY COIN.** Bring one or the other, or bring one of each. Tell us about it, get four free drawing tickets! And if you can, send photos to newsletter@redwoodempirecoinclub.com ahead of time so your item(s) can be put in the slide show to show the club during the meeting.

Mike M took down names for people who want to order various versions of the Red Book, now that the Mega Red is available.

Bill Green talked about the Sunnyvale show coming up November 10-11. It is listed at the end of the newsletter for reference.

We want you to help design a club medal for our 75th anniversary next year! The template here works; or make your own. Bring it in to a meeting or send it in an e-mail to the club. Entries are being kept together for making our design decision. Merle is already looking into getting the medals struck, so this is your chance to become a famous medal designer!

Medal design template



Larry C is a big fan of CAC stickers and the evolution of coin encapsulation. John Albanese (founder of PCGS, then of NGC, then of CAC stickers) decided to step up from the CAC stickers and form a grading/encapsulation company. A contest was held to write an essay about a coin that was meaningful or held historic or personal value to you. The first ten coins encapsulated would be the top ten essays.

There were so many that there were twenty winners- and Larry's essay was #20. The slab here has not been received yet; the company plans to mail all 20 at the same time (there were technical issues getting some different sized coins into slabs, not unusual for a start-up). Larry's essay and these photos were shown at the meeting. The essay is about finding this silver dollar at a dealer's table, knowing it was from a 1000 coin bag a rancher purchased, from which he would give away some of the coins as presents. Telling the history of the coin and preserving it is very meaningful to Larry.

ODD DENOMINATIONS

- Tom M talked about the first coin to contain nickel, minted about 185-180 BC in Bactria- modern day Afghanistan.
- Guy S had two odd denominations to show. First was this note printed in Pennsylvania in 1773, a twenty shillings note. It was printed by Hall and Sellers, partners of Benjamin Franklin. Next are the Persian coins he collects, siglos and daric denominations. The scarce varieties are the ½ and ¼ siglos. This ¼ siglos is the smallest coin he has, about ¼" in size- purchased at one of our coin shows!



- Wendell B showed us his 1875-S twenty cent piece. The series was authorized 3/3/1875, but lasted only until 1878. It was unpopular because of the similar size and same obverse as the quarter, even though it had a plain edge- not reeded like the quarter.



- Gary C: Thinking about the topic, he considered all sorts of strange British denominations. He came up with the groat, or four pence. Back in medieval times, a penny was a dime-sized silver coin, so a groat had a "great" value, and the word groat has the same root derivation as great. He bought it from Rod Frechette, ANA Numismatist of the year 2022.



- Many years ago Philip A was not really interested in coins, but he was interested in history, particularly the Civil War. He decided to buy coins which were minted during the war, and these are three of the denominations. The three-cent silver was the smallest U.S. silver coin, at only 14mm. It was changed to nickel because people were hoarding silver.
- Bill G brought a three-cent silver and a half dime. The saying is to never judge the holder, but rather judge the coin. These were an exception: he bought them around 1960 and they still have the original holder with the name of the business he bought them from in New York: the Ramapo Stamp Company!
- In her mad rush to get ready for the meeting, Ember S was unable to find her coin. This is a photo from the internet of her South Africa 1934 silver 2-1/2 shillings. It was the first coin she ever saw that had a fraction as part of the denomination, and just had to have it!
- Larry C was at a show recently where there were a number of coins that had been slabbed 30 years ago and sold as a collection- and were now being sold again. They were snatched up by dealers before Larry could buy the twenty-cent piece he wanted. So, he went to the dealer who bought it, paid \$50 more than the dealer did. Shortly after, someone offered him double the total he paid- so he knew that the early graded coin was well worth it. He sent it into CAC and got a green bean CAC sticker for it as well. That confers an added value to the coin.
- Bob L gave us a nice history lesson on the Louisiana Purchase. Spain owned the Louisiana territory and New Orleans. Bob didn't say how Spain came into possession of the land, but that is another story. Spain was in



financial trouble because the people in New Orleans did not like paper currency and wanted silver coin. Spain sent a ship to Vera Cruz, Mexico to pick up 400,000 silver eight-real pieces on a ship called "El Cazador" for use in New Orleans. Unfortunately, the ship sank in a hurricane off the Louisiana coast in 1784. Spain had to sell the territory to France to help out financially. Unfortunately, France was busy with Napoleon and his wars and was also in financial trouble. While Alexander Hamilton was in Paris planning to purchase just New Orleans, he was offered the entire Louisiana Purchase for just 4¢ per acre! Bob has one of those pieces of eight that was on the sunken "El Cazador". It was discovered in recent years by a fishing boat called "The Mistake"! Bob's coin shows effects of saltwater corrosion, and he included a photo of a similar uncorroded coin for comparison. If not for the hurricane sinking that Spanish ship, history could have been very different.



- Glenn M had some coins from Panama with odd denominations: 1, 1-1/4, and 2-1/2 centesimos. And all were minted by the U.S. Mint!
- Merle collects three-cent silver proof coins, among many other things. They definitely began to be minted as proofs in 1857, with 1000 minted each year. There is some debate about them being minted as proof in 1854-1856, though they are listed as such in the Red Book (but no mintage numbers). In those years, you could send a nickel to the mint, and they would send you a three-cent proof piece, the mailing cost being 1 cent, and the mint profit was 1 cent. In 1873, when three cent pieces were last minted, it was decided to melt *all* proofs that were not sold. In 1870 all 1000 were sold and left the mint. But there were only sixty 1857 examples, 210 from 1858, and varying amounts remaining from other years. It is tough to get proof examples of some years. Merle is trying to put together a set of P-61 through P-65 of *each* year, and P-61 through P-65 *cameo* of *each* year. With sixteen years of proofs, that is 160 coins for his set. Wow. Just wow. He had a bunch of them lined up on the front table at our meeting.
- Charlie C (that's me!) had two types of odd denomination items. First were examples of the very first coins ever produced. They were initially made of electrum, a man-made combination of gold and silver. Until a few years ago it was thought electrum was found naturally, but that has definitively been disproven. From a lump of electrum to one with stripes, designs progressed to animals like lions and bulls. The first person to have his name on a coin, Phanes, used a stag on all his coins. Alyattes was another early ruler with coins featuring lions. Finally, Kroisos (who the mythical King Midas was likely modeled after) started making coins of both pure silver and pure gold. The denominations of all these ancient Greek coins are strange but were consistent, and the weights were also remarkably consistent until getting down to the smallest 1/48 and 1/96 denominations.



Lydia silver stater, 560-546 BC
21mm, 10.48g

Ionia electrum, 680-650 BC. 1/3 stater or "trite", 12mm, 4.59g

Lydia: Alyattes, 610-546 BC, electrum 1/6 stater or "hekte", 10mm, 2.4g



Lydia: Phanes 625-600 BC, electrum 1/12 stater or "hemihekte", 8mm, 1.18g



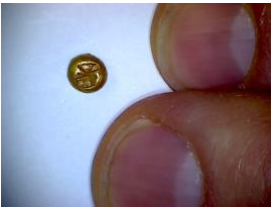
Lydia: Kroisos 560-546 BC, gold 1/12 stater or "hemihekte", 7mm, 0.67g



Lydia: 'striated' money 670 BC, electrum 1/24 stater or "myshemihekte", 4mm, 0.5g



Ionia: blank planchet 620 BC, electrum 1/48 stater 4mm, 0.3g



Those smallest denominations are also tiny coins, like the 1/24th stater next to my fingers here.

The other odd denominations were the German notes pictured here, printed in rapidly increasing denominations in the 1920s. The 1 Mark note is dated 1923. The largest is 20 billion marks from 1923. By that time a wheelbarrow of paper money would buy a loaf of bread, and one U.S. dollar was valued at over 1 trillion marks. That was only 100 years ago- let's hope it doesn't happen again. There were dozens of odd denominations in between, besides these particular notes- this is just a sampling.



- Finally, Frank V e-mailed these photos from Idaho. He was busy bidding at an auction and could not attend the meeting. These are both 1885 five cent



pieces, two obverses and two reverses. According to Frank, the holey 1885 silver Pattern is more correctly a Trail coin struck by the mint than a true pattern. I am not sure what the difference is. Only 13 of these coins are known----mostly found in museums. The other nickel is "just" a proof 1885 V nickel....

RECENT PASSINGS

It is with great sadness to report on *two* recent passings.

Bob Anderson, LM-44, passed away suddenly on Friday August 11. He was Rich W's closest friend for 66 years and was well liked by everybody in the club. Bob was always friendly, welcoming, and active with the club.

Harold Rose, LM-24, passed away on about August 16. Harold was also a regular meeting attendee, and over the years included his grandkids in club activities.

Our condolences go out to family and friends of both- they will be missed.

SEPTEMBER ZOOM INFO

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87561964949?pwd=OTNQeTcwTWFuRWkdlh4WXpucDFLdz09>

Meeting ID: 875 6196 4949

Passcode: 092023

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,87561964949#,,,,*092023# US (San Jose)

+16694449171,,87561964949#,,,,*092023# US

DRAWING WINNERS

Membership: Adriana M, Erik S, Helmut J, Steve C, and Rick S

50:50 pot of \$82 was split with Brandon E's mom!

Raffle: David Y (twice), Glenn M (three times), Joel M (twice), Gary C (twice)

July Attendance: 42+

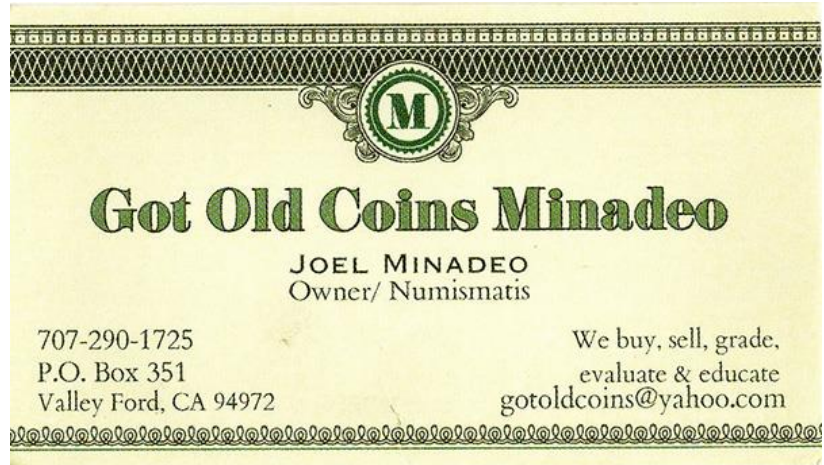
Guests: Tom M- retired from working with Jack Beymer, collecting ancient coins.

Auction: 44 exciting items.

Adjournment was at 9:52 p.m. sharp!



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UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

October 13-15, 2023. Contra Costa Coin and Collectibles Show. Elk's Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive, Walnut Creek

October 21, 2023. Delta Coin Club's 57th Annual Coin Show. Eagles Hall, 1492 Bourbon Street, Stockton

November 10-11, 2023. South Bay/Sunnyvale Coin Show. Domain Hotel, 1085 East El Camino Real, Sunnyvale.

November 18, 2023. CSNA and NCNA Joint Forum "Ancients Plus Much More". Opens 8:30, starts 9:30, four guest speakers. Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, 734 Marin (at Capital), Vallejo

March 3, 2024. Livermore Valley Coin Club Show. Livermore Elks Lodge, 940 Larkspur Drive, Larkspur

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.

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

Thanks for reading. Corrections? Additions? Questions? E-mail us at:

newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com. See you **in person at the Vets Building "Dinner Room"**

September 13, 2023— Charlie