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5850 Commerce Blvd, Suite 100
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Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 78, Issue 8, Meeting #897, August 13, 2025

Next Meeting September 10, 2025

CENTS!

Wow- what an attendance for the August meeting! And we didn't even have a gold drawing or special food to serve. Thanks to those who did bring goodies.

Club member Randy D passed away shortly after our last meeting. The club offered condolences to brother Rusty, mom Barbara, and other family/friends.

Larry C talked about the upcoming Diablo Numismatic Society show on October 10-11, 2025. It is listed on our show calendar, along with our 2026 show in February.

The topic for the **September RECC meeting**: **ODD DENOMINATIONS.** As you will see, there were some great cents (and half cents) discussed at the August meeting. **Next** month you can talk about any odd denomination coin/currency/token you want: 2¢, 3¢, 20¢, \$3, \$4, and any other you can come up with. Give a talk and get *four free raffle tickets!* As always, if you can- please send in photos of your item(s) ahead of time to newsletter@redwoodempirecoinclub.com so they can be shown at the September meeting.

CENTS



- The first topic discussion was by Charlie presenting for Jeffrey S, who was unable to be present. But he did send photos and a story ahead of time to share- thank you! "This is a story about my 1853 1/2 Cent. I've had it for so long I don't remember when or where I got it. It was hidden in my collection at the bottom of some loose coin holders in a cigar box. I wasn't even sure what it was. And when I found it again in May 2019, I obviously realized there was a problem. I think it was given to me by my grandmother in the late 1960's. At some point I must have stored it in a PVC coin flip.

So, I took it to my local coin store in Escondido CA to get advice on how to remove the green slime from it, since I didn't want to cause any damage. Once it was removed from the PVC holder, I rediscovered what it was. My friend Mac at the coin store knew I was an NGC member and suggested I send it to their conservation group and have it examined for potential restoration. I sent it in to NCS for a small fee for their Standard Conservation service- they did restore it beautifully. It came back graded at MS 64 BN. At that point I was amazed it wasn't damaged, very grateful, and it all made total CENTS !!" Jeffrey's presentation included info about NGC conservation and about mintage info for that coin.



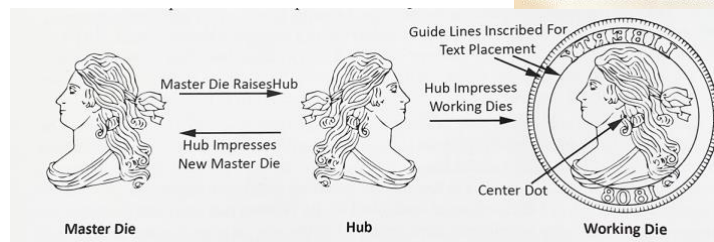
- Charlie C (that's me!) went next to present some background info on early U.S mint production. In 1794, the mint already had one year experience under it's belt, and it took three different designs to get it right. In 1794 the large cent had only one type, with tiny engraving variations. Except: one certain reverse had 94 tiny stars visible just inside the denticles. The variety



was not even discovered until 1877. William Sheldon published his book *Penny Whimsy* in 1958, with a complete list of all dies (and sequences) for large cents 1793- 1814 (and he also presented the coin grading scale of 1-70, still used today). The starred-reverse cent is Sheldon #48 (S-48), one of 56 die combinations used that year! We do not know how or why the particular die came about, so a review of die production was discussed. Unlike the 1793 large cents, where the entire die was engraved at one time (it took a week- and often *broke* within a week of use!), the 1794 cents used a “master die”- produced in just a day- which had the face, bust, cap, and pole. Other elements were added later. The master die, which could be used until a new series design was needed, was used to produce hubs, which then could produce dies. Because the steel to produce the hubs/dies frequently broke, it was much quicker to have part of the design ready, on a hub, to make new dies. Once that image was impressed on a *working* die, a dot was placed directly in the center, and two circles were finely drawn on the die to act as guides for adding lettering and date. Since it was all done by hand, there are tiny variations with each die. Once a die was finished, the fine circles would be polished off the die, though occasionally varieties show traces of them. Denticles were added with a denticle punch: it punched two denticles on the die; then it was moved over one space so half the punch would rest in a denticle, and the other half would be able to punch in a new one. This process was repeated around the entire circumference of the die, resulting in even spacing. So why the stars? There were 82 denticles, and 94 stars. The stars must have been punched on the die first, since some are nearly obliterated by denticles. There is no record of the reasoning though. It would not have been an anti-counterfeiting measure since the cents all had edge lettering. We can only guess. But when thinking about how all the coins of 1794 were produced, you can see how letters or numbers may be slightly out of line since they were all hand-punched. And since the steel for the dies was somewhat brittle, it is common to see die cracks on these coins, which helps to identify varieties- as you will see.



Reconstruction of Scot's 1794 obverse hub.



- David B spoke later in the presentation and showed great examples of what happened to early dies. He mentioned how cents from 1817-1820 often had die cracks, and he showed his three 1818 cents. With these, the die cracked in a circular pattern. If you look closely, there is a progression of the crack with each cent here, connecting more of the stars and becoming more prominent! It helps if you view this newsletter as a PDF and zoom in on the photos.



- Glenn M bought a 'raw' 1910-S Lincoln cent at an estate sale for ~25¢. Looking at it years later he realized it was in very nice condition, so he sent it in for grading. It came back MS-63! Well worth the submission cost.

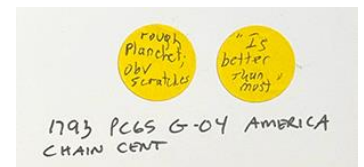


- Rich W took a liking to Canadian large cents, often visiting a coin store on Vancouver Island while on fishing trips. The three he showed here: 1858 with Queen Victoria, when Canada was still a province, and their first decimal coin; 1876 with Queen Victoria, now the Dominion of Canada; and 1902 Edward VII. A later George V coin reverse says Canada on it. It is relatively easy and affordable to get a complete date set.



- Bill R bought a 1955 doubled-die Lincoln cent at one of our coin shows a few years ago. Both the date *and* the legend Liberty are doubled, due to a misalignment when the obverse die was created- resulting in a double impression. About 40,000 were minted during one night shift at the Philadelphia mint. They have been counterfeited, so it is best to purchase one that has been certified. Larry C added that the variety was discovered in cigarette vending machines. Cigarettes at the time cost 23¢, and the machines would give two cents in change (tucked in the cellophane of the cigarette pack). It was in that change that the error was first noted.

- Larry C showed us his example of the first regular issue large cent- the 1793 Chain Cent. They are very desirable and valuable. A total of 36,000 were minted, and most are not in great condition. It is estimated that there may be 200-300 remaining examples. There were four obverse die varieties, based on: the reverse "Ameri." (engraver didn't leave enough room, had to abbreviate it on the first die); two different ways the letters of Liberty were added for the next two dies (remember- each letter was hand-punched onto the dies); and one with a dot after the date. After being produced for three months in early 1793, the design was changed due to public outcry over the reverse chains, meant to symbolize strength but felt to symbolize slavery (to England). Larry bought this from a collection in the Midwest, meaning it had never been submitted to CAC. Larry sent it in with a note to CAC owner John Albanese and received the two yellow dots (pictured at right) as a reply- not *quite* good enough for a CAC sticker- but still an excellent example. Getting that CAC sticker can add value to slabbed coins.



- Helm J was recently at a bottle club meeting and asked the members if any had coins for sale. Sure enough, someone had these four cents to sell to Helm. Sometimes you never know where your coin finds will come from.....
- Rick R brought in a 1916-D.....cent. It wasn't in very good condition but was sent to be graded. It came back AG 3, "details". Some people collect the *lowest* graded coins and have some great collections. Of course, NGC and PCGS do not share "Bottom Pop" registry sets, but those would be fun to see.



- Mike M desperately wanted to get a coin for this month's topic and bought this 1851 large cent in PCGS XF45 on eBay. The price was excellent for the coin, which he is very happy with. Also, he has been looking for a 2025 Lincoln cent in change. Jim H did find one. Mike collected Lincoln cents until 1982, when they stopped making them from copper and changed to copper-plated zinc. He mentioned four rare modern Lincoln cent varieties that are worth \$thousands, all subtle error varieties.

- Gary C (Zooming in from Vancouver Island!) does have a 2025 uncirculated Lincoln cent. He talked about the Canadian cent. He remembers growing up in the 1960s and seeing occasional Canadian coins in change, which would be set aside and treasured. With the Canadian dollar currently trading at 73¢ U.S., most people would be annoyed receiving a relatively worthless Canadian cent in change. And acquiring a year set of Canadian cents (George VI and Elizabeth II) from 1937 until 2012, the last year of mintage, is easy- it runs ~\$40 on eBay. There is no key date. Gary discussed the rulers, mintage, composition, and varieties. Rolls of the last year of mintage are still readily available. The 1936 cent is the proverbial Holy Grail, featuring King George V, who died in 1936. Canada needed cent coins, and there was not enough time to produce a George VI die for the beginning of 1937, so a 1936 George V die had a dot placed under the date denote it was minted in 1937 before George VI dies became available. Only three examples are known to exist- all the others were destroyed.
- Merle likes to collect coins 100 years older than he is, so he showed three of them. First was the 1856 half cent, then the 1856 large cent- Upright 5 variety. Remember, lettering on the dies was still done by hand, and the 5 was a placed bit crooked on one die- creating a Slanted 5 variety (which he brought in as well for members to see). The third coin he showed was an 1856 Flying Eagle cent- shown on the next page. These were produced to show Congress what was proposed for a new smaller cent coin to replace the large cent. Members of Congress were each given an example to examine ahead of a vote for changing to the new smaller size. Some coins were given back to the mint (for destruction?), others were kept- because that is what congressmen did. Merle brought his grading set of 1856 half cents and large cents, including varieties, and had them on the front table for club members to examine. Someone had asked to see a 1909 S-VDB Lincoln cent, so Merle also brought that in to see. Those were also counterfeited frequently, so purchasing one that has been authenticated is strongly recommended.



Finally, we heard from Tom S, who missed the first half of the meeting. He is an avid collector of silver bars and has a fantastic collection. He owns three consecutive-numbered 5-ounce silver bars from the Philadelphia mint. He has a couple other 5-ounce bars, and a 20-ounce bar. But he showed us his first *large* bar, called a “coffin bar” because of its shape. It is one of five known from the Philadelphia mint and weighs 141.27 ounces. It is the only one with a two-digit number (72), the others all have three digits. It does have a Philadelphia Mint stamp on it. Wow!



Can't make the meeting next month? No problem!
Join the meeting via ZOOM:

Time: Sep 10, 2025 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87447917187?pwd=ZaqSoaVbKYbXenzuyMnWS2WZc0RZFA.1>

Meeting ID: 874 4791 7187
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DRAWING WINNERS

Membership: Glenn M, Roger N, David A, Otto O, David Y, Tiffany S

50:50 pot of \$88 was split with Chris S

Raffle: Otto O (twice), Sally P, Junior member, Chris S (twice), George C, Rick R, Bill R, Bill S

August Attendance: 75+

New Members: Chris S, # 1063; Don M (father of Caden), # 1064; and Raymond C (father of Paul), # 1065-
WELCOME!

Guests: yes, we had some

Auction: 39 exciting items.

Adjournment was at 9:00 p.m. sharp!



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UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

August 3, 2025. Fairfield Coin & Collectibles Show. Elk's Lodge #2638, 302 Parker St., Vacaville

October 10-11, 2025. Diablo Numismatic Society's Contra Costa Coins & Collectibles Show.
1475 Creekside Drive, Walnut Creek.

February 13-14, 2026. Redwood Empire Coin Club's 56th Annual Coin Show.
E.L. Finley Building, Sonoma County Fairgrounds, 1350 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa.

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 at the Vets Building "Dinner Room" **September 10, 2025**— Charlie