



Founded March 26, 1949



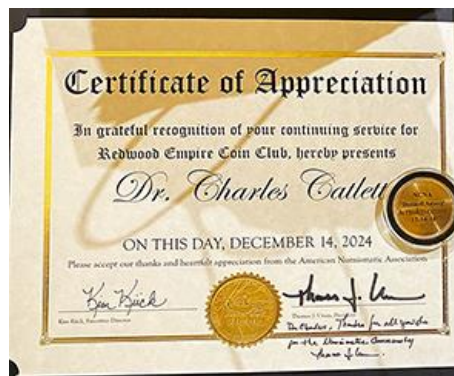
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# Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 78, Issue 1, Meeting #890, January 8, 2024

Next Meeting February 12, 2025

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Happy New Year! Before reporting on the events of 2025, this is a bit of news from December. The five RECC members pictured above attended a joint Fairfield/Vallejo Coin Club dinner at the Vallejo Naval Museum on Saturday December 14. Bill Hyder and Jeff Shevlin were MCs, and Phil Vitale represented ANA President Thomas Ural, who was unable to attend. Members of nearly a dozen Bay Area clubs were present for dinner and festivities. Awards were also given out at the event. Both Merle A and Charlie C received ANA Certificates of Appreciation, as well as both receiving the NCNA Gordon Donnell Award. In addition, one special award was given out that night, the ANA Presidential Award for "service to our numismatic family" - and that award went to Merle. Congratulations!



Merle started out the January meeting with information about our upcoming show. So far 43 tables have been sold, about the same as this time last year (we eventually sold them all). Keep selling those Gold Coin Drawing tickets! They are a major source of income for our show. Since costs have gone up, every extra bit will help. Don Rinkor has once again offered to donate **all** the silver dollars and gold coins for the show drawings! Please remember to thank Don and his son Michael when you visit his shop.

On February 12, prior to our next meeting, we will be **setting up** the Finley Hall building at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds starting **at 4:30**. Gates should be open, but if closed go to gate 4 on Brookwood Ave and #3711 should be the code to get in. After we are all set up, there will be pizza dinner for the volunteers- and then we will head over to our regular meeting at 7.

There were three birthdays to celebrate at the January meeting: Bill V, Rich, and Erik S. A big cake was brought in to add to the goodies, and the club sang happy birthday to them.

Thank you to everyone who has paid your 2025 dues so far, it is greatly appreciated. You can pay them in February at the meeting if still needed.



#### Remembering Guy Shappy

Guy Shappy, # 361, LM 5, passed away at his home Sunday December 15. He was a long-time member/life member and enjoyed his time with the club. He was secretary of the club until the early 1990s, when he moved to Gold Country and handed his ancient leather secretary briefcase to Charlie C. Many years later he moved back into the area with his wife Susan. His daughter Christine and her kid even joined the club with him. Guy was always in good spirits and loved to share his numismatic interests with other club members. He will be greatly missed. The club sends its condolences to his family.

To remember her dad, Christine set up a Memorial Grove of trees in his name through an organization called Trees for a Change. Trees will be planted in Sequoia National Redwood Forest to help restore the forest and be a living tribute to Guy. There is no obligation, but if you would like to contribute a tree or a few, use the link below, find Guy's name on the drop-down list, and proceed. This will be open until January 20 to contribute.

<https://www.treesforachange.com/pages/Guy-w-Shappy>

#### Remembering Bill Cummings

Bill Cummings, #897, passed away on January 4, 2025. Bill had been a member for years and was particularly interested in Russian coins. He liked to tell stories of collecting them in San Francisco, where lots of Russian emigres lived. Both Bill and Guy Shappy shared an interest in Russian coins and would often talk about them at meetings. He will also be missed, as well as his expertise in that area of numismatics.

#### What I Bought in 2024 and Am Proud of, and/or What You Are Looking For in 2025

- Rich W talked about collecting \$1 gold dollars, something that started when buying an 1850 gold \$1 from Erik S. He is working on the 1849-1854 Type 1 series, and had all the closed-wreath dates except 1849. He is proud of getting an 1849 open-wreath \$1 last year. He discussed the origin of the open and closed wreath varieties. California gold made it to the east coast in 1849, when there was a big need for gold coinage. Mint engraver James Longacre began working on gold \$1 dies, although Mint Director Robert Patterson and his crony engraver Franklin Peale were against producing it because new circulating denominations would compete with the lucrative *private* medal-making business they ran *at the mint*. Congress would not be deterred in getting this much-needed denomination started. With friction at the mint and a rush to get started, the open-wreath design- initially intended as a pattern- began the series. At first there was no engraver's initial L for Longacre, so the 1849 no-L open wreath was the first of these gold dollars. An L was added to the open wreath die that year, and a closed wreath (as originally planned) was also minted. So, the 1849 no-L open-wreath \$1 coin that Rich bought was actually the first of that year's varieties minted- but he is still looking for the 1849 *closed*-wreath variety to match his other Type 1 years.





- Bill R proudly obtained two rarities last year that he had been seeking for a long time. First was a 1955 doubled die Lincoln cent. It was caused when the working hub used to make the obverse die was slightly misaligned for the second striking impression. The two strikes are slightly separated, resulting in doubling. These coins mostly ended up in change, including when 2 cents were inserted in the cellophane of cigarette packs costing 23¢ (to give customers change from vending machines that only handled quarters). Bill's second coin is the 1918/17-D Buffalo nickel. He jumped at the opportunity when this one came up. All of these overdates have an identifying characteristic with the mint mark slightly tilted to the left. The variety was unknown until 1930, and was the result of using a 1917-dated hub for the first obverse die impression and a 1918-dated hub for the second obverse impression.



- Tom M is a fan of Seleucid coins, minted by the successors of Alexander the Great. This particularly nice example is from Demetrius II. Most of that ruler's coins have the date of his reign, but this particular variety does not. You can tell who it was struck for by the Greek inscription, of course.....
- Ogden talked about his 1650 silver solidus. It is old, has an interesting image, and a nice silver color.



- When Deanna and Helmut first lived together, he would give her silver eagles to collect. But she never had one in proof, until now. It is a 1995 proof silver eagle which she got for Christmas. Awwwww.

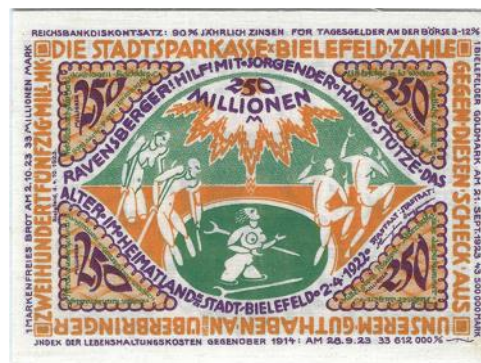
- Helm is happy with the 1893-S Morgan and 1889 CC Morgan dollars he got last year. What he also got is shown here, from travels in Nevada. He was in Dayton, Nevada (on Highway 50), where the Sutro Tunnel was dug- to get the water out of the mines of Virginia City. He went to the Sutro Tunnel site, which is in the process of being preserved, but did not have reservations for a tour. He wandered into some buildings anyway, and since nobody was there while a tour was happening, he just looked around. When the tour

group came back, rather than get busted for not supposing to be there, someone asked him to take group photos of the tour group. He did buy this medallion as a souvenir and encouraged us all to explore landmarks near and far while we can.





- Joe McC collects (among other things) Ohio State sales tax punch cards, like this one from Kresge Company from around 1935. For each store people would shop at, a \$1 punch card had to be purchased to cover taxes for each purchase at that store. For instance, with this card someone had a 10¢ tax on a purchase, which was punched on the upper right space on the card (rather than added to the cost of each purchase). But you needed a card for each specific store you shopped at! Joe owns a number of varieties of these, and many of his are being listed in an upcoming catalog of the cards. Joe rarely saw these come up on eBay or other auctions... until September last year, where they came up ten or more at a time every couple weeks! Joe now has a lot of them! Joe also talked about rag pickers. It denotes people who collect old clothes and also describes people who collect paper money like he does. But his Notgeld (1920s-1930's emergency notes from Europe) weren't just paper. This first one seen here is made of leather, with beautiful artwork. The next two- a 250 million Mark and a 500 billion Mark note- are made of linen, also with beautiful designs. Note the figures on the 250 million note with crutches going into water, and coming out healed. It was symbolic for the end of WW I and the economy (and continent, for that matter) healing.
- Merle tried an experiment with submitting four old green PCGS "rattler" holders with \$1 gold. Because they are earlier slabs, the grading has changed so they should now grade higher- in theory. He sent in an AU-58, two MS-60, and one MS-61. The results were interesting: the AU could not be graded higher. But the others each were graded two points higher! It cost \$230 to submit them, and the increased value from the grade increases is about \$600! So the lesson learned is that if you have any MS gold piece in a PCGS 'rattler', if it is re-submitted it will likely end up one and more likely two grades higher.
- Charlie C (that's me!) talked about £SD. Not the psychedelic, but the English monetary system until Britain went on the decimal system in 1971. The £ symbol (pound) originated with the Roman libra, or pound. The S (shilling) stood for solidus, and D (penny) for denarius (or French denier)- dime-sized silver coins. The system actually began around 780 by Charlemagne- Charles the





Great. Up to the time of England's Henry VIII there was a pound and shilling coin, with smaller denominations of groat (four pence), half groat, penny, halfpenny, and farthing (1/4 penny). Henry's son Edward VI was the first monarch to mint a sixpence (the VI next to his head indicates the denomination). The last circulating sixpence was from Elizabeth II in 1967. But they continued to mint commemorative ones until the last year of Elizabeth, when she died in 2022. The one I got last year is special, because it is from the Trial of the Pyx. That originated around 1280, when minters were making coins too small and too light and profiting from it. A pyx was a small box, and the Trial was (and still is!) a yearly weighing and measuring of a selection of the mint's coins placed in a box and examined. Minters caught cheating often had their hand chopped off. My 2022 sixpence was #3 of 6 examined at the trial that year, from the last ones minted for Elizabeth. One other favorite purchase last year completed my full set of sixpence coins. Charles I was not a great king. He was small, stuttered, did not get along with Parliament, not really liked by anyone. Eventually a civil war arose between troops loyal to the king and those for parliament. Oliver Cromwell rose from obscurity and led the armies to defeat the royalists. Charles I was captured, and beheaded. Cromwell then ruled the Commonwealth for 10 years. There are fewer than 25 sixpence with his portrait, and I bought one years ago. But there were lots of Commonwealth sixpence- just none nice enough for my collection. I finally did get one at auction mid-December, but it hadn't arrived in time for the meeting for me to show it. It arrived two days later, completing my collection. After Cromwell died, the son of Charles I returned from exile in France to become Charles II. England now has a Charles III- and one of *his* sixpence is soon to be in my collection (currently on a slow boat from England).



Sixpence: Charles I	Oliver Cromwell (1658),	Commonwealth (1651),	Charles II (1674
		(my final coin to complete the set)	

The **TOPIC** for the **FEBRUARY** meeting: **WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AT THE COIN SHOW?**  
**If you have something to show us during the meeting**, bring it in, give a talk, get 4 free raffle tickets. As usual send photos ahead of the meeting to [newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com](mailto:newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com) and they will be prepared to show on the projector screen.

**Join the February meeting via Zoom:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88910463116?pwd=Xo2MjFChhZsuKYLmE8rN76CVzw7xGY.1>

Meeting ID: 889 1046 3116 Passcode: 022025  
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Badges? You think we don't need no stinking badges? Why, yes, we do. It sure helps during the meetings, so people learn your name. And they will be important to wear at the Coin Show. This way the public will see our club spirit, see how many of us are around, and know who to ask for info on the show and the club.

Can't find your badge, or maybe didn't get one yet? E-mail the club at [newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com](mailto:newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com) or see Charlie at the next meeting.

## DRAWING WINNERS

**Membership:** Charlie C, Rusty D, Randy D, Martin F, and Otto O

**50:50** pot of \$68 was split with Bill P

**Raffle:** Bill R (three times), Otto O (five times), Andy O (twice), Glenn M, and Nick B

**January Attendance:** 62+

**New Members:** William P (#1052); Dustin W (#1053); and Nick B (#1054)- WELCOME!!!

**Guests:** yes we had some

**Auction:** 29 exciting items.

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



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#### UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

**February 14-15, 2025. Redwood Empire Coin Club's 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Coin Show.**

E.L. Finley Building, Sonoma County Fairgrounds, 1350. Bennett Valley Road,  
Santa Rosa

**March 21-2, 2025. South bay/Sunnyvale Coin Show.** Domain Hotel, 1085 East El Camino Real,  
Sunnyvale

**April 13, 2025. Cupertino Coin Club Coin Show.** St. Joseph of Cupertino Parish, 10110 N. De Anza  
Blvd, Cupertino

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](mailto:newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com).  
See you at the Vets Building "Dinner Room" **February 12, 2025**— Charlie