



Founded March 26, 1949



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

Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 78, Issue 9, Meeting #898, September 10, 2025

Next Meeting October 8, 2025

ODD DENOMINATIONS

We had another great turnout for the September meeting with seventy-eight members plus guests! In addition, we have two new members: Jerry S, # 1066, and Rick C, # 1067- WELCOME! Rick has been coming to meetings for about a year, and joined as a Life Member, LM-122. Two others also became Life Members: Martin F, LM-123, and Bill W, LM-124!

Merle mentioned two good coin shows coming up: the October 10-11 Diablo Numismatic Society Show and the November 14-15 South Bay/Sunnyvale show.

The **October meeting** will feature our **Seventh Annual Lee Gong Memorial Donation Auction**. We have held a donation auction for almost twenty years, always in October. After our beloved Vice President Lee Gong passed away, it was named in his honor. Some of us remember him much more frequently, both for his amazing knowledge about numismatics (especially errors), as well as for his warmth, humor, charity, and friendship. If you can, **please bring a numismatic item of \$10 in value to donate to the auction**. ALL proceeds benefit the club, and help pay for the rent at the Veterans building (and postage for mailing 60 + newsletters a month!). Remember to bring lots of cash to bid on the great items in the auction.

Vice President Mike M will be bringing pizza and donating a slice for every member! If you can, **please bring a dessert** to go with the pizza. Food & Coins, it just doesn't get much better than that! There will be NO regular auction at this meeting.

The **November meeting** will also be special: it will be our **900th meeting!** Your illustrious RECC board has made some preparations, and there will be something for every member. In addition, there will be an additional something *special* for every *Life Member*. More to come..

ODD DENOMINATIONS

- Glenn M began the night's topic with two coins from Panama: here on the left is a bronze 1940 1-1/4 centesimos, on the right is a silver 1904 2-1/2 centesimos, both minted in Philadelphia. For size comparison, the bronze piece is 20mm (our nickel is 21mm); the *half dime* in the middle is 15.5mm, and the 90% silver coin at the right is 10mm- the smallest coin ever produced at the U.S. mint. Those were referred as "Panama pills" because they were so small!
- Tom M went off topic since he had a fantastic coin to show: an ancient bronze coin from Bactria (now northern Afghanistan). It was from King Euthydemus (~200 BC), who I assume you have all heard of.... Here are photos of the coin before and after conservation to remove excess encrustation. Don't try doing that at home- it takes much expertise to do proper coin restoration like this. Most ancient coins do need to be cleaned to some extent by the nature of their age and discovery. This coin is relatively common, but very rare in such good condition.





- Ember S could not find the three-cent piece she wanted to talk about. So, she showed this 1921-S Buffalo nickel from her Family Genealogy collection. This one is in honor of her dad's birthdate in the 'henhouse' of the family ranch in Oregon. He was a "very unique" individual, and the Buffalo nickel is like him, unique.



- Wendell B and Jeffrey S both showed photos of their 1875-S 20¢ pieces and talked about its history. Wendell had the high grade circulated coin on the left, Jeffrey had the mint state example on the right. Both are beautiful examples of this coin. It took Jeffrey a long time to save up for and find his example. This 1875-S date had the highest mintage, still only 1.15 million total. The coin was proposed by Nevada Senator John P. Jones in 1874 based on a need centered in the western US. Small denomination minor coins (Indian cent, 2¢, 3¢, Shield nickel) rarely circulated there; half dimes ceased in 1873. The Act of March 3, 1875 approved these, but soon after they became unpopular because of a similar size to the quarter; they shared an obverse with the quarter and had a reverse similar to a trade dollar; the east coast felt it to be a lousy substitution for two dimes, which were readily available; and the flat edge didn't help, as this was the only silver US coin without a reeded edge. Circulation strikes were only minted in 1875 and 1876; proof-only strikes were minted in 1877 (501) and 1878 (600). Many were melted, making this a desirable short-lived coin to collect.



- Bill R showed this 1873 Open 3 variety \$3 gold piece. They were minted 1854-1899 but never became popular. It is incorrectly rumored they were produced so the public could purchase sheets of 3¢ stamps or 100 3¢ silver 'trimes'. The highest mintage was in 1874 (41,800) and 1878 (82,304) but were often under 10,000 each year. As such, there are some exceptionally priced rarities. This is his only \$3 gold, and a beautiful example.



- Bill is also now collecting 2¢ pieces. This one (shown next page) was purchased at our coin show. At one point Merle had it in his hand- but it ended up in Bill's. During the 19th century the U.S. Mint went through a period of experimentation with various denominations. The 2¢ denomination was proposed in 1806, but the mint director sent a brass button along with two proposed 2¢ planchets to the congressman proponent and convinced him it would be easily counterfeited. A trial was made in 1836 by Christian Gobrecht, which did not

look like a button but failed to win approval. It was finally approved for minting in 1864 and was the first U.S. coin with the motto "In God We Trust". They were popular during the Civil War when one cent coins became scarce but then lost popularity. Bill's proof-only 1873 Open 3 variety was first discovered in 1957. There was some confusion about it possibly being a later restrike but stated that it was the *mint* which produced the wider 3 in the date to avoid people thinking it was an 8.

- Gary C Zoomed in from beautiful British Columbia and mentioned the Victoria Coin Show was this coming weekend. At least *he* will be able to easily go. He talked about the English farthing (¼ penny) with a wren on it. These were minted 1937-1956. Canada continued minting a similar-sized cent coin until 2012, but when copper became too expensive it changed alloys. England chose not to do this with the farthing and just ceased production in 1956 (they did not circulate that year). The full set is affordable except for the 1937 Edward VIII variety which is exceedingly rare. The 1937 George VI variety is common. Gary remembers going to England in 1965 with his family. His sister showed their grandfather a U.S. cent and told him it was our penny. Grandpa replied in his London East End accent and said, "that's a farthing!" (which was 19 mm, 1mm smaller than the cent- close!). After WW II the principal use of the farthing was to buy a half-pound loaf of bread. Gary gave a few more fun facts about the series.



- Bill W brought in a 1798 8-reale coin from Mexico City. More unusual was a 1766 silver 2-real 'cobb' from the Potosi mint in Bolivia. Most of those pieces of eight (or this piece of two) were struck quite crudely and are quite worn, but his had remarkable details with a complete date and mint mark- which is quite rare.

- Erik brought in his 2004 set from Canada with an \$8 silver coin and two \$8 stamps- one cancelled, one mint state- featuring a Grizzly Bear. He does not know why that denomination was used. It is Canada's first \$8 coin- 0.9999 fine silver weighing 28 g. It is one of three types of Stamp and Coin Sets issued by Canada in 2003-2004. Just because they could.



- Rich W could not make it to the meeting but sent in this photo and description- which Mike M read: These are brass tokens of the Hudson's Bay Company in Canada from around 1854. The photo was from *Coins of Canada* by Haxby and Willey- essentially Canada's equivalent of the Red Book. The tokens feature the Company's HB monogram on the reverse, and below that EM for the East Main district. They were used in the trade of beaver furs. Each full fur was called a "made beaver", so the denominations of 1, ½, ¼, and 1/8 'made beaver' tokens were produced- since furs could not be cut into pieces for making change during trade. The local Native traders preferred to trust company accounts and not use tokens- which could be easily lost. Those tokens that were used and redeemed in trade received a cancellation punch on the reverse. There are a number of unpunched pieces in



existence, meaning either they were not used much or that they were not always cancelled. Gary C added that the Hudson's Bay Company just closed about three months ago.



- Merle didn't just bring in a coin- he brought in an entire set. Of *proof 3¢* pieces! I just grabbed a random one from his box to get a photo- this is his 1872 example. The series ran from 1851-1873. Proofs were started in 1858, according to records. Then an 1857 proof showed up. Earlier years also have been *graded* proof but more likely are high grade MS. The mint produced 1000 proofs each year. If you wanted to purchase one at that time, you could send a nickel to the mint: they would mail the 3¢ coin, use 1¢ for postage, and keep 1¢ for profit. It probably is not how Merle got his..... Unsold proof coins were melted, so the remaining examples are rare and difficult to get. Merle has one of each!
- Before the last talk, Merle had a story to tell. A client of his owned Acre Coffee shops- then sold the shops. Within two months he was bored and had to do something. So, he started Acre Pizza, and Merle designed several shops. The client was at Merle's business and noticed tokens all over the place and asked about them. Merle explained the history of tokens, how they were used as change for businesses, and had to be used only with each of those businesses. So, the client decided to have 1000 tokens made- it took several design attempts to get it how he wanted. And then he asked Merle what he should do with them- and Merle said to give them out. And Merle also mentioned that his little coin club was soon having a meeting- so he got 100 of the tokens to give out! Every member at the meeting got one, and they are good for a free slice of pizza! Apparently they are big slices, normally cost ~\$7-8, so that is a great deal for us. Sorry- you still have to pay for your beer there.
- While Merle handed out the woods to each member, Charlie C (that's me!) gave a talk. You all know I like to write about coins and have published articles in several journals. I never thought of myself as a token collector like Merle is. But there is one fascinating variety of tokens I do focus on: English Conder Tokens of the 1790s. They were produced by merchants in part because the British mint was not producing small denominations at the time. One particular merchant was Thomas Spence, one of the earliest political activists for human rights- and he produced some really fun satirical tokens. But what did some of them even mean? One particular token had a snail, and no references listed the meaning. So, I started to search, down many rabbit holes, to figure it out. It took a long time, with literature going back to the 1790s, to find answers. I ended up writing an article not only explaining the meaning of almost all dies he produced, but also with a biographical update which hadn't been done in decades. Then I needed to figure where to try to have it published, since it was a somewhat specific topic. TAMS (the Tokens and Medals Society) seemed to have the right journal for this, even though it focused more on obscure American tokens and medals. I figured it was best to join TAMS first, then submitted the article, and it was accepted. It ended up being the cover page feature article for Jan-Feb 2024. Then something interesting happened. An e-mail came from the CTCC- Conder Token Collectors Club, a national club for Conder Tokens- asking if they could also publish the article. E-mails went back and forth among members encouraging various clubs supporting each other with cross referencing and sharing articles. And my article was published with a second organization- a bonus. I didn't think anything more about it until



TAMS met at the summer ANA show in Oklahoma last month for an awards meeting, including a literary prize for best article. It turns out I was awarded the top literary award by TAMS, which includes this beautiful medal! It is 95 mm (3") and 191 g (6.7 oz), and brass. Though I really don't collect medals, this is one I am glad to have.



Thanks to Joel M for running the Junior meeting. The kids table was packed with members, eager for the kids-only raffle made possible by generous donations from David B.

The club received a large manilla envelope from a Steve C in Napa, with a small collection of coins (from various estates) which he kindly donated to the club. They will be auctioned off at the October Lee Gong Memorial Auction to benefit the club!

In Memorium

Stephen Kesler, member # 861, passed away on June 13, 2025. We received a note from his wife that he enjoyed the club so much, thanking us for all the good times we gave him! Stephen always seemed to have a smile on his face and an up-beat attitude. His enthusiasm for the hobby showed. A condolence card on behalf of the club has been sent.

Can't make it to the October RECC meeting? Joins us via ZOOM!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83525009323?pwd=8GF8OAuWMraohMT0silPH58wEryEZJ.1>

Meeting ID: 835 2500 9323

Passcode: 102025

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,83525009323#,,,*102025# US

Witter Coin makes selling your coin collection easy.

Redwood Empire Coin Club Discount- 25% OFF*

*Not on Gold or Bullion purchases

*Maximum discount value of \$100

We buy collections large and small.

- Call the team today! (415) 391-COIN



1884 \$1 Morgan Dollar
CACG MS67 \$6,800



1917 25¢ Standing Liberty Quarter
Type I CACG/CAC MS66FH \$2,950



1911-S \$20 St. Gaudens Double Eagle
PCGS/CACMS65+ \$13,000

2299 Lombard St., San Francisco, CA 94123
Wittercoin.com sales@wittercoin.com

DRAWING WINNERS

Membership: Chris H (randomly picked his own ticket!), Rick R, Rick S, Rick C, Mike M

50:50 pot of \$90 was split with Jeffrey S

Raffle: Otto O, Bill S, Chris S, Joaquin, Glenn M (twice), Chris H, Gary C, Rusty D, Jeffrey S, Bill W

September Attendance: 78+

New Members: Jerry S, # 1066, and Rick C, #1067.

Guests: yes, we had guests too.

Auction: 41 exciting items.

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



GRADED GOLD
COINS.COM



Got Old Coins Minadeo

JOEL MINADEO
Owner/ Numismatis

707-290-1725
P.O. Box 351
Valley Ford, CA 94972

We buy, sell, grade,
evaluate & educate
gotoldcoins@yahoo.com

1889-CC
PCGS MS64+DMPL
The TexasCoins Collection
97191.64+/82122296



RARE COINS

2600 Mendocino Avenue, Suite C
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
(707) 546-2575
www.rinkorrarecoins.com

Buying & Selling

Rare Coins
Gold & Silver Bullion
Scrap Gold & Silver In Any Form
Foreign
Currency
Watches

R.E.C.C.
5850 Commerce Blvd, Suite 100
Rohnert Park, Ca. 94928

UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

September 25-27, 2025. Sacramento Valley Coin Club Fall Coin Show. Four Points Sheraton, 4900 Duckhorn Dr., Sacramento

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

November 14-15, 2025. South Bay/Sunnyvale Coin Show. The Domain Hotel, 1085 East El Camino Real, Sunnyvale.

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" **October 8, 2025**— Charlie