

Cumberland Coins

The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

April, 2010

Next Meeting

Out April meeting will be next Tuesday, the 13th at the 127 Senior Center on Highway 127 (Main Street) South of town. A map is at the end of this newsletter.

The education part of the meeting will depend on the assistance of those attending. Anybody who is willing will tell the group how they got started in numismatics. I've attended a meeting where this was done and it was quite interesting. In addition, this discussion may provide some ideas for getting more young people involved in our great hobby.

Videos Available

I've mentioned that there are some educational videos available for us to view at our meetings. The titles are:

- ESSENTIAL RULES FOR BEING A SUCCESSFUL COIN COLLECTOR
- OVERVIEW OF COUNTERFEIT COINAGE
- S.S. CENTRAL AMERICA - DISCOVERY AND SALVAGE
- PAPER MONEY IN THE U.S. - 1690 TO PRESENT
- U.S. GOLD COINS IN THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

There will be a discussion of these at the meeting where we will decide whether to get any of these and, if so, which one to get first.

Coin Lore

The Pouncing Eagle Cent by Bill Groom

As most collectors know, the Flying Eagle Cent was our country's first small cent. Pattern cents of that eagle design, struck in 1856, are quite rare today. The then new, small-sized cent debuted for public use in 1857 and lasted but two years. These "white" cents, differing starkly in color from the earlier copper large cents, were issued in large numbers; consequently, being plentiful in today's collector market.

Moving back the clock, twenty years earlier to 1837, there was a NY City man who was a creative visionary. Dr. Lewis Feuchtwanger was a chemist and metallurgist who had emigrated from Germany. At that time, the U.S. was in an economic recession due to the failure of national banks. Hard money was hoarded and scarce; this, with copper coins and tokens being the principal means of trade alongside circulating foreign coins. This so-called "Hard Times" era lasted from 1832-44 or so.

Dr. Feuchtwanger proposed to Congress that a smaller cent of different composition be issued to replace the more costly copper large cents. The U.S. Mint had already made one, cost-effective move in ceasing production of half cents in 1836. Although Congress didn't pursue Dr. Feuchtwanger's proposal until about twenty years later, he opted to issue his own tokens. He ran a pharmacy and undoubtedly used them to make change. As he could produce them for less than face value, the good doctor likely sold them to other merchants at the time. He appears to have issued many thousands of one cent tokens, using different sets of dies. Note that it wasn't until the Coinage Act of 1864 that tokens were prohibited as coinage.

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Like the much later issued Flying Eagle Cent, Dr. Feuchtwanger's cents featured the central, obverse device of an eagle with the 1837 date below. The token's eagle however has snared a snake in its talons. Also like its much later cent counterpart, the token's reverse reads "one cent" within a wreath. "Feuchtwanger's Composition" is proudly displayed atop the wreath. Another noticeable difference is that the tokens have a reeded edge. Dr. Feuchtwanger's composition was commonly referred to as "German silver." It was a mixture of nickel, copper, zinc, and tin, among other trace minerals.



Dr. Feuchtwanger's tokens saw much circulation as evidenced by the wear seen on so many specimens today. Lower grade tokens currently sell in the \$50-\$75 range. Uncirculated ones sell for seven times that amount, and more. Some grading services will attribute and encapsulate them. Yeoman's "Guide Book of U.S. Coins" lists these, while Wikipedia and other online sources of information can add to one's knowledge. Every serious collector of U.S. coins should consider adding a Feuchtwanger token to their collection.

COINfucious says: *"Whereas models may boast of 36-D's, numismatists covet 16-D's."*

Area Coin Shows

- April 24, 2010 **Crossville**, La Quinta Inn, Highway 127 North at I-40 exit 317.
- April 30-May 1, 2010 **Knoxville Coin Show**, Rothchild Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378)
(Two day show)
- May 20-22, 2010 **Whitman Coin and Collectable Expo** - Nashville Convention Center, 601
Commerce Street, Nashville. See <http://whitmanexpo.com/> for more information.
- May 29, 2010 **Dayton**, Rhea County Welcome Center, 107 Main Street, Dayton, 9:00am to 4:00pm

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This Month's Raffle Prizes

		Est. Grade

I haven't been told what this weeks raffle and door prizes are. I expect that there will be a good variety of interesting coins as usual.

Look for These in this Month's Auction

		Est. Grade	Min. Bid
1900-1907	Indian Cents (8)		\$7.00
1943	Lincoln Cent (Steel) 100 pieces		\$3.50
100 pcs	"S" Wheat cents		\$3.50
100 pcs	AU Wheat cents		\$3.50
1914-D	Lincoln Cent	Choice VG+	\$199.00
1920	Lincoln Cent	Sharp AU	\$4.50
1923-S	Lincoln Cent	VG-F	\$2.50
1924-D	Lincoln Cent	VG-F	\$27.00
1909-D	Barber Quarter	About Fine	\$10.00
1907	Barber Half Dollar	Fine	\$15.00

Note: If you have coins for the auction that you want to have listed in the Newsletter, email the information to mike.vcc@frontier.com no later than ten days before the meeting.

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Google maps Address 1460 S Main St
Crossville, TN 38555

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