

Cumberland Coins

The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

April, 2011

Next Meeting

Our April meeting will be next Tuesday, the 12th at 6:30 pm. We meet at the 127 Senior Center on Highway 127 (Main Street) South of town. Doors open at 6:00.

The officers selected by the nominating committee were elected at the last meeting and will take over their duties this month. Our Treasurer, Mike Swanson is still collecting membership dues (\$10.00) for the coming year for those that haven't paid yet. Our normal business meeting, show and tell, raffle and auction will take place as well.

Coin Lore

The 1892-3 Columbian Half Dollars

By Bill Groom



Columbian Half Dollars were our nation's first commemorative coin and are listed as such in "A Guide Book of U.S. Coins" which is more commonly known as "The Red Book." In conjunction with the 500th anniversary of Columbus's landing, the Columbian Exposition commenced in 1892 and remained in full swing into 1893. Charles Barber engraved the obverse, showing a bust of Columbus which was designed by one Olin Lewis Warner. The reverse, featuring a representation of Columbus's flagship, the *Santa Maria*, was engraved by George T. Morgan. These coins were sold for a dollar, each, at the exposition which was held in Chicago. These coins were then and still are legal tender for fifty cents.

Can you imagine the look on a cashier's face nowadays if you tried to spend one of these? Of course, it would be foolish to spend one of these. Presently, there is the equivalent of \$14 in silver in these coins, and the silver value is now causing the numismatic value of these to swell.

When buying so-called uncirculated specimens of this coin, look for signs of wear on the high spots, being Columbus's cheek and hair on the obverse, and the sails and globes on the reverse. Note that this U.S. coin has its date on the reverse ... good trivia question, huh?

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In this writer's humble opinion, no collection of U.S. type coins is complete without this historic and most artfully designed coin, resting within. In addition to their appeal to coin collectors, these halves are actively sought by those who collect memorabilia from the Columbian Exposition. A vast array of such collectibles exists for what many regard as this country's first world's fair.

By the way, one of these Columbian halves is among this month's prizes. Might you be the lucky winner?

COINfucious says: *"Serious collectors of Jeffersons and Roosevelts risk being nickeled and dimed to death."*

Area Coin Shows

- April 15-17, 2011 **Georgia Numismatic Association Annual Coin Show**
Northwest Georgia Trade & Convention Center, Dalton, GA, I-75, Exit 333.
- April 30, 2011 **Crossville**, La Quinta Inn, Highway 127 North at I-40 exit 317.
- May 7, 2011 **Knoxville Coin Show**, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike
(I-40 exit #378)
- May 20-21 **Coin & Currency Show**, Civic Center, 210 Albert Gallatin Ave, Gallatin, TN.
- May 28 **Coin & Currency Show**, Rhea City, Welcome Center, E. Main at US Hwy 27,
Dayton, TN.
- June 4, 2011 **Knoxville Coin Show**, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike
(I-40 exit #378)

This Month's Raffle Prizes

		Est. Grade
1893	Columbian Comm. Half	VF-XF
1865	CN Three Cent Piece	VG
1904-O	Barber Quarter	G/AG
1939-D & 1938-S	Jefferson. Nickels	VG-F
1883	NC Liberty Nickel	G-VG
1984	U.S. Proof Set	Proof

The Door Prize will be a 1937 Buffalo Nickel - signed HOBO.