

# Cumberland Coins

## The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

August, 2011

### Next Meeting

This month we will have our third annual club family picnic instead of our usual meeting. It will be held on Tuesday, August 9. The time will be 5:30pm and the place will be Shelter #2 in Centennial Park on Industrial Blvd. See the map below for the location of the park and the shelter. The next item has more details.

### Picnic Details

I've been told that this year the main dish will be Barbeque. The members will be bringing the delicious side dishes. Plates, cups, and utensils will be available, but you should bring your own beverage. If you haven't signed up yet or have forgotten what you signed up to bring, contact one of our picnic committee members:

Betty Harris - 484-9152

Loretta Groom - 865-804-9669

Sandy Swanson - 484-1388

We will have a raffle open to everyone and Bill Groom has put together a "COINtest". The COINtest includes something of a history lesson on coins but requires no prior knowledge of numismatics. It's something of a guessing game that depends upon your intuition. If this sounds interesting, join us at this fun and friendly meeting to see if your intuitive powers may win you a prize!

There will not be a business meeting or auction this month. We're just going to have a fun time.

### Coin Lore

#### Thinking About Coins By Bill Groom

For many coin collectors the hobby is akin to playing Bingo. Actually, coin collecting and Bingo do have a lot in common. Both pursuits tend to bring folks together. Both involve numbers, what with coins having dates. While Bingo players mark their numbers on cards, coin collectors plug their albums with various dates in order to complete a series. Either way, the final result can be a jackpot - BINGO! Of course, the pursuit of coin collecting, numismatics, can be far more complex if one takes their time and thinks about related aspects of history, economics, art, science ....

Take a look at this month's prize offering. Hmmm, what was happening in 1941 when that Washington quarter was minted? Does Pearl Harbor ring a bell? How did that quarter acquire its obverse, orange peripheral toning? There's a science lesson here. Does the toning make the coin look more or less attractive to your eye?

What about that 1877 Liberty Seated half? Why is the obverse graded good and the reverse graded about good? How did one side tend to wear more than the other? Is this typical? Might this phenomenon have been due to the design or the striking process? When this coin was first struck, it was worth the equivalent of fifty 1877 Indian cents. Those Indians, nowadays, in comparable, lower grade condition, would fetch a grand total of more than \$20,000!! Now, there's a thought for you to ponder ...

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Why did the government issue those two and three cent pieces? Why does God appear on one and not the other? Why is the smaller denomination the larger of the two coins? Have you ever noticed that the word "cents" is absent on the three cent coin? Do you think that the Civil War somehow influenced the design of either or both of these coins?

Back when I was a kid, there were folks who thought that Mercury dimes were actually made of mercury, the whitish metal contained in thermometers! Collectors would then correct them, calling the Mercuries "Liberty Head" dimes. How does the mintage of these early dimes compare with those of our modern dimes? Why are these Denver and San Francisco dimes valued at more than the Philadelphia-struck dimes of 1917, 1919 and 1925?

The classic Liberty nickels are among my favorite coin designs. This month's prizes include an example from each, the first and last year issued. Note that the word "cents" is absent on the 1883. What's up with that? Yet, the 1912 does display the denomination. How'd it get there? Thus, there are two different types within the Liberty nickel series. Do other coin series' contain more than one type or design variation?

Okay, now for the \$64,000 question ... Do you play coin Bingo or take the time to think about them? Bingo is fun and occasionally profitable, and there's certainly nothing wrong with that. But, if you take the time to study your coins, ask questions and, even more importantly, seek answers, you'll grow with the knowledge and reap rewards far beyond the simple gathering of prizes. Buy a coin book, consult the Internet, attend shows and club meetings, network with other collectors and encourage others to relish the joys of collecting.

**COINfucious Says:** *"Like fugitives from justice, coins not stored properly have habit of disappearing."*

### Area Coin Shows

August 6, 2011 **Knoxville Coin Show**, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike  
(I-40 exit #378)

August 19-21, 2011 Blue Ridge Numismatic Assoc. 52nd Annual Convention, NW GA Trade &  
Convention Ctr., 2211 Dug Gap Battle Rd, Dalton, Georgia

September 3, 2011 **Knoxville Coin Show**, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike  
(I-40 exit #378)

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### This Month's Raffle Prizes

		Est. Grade
1877	50 Liberty Seated Half	G/AG
1866	CN Three Cent Piece	Fine
1864	Two Cent Piece	Good
1883 NC & 1912	Liberty Nickels	XF + Fine
1941	Washington Quarter	AU+
1917-S, 1919-D & 1925-D	Mercury Dimes	Avg. Circ