

Cumberland Coins

The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

August, 2015

Next Meeting

Midsummer is here already and it's time for our annual club picnic. It will be held on our regular meeting night of Tuesday August 11. The location is in the shelter in Centennial Park behind the skateboard area. We will start gathering at 5:00pm with the meal starting between 5:30 and 6:00. The club will supply the meat and the members will bring the side dishes to share. If you haven't sign up to attend please call Loretta Groom at 787-4878 or Sandy Swanson at 484-1388 to make your reservation.

We will have the raffle after the meal, but there will be no business meeting or auction this month.

For those not familiar with the park, it is on Industrial Blvd. between the Post Office and Genesis Road.

Coin Lore

CROWN JEWELS

by Bill Groom

Many a coin collector aims to complete a date set, a type set or the like that leads to the fulfillment of a long term goal. Others seek to accrue high grade, investment coins or what's known as registry coins. Coins that conjure thoughts of history and/or beauty of design often call out to a collector. Still, others buy impulsively, accumulating whatever coins come their way.

Here are two "crown jewels" as I call them, that once shouted, "Buy me!" It wasn't simply their extremely fine detail, their history and beauty of design that beckoned me to purchase them. These all played a part, but it was their subtle, jewel-like toning that caught my eye. With minimal wear from the slightest of circulation, the sunny golden toning on one and bluish splashes on the others' surfaces, they looked to me as if they'd been resting in a museum case for a hundred years. My pics now really don't seem to do them justice, but here they are ...



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Beauty aside, there is much history attached to these dollar-sized, British crowns. The first crowns were issued in 1544, under the rule of Henry VIII. A few women, mind you, literally lost their heads over Henry. Queen Victoria, pictured above, ruled from 1839 to 1901. There were four design portraits that reflect her aging, being the “Young Head”, the “Gothic Design”, the “Jubilee Design” (above) and lastly, the “Veiled Head.”

Born in 1819, Queen Victoria ruled for over sixty years. Now reigning, Queen Elizabeth ascended to the throne in 1952. Come this September, Elizabeth will surpass the reign of her great-great grandmother, Queen Victoria. Long live the Queen!



King Edward VII, portrayed above, was the eldest son of Queen Victoria. Born in 1841, he died in 1910. The 1902 crown was issued for his coronation year. No further crowns were coined under his rule. Photographs of Edward, then in his sixties, evidence that he was indeed more portly than his coin image suggests. He was succeeded by George V.

Note that the dated side of both the Victoria and Edward crowns depicts St. George, slaying the mythical dragon. Struck in relatively high relief, this exciting imagery appears in bold contrast to that on our then circulating U.S. silver coins. Consider the relatively stationary designs on our Barber coinage and the Morgan Dollars. Of course, our stately Victorian era coinage was followed, not long after, by the strikingly beautiful St. Gaudens' Double Eagles of 1907 and the ever popular Walking Liberty Half Dollars of 1916. Lady Liberty then came alive!

Collectors who enjoy fantastic stories, mythology, will relish the so-called “Golden Legend” of St. George and the dragon. Just like the simple facts, cited in this article, the “Golden Legend” is today only a few keystrokes away.

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Area Coin Shows

September 5 **Knoxville;** Coin Show, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378).

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

August 21-23 **Dalton, GA;** Blue Ridge Numismatic Association (BRNA) 56th Annual Convention.
Northwest Georgia Trade and Convention Center, 2211 Dug Gap Battle Rd, Dalton, GA
I-75, Exit 333

November 13 -15 **Chattanooga;** Tennessee State Numismatic Society (TSNS). Fall Coin Show.
Camp Jordan Arena, I-75, Exit 1.

For more information on some of these shows see <http://www.tsns.org/Tennessee Club Shows.html>

This Month's Raffle Prizes

		Est. Grade
1847	Large Cent	VG
1805	Large Cent (details grade)	G/Fr
1938-D	Mercury Dime	AU
1925, 1926 & 1927	Buffalo Nickels	F-VF
1814	Canada Colonial Halfpenny Token	Fine
1915	Barber Quarter	Good+