

Cumberland Coins

The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

February, 2017

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will on Tuesday February 14th starting at 6:30. The meeting is will be held at the 127 Senior Center on Highway 127 (Main Street) South of town. Doors open at 6:00.

A number of people paid their 2017 dues at the last meeting. The Treasurer will be collecting them again this month. It is about time to elect officers again. If anyone is interested in becoming an officer or wants to serve in some other way, please tell one of the current officers.

We will also have the usual business meeting, show and tell, raffle, and member prize drawing.

Coin Lore

An Intriguing Encased Cent

by Bill Groom

Encased cents, coins ensconced in aluminum holders, were introduced en masse at the Pan American Exposition in 1901. Typically, a 1901 Indian Cent was then used to create a souvenir for visitors to the Expo. A great many varieties were created, touting various exhibits and illustrating good luck symbols. This form of *exonomia* or coin-related token became so popular with the public that encased cents and later, other denominations, became commonplace souvenirs at subsequent fairs and expositions. It was not long before advertisers saw an advantage in utilizing this medium.

Throughout the twentieth century, literally tens of thousands of varieties of encased cents were made to promote goods, services and events like grand openings. Oftentimes, they were attached to key chains. Even silver dollars were subjected to encasement, but cents, by far, were the coin of choice, being the so-called lucky penny. Typically, the holders were round, but other shapes were utilized as well, like a horseshoe, a Teddy bear and even a chamber pot! Aluminum was far and away the metal of choice, but other metals like brass were also used to make the holders. A mint state coin was used to indicate the year of production, and yes, rare coins sometimes even got encased!



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There are many ways to collect encased cents. Oftentimes, collectors seek specimens that advertised a local, regional or state business. The pursuit of particular businesses, like automotive, is another way to build a collection. One could conceivably try to form a twentieth century collection by year, say from 1901-2000. When it comes to encased coins, there's a great deal of variety to be had, ranging in price from a few dollars, as are most, into the hundreds.

Below is pictured an encased, 1945 cent that I found intriguing. Not only does it advertise a store, it marks two historic events in history. The reverse advertising reads **SEE SAVITT-YOU'LL HAVE IT/ JEWELERS / 35 ASYLUM ST.** (Bill Savitt's Jewelry Store was in Hartford, Connecticut) The obverse proudly announces **VICTORY / V-E DAY May 8/ V-J DAY Sept 2 / WORLD PEACE.**

World War I was supposedly the war to end all wars. It took atomic bombs to end WW II. Yet, hope continued to spring eternal, as expressed by the **WORLD PEACE** sentiment on this encased cent. If only they knew what was to follow ... Korea, Viet Nam, Desert Storm and more!

Encased cents can be likened to historical markers. They recall memories simpler times, bygone days when times were seemingly simpler. Researching these little pieces of history provides something of an escape from the complications of our presently troubling times. Furthermore, as you can see, they make for great conversation pieces.

Area Coin Shows

February 3-4 **Knoxville;** 53rd Annual Coin Show, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378).

February 18 **Cookeville;** Coin Show, Upper Cumberland Coin Club. Hyder-Burkes Pavilion, 2390 Gainesboro Grade

March 3-5 **Chattanooga;** Tennessee State Numismatic Society (TSNS). Spring Coin Show. Camp Jordan Arena, I-75, Exit 1.

April 21-23 Dalton, GA; 53rd Anniversary Georgia Numismatic Association, Northwest Georgia Trade & Convention Center, Dalton, GA, I-75, Exit 333.

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

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This Month's Raffle Prizes

		Est. Grade
1922	Peace Dollar	AU+
1857	Flying Eagle Cent	Good
1900	Barber Half	G+
1928-S, 1934-D & 1938-D	Mercury Dimes	VG-F
300 B.C.	Mauryan silver coin (northern India)	VF+
1927-D, 1929-D & 1936-S	Buffalo Nickels	VG-VF

Door Prize

1988 Lincoln Cent
(error, off-center strike)
(UNC)