

Cumberland Coins

The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter January, 2013

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be Tuesday January 8th 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.

Our annual elections are in March, so we will appoint a nominating committee this month. If you are willing to be on the committee contact me by phone at 456-0397 or email or see me before the meeting.

If you got anything new for Christmas (or otherwise) bring it for show and tell. We will also have our regular business meeting, the raffle, and the auction.

Coin Lore

Native Americans on U.S. Coins

by Bill Groom

There are ever so many ways to build a collection of U.S. coins; and, without having to consider dates and mintmarks! One could build a set consisting of various presidents, coins with or without the motto "In God We Trust", different representations of eagles, various images of Lady Liberty ... The list goes on. A few of the prizes in this month's auction would make a great starter coin for a collection of Native American coins.



The 1913 so-called Buffalo or Indian Head Nickel was first issued one hundred years ago now. The Indian is more properly called a Native American, and the buffalo is actually a bison; yet, these misnomers persist. The series lasted twenty-five years. Designer James Earle Fraser crafted a composite Native American, using the images of three different chiefs. An American bison by the name of Black Diamond, a resident of the Central Park Zoo in N.Y. City, served as a model for the reverse "buffalo" design.

After the striking of the first 1913 nickels which had a raised mound, it was thought that the mound should be lowered and the words "FIVE CENTS" recessed so as to prevent the denomination from wearing down. When modifying this aspect of the design, Mint Engraver Barber saw fit to also diminish the hair and hide detail of the central figures, too! In his Encyclopedia of U.S. Coins, Walter Breen suggested that Barber was jealous of Fraser's very popular design. Thus, the earliest strikes tend to be more detailed.

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Another popular, first year, Native American design appeared way back in 1859. The so-called Indian Cents were struck for fifty years. The reverse, wreath design was modified in 1860, rendering the 1859 cent a one year type coin; this, as was the raised mound nickel in 1913. Toward the close of the Civil War, 1864, the copper-nickel composition was replaced by a bronze composition.

The pictured coins are two of this month's prizes. If one browses through a U.S. coin book, many other examples of Native Americans on our coinage can be found. Some examples that come to mind are the Massachusetts colonial cent, the Oregon Trail commemorative half, the Sacajawea dollar and a variety of Indian Head gold coins. This sounds like a fun collection to build, and even paper money could be added.

COINfucious Says: *"Collectors of early coppers prefer half cents to holed ones."*

Interesting Web Sites

First off, there is the Tennessee State Numismatic Society's site at <http://www.tsns.org/>. This page has a number of interesting links including old and current issues of this newsletter in "Local Club News" and a schedule of coin shows in Tennessee.

Coin Community Forum (<http://www.coincommunity.com/forum/>) has a number of discussion areas related to numismatics. It is a congenial and helpful site for people with questions or answers about coins.

I just heard about Coin Network (<http://www.coinnetwork.com/>) from another club's newsletter. It appears to be a social networking site for numismatists.

Finally there is Coinflation (<http://www.coinflation.com/>). This is where I get current quotes for silver and gold. They also have tables of the metal contents and metal value of all sorts of U.S. coins.

I'm sure there are many more interesting sites. I have some others bookmarked. If you have any favorite coin related sites, please let me know so we can share them in the newsletter.

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Area Coin Shows

February 1-2, 2012 **Knoxville;** 49th Annual Coin Show, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378).

March 1-3, 2013 **Chattanooga;** Tennessee State Numismatic Society (TSNS). Spring 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
1859	Indian Cent	Fine
1913	V-1 Buffalo Nickel (rotated die)	XF+
1859, 1876-H & 1912	Canadian Cents	VG-XF
1946 P&S & 1911	Roosevelt Dime & Barber Dime	BU Fine
	Indian Head 1/10th oz silver round	BU

The Door Prize will be (2) old Tennessee General Store tokens "Butler's Landing".