

Cumberland Coins

The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

June, 2010

Next Meeting

Our June meeting will be next Tuesday, the 8th 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 program this month will be the second half of the DVD on counterfeit coins. The first half was quite interesting to me since I hadn't know very much about counterfeits before except that they exist and are becoming more common. The second half of the presentation should be very informative. If anybody has any counterfeit coins, please bring them for show and tell so the rest of us can see them.

We are also still looking for volunteers to help plan the picnic we plan for August. There isn't a lot of work involved. The location has been reserved, so you would only need to order the chicken and coordinate the side dishes. Please let me know if you are willing to help.

Coin Lore

A TROUBLESOME TRIO by Bill Groom

Pictured are three, altered date coins. These are coins that reside in my collection of counterfeits. Two of the coins were altered to deceive, and one is a fantasy piece that never really did exist. It's conceivable that these somewhat crude counterfeits were crafted by collectors who simply wanted to cheaply fill a "hole" in their collection. Not everyone who alters coins does so with intent to defraud. Do you recall the video we saw at our last club meeting? Altering coins is not illegal, but doing so with intent to defraud is a crime. I'll bring these to the next meeting for closer inspection and study.



One of the coins pictured is a 1922-D Lincoln which evidences scratches where the D mintmark once resided. Some albums come with a hole for this error coin, and some do not. Those empty holes in coin albums are typically where our eyes are most drawn, eh what? Frail beings that we humans are, we all to easily look to the negative things in life ... the album being half-empty!

Back when I was collecting coins as a kid, the Jefferson Nickel series was a must to complete. The 1939-D and almost all the others could be found in circulation, but the 1950-D was the one that was virtually impossible to find. They were selling for \$25 or so when the minimum wage was \$1.25 an hour. That translated to a half week's work for me!

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It was only a few years ago that this second, altered coin came into my possession. It's actually a 1959-D nickel that's had the tail of the second nine severed; thus, making it into a mini zero! As nickel is a harder metal than copper, the amputation marks aren't as evident as those on the 1922-D altered cent. Also of note is that both of these coins have had some sort of coloring done to help hide the marks ... artificial toning of sorts. Always beware of coins that evidence unnatural color; thus, often intended to hide something.



Lastly is pictured a coin that couldn't technically exist - a fantasy piece. Large cents were produced by the mint continuously from 1793-1857. The only year lacking in the series was 1815. Even before albums existed, back in the mid-1800's, it undoubtedly bothered collectors to experience that void - the missing year that never was. Today, there are many, surviving examples of large cents whose date has been altered to 1815. This crude alteration was performed by cutting away at the four in an 1845 large cent. This one's akin to the more common alteration of 1944-D Lincolns to fill that elusive 1914-D hole.

In summary, caveat emptor - Latin for "let the buyer beware." Key coins, the expensive ones, demand certification. Buy from reputable dealers. If a coin seems to be too much of a bargain, it may not be genuine. Always study the key coins before buying an album. Altered coins often hide among genuine coins. Thinking of buying a key coin, like that 1916-D dime? Study the diagnostics beforehand. Buy or read a book before buying the coin. Cultivate personal judgment without having to depend too much upon others. The list goes on ... Happy hunting!

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COINfucious says: *"Cows that chew cuds may leave fields-full of coins."*

Area Coin Shows

July 10, 2010 **Knoxville Coin Show**, Rothchild Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378)

October 30, 2010 **Crossville**, La Quinta Inn, Highway 127 North at I-40 exit 317.

This Month's Raffle Prizes

		Est. Grade
1909 VDB	Lincoln Cent	VF
1863	Civil War Token	VG
1894	Indian Cent	VG+
1864	Indian Cent (CN)	Good
1915	Buffalo Nickel	Good
1911	Liberty Nickel	Fine

The Door Prize will be a coin clock.

Look for These in this Month's Auction

Although I'm sure we'll have an active auction again this month, I didn't receive any listings to include in the newsletter. If you have coins for the auction that you want to have listed in the Newsletter, email the information to mike.vcc@frontier.com no later than ten days before the meeting.