

# Cumberland Coins

## The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

November, 2011

### Next Meeting

Our November meeting will be held 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.

This month we will decide what to do for our Christmas meeting, which was discussed last month. We will also have our normal business meeting, show and tell, the raffle, and the auction. If you have any new or unusual items bring them to share with the group.

### Coin Lore

#### Does This French Coin Look Familiar ?

By Bill Groom



*Republique Francais - This one franc coin is dated 1898, being the first year of issue. It's comparable in size to a U.S. quarter, containing .835 % silver. This popular design was used on other denominations as well. The one franc issue with this design lasted until 1920. The popularity of this design resulted in its being resurrected for use in the five franc coins that were struck from 1960 to 1990.*

This classic French coin's design was the concept of Oscar Roty in 1897. The style is what's commonly referred to as "art nouveau" or new art. It represented a departure from the classic, idealized portraits of Liberty and rulers. Instead of appearing as a statue, Lady Liberty is moving, walking toward the sun - note the rays in the field which illuminate her footsteps. Adorning her head is a Phrygian cap that has long symbolized freedom from slavery and was worn by patriots of the French Revolution. In her left hand is a bag of seeds that she is spreading with an outstretched right hand. Her flowing gown gives her the appearance of forward movement. The strong symbolism of this design is unmistakable. This rendition of Lady Liberty has fondly been dubbed the "Sower" as she is spreading the seeds of liberty.

The reverse motto of this classic coin reads: LIBERTE', EGALITE', FRATERNITE' or Liberty, Equality, Fraternity; these, being the cries of the French Revolution in 1789, a hundred years earlier. The denomination and date also appear, amid a floral design which represents produce, results, from the rooted seeds of liberty.

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Pictured alongside our American Walking Liberty half is a French five franc coin, dated 1963. It's slightly smaller in size. The similarity of the central design is striking. Again, we can see the "art nouveau" style employed. Note the prominence of the sun, rising in the east, the direction of France. Our Godly motto stands behind Lady Liberty. Her arm is outstretched in a gesture of friendship, as if offering a helping hand. Also, our Lady Liberty is wearing shoes of the sort necessary for a long walk, a mission, if you will.

The Walking Liberty Half entered circulation in 1916. World War I was then raging in Europe, and there was great controversy here as to whether the U.S. should remain neutral. To the Europeans, the besieged French in particular, the symbolism on this coin doubtless offered hope. When this design was resurrected for use on the U.S. Eagle Dollar coins in 1986, Reagan was President. He was the telling the Russians to "tear down that wall" - not just the one in Germany but the so-called "iron curtain." Again, this design offered hope to those behind the wall for a better tomorrow.

Likely, Roty's Sower was an inspiration to Adolph Weinman, designer of our Walking Liberty. Roty probably influenced Augustus Saint-Gauden, too, designer of the classic Twenty Dollar Gold Pieces which entered circulation in 1908. These coins transcend common currency and speak of pure art ... timeless and telling treasures of the past that speak to the future.

**COINfucious Says:** *"Finding of key coin can open door to coin collecting."*

### **Cookeville Coin Show**

The Cookeville Coin Club must be attracting some attention. For the first time since I've been here there will be a coin show in Cookeville on November 19 from 9:00am to 4:00pm. It will be at the Leslie Town Centre, 1 West 1<sup>st</sup> Street. There is a map attached at the end of this newsletter. If you have a chance, try to attend and support having more coin shows in our area.

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### Area Coin Shows

November 4-6, 2011 **Chattanooga**, [Tennessee State Numismatic Society \(TSNS\)](http://www.tsns.org). Fall Coin Show.  
Camp Jordan Arena, I-75, Exit 1

November 12, 2011 **Knoxville Coin Show**, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike  
(I-40 exit #378)

November 19, 2011 **Cookeville**, Leslie Town Centre, 1 West 1st Street (see map below.)

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

December 9-10, 2011 **Gallatin Coin & Currency Show**, Civic Center, 210 Albert Gallatin Ave.

For more information on any of these shows see [http://www.tsns.org/Tennessee Club Shows.html](http://www.tsns.org/TennesseeClubShows.html)

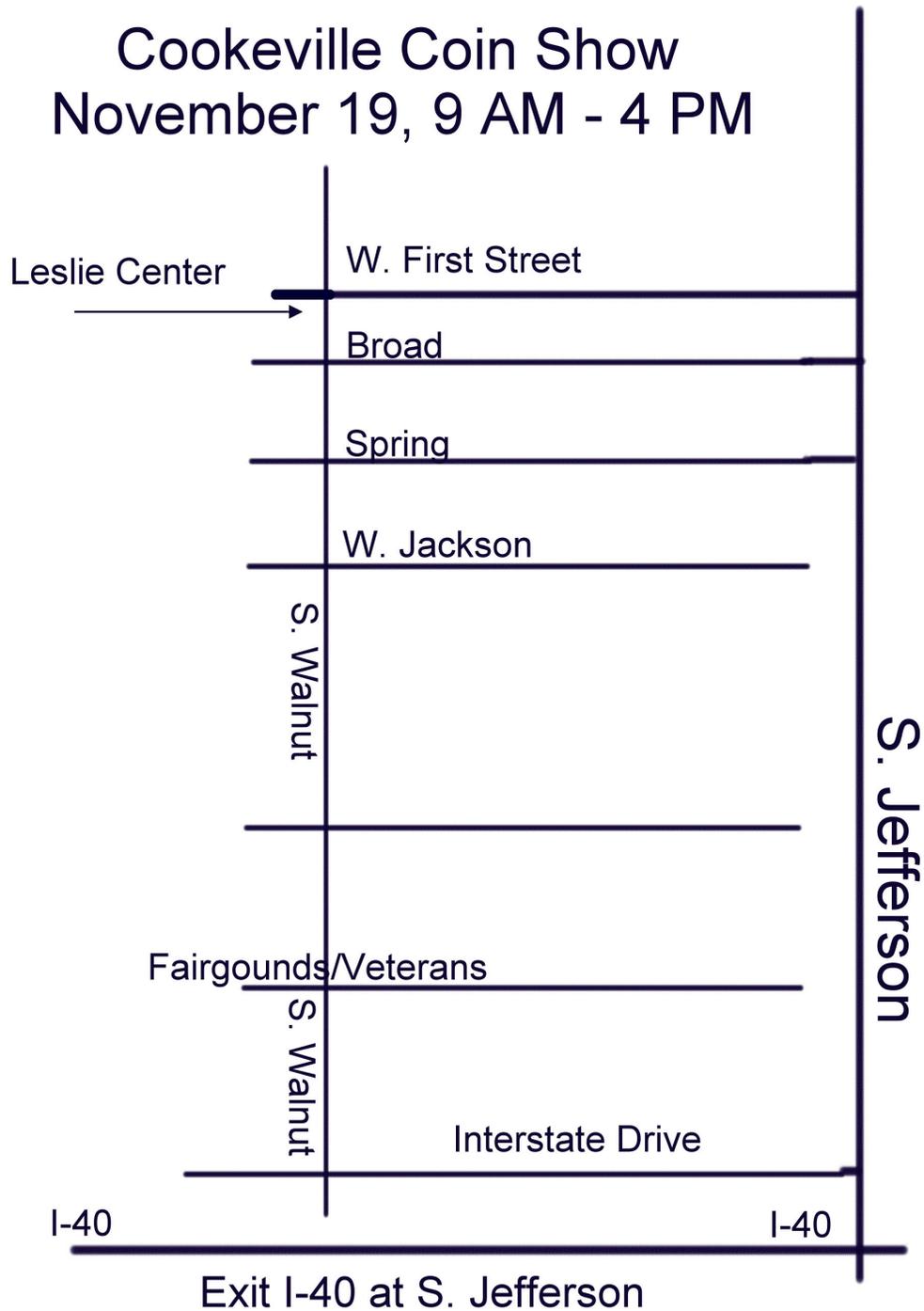
### This Month's Raffle Prizes

		Est. Grade
1844	Half Dime	Good
1908-O	Barber Half	Good
1883	NC Liberty Nickel	AU
1909	VDB Lincoln Cent	AU
1931-D	Mercury Dime	Good
1898	French "Sower" Franc	F-VF

The Door Prize will be 1937 P&D Buffalo Nickels (VF & XF).

Note: This 1937-D presently has **four** legs!

# Cookeville Coin Show November 19, 9 AM - 4 PM



Go north on Jefferson, turn left onto 1st Street  
OR  
Jefferson, left onto Interstate, right onto Walnut