

Cumberland Coins

The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

October, 2017

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will on Tuesday October 10th 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.

This month we will have our usual business meeting, show and tell, raffle, member prize drawing, and auction.

Coin Lore

Liberian Coins - Africa's First Republic

by Bill Groom

In 1820, the first former U.S. slaves arrived at the British colony of Sierra Leone from the United States, and in 1821 the American Colonization Society founded the colony of Liberia, south of Sierra Leone, as a homeland for former slaves outside British jurisdiction.

The American Colonization Society came under attack from U.S. abolitionists, who charged that the removal of freed slaves from the United States strengthened the institution of slavery. In addition, most Americans of African descent were not enthusiastic to abandon their native lands in the United States for the harsh West African coast. Nevertheless, between 1822 and the American Civil War, some 15,000 African Americans settled in Liberia. Independence had been granted by the United States in 1847, and Liberia aided Britain in its efforts to end the illegal West African slave trade.

It's believed that Liberia's first minor coins were struck by a private U.S. company in either Bellville, New Jersey or Brooklyn, NY, during the 1830's. It wasn't until 1935 that United States currency replaced the British West African pound in Liberia. Starting in 1937, Liberia issued its own coins which circulated alongside US currency. Below are pictured one and two cent denominations from 1937 and 1941, respectively. These coins' symbols reflect images of a largely agrarian society....



With the backing of the United States, Liberia kept its independence throughout twentieth century. A costly civil war began in 1989 and lasted until 1997, when President Charles Taylor was elected by popular vote. Some three million people live in Liberia today.

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Despite the never-ending criticism of the role of the United States and Britain in the history of Liberia, this first republic obviously owes its continuing independence to their abiding support. The story of Liberia is a fascinating one of struggle and endurance from slavery to democracy.

Area Coin Shows

October 7 **Knoxville;** Coin Show, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike
(I-40 exit #378).

November 4-6 **Chattanooga;** Tennessee State Numismatic Society (TSNS). Fall Coin Show.
Camp Jordan Arena, I-75, Exit 1.

November 11 **Knoxville;** Coin Show, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike
(I-40 exit #378).

February 17 **Cookeville;** Coin Show, Upper Cumberland Coin Club. Hyder-Burkes Pavilion,
2390 Gainesboro Grade

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

This Month's Raffle Prizes

		Est. Grade
1896	Morgan Dollar	AU-BU
1940	Mercury Dime	BU+
1912-D	Liberty Nickel (1st D-mint nickel)	Fine
1922-D	Lincoln Cent	G det
1834	Bust Dime (large 4)	G-VG
1970	British Set (8 coins - last year of pre-decimal issues)	Proof

Door Prize

1937 + 1941 Liberia
Coins (+ coin article) -
Proof