

Cumberland Coins

The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

September, 2010

Next Meeting

Our September meeting will be next Tuesday, the 14th at 6:30 pm. We meet at the 127 Senior Center on Highway 127 (Main Street) South of town. Doors open at 6:00.

We will be back to our regular meetings this month. If it arrives, we will watch part of the DVD “PAPER MONEY IN THE U.S. - 1690 TO PRESENT” for our program at this meeting. I don't think many of our members are active in paper money collecting, so this should be informative for most of us. We will also have our business meeting and auction. If you have anything new or unusual please bring it for the show and tell session. Bill Snyder said he would probable bring something.

Picnic

The picnic turned out very well again this year. The food was delicious and I think everybody had a good time. The only complaint I heard was that maybe the contest puzzle was a little too hard. Bill and Loretta Groom put a lot of time into making it up for us. Finally, a big thank you to Betty Harris for organizing the picnic and getting the chicken. She did a great job. Here are a couple of pictures I took at the picnic.



Coin Lore

Never Clean Your Coins

by Bill Groom

At some point in time, most collectors have heard some fellow collector or dealer say, “Never clean your coins!” That old adage certainly sounds like sage advice, but personally, I have to take issue with that school of thought. There are certainly a few, logical reasons that any serious coin collector might want to clean some coins. Don't get me wrong. There are good ways of cleaning that will actually conserve a coin's surface.

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My favorite means of cleaning is the use of acetone. A pint or so can be purchased at any hardware store for under \$10, and it makes a good solvent to have handy for general household use. Before using any method of cleaning, a collector should practice upon a variety of low grade and/or common coins. Dunk one end of a Q-Tip into the acetone, gently pressing the damp tip against the inside of the can or bottle so as to wring it out. Then take a practice coin and gently swab one side. Alternately use the dry end of the Q-Tip to lift the acetone from the wet side. Repeat the process on both sides until no further discoloration appears on the cotton. If you see green coloration, that may be verdigris or PVC that migrated onto the coin from an old holder, coin album, box, or other, contaminated container or coin.

Once both sides have been so swabbed, don't forget to do the third surface of the coin, the edge! Otherwise, contaminants from the edge will eventually migrate to the obverse and/or reverse area. At such time that you feel comfortable, you can try conserving your collectible coins in this manner. Do be sure that all surfaces are sufficiently dry before putting them back into an album or holder.

Another, related issue here is coin storage. It's not wise to keep valuable coins, especially high-grade ones, in a damp area. Avoid the use of older albums or folders that contain sulfur and similar contaminants. Those of us who really appreciate the beauty of coins really need to take steps to preserve our prized possessions for future generations.

One final thought I'd suggest is that every collector would be wise to scrub some old coins with steel wool, pencil erasers and whatever other abrasive means are at hand. Why do I recommend this? I would hope that collectors who do this might then study the damaged surfaces so that they can better recognize coins so impaired.

COINfucious says: *"Clipped coins, mint's way of taking bite out of inflation."*

Area Coin Shows

October 2, 2010 **Knoxville Coin Show**, Rothchild Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378)

August 20-22, 2010 **Blue Ridge Numismatics Association (BRNA) 51st Annual Convention.**
Northwest Georgia Trade and Convention Center, Dalton, GA. I-75, Exit 333.

October, 2010 **Coin & Currency Show.** Rhea City Welcome Center, Rhea County Hwy
(US Hwy 27), Dayton, TN

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

November 5-7, 2010 **Tennessee State Numismatic Society Annual Fall Convention,**
Camp Jordan Arena, Chattanooga, TN, I-75, Exit 1.

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This Month's Raffle Prizes

		Est.. Grade
1865	CN Three Cent Piece	VG-F
1909	Indian Cent	Good
1913-D	Barber Quarter	Good
1860	CN Indian Cent	Good +
1864	BR Indian Cent	Good +

The Door Prize will be a 1981 U.S. Proof Set.

Look for These in this Month's Auction

		Est. Grade	Min. Bid
1924-D	Lincoln Cent	Good	
2009-10	Lincoln Cent (31 mixed varieties)	UNC	
3 pcs	Buffalo Nickel	VG-F	
1964	Roosevelt Dime	Proof	
1963	Washington Quarter	Proof	
1862	One Dollar Gold	AU Details	
1941-S 1942-S 1943-P	Walking Liberty Half Dollar	G-VG	\$7.00 Ea This will be choice or all.

We will also auction large number of coin supplies such as Whitman folders and coin tubes that were donated to the club.