

A Historical View of the Culver City & Bay Cities Coin Clubs

by Jack von Bloeker III

The Culver City Coin Club (CCCC) was founded in 1958 and held their meetings at the Veterans Memorial Complex in Culver City for about 46 years. In 1993, the Northrop Coin Club dissolved and merged into the CCCC--bringing in about four members. That is how I came into being a CCCC member. From 1993 until 2008, the CCCC had about 16 active members with around 8 to 12 members present at the monthly meetings.



The Veterans Memorial Complex raised our room rental fees several times until we decided to find another place. After searching around, we found the El Segundo Library meeting room, with all of its amenities. Moreover, it was free so we jumped at the opportunity. Our room rental fees have since increased to \$10, but we are still pleased with the fee.



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Culver City & Bay Cities Coin Clubs

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In 1999, after moving into our new digs, we discussed re-naming our club to something more appropriate to our new location. However, we ended up keeping our Culver City name mainly because our club's 50th anniversary was coming up in 2008.



John Sherman, Jack von Bloeker, Steve Demmer and Garn Anderson

Then in 2008 we had two 50th anniversary club outings—one to tour the Federal Reserve facilities in downtown Los Angeles and a second to do gold panning at the East Fork of the San Gabriel River in our local mountains. Both outings were a lot of fun and well attended.



We also issued a medallion to commemorate the event. That medallion had our club logo on the obverse with a super imposed 50. There was a special reverse with the wheat back of the old Lincoln cent along with two dates, 1958 and 2008. The wheat back cent design was chosen because that was the last year with that design along with our club's founding year. (In 1959, the reverse design of the Lincoln cent was changed to the Lincoln memorial.)

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PRESENTING The Culver City Coin Club's 50th Anniversary Medallion



OBVERSE



REVERSE

Sometime during 2008, our club started placing a club meeting notice in a local newspaper, The Daily Breeze. Those notices started bringing in new members. Then one our technical wizard members, Stephen Gornick, created a web page for our club. That web site also brought in some new members. Additionally Stephen put meeting notices on Craigslist.com, which also created new interest in the club. Those three things brought our club membership to over 30 members by 2009.

Approximately one year ago, Phil Iversen approached us with the idea of merging the CCCC with the BCCC. (Phil Iversen is a life member of both clubs.) Although the Bay Cities Coin Club (BCCC) was founded in 1962, by 2009 there was only one remaining member--Phil. The one caveat to the merger suggestion was—that we change our name to the Bay Cities Coin Club.

As you know, our members voted to do the merger. Most members liked the new name because it more accurately defined our membership base along with the fact that we no longer have anything to do with Culver City. Since the merger, our club has grown to 46 members, which makes us the fastest growing coin club in the Southern California area. Accordingly, I thank all of you for your participation in our fine club.

Therefore, in commemoration of the merger of the Culver City Coin Club and the Bay Cities Coin Club, I personally purchased 600 crown-sized (39mm in diameter) proof medallions for the club back in April 2010. They finally arrived in late June and are in three different compositions--being: Bright Copper, Golden Bronze and Fine Silver. Our flagship piece, the Fine Silver, is one troy ounce of .999 fine silver. Both designs, obverse and reverse were designed by our Treasurer, George Gill.

The medallions have the club logo on the obverse, which is the beautiful Walking Liberty on US half dollars that were minted from 1916 to 1947. The setting sun has a portion of the Culver City Coin Club logo on it, which depicts the demise of the CCCC. On the right side are the words, "FOUNDED 1962". Around the diameter is the name of our club along with some stars. At the very bottom is "2010" denoting our merger date.

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Culver City & Bay Cities Coin Clubs

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The reverse has a map of the southern portion of the Los Angeles area and its freeway system. Los Angeles International Airport is indicated with by the letters "LAX" and there is a star indicating the location of our club's meeting place in El Segundo. There are dashed lines radiating from the star that encompass the bay cities—El Segundo south to Long Beach. (Local people refer to that whole area as the South Bay.) Those cities are the bay cities in our area that most of our members reside. Around the diameter are ten stars with "BCCC" at the top. On the bottom are the words "*MEETING*THE*SECOND*THURSDAY*" and "*6:30-8:30*AT*THE*EL-SEGUNDO*LIBRARY*" informing people when and where we meet.

The medallions are available for sale at no cost to the club. Our club will make a little less than \$2 per medallion on each one that is sold. In addition, there is a discount price of \$40 if you purchase all three at the same time. The Bright Copper (250) and Golden Bronze (250) medals are \$7 and the Fine Silver (100) is \$28. There is a discount price of \$42 if you purchase the set of three.



The dies used to produce the medals

July Club News

The July meeting was called to order at 6:50 PM with 31 members and no guests present. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by John Forrey. Eric Auerbach won the membership drawing of \$3, which he took in the form of drawing tickets. The minutes of the June meeting were approved along with the Treasurer's report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Garn A. & Bernie M.—The North County (Anaheim) coin show this coming Sunday, 7/11 and various other shows.

Garn A.—Reminded everyone that our August meeting is going to be held on 8/19, not 8/12. Because of the out of the ordinary date for our meeting Phil Iversen, a life member, is going to be able to attend our meeting. He is also going to give us a coin presentation in August. He expanded on his negative observations at the recent Long Beach Coin Show.

Steve D.—Mentioned that now that we are an official non-profit organization that we can give people that wish to donate items or money to our club, a letter they can use to use as an income tax deduction. Garn says we don't have our IRS non-profit status totally completed yet.

Jack vB.—Announced that he saw the notice in Coin World about the founding of the Society of Bearded Numismatists back on July 7, 1976. They are known as the SOB Numismatists.

Bernie M.—Announced that the IRS is going to require coin sales greater than \$600 will have to have a 1099 issued, much like certain gambling winnings in Las Vegas.

GUESTS

Oops, no guests this month.

SHOW AND TELL

Jack vB.—An 1899 \$5 Silver Certificate that he purchased on eBay. The note features Chief Onepapa (Running Antelope), a member of the Hunkpapa Sioux (a part of the Dakota Tribe - which means 'allies'). This is the only issue of US paper money where an Indian was selected as the central motif. The portrait was engraved by George F. C. Smillie, using the feathered war bonnet of the Pawnee tribe (to make it fit in the allowed space).

Scott S.—A High Relief St. Gaudens \$20 piece that he recently purchased for \$5K. It has been cleaned and has a rim ding. He thinks a person used it as a pocket piece.

Bernie M.—A large group of paper currency he purchased from a bid board in Valencia. He had a Canal Bank from 1860 and some Defence Bonds from Missouri during the Confederate era. There was a broken bank note from Newport, R.I. and an 1872 Stat of So. Carolina note that he bought for \$22. There was a 1914 Federal Reserve note from Philadelphia and a current \$20 note that had a blue seal instead of a green seal. He also had a magician's coin that had a Mexican obverse and a Kennedy half reverse.

Bill C.—A Gettysburg token and a 1925 Stone Mountain commemorative half dollar coin.

Steve R.—A group of Tasmanian stamps that he purchased on eBay and a presentation case filled with world coin. He had some Martin Van Buren \$1 Presidential coins for sale at face.

Eric A.—Photocopies of three episodes of Walt Disney Donald Duck comic books with stories about coins. The comic book version of Donald was mainly developed by Carl Barks beginning in 1943.

MEMBER PROGRAM—JACK VON BLOEKER III

See write-up on Page One.

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July Club News-Continued

BREAK

Marc Mussman & Steve Demmer brought the refreshments—many pizzas, a fruit bowl and a large chocolate cake with sodas to wash it down. Eric Petersen added some cinnamon rolls. Wow, it is going to be hard to beat that spread. Many thanks are in order.

AUCTION

We had 17 lots from seven groups that were auctioned off.

COIN RAFFLE

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1.) 1953-D—Lincoln 1c-Neil H. | 08.) 1909-D—Barber 25c-Eric P. |
| 2.) 1918-S—Lincoln 1c-Steve D. | 09.) 1959-P—Washington 25c-John F. |
| 3.) 1916-P—Buffalo 5c-Scott S. | 10.) 1929-D—St. Liberty 25c-Neil H. |
| 4.) 1943-S—Jefferson 5c-Eric P. | 11.) 1954-D—Washington 25c-Scott S. |
| 5.) 1946-P—Roosevelt 10c-Danny R. | 12.) 1945-P—Walker 50c-Scott S. |
| 6.) 1917-S—Mercury 10c-Gordon W. | 13.) 1965-P—Kennedy 50c-Eric A. |
| 7.) 1914-P—Barber 10c-Gordon W. | 14.) 2010—Silver Eagle \$1-Danny R. |

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.

United States Silver Dollars – Worth The Weight

United States silver dollars may not be the first American coins a new collector would take up – but it doesn't take long for these coins to make an impression. Representing the foundation of the US coinage series, silver dollars are as heavy in historical significance as they are in metallic content.

Before you look at the coin, consider how it came to be called a dollar. "Dollar" is a term not invented by Americans. Its origin is traced to the "talers" produced during the 15th century in Germany, where significant deposits of silver were discovered. In time, taler became "daler" and "daalder".

In colonial America, large silver eight reale coins from Spanish-run mints in Mexico and Peru were commonly circulated. These coins were known as Spanish Milled Dollars by the English colonists, who relied on them for economic liquidity in the face of British royal antipathy towards local American coin production.

Colonial paper currency, beginning in Maryland, was redeemable in Spanish Milled Dollars. With American independence, proposals for a domestic coinage were resolved in favor of a dollar of one hundred cents. This decimal concept departed from the British pound sterling, as well as the Spanish eight reale.

Physically, the first United States silver dollars, struck in 1794, most resembled the Spanish Milled Dollar. They were large silver coins similar in size and purity to the Spanish pieces. The Spanish coins remained in circulation, legally, until 1857. During the early years of the United States, the Spanish "ocho reales" far outnumbered American silver dollars in domestic circulation.

President's Message

One of the reasons I enjoy subscribing to Numismatic News is the fact that it actually has more news about what's happening in the hobby than I've found in Coin World. Seemingly every month there is another new important find being announced. A couple of months ago, it was the announcement of the 6-finger and 7-finger varieties of doubled-die reverses on the 2009-P Lincoln Cents. So new were these finds that I was unable to find an example at the June Long Beach show. Nor was I able to find a Lincoln Cents dealer at the show who had seen either variety or who knew anything about them.

In July, the latest announcement was about another double-die variety...the latest discovery of a 1969-S Lincoln Cent. First there was one, then three and now there are four 1969-S Doubled Die Obverse cents that have been found by collectors in just the last three years. One of the first three recent finds was sold for \$126,500 by Heritage Auction Galleries.

On March 29, 2010, a man named Brian living near Wichita Falls, Texas found a 1969-S double die while searching 20 rolls of the date that he had collected and rolled over the years. He decided to search the rolls before taking them to the bank to cash in. He said he immediately knew there was something different about the coin because the date and mottoes on the obverse appeared fuzzy. A closer look under his loupe revealed that it was indeed a double die. While he hasn't yet had the coin certified, he believes it will grade at AU-58 while members of his Wichita Falls Coin Club grade the coin as Mint State.

The doubling on the 1969-S double die obverse is so pronounced that it is considered by most to be a strong second to the 1955 King of Double Dies. There are only 39 examples that have been certified in all grades by NGC and PCGS combined. As a result, it is much rarer and potentially more valuable than the more common 1955. Prices for AU-58 to BU grades found on the online PCGS Price Guide range from \$45,000 to \$135,000. Wow! That certainly could make searching a few rolls really worth the time and effort. The opportunities are still out there.

As mentioned at the July meeting, the change in meeting date from August 12th to August 19th turned out to be a nice benefit. Phil Iverson is a Lifetime member of our club and a member of our Board. But he normally has another meeting conflict with our regular meeting schedule. So as a result of moving our meeting back a week in August, Phil plans to attend our meeting and provide a program in lieu of a member spotlight. To facilitate this, Tyler Gobble consented to move his member spotlight back to our September meeting to talk about his experience at the ANA's Young Numismatist Summer Seminar in July. I am very excited about both of our next two meetings. These are presentations that our club has rarely had the opportunity to have in the past. But this will be our second and third times this year to hear from people and about events associated with our regional and national coin associations. I hope that every member feels the same and will be able to attend our meetings for the next few months. Until then...



Collect Early and Often

GARY

Who was Brother Jonathan?

Brother Jonathan was the precursor to Uncle Sam. It was the name that personified the United States throughout the early 19th century. When Edward Mill put the name on his newly launched side-wheel steamship in November 1850, many people throughout the world had come to know the United States as Brother Jonathan. On a April 1868 visit by the U.S. Navy's Admiral Farragut to a Royal Navy garrison at Malta; copies of a song were distributed by the British to the visiting American sailors that contained verses such as:

And we, oh, hate us if you can,
For we are proud of you
We like you Brother Jonathan
And "Yankee Doodle" too!

Refreshments

August—Jack vB. & Garn Anderson

September—Carol Craft, John & Valentijn Rosselot

Member Program

August—Phil Iversen

September—Tyler Gobble

Coin Shows

Aug 15 Van Nuys

Van Nuys Masonic Hall, 14750 Sherman Way

Hrs: 10AM-5PM FRE Free parking

Aug 28-29 Arcadia - Golden State Coin Show

Masonic Center, 50 W. Duarte Rd. Hrs: Sat. 10AM-6PM;

Sun. 10AM-4PM. ADM Free parking

Official Mailing Address:

Bay Cities Coin Club
c/o Steve Demmer
P.O. Box 813
Culver City, CA 90232

Monthly meetings are held at the El Segundo Library
111 West Mariposa Avenue, El Segundo, CA 90245
Next meeting is on Thursday, **August 19th** @ 6:30 PM

2010 OFFICERS

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Items of interest for this newsletter
can be mailed to:

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