

>>—> Next meeting—>Thursday, November 10th @ 6:00 PM <—<<

Confederate Gold

Whether it was squirreled away for the day that the South would rise again, or simply hidden so that the Union soldiers would not get their hands on it, the fact remains there is a fortune in missing confederate gold that disappeared near the end and at the end of the Civil War.

Much of the Confederate Gold is said to have disappeared from Georgia. It was a hub of minting, trading and gold mining before it fell to Union forces. Several banks had money gone missing at about that same time. Some of the treasures reported to be buried in light of Union overtaking were:



\$30 Million buried outside of Savannah, Georgia. The gold was stamped Confederate States of America Treasury and was originally from Texas and being sent to England and France for safekeeping. The rumor is that the gold was buried under the name of a confederate general between two false generals in a cemetery. Some rumors of the same story say the money had been moved to a depository in Atlanta.

Confederate Gold in the form of bullion in the amount of \$500,000 is said to be located in West Central Broward County. It was allegedly buried by Captain John Riley. He planned to have it shipped to Cuba but was being pursued by Union soldiers.



In Georgia, some lost Confederate gold worth about \$100,000 back in 1865 went missing. Two wagon trains filled with gold were robbed at Chennault Crossroads in Lincoln County. The mystery seems to be centered on the Chennault family and plantation. The Chennault family was even sent to D.C. to be interrogated as to the whereabouts of the money. Initially, the money was to be sent to England, and it was assured by Jefferson Davis that the money would be returned to the South regardless of the outcome of the war. There are different theories as to what happened to that gold. Apparently, it never did leave the country. Oddly enough, along the road to the Chennault Plantation, many gold coins have been found after heavy rains.

Large Cents



One of the more amazing facts about large cents is that not only were they one of the first coins that were minted by the United States Mint, but they were struck from 1793-1857. This can be considered a short amount of time for a type of coin that had seven different designs and prints. The only one of the large cents coins that was not made by the Mint was for 1815 and this was due to a fire that had caused the Mint to close down.

The reason that there were so many prints of a coin that did not last very long considering that number has to do with that in 1793 when they were first being released there were three different prints made and used. This was because they made one and tried to improve it, and then found that they could better improve their already revised version afterwards. Causing three to be put out in the same year and these three were flowing hair, chain reverse large cent coins, flowing hair, wreath reverse large cent coin and liberty with cap type large cents coins. Liberty with cap type large cents coins lasted from 1793-1796 as the last revision for 1793.



The coins made after that lasted longer than the first versions, which were only for one year or so with draped bust large cent coins being printed and used from 1796-1807 and three other types of coins also being used for a number of years. These include the classic

head large cent coins, matron head large cent coins and braided cent large cent coins, each lasting a minimum of 6 years and a maximum of 33 years with matron head large cent coins. After this date, the large cents were replaced with small cent coins.



History of Currency

The history of currency is varied and goes back to the earliest times of man. Money is the substance that is accepted as payment for good or services and payment of debts.

Currency is normally thought of as “paper money”, and it is the supply of money that a nation or organization has for its money supply. Normally it will be in the form of printed money, normally at a mint depending on the nation.

Early money was almost entirely made from coins, and the earliest coins were rather crude in size and shape. Money is the paper currency that is used by nations today.



One nation, Australia currently uses a plastic for its money, and it is an experiment that has worked out quite well. It has been an endeavor that at first people doubted, but their money is long lasting, resists water, and you can literally go swimming and have a pocket full of money and not have it damaged.

Nations tend to print money to finance their economies, and it is an endeavor that supports and defines much of the social organization of different economies.

Many nations use coins and paper currency to define their nation and their livelihood, and it has been linked to the success or failure of a nation as part of their economic life. Nations that have a strong currency have been economically strong, while nations that do not have a strong currency often struggle economically. This is partly due to their whole economic policy, and partly because of their approach to money and economic issues.

The history of money is linked with the history of each nation. In addition, while many nations are poor, their economic policy is likely the single biggest issue that nations do not focus on that affects how their currency works or doesn't.



Silver



Mankind has known silver since pre-history, and its discovery is estimated to have happened shortly after that of copper and gold. The oldest reference to the element appears in the book of Genesis. The Egyptians considered gold to be a perfect metal, and gave it the symbol of a circle. Since silver was the closest to gold in perfection, it was given the symbol



of a semi-circle. Later this semi-circle led to a growing moon symbol, probably due to the likeness between the shining metal and the moon glow.

The Romans called silver *argentum*, keeping this as the international name of the element, from where its chemical symbol derives. Just as gold, silver was considered by the Ancients to be somewhat of a sacred metal so it was used sparingly. Its malleability and ductility make it ideal for ornamental purposes. It was also used for paying debts, in personal and religious places decoration and in utensils of the wealthiest houses.



It was the disciple of Jesus, Judas Iscariot that accepted thirty pieces of silver from the high priests in return for the whereabouts of Jesus, which consequently led to His crucifixion. In Roman and Greek Mythology, the First Age was called Golden, the second Silver. Apollo, god of truth and light, teacher of medicine, carried a silver bow. His twin sister Artemis lost a hand in battle and was given a silver replacement by the Irish god of healing.

In the shamanic religion of Bon-Po, a special river filled with silver sands is said to make anyone who drinks the water lovely as a peacock. Silver has always held a value above material and economic considerations. Gifts of silver jewelry in many cultures are given as a symbol of trust, truth, excellence, wisdom and love.



October Club Minutes

The October meeting was called to order at 6:18 PM. We had 35 members, 3 old guests and 5 new guests in attendance—43 people—the most we have ever had at one of our meetings!. Five guests signed up as members tonight—two of which are YN's (Youth Numismatists). The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bernie Malis. Danny Redmond then Joshua Mussman and finally Scott Gobble were drawn for the membership drawing. None of them were in attendance, so no prize was given out. That is another first. The minutes of the September meeting and the Treasurer's report were approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Garn A.—New library hours. The library is going back to its regular hours where it will close at 9 PM. Due to budget cutbacks it was closing at 8 PM. Which means we are going to change our meeting hours to give us more time. More information on this will be forthcoming.

Steve D.—Coin shows—Santa Maria 10/15, Glendale 10/23 & new Long Beach 10/29-30.

Steve D.—Next meeting will have open nominations for club officers.

Steve D.—Recently vacationed in New Orleans and attended a Louisiana coin club that has about 20 members. They have a different way of accepting new members. The prospective members have to go through three readings of their application (one reading per meeting).

GUESTS

Nick—friend of Gordon W. Been collecting since he was 10 years old.

Louis—interested in "Walkers".

Rick—started collecting in 2009 with the state quarters, now everything.

Mike—friend of Gordon W, Been collecting since the 50's.

Greg—another friend of Gordon W's.

Andrew—joined the club tonight.

Lamont—interested in tokens. He is president of a token club. Their next meeting will be around Thanksgiving time. He also joined tonight.

Jennifer—brought in some items for sale that her late husband purchased.

SHOW AND TELL

Jack vB.—Brought in currency and coins from Tahiti, New Zealand and Australia that he collected while on a vacation he just returned from.

Phil C.—An album containing a complete sliver set of Palestine coins that were issued under the British Mandate prior to Israel becoming a country.

Jim Q.—An Alexander the Great gold stater that he purchased for \$50,000 a long time ago! They are listed on eBay in AU for \$6,750-\$12,500!

John F.—Winnings from metal detecting competition and items from the Tonopah dump, including a Knights of Templar medal of which less than 200 were produced and a complete rice wine pot.

Nick (guest)—A US \$500 note.

Steve G.—A physical "bitcoin", with hologram, that is currently worth \$4.

Bernie M.—Some foreign coins he recently purchased.

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October Club Minutes (Continued)

BREAK

Bernie Malis & Neil Hoffman brought the refreshments. They brought pizzas, coffee cake, mini-donuts, chips, brownie bites and sodas. Jack vB added some banana bread. It was an excellent feast. Thanks guys.

This month the refreshment donations totaled \$30, with Bernie and Neil each receiving \$15. Once again, thanks to all that contributed to the DONATIONS box. Your donations help defray the cost of volunteering to bring the goodies.

AUCTION

We had 28 lots from six groups. Thanks for participating.

RAFFLE

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| 1.) 1982—Lincoln 1c collection-Phil C. | 07.) 1891-P—Seated Liberty 10c-Darrin F. |
| 2.) 1900-P—Indian Head 1c-Blake P. | 08.) 1955-D—Roosevelt 10c-Mike (guest) |
| 3.) 1923-P—Buffalo 5c-John R. | 09.) 1929-S—St. Liberty 25c-Jack vB. |
| 4.) 1945-S—Jefferson 5c-John R. | 10.) 1916-D—Barber 25c-John R. |
| 5.) 1919-P—Mervury 10c-Ryan P. | 11.) 1941-P—Washington 25c-Darrin F. |
| 6.) 1913-P—Barber 10c-John F. | 12.) 1936-S—Walker 50c-Eric P. |

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM



President's Message

Hello all, welcome to November! I hope you didn't eat too much candy, you'll need the room for turkey in a couple weeks! We have a big week at my chorus, and I won't be able to make it to the meeting. This came up rather suddenly, but due to scheduling the following week, I need to be at my rehearsal. I'll miss everyone, but will be there in December for Coin-O. The library extended our hours to 9 PM for this meeting and the next, so we can make use of the extra time. We sailed through this year, and it's time for our annual December extravaganza. Our tradition is to have each member



bring a couple coins to put on the tree or wreath that we give away with our game. That is the grand prize, and with the coins our members provide, it makes for a neat prize. The coins could be preferably silver, or at least decent coins, meaning it's a shame to see a copper nickel bicentennial quarter used as a prize. You guys have always done well, so do the same this year and you'll be fine... remember YOU might win it! It's been a good year for the club; we have consistently had 30 or more members attending, and several 40+ months. I'm glad we are an active organization. Now that we have more time, we can have some programs for everyone to enjoy, and we should start with Garret Burke and his quarter program in February. I will set that up when I see him or his wife, Michelle, who is a member of our club.

It's been quite a run this year, with shows going constantly since June! (And there's still a couple to do this month). I have met many interesting people, both dealers and collectors. As people bring me coins, it's hard to find a good Barber coin. It seems that when people see "LIBERTY", they take liberties! In other words, "I can clean this XF and sell it as an AU!" Some are decent jobs and some are messed up, either way, you can't hide WEAR! High points always give the cleaning away, so be on the lookout when buying this series. It is prevalent, because nice clean examples are hard to find, but it's great when you see a nice blazing white barber half, isn't it? I saw coins in holders, NGC (Long Beach Show), and this past weekend, PCGS, that had the parallel lines from cleaning. It took some looking through the holders, but if you hold a coin right, you can see the evidence of cleaning. Since cleaning is fairly common, we all should take the time to learn of methods and results of cleaning. Another red flag, is when I look at a coin on the grey sheet, and the grade on their holder (2X2), is at the "break". When you look at the sheet, say Fine, the price is 30.00, VF is 35.00, XF is 42.00, and AU is 135.00, There is some effort put in to make that coin "look" like an AU, and it is priced accordingly. I've seen some of that lately also, so beware!

I am going to the Santa Clara show, many dealers are going to the East coast, and people will still be coming to the show. It is being put on by Expos Unlimited, and is the Northern California version of Long Beach, (at least I hope so!) It will be an experience, I haven't done shows in Northern California, but I think it will be fun. I will see you in December, keep your collections going, and most of all--Have a fun meeting!

Steve D

Benjamin Franklin and the US National Bird

The idea that Benjamin Franklin preferred the turkey as the national bird of the United States comes from a letter he wrote to his daughter Sarah Bache on January 26, 1784, criticizing the choice of the Bald Eagle as the national bird and suggesting that a turkey would have made a better alternative.

“For my own part I wish the Bald Eagle had not been chosen the Representative of our Country. He is a Bird of bad moral character. He does not get his Living honestly. You may have seen him perched on some dead Tree near the River, where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the Labour of the Fishing Hawk; and when that diligent Bird has at length taken a Fish, and is bearing it to his Nest for the Support of his Mate and young Ones, the Bald Eagle pursues him and takes it from him.....”

This letter to Franklin's daughter was written after Congress had spent six years choosing the eagle as the emblem of the newly formed country. Franklin's disapproval of the choice of the Bald Eagle appears evident, but may have been made with mock indignation, since it is not apparent that he ever officially advocated the use of the turkey as a national emblem.

Refreshments

November— The Petersen's & Jack von Bloeker **December**—? ? ? ?

Coin Shows

Nov 13 Van Nuys

Masonic Lodge, 14750 Sherman Way

Hrs: Sun. 10M-4PM ADM

Nov 25-27 San Marino

San Marino Masonic Center, 3130 Huntington Drive

Hrs: Fri. 11AM-6PM, Sat. 10AM-6PM, Sun. 10AM-4PM FREE & Free Parking

Official Mailing Address:

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Meetings are normally held at the El Segundo Library,
111 West Mariposa Avenue, El Segundo, CA 90245
Next meeting on Thursday, November 10th @ 6:00 PM

2011 OFFICERS

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