

>>—> Next meeting—>Thursday, December 8th @ 6:30 PM <—<<

The 1895 Morgan Dollar

One of the most interesting things to note about coins that have been made in the past is how when they first come out most were largely unpopular for one or more reasons. However, as time went on some of these coins became increasingly popular and even rare, coveted by the most avid of collectors. This is especially true of the 1895 Morgan Dollar, known by some as the “King of Morgan Dollars” due to how it is one of the rarest and valuable of all of the Morgan Dollar series. Some of these rare specimens have been known to sell for more than \$120,000 US.

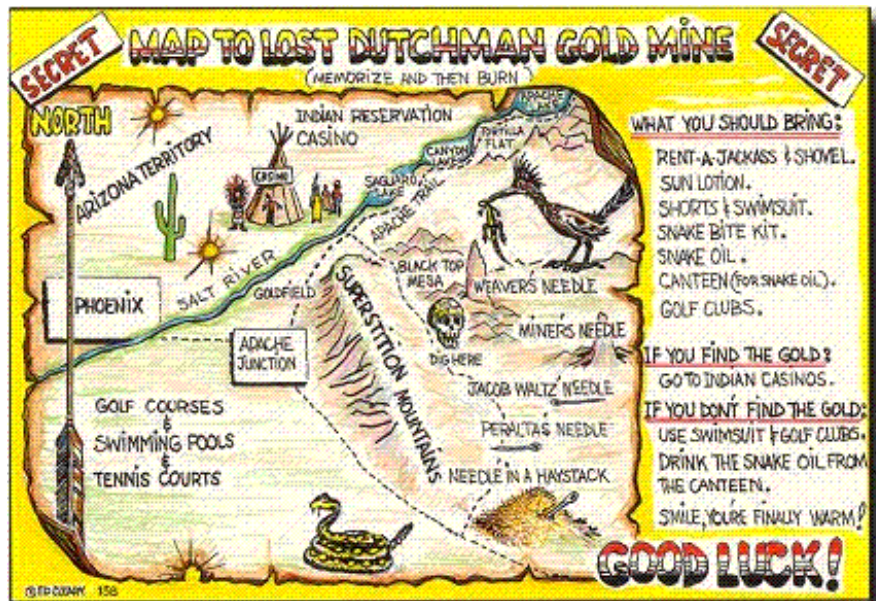


Contrary to popular belief concerning the name, the coin entitled the “Morgan Dollar” has a picture of Lady Liberty on it. Many individuals openly objected and insulted the coin when it was first released with some individuals even describing the eagle as a “buzzard” with a scrawny appearance. Due to this, in some instances it was also called the “Buzzard Dollar”. Yet despite this, the Morgan Dollar rose in popularity to become the most famous and popular coin used in the whole of U.S. coinage history.

However, the most notable fact concerning the 1895 Morgan Dollars is how over 12,000 of them have reportedly disappeared off the face of the earth. There are many myths concerning this, which state that it was only an accounting error and the coins were never minted, while others state the coins were either stolen or lost at sea. Regardless of what the truth is, the Morgan Dollar has become a popular and very sought after coin which is worth a great deal, especially to coin collectors. It was in 1975 that the Morgan Dollar finally received due note when 400,000 Morgans were found in a basement.

Lost Dutchman's Gold Mine

Even after all of these years, people still travel to try to find Old Jakes mine. "Old Jake" would be Jacob Waltz, who was born in Germany around 1810. He immigrated to America sometime around 1839. He initially arrived in New York but travelled to the goldfields of North Carolina and Georgia. From there, he went on to Mississippi. In that day and age, you had to be a citizen of the U.S. to stake a mining claim. He filed a letter of intent to become a United States Citizen on November 12, 1848. He then went west to California. This was the beginning of the legacy of the Lost Dutchman's Gold Mine.



Jacob, AKA the Dutchman, did become a citizen on July 19, 1861 in the Los Angeles County Courthouse. From there, he went on to Arizona where there are several documents to prove his presence there. He filed a homestead claim on the north bank of the Salt River. It is from there that he began his expeditions into the mountains. He was said to have prospected every winter from 1868-1886 and died in Phoenix in 1891.

Jacob is said to have discovered a rich gold mine in the Superstition Mountains and it is referred to as the Lost Dutchman's Gold Mine. Immediately following his death, people began searching for the treasure. Near where he had prospected, the rich Mammoth mine was discovered on April 13, 1893 and produced more than three million dollars of gold in four years.

Therefore, Jacob Waltz was indeed a real person. It is whether he actually discovered a rich gold mine that is yet to be proven. He left many maps and etchings of his digs and they are most often used to try to discover the hidden wealth that many believe he had found.



Having Fun with Mint Marks, the 1925 D Lincoln Wheat Cent

The process of creating the mint mark for US coins is far different today than it used to be. Up until 1990, all dies were made at the main U.S. Mint facility in Philadelphia. In the early years of production at the branch mints in San Francisco and Denver, dies were shipped from Philadelphia to the branch mints as they were needed. Before shipping them, a worker at the Philadelphia mint would use a tap and die set to punch a letter under the date to indicate where the die would be shipped.

As you might guess, hand punching a die is prone to mistakes. And indeed, many "mistakes" were made which produced many different varieties known as RPM's or Re-Punched Mint Marks. This article though is focused on not RPM's but the differences that coins in the same year can have in regards to the placement of the Mint Mark. Again, since this was a manual process, the Mint Mark was not always put in the same place as we shall see. Additionally, sometimes they are slanted.

If you look at Lincoln Cents with mint marks prior to 1990, you may see differences in the locations. In this article we will examine the 1925 D Lincoln Cent. I looked at a couple hundred 1925 D Lincoln cents and came up with 6 separate and distinct varieties. There may be more, but these are the ones I came up with from my limited sample.

The first example looks like a typical mint mark. You can see the mint mark is centered between the 9 and the 2 and does not look out of place



The 2nd example is also centered between the 9 and the 2, but if you look closely, you can see the "D" is tilted counter clockwise. It is not a significant tilt, but certainly is different from example 1.



The 3rd example has a mint mark that is no longer centered and is more towards the 2. It is not terribly out of place compared to example 1, but clearly is over a little bit.

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1925 D Lincoln Wheat Cent (Continued)



The 4th example is a little different as well. This example shows the mint mark under the two, a little tilted clockwise, not much but the opposite tilt of example 2. Also, the mint mark is much lower than the previous examples.



In example 5 we again have a slight tilt counter clockwise. If you compare to the previous couple examples, you can tell the mint mark is shifted a little close to the center of the 9 and 2, but still clearly more under the 2 than the 9.



Example 6 shows a mint mark that more under the 9 than the 2. This is different than all previous examples. It is also tilted counter clockwise and is a fair distance from the 2 and is lower than the other mint marks.



While each of these examples do not necessarily carry any additional premium, they are interesting to note and can add additional variety to your collection.

November Club Minutes

The November meeting was called to order by our Vice-president, Richard Navarro, at 6:45 PM. We had 34 members and 5 guests in attendance (2 new & 3 old guests). The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Richard Navarro. Ryan Petersen won the membership drawing of \$3, which he took in the form of raffle tickets. The minutes of the October meeting and the Treasurer's report were approved.

GUESTS

Bob ?—Likes Egyptian coins.

Bill Jamison—Saw the notice in the Daily Breeze. Came to see what the club is all about.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Richard N.—We will play COINO (BINGO) at our December meeting. Therefore, there will be no auction nor raffle at the December meeting. Garn A. volunteered to purchase the Christmas wreath and tree. Please remember to bring two (or more) coins, preferably silver coins, to be attached to the wreath or tree. Players purchase COINO cards and win prizes (coins). The winner of the next to last game will win the Christmas wreath (with the attached coins) and the winner of the last game, BLACKOUT, will win the Christmas tree and its coins.

Richard N.—Opened the floor for nominations for 2012 Board Members. As no nominations were forthcoming, the nominations were closed. Which means, there will be no voting at the December meeting and the current board members will hold the same positions in 2012!

Richard N.—We need a restaurant with a private room capable of holding 60-75 people for our annual dinner meeting in January. After a discussion Garn A. offered to check out the Sizzler in Torrance and Jack vB. offered to check out Polly's Pies in Compton.

SHOW AND TELL

Jack vB.—Three currency notes; an old \$10 "horse blanket" that he purchased from Steve Demmer (our President) at a recent coin show, a current \$5 "RADAR" note and a \$20 "repeater" note that he received from an ATM.

Phil C.—A coin folder containing coins from Fiji.

Barry A.—A Civil War medallion with Grant & Lee depicted.

Willy C.—A large Mexican one-kilo (about 35 ounces) bullion coin that he purchased at a coin show and then had graded. It was graded PF70.

Jose A.—A metal case containing slabbed world bullion coins. He joined a "coin a month" program and these are the coins he has purchased so far.

Eric A.—Four ancient Roman coins that he purchased for about \$25 each along with a story about each emperor that issued the coins.

Andrew O.—Two Columbian Exposition commemorative coins 1892 & 1893 depicting Columbus and the "Santa Maria".

John F.—Some of his recent Orange County beach metal detecting finds—a ring with engraving in Spanish that he requested translation help with, a 1934 silver centavo among many other items. He also showed us a small amount of gold he prospected while dry-placering near Johannesburg, CA.

Bill C.—Tomorrow is Veteran's day, which started out as a holiday for the end of WWI. A medal celebrating the battle of Verdun, France and a 1916 French Franc coin.

Jim Q.—A stack of small serving trays with world coins embedded.

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November Club Minutes (Continued)

BREAK

The Petersen's and Jack von Bloeker brought the refreshments tonight. They brought six pizzas, mini corn dogs with mustard and a microwave oven to re-heat the entrees. Four different cakes, cinnamon rolls, homemade fudge brownies, homemade banana bread, a veggie tray, three kinds of chips and three kinds of dips, sodas and two kinds of cookies. Someone added another pizza, but I don't know who. Due to the size of the group, the cost to provide the goodies and the lack of volunteers, that will probably be the last of the really large feedings. Hope you enjoyed the feast.

This month the refreshment donations totaled \$40, with \$20 going to Eric and Jack. Thank you one and all, for your donations.

AUCTION

We had 23 lots from ten groups. Great participation. Thanks.

RAFFLE

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1.) 1959-prf-Lincoln 1c-Jose A. | 08.) 1915-S—Barber 50c-John F. |
| 2.) 1854-P—Large 1c-J00im Q. | 09.) 1955-D—Slabbed Roos. 10c-John F. |
| 3.) 1865-P—2c-Tracy R. | 10.) 1970-S—prf Kennedy 50c-Jose A. |
| 4.) 1937-D—Mercury 10c-Barry A. | 11.) 1964-S—prf84 Roos. 10c-Luis M. |
| 5.) 1908-D—Barber 10c-Luis M. | 12.) 2010—Merger medal-Willy C. |
| 6.) 1944-D—St. Liberty 25c-Jack dB. | (donated by Jack vB.) |
| 7.) 1930-S—Barber 10c-Anthony L. | |

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM



President's Message

Hey everyone! I hope you had a great turkey day, I know we did here. People come to our place for the cooking, and it's good to have the family here for a few hours. I hope you had a turkey with stuffing...was it stuffed with coins? (Eewww...what a thought!) You wouldn't want a turkey stuffed with coins, would you? Of course not, but a WREATH stuffed with coins (or tree), now that's another story! Yes, it's time again for COIN-O, and we will fill a wreath for a lucky winner this Thursday. Besides January, it's usually our best-attended meeting, because everyone likes to win! Our club wins when you attend, so be there *or be square*.



This month's meeting will kick off at 6:45, or around there, but come early, we have the room from six. You can meet, socialize, gaze at the wreath, and discuss the year past. I will be coming from Ontario, so I will be driving in that lovely Thursday traffic, (why is THURSDAY such a weird traffic day?), the show kicks off at 2PM for the public that day. It's the last local show this year, and usually is one of the better-attended shows in the Inland Empire. I can't believe it has been 3 years since the show started, and it started in the most trying time our economy has seen. This time has been played down as the "Great Recession", but we still aren't anywhere near the end of the problems, even though it appears people have put the conserving on hold for the holiday season. Regardless of our own situations, it's still tough out there for a lot of folks, so we can be thankful if our situation is better, or even has just stayed the same.

I have been running crazy this week, and it culminates with our chorus concert the 3rd and 4th. This is always a busy time, but breathing room is ahead. The holidays always seem to be a time that everyone can stop and reflect, the workloads at many jobs gets lighter, "We can always work hard after January 2nd!"... I hope you all have time to visit those closest to you. Enjoy the season--I will see you Thursday!

Steve



What other US Mints are there -- besides Philadelphia?

Eight US Mints have opened since the first Philadelphia Mint in 1792 to the West Point Mint in 1988. Those eight mints were located in: Philadelphia PA, Charlotte NC, Dahlonega GA, New Orleans LA, San Francisco CA, Carson City NV, Denver CO and West Point NY.

A mint is a coin factory – an industrial facility built to accommodate a process that converts valuable raw materials into products (coins) of greater value and utility for a demanding public. Mints are government operations that are expected to make a profit.

Although mints are established to satisfy economic requirement for a dependable supply of circulating coin, mints are also creatures of political influence, as evidenced by the facts of their creation and location, and the identity and party affiliation of their managers.



Refreshments

December—Willy Chavez, Jose Arzola & Jack von Bloeker **January**—At a restaurant

Coin Shows

Dec 8-10 Ontario

Ontario Convention Center, 2000 E. Convention Center Way
Hrs: Thu. 12-noon-7PM, Fri. 10AM-7PM, Sat. 10AM-5PM ADM \$2

Feb 10-12 San Marino

San Marino Masonic Center, 3130 Huntington Drive
Hrs: Fri. 11AM-6PM, Sat. 10AM-6PM, Sun 10AM-4PM ADM, Free Parking

Official Mailing Address:

Bay Cities Coin Club
c/o Steve Demmer
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Culver City, CA 90232

Meetings are normally held at the El Segundo Library,
111 West Mariposa Avenue, El Segundo, CA 90245
Next meeting on Thursday, December 8th @ 6:30 PM

2011 OFFICERS

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Steve Demmer

Vice President

Richard Navarro

Secretary/Editor

Jack von Bloeker III

Treasurer

George Gill

Club questions or items of interest
for this newsletter can be mailed
to:

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