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# *Madison County Coin Club Newsletter*

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**Volume 6, Issue 4**

**Founded 2001**

**April, 2006**

**ANA Member #C-195870 (Region 20, AL & GA)**

**ANS & GNA Member**

**Meeting:** Thomas W. Davidson, Sr. Senior Center

**Meeting Time:** 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**Location:** 2200 Drake Ave. SW  
Huntsville, AL 35805  
256-881-6268

**Meeting Dates:** 4<sup>th</sup> Monday  
of every month, except  
May & December

**Web:** <http://mccc.anaclubs.org/>

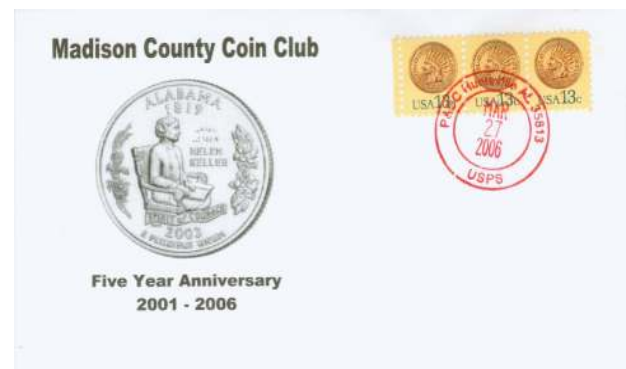
**Editor:** Harold Fears

**ANA Club Rep.:** Jon Stimpson

## President's Report

By: Harold Fears

Wow! What a great meeting we had in March. Over 20 people including 5 YNs celebrated our club's five year anniversary. Festivities including enjoying **Bob Jaques'** tasty cake along with each member receiving a five year anniversary stamp cover. **Frank DuVall** gave a presentation on some of the unusual denominations of U.S. coins. Frank's discussion included half cents, two cents pieces, both the nickel and silver three cents coins, and twenty cents pieces. We all enjoyed learning and seeing some truly wonderful coins from his collection.



*Our club's first cover celebrates our five year anniversary. Courtesy of Bob Jaques.*



*Frank receiving his ANA educational award at the March MCCC meeting.*

## April Meeting Notice

The April meeting will be held Monday the 27th at the Senior Center in Huntsville. We will be meeting in the Ceramics Room. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Our yearly YN program will be held this month.



The 1814 one cent crosslet variety is a relatively common Classic cent, but always of great importance to type collectors as these pieces are very scarce in XF and better grades. This example is an especially sharp impression that shows almost complete definition on each side.

The 1875 twenty cents coin is a very popular Carson City issue, and is typically far better struck than the more often-seen S-mint issue. At our March meeting, Frank reminded us that only 20 cents pieces have LIBERTY in high relief. All other U.S. coins have LIBERTY incuse.



## Nevada State Quarter Recalled

BULLETIN WASHINGTON, D.C. — Hang on to any of the new State of Nevada quarters. If you have them, they may be worth much more than 25 cents. The U.S. Treasury announced today that it is recalling all of the Nevada quarters that are part of its program featuring quarters from each state.

"We are recalling all the new Nevada quarters that were recently issued," Treasury Secretary Anna Escobedo Cabral said Saturday, April 1. "This action is being taken after numerous reports that new quarters will not work in parking meters, toll booths, vending machines, pay phones, or other coin-operated devices".

The quarters were issued in the order in which the various states joined the U.S. and have been a tremendous success among coin collectors worldwide.

"The problem lies in the unique design of the Nevada quarter, which was created by an Auburn University graduate," Cabral said. "Apparently, the duct tape holding the two dimes and the nickel together keeps jamming the coin-operated devices."

## The Taylors' Numismatic Project

For the last ten weeks Charlie and Chip Taylor, two of our YN members, have been working on a numismatic project. They will present their findings at the April meeting. Please plan to attend to find out what they have been doing and their results.

## Hogge Money

Hogge money was the earliest British Colony currency, and, as written by Governor Nathaniel Butler in his 1620 account *The Historye of the Bermudaes or Summer Islands*, was given its name because of it: "having a hog stamped upon it on one side (in memory it should seem of the great number of wild swine found upon the Islands at their first discovery in 1609 by the shipwrecked crew of the Sea Venture), and was, in a scoff, termed by the



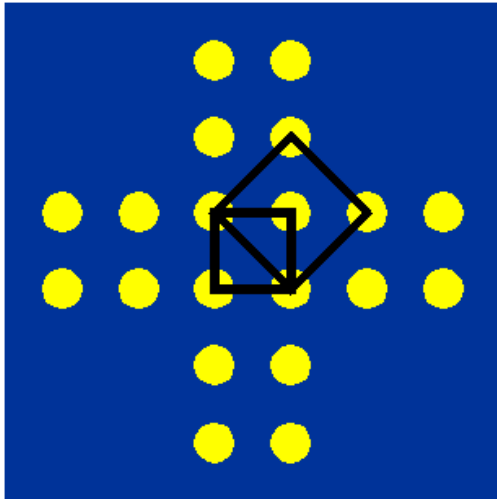
people hogge money." The coinage included the Shilling, Sixpence, Thrupence, and Two pence, and were all of similar design bearing on the obverse side the inscription "Sommer Islands", a wild boar on a bed of corn cobs, and the coin's denomination. On the reverse was a three masted ship under full sail.



### Frank's Coins and Ray's Squares

Twenty coins are placed as shown in the image below. Now you can draw squares where all corners must be at the position of a coin (two squares are already drawn). Find all squares (hint: there are more than 20 squares).

What is the minimum number of coins one must remove, so that it is not possible to draw any square?



### Ray's Pocket Change

Ray had the same number of nickels, dimes, and half dollars. He noticed that they had a total value of \$6.50. How many of each did he have?

### Shortest Run

What was the shortest run, in years, of US coinage for a single denomination minted for circulation?

### Answer to Last Month's Puzzle

Each of Ray's safes had  $3\frac{1}{2}$  chests worth of gold coins, divided as follows:

- 1 full chest, 5 half-full chests and 1 empty chest
- 3 full chest, 1 half-full chest and 3 empty chests
- 3 full chests, 1 half-full chest and 3 empty chests

-- or --

- 2 full chests, 3 half-full chests and 2 empty chests
- 2 full chests, 3 half-full chests and 2 empty chests
- 3 full chests, 1 half-full chest and 3 empty chests

### Factoid: No bones about it

Long before people had official paper money and coins, they used things like leather, beads, salt, seeds, tea, seashells and dog's teeth. Animals were traded too, including cows, sheep, and even dead rats. One group of people actually traded with human heads! No thanks, keep the change.

### Change for your Dollar

How many different ways can you give change for a dollar? - The "change" should be based on currently minted US coinage and this is not a trick question.

## Collecting Franklin Half Dollars

Since Franklin half dollars were made for just 16 years (1948-1963), a full set of Franklin halves consists of 35 different business strikes and 14 different proofs. Because it is so compact and easily affordable in less-than-pristine grades (most circulated coins can be purchased just above the spot price of silver), the series is widely collected by date and mint. Those with deeper pockets who love a challenge seek to assemble date-and-mint sets in MS-65 and above or collections of high-grade proof Franklins with deep cameo contrast.

Points on the design to first show wear are Franklin's cheek, shoulder and hair behind the ear and the lettering and lines on the Liberty Bell.

Franklin disapproved of the use of portraits on coins. Instead, he advocated the substitution of proverbs profitable for human reflection. Little did he realize that his own portrait would serve as an inspiration to millions of Americans!



## Franklin and the Penny

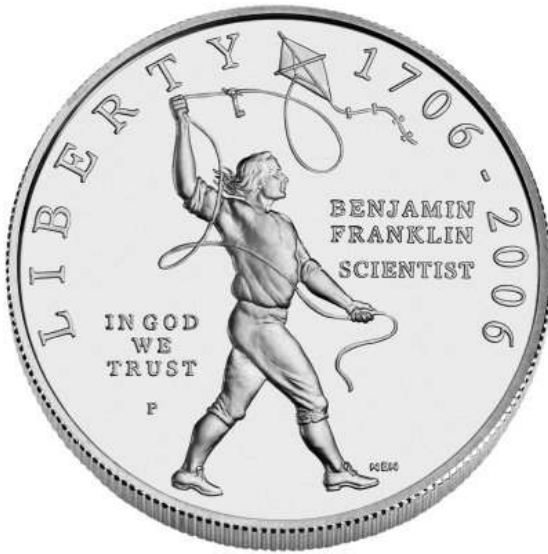


The one-cent coin, commonly known as the penny, was the first currency of any type authorized by the United States. The design for the first one-cent coin was suggested by Benjamin Franklin. The word "penny" is derived from the British coin pence. Over 300 billion one-cent coins, with 11 different designs, have been minted since 1787.

The first one-cent coin was struck in 1787 by a private mint. This coin, known as the Fugio cent, was 100% copper and this composition would continue until the mid-1800s. Paul Revere, a noted blacksmith, supplied some of the copper for one-cent coins minted during the early 1790's.

The following notice of these coins was printed in the newspapers of that time: "The coinage of federal CENTS, coppers, at New York, we are told, is carrying on, and we may expect soon to see them in circulation among us—these will free us from the impositions to which we are now exposed from the floods of light half-coined British half-pence, introduced among us—and as, from the excellent monitorial caution, 'MIND YOUR BUSINESS,' impressed on each of these, they may prove an antidote to insurgency, they will doubtless be held in high estimation."

### Ben Franklin -- Scientist



Our most recent commemorative silver dollar is the Ben Franklin "Scientist" coin. It features on its obverse an image of a younger Franklin and recalls the groundbreaking success of his experiments into the nature of electricity in June of 1752. The reverse design reproduces Franklin's famous political cartoon, featuring a severed snake, and is meant to convey Franklin's belief that colonial unity was truly a matter of life and death, titled "Join, or Die."



### Ben Franklin -- Founding Father



The second coin in the program, "Founding Father," reflects a more familiar image of Benjamin Franklin, capturing the great patriot and statesman in the autumn of his years. The reverse of the second coin, featuring a 1776 Continental Currency dollar, showcases the contributions made by Franklin to the spirit of early American coinage and currency design.



Both coins are still available from the U.S. mint in uncirculated and proof conditions.

### From our Library



Book Review: **World's Best Coin Tricks**  
by Bob Longe.

Hit your forehead, wave your arms, cough-and pull a coin out of your mouth. Over 50 coin tricks, with dozens of illustrations, are simple to learn. Bonus: expert tips to make the audience howl as it's being fooled! If you would like to review this book for yourself, please see the club's librarian, **Mark Steuer**, to check this book out from our library.

### Inclement Weather Notice

If the Huntsville City Schools are closed due to inclement weather, then the Huntsville Senior Center is closed. There will be no club meeting if the Huntsville Senior Center is closed. Local TV and radio stations will give notice of any Huntsville school closure.

### Upcoming Meetings for 2006



April 24 National Coin Week celebration.



June 26 Pot Luck – Bourse Night



July 24 British Night by Bob Jaques



August 28 Dwight Maxwell presents Roman Coinage



September 25 – Computers by Mark Larson



October 23



November 27 Pot Luck -- Bourse Night

### Questions or Comments

Please call Harold: 256-881-6268

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