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# *Madison County Coin Club Newsletter*

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**Volume 6, Issue 5**

**Founded 2001**

**June, 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

**Editor:** Harold Fears

**ANA Club Rep.:** Jon Stimpson

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

## President's Report

By: Harold Fears

Over twenty people attended the last meeting of the Madison County Coin Club. As our tradition continues, April was the Young Numismatists night. **Chip and Charlie Taylor** gave a presentation on their Lewis and Clark nickel study. We learned that they have been collecting three rolls of nickels for ten weeks. You can learn more about their project and see their results by reading further in the newsletter.

April truly must be YN month at the club. At the April meeting the club had four YNs join that night. Let's all welcome Aaron Ladner, Bird Sherrill, Chris McCollum, and Kaylee Word as members. We are also lucky to have Clay Sherrill join in April.

What are you looking forward to at our meetings? Is it a good educational program? Or is it fellowship with your fellow collectors? Perhaps you look forward to an opportunity to see a rare coin. Or maybe it is a chance to see an award winning exhibit without traveling to Atlanta? I'm sure if you make it, you will find something you will enjoy. Hope to see you soon.

## June Meeting Notice

The June meeting will be held Monday the 26th at the Senior Center in Huntsville. We will be meeting in the Ceramics Room. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. This will be our semi-annual pot luck and Bourse night. Please bring in a dish to share with your fellow club members. Members can set up a table and see what it is like to be a coin dealer for a night.



*From last year's banquet.*

**Please bring a coin,  
medal, note, or something  
for Show-and-Tell.**

**It's easy, fun, and adds  
interest to our meeting.**

### April's Raffle Winners

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Kaylee  
Word US Mint penny  
and planchet set

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Neil Cocker  
1970 Franklin Medal

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Bob Jaques  
"The Collector's  
Handbook"



**What have you won lately?**

### Did You Know?

Did you know that the word "dime" comes from the Latin word "decima" which means "tenth part"?

Did you know that mint marks first appeared on U.S. coins in 1838 with the opening of branch mints at New Orleans (O), Dahlonega, GA (D), and Charlotte (C)?

### 1908 Denmark 20 Kroner

The Danish krone is the currency used in Denmark. The krone was introduced as legal tender in Denmark in 1873, and was a result of the Scandinavian Monetary Union, which lasted until World War I. The initial parties to the monetary union were the Scandinavian countries of Sweden and Denmark, with Norway joining two years later. The name of the common currency was the "krone" in Denmark and Norway, and the "krona" in Sweden, which literally means "crown" in English. After the dissolution of the monetary union Denmark, Norway, and Sweden all decided to keep the name of their respective and now separate currencies. The obverse for the 1908 20 kroner



coin features a bust of King Frederick VIII. The legend FREDERIK VIII DANMARKS KONGE, Frederick VIII Danish King, surrounds the bust. The reverse has the Danish royal arms with the denomination 20 KRONER at the bottom, flanked by the date 1908 on the left and the heart privy mark and the mintmaster's initials VBP for Vilhelm Buchard Poulsen on the right.

### Ray's Touching Coins Puzzle



If you take three identical coins and arrange them so that all three coins touch each other, that wouldn't cause any problem, would it? So how many coins can you arrange together so that each coin still touches every other coin? Just get those coins out of your pocket and give it a try. There are no tricks to this puzzle, and it must be done with normal, identical coins. Hint: try four coins, then five.

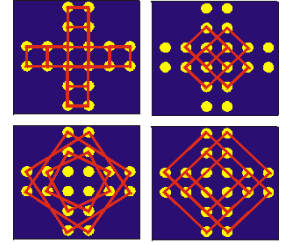
### Frank's Fake 1780 Maria Theresa Silver Thaler

Frank had nine 1780 Maria Theresa Silver thalers, one of the most famous silver coins in the world. (In Austria, the Maria Theresa thaler was a valid monetary unit until 1858, remaining in circulation even longer, until 1892. In Ethiopia it was still legal tender until 1945. The Maria Theresa thaler was minted in many years (all with the same date) not only in Austria, but in Italy, Romania, France, Belgium, England and even India.) Eight of Frank's coins were real and all coins weighed exactly the same. Unfortunately for Frank, a ninth coin was the same size but was a counterfeit. It was slightly lighter than the other coins. He could not tell a difference in the coins when he held them. He had a pair of balance scales without any weights. By putting the coins on each scale and observing which is heavier, Frank could find the fake coin. But how did he do it in just two weightings?

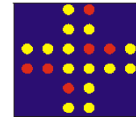


### Answer to Last Month's Puzzle

For Frank's Coins and Ray's squares, the answers are 21 squares and six coins can be removed. See the images for solution.



For Ray's Pocket Change, Ray had 10 half dollars, 10 dimes, and 10 nickels.



For shortest run, the answer is the twenty cent piece of 1875-1878.

There are 292 ways to make change for your dollar. If you include the dollar, the answer is 293.

### What's the Difference?



What is the difference between a crazy rabbit and a counterfeit coin?

One is bad money, and the other is a mad bunny.

## The Rare Russian Ruble of 1825



The Russian ruble of 1825 has a very interesting story attached to it. After Alexander I's death, his brother, Constantin Pavlovitch, then governor of Poland, was proclaimed Tsar against his will, and coins were prepared in secret at the St. Petersburg mint. Due to Constantine's wishes, his younger brother was proclaimed Tsar instead, leaving the mint with five potentially embarrassing patterns portraying Constantine as Tsar. The coins were thus kept secretly at the Ministry of Finance for over fifty years before resurfacing as unique collector's items.



## Recent News

At the April 10, 2006 American Numismatic Association National Money Show **Neil W. Cocker** won second place in the Class 4 (common design elements), with "Selected Numismatic Portraits of England's Six Queens on 'Silver' Coins - 1553 to 1998." With nearly 33,000 members, the American Numismatic Association serves the academic community, collectors and the general public with an interest in numismatics.

At the Central States Numismatic Society convention **Richard Jozefiak** walked away with three prizes. He won third place for "A Detailed Study of the British Sovereign" in the Foreign Coins Prior to 1700 competition and second place for "Unique 1912 British Penny" in the Miscellaneous category. His "Unique 1921 British Penny" exhibit also won the Best Exhibit by a First-Time CSNS Exhibitor (Joseph and Morton Stack Award). The Central States Numismatic Society, founded in 1939, is one of the larger numismatic organizations in the United States with membership fluctuating around 2,000. CSNS, as it is known informally, operates in a 13 state Midwestern region but membership is open to residents of all states and foreign countries.

Neil's "Selected Numismatic Portraits of England's Six Queens on 'Silver' Coins - 1553 to 1998" and Richard's "Unique 1921 British Penny" have been exhibited at a club meeting earlier. Congratulations to both numismatists for winning these prestigious awards.

## The Lewis and Clark Nickel Study

By Chip and Charlie Taylor



**Purpose:** Gather and track data over a ten week period concerning the occurrence of Lewis and Clark Commemorative nickels. Combine and compare results with similar studies performed by clubs across the country.

Issue	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9	Week 10	Total
2004 Peace "P"	3	3		1	1		1	1		1	11
2004 Peace "D"			1	1							2
2004 Keelboat "P"	2	2	2	3	1		3	6	1	1	21
2004 Keelboat "D"				1						1	2
2005 Buffalo "P"	3	3		2	1					1	10
2005 Buffalo "D"				1			1				2
2005 Ocean "P"			4	1		120		1			126
2005 Ocean "D"			1						1		2
Oldest Date	1954	1954	1939	1963	1956	2005	1947	1954	1964	1940	1939
Wartime Silver / Year Mint											
<b>Totals</b>	8	8	8	10	3	120	5	8	2	4	176

1. There is less than 1% chance of finding a Lewis and Clark Commemorative in a roll of nickels.
2. But if you do find one chances are it's a 2004 Keelboat 'P'.
3. Chances are the oldest nickel you'll find in a roll is 1939.

### Some Advice on Enjoying the Hobby

- Buy some reference books. Two sayings come to mind here, “Buy the book before you buy the coin,” and “Knowledge is money.”
- Buy your coins from reputable dealers.
- Learn how to grade coins. Be able to tell the difference between a Good and Very Good. If you are buying a coin in a slab, remember you are buying the coin and not the slab.

### Upcoming Meetings for 2006



June 26 Pot Luck – Bourse Night



July 24 British Night by Bob Jaques



August 28 Dwight Maxwell presents Roman Coinage



September 25 Computers Technology and Coin Collecting by Mark Larson



October 23 ???



November 27 End of year Pot Luck – Bourse Night



### Officers

President	<b>Harold Fears</b>
Vice-President	<b>Jon Stimpson</b>
Secretary	<b>opened</b>
Treasurer	<b>Michael Campbell</b>
Board Member	<b>Ray Norwood</b>
Librarian	<b>Mark Steuer</b>

### Questions or Comments

Please call Harold: 256-881-6268

E-mail: [hkfears@knology.net](mailto:hkfears@knology.net)

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