
Madison County Coin Club Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 9

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October, 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: 4th 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

At the September meeting, we had an even dozen members present. We listened to Mark Larson's presentation about computer technology and coin collecting. Mark gave an overview of the current numismatic software available to collectors. He also discussed the pros and cons of scanning a coin versus taking a digital photograph and the various software packages and tools available to enhance images.



Mark, receiving his education award for his presentation about computer technology and coin collecting.

Nominations

There will be nominations for 2007 officers at the October meeting. The elected club positions are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Board Member. Voting will take place in November.

October Meeting Notice

The October meeting will be held Monday the 23 at the Senior Center in Huntsville in the Ceramics Room. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. **Robert Patrick** will be our present "Early Commemoratives (1892-1954)."



Verdery explains to Nick his joy of collecting.

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.



Mark with his computer prepares for his demonstration.

Using a Scanner for Die Identification

A scanner is an ideal tool to use for copper or bronze coins when doing die comparisons. Here we have three different reverse dies for the Jersey 1894 one twelfth of a shilling. If you look closely you will see that the 4 has a different placement in relationship to the letter "N".



The gang listens intently to Mark's talk.

Eritrea 1891 Tallero

In hopes to replace the famous Maria Theresa's thaler, Italy issued a series of coins for its colony of Eritrea between 1890 and 1896. The coins included a 50 centesimi and a 1, 2, and 5 lire. Each coin actually had three separate values. The 5 Italian lire, or tallero, equaled 1 Ethiopian bir and 1 Arabian rial, all stated nicely in the respective language on the reverse.

The obverse of the coins reads "Umberto King of Italy" followed by the date. The reverse reads "Eritrean Colony" on the top followed by the denomination in the three languages. The 50 centesimi was minted in Milan and the others in Rome.

Italy minted a total of 200,000 talleri (in 1890 and 1896) and 600,000 talleri's worth of lira (at the official conversion ratio). Still, the coins did not circulate that well. Historians consider that there are three reasons for the failure. First, the fineness was 0.800 rather than the 0.8333 of the Maria Theresa's thaler. Second, the Italians fixed the value of the tallero at 5 lira, which overvalued the lira. Third, the authorities did not demonetize the Maria Theresa's thaler.



The obverse reads Umberto King of Italy."



The reverse has three different denominations.

*From: 'The neighbourhood of the Tower:
The Mint', Old and New London: Volume 2
(1878)*

By Walter Thornbury

A modern essayist has graphically described the present method of coining money. "The first place," he says, "that I was conducted to was the Central Office, where the ingots of gold are weighed when they come in from the Bank of England, or from other sources, and where a small piece is cut off each slab for the Mint assayer to test the whole by. A nugget of gold may be of any shape, and is generally an irregular dead yellow lump, that looks like pale ginger-bread; but an ingot of gold is a small brick. After the precious metals have been scrupulously weighed in the Central Office, they are sent to the Melting House down an iron tramway. All the account books in the Mint are balanced by weight, so that even where there is so much money, there is no use made of the three columns bearing the familiar headings of £ s. d. The Melting House is an old-fashioned structure, having what I may call the gold kitchen on one side, and the silver kitchen on the other, with just such a counting-house between the two—well provided with clean weights, scales, well-bound books, and well-framed almanacs—as George Barnwell may have worked in with his uncle before he became gay. The counting-house commands a view of both melting kitchens, that the superintendents may overlook the men at their work. Although the Mint contains nearly a hundred persons resident within its walls—forming a little colony, with peculiar habits, tastes, and class feelings of its own—a great many of the workpeople are drawn from the outer world. Dinner is provided for them all within the building; and when they pass in to their day's work, between the one soldier and the two policemen at the entrance gate, they

are not allowed to depart until their labour is finished, and the books of their department are balanced, to see that nothing is missing. If all is found right, a properly signed certificate is given to each man, and he is then permitted to go his way.

“The gold kitchen and the silver kitchen are never in operation on the same day, and the first melting process that I was invited to attend was the one in the latter department. The presiding cook, well protected with leather apron and thick coarse gloves, was driving four ingot bricks of solid silver into a thick plumbago crucible, by the aid of a crowbar. When these four pieces were closely jammed down to a level with the surface of the melting-pot, he seasoned it with a sprinkling of base coin, by way of alloy; placing the crucible in one of the circular recesses over the fiery ovens to boil. The operations in the gold kitchen are similar to this, except that they are on a much smaller scale. A crucible is there made to boil three or four ingots, worth from four to five thousand pounds sterling; and where machinery is employed in the silver kitchen, much of the work is done in the gold kitchen with long iron tongs that are held in the hand..

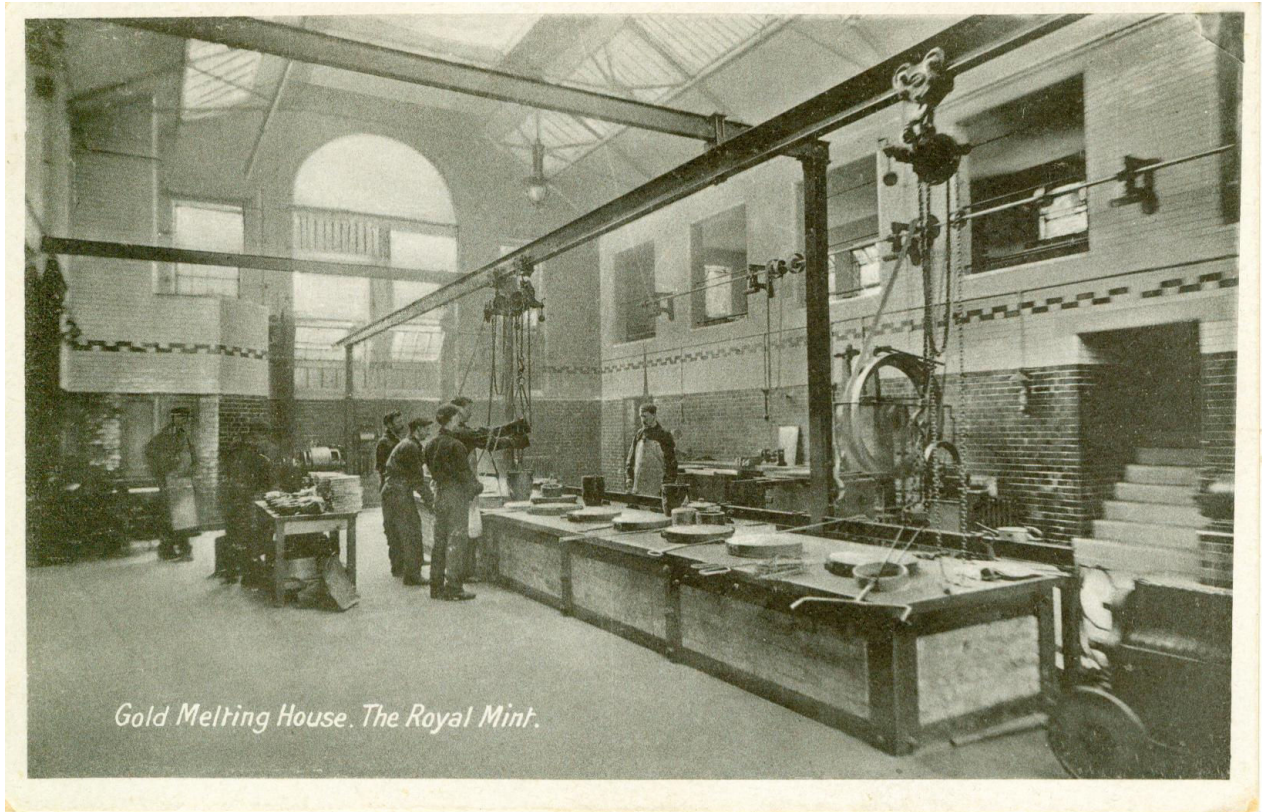
To be continued ...

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

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

British Royal Mint Post Cards -- Part 3

This is the third installment of a set of post cards depicting various scenes of the British Royal Mint. From the set of twelve, here we have a picture of the gold melting house.



A postcard (circa 1912) depicting the British Royal Mint's gold melting house.

Questions or Comments

Please call Harold: 256-881-6268

E-mail: hkfears@knology.net

Club's forum:

http://www.coincommunity.com/forum/forum.asp?FORUM_ID=86

Club's web site:

<http://mccc.anacclubs.org/>



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14047 Camden Circle
Huntsville, AL 35803

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Club Meeting Dates

Oct. 23 Robert Patrick presents "Early Commemoratives (1892-1954)."

Nominations of officers.

Nov. 27 Election of 2007 Club Officers

End of year pot luck and bourse night

Jan. 23, 2007 First meeting of the year.

Note: There is no meeting or newsletter in May or December.