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# *Madison County Coin Club Newsletter*

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**Volume 6, Issue 10**

**Founded 2001**

**November, 2006**

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

**ANS & GNA Member**

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

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

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

**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

At the October meeting, we had a dozen members present along with one visitor. Robert Patrick displayed a wonderful complete collection of his classic commemorative coins, i.e., commemoratives minted from 1892 through 1954. He also discussed the history of the set with special emphasis on several of the unusual ones, such as the Alabama, the Oregon Trail, Huguenot, Daniel Boone Bicentennial, Cincinnati, and the Missouri halves.

A detailed history of these commemorative coins can be read on the WWW at the Coin Community ([http://www.coincommunity.com/commemorative\\_histories/](http://www.coincommunity.com/commemorative_histories/)). While there, why not join the Coin Community? Our club has a private meeting "room" and there is no cost, and your identity is hidden from others. This is just another place to make numismatic friends, have

a good time, and share our love of the hobby.



*Robert discussing his Classic Commemorative Set.*



*Members taking a close look.*



*Dennis' American Eagle 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary gold coin set. Note that the top coin has a reverse proof finish.*



*The members enjoying another meeting.*

### **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.

### **Club News**

At the October meeting there was a nomination of club officers for 2007. The following people have agreed to serve a one year term for the following positions:

President: **Harold Fears**  
 Vice-President: **Bob Jaques**  
 Secretary: Open  
 Treasurer: **Mike Campbell**  
 Director: **Mark Larson**

The Secretary position is open, and we will try to fill it at the November meeting. We will have the election at our November meeting.

We are also looking for three volunteers: *door prize coordinator*, a *librarian*, and a *refreshment coordinator*. If you are interested, just let one of the officers know.

### **November Meeting Notice**



The November meeting is our annual end of the year potluck supper. The club will provide drinks, paper products and utensils. Please bring a dish to share with your fellow club members. It is also our bourse night. Come see what treasure you can find! Doors open at 6:00 on Monday, November 27.

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

*By Walter Thornbury*

"When the solid metal has become fluid, a revolving crane is turned over the copper, and the glowing, red-hot crucible is drawn from its fiery recess, casting its heated breath all over the apartment, and is safely landed in a rest. This rest is placed over a number of steel moulds, that are made up, when cool, like pieces of a puzzle, and which look like a large metal mouth-organ standing on end, except that the tubes there present are square in shape and all of the same length. The crucible rest is acted upon by the presiding cook and another man, through the machinery in which it is placed, and is made to tilt up at certain stages, according to regulated degrees. When the molten metal, looking like greasy milk, has poured out of the crucible till it has filled the first tube of the metal mouth-organ, sounding several octaves of fluid notes, like the tone of bottle-emptying, the framework of moulds is moved on one stage by the same machinery, so as to bring the second tube under the mouth of the crucible, which is then tilted up another degree. This double action is repeated until the whole blinking, white-heated interior of the crucible is presented to my view, and nothing remains within it but a few lumps of red-hot charcoal.

"The next step is to knock asunder the framework of moulds, to take out the silver, now hardened into long dirty-white bars, and to place these bars first in a cold-water bath, and then upon a metal counter to cool. These bars are all cast according to a size which experience has taught to be exceedingly eligible for conversion into coin.

"From the silver-melting process, I was taken to the gold-coining department, the first stage in dealing with the precious metals

being, as I have before stated, the same.

Passing from bars of silver to bars of gold, I entered the Great Rolling Room, and began my first actual experience in the manufacture of a sovereign.

"The bars of gold, worth about twelve hundred pounds sterling, that are taken into the Great Rolling Room are about twenty-one inches long, one and three-eighths of an inch broad, and an inch thick. As they lie upon the heavy truck, before they are subjected to the action of the ponderous machinery in this department, they look like cakes of very bright yellow soap.

"An engine of thirty horse-power sets in motion the machinery of this room, whose duty it is to flatten the bars until they come out in ribands of an eighth of an inch thick, and considerably increased in length. This process, not unlike mangling, is performed by powerful rollers, and is repeated until the ribands are reduced to the proper gauged thickness, after which they are divided and cut into the proper gauged lengths. Having undergone one or two annealings in brick ovens attached to this department, these fillets may be considered ready for another process, which takes place, after twelve hours' delay, in a place that is called the Drawing Room.

*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.**

## Is It an Error or a Variety?

By Bob Jaques

One aspect of coin collecting that often throws a collector a curve is a coin that ends up in a collection that is not up to the mint's normal striking standards. The collector looks at the coin and wonders in his mind, "Is it an error or a variety?" Now this is a good question.

Like beauty, however, often the answer is in the mind of the beholder. One of my favorite coin research books in my library is one published by Coin World called *The Coin World Almanac*. In this book I found their definition of error and variety.

According to *The Almanac*, an **error** coin is one that deviates from the norm as a result of a mishap in the minting process. A **variety** is defined as the difference between individual dies or hubs of the same basic design.

Over the years some error coins have been accepted by the numismatic community as varieties. For example, the 1955 double die cent, the 3-legged Buffalo nickel, etc are considered varieties. Some collectors believe all errors are varieties. This is a gray area to be sure. Some dealers advertising in coin publications try to make minor error coins something of great value. For example, the 1955 "poor man's double die", which is a poor strike on the last "5".

One of my favorite varieties and one that is, in my opinion, overlooked by collectors in general, is the 1982-P Kennedy Half dollar without the designer initials. The designer's initials "FG" are located on the reverse between the right leg and the tail feathers towards the top of where they meet.

Evidently, when the new die was made, someone forgot to add the "FG", and coins were struck without the initials. How many? I don't know because I have not seen any

production numbers. The dealer's gray sheet does not list this variety, but the *Coin Values* magazine that comes monthly with Coin World lists this unique Kennedy half. In MS-63, the latest issue priced the 1982-P no initial for \$10. I don't think you will see much interest in this half dollar until a coin album manufacturer adds it in their albums. Then watch the price increase!

Whether you collect "error" or "variety" coins, it can often be a unique addition to a collection, without spending a lot of money because many are only a few dollars. True varieties can be expensive depending on condition.

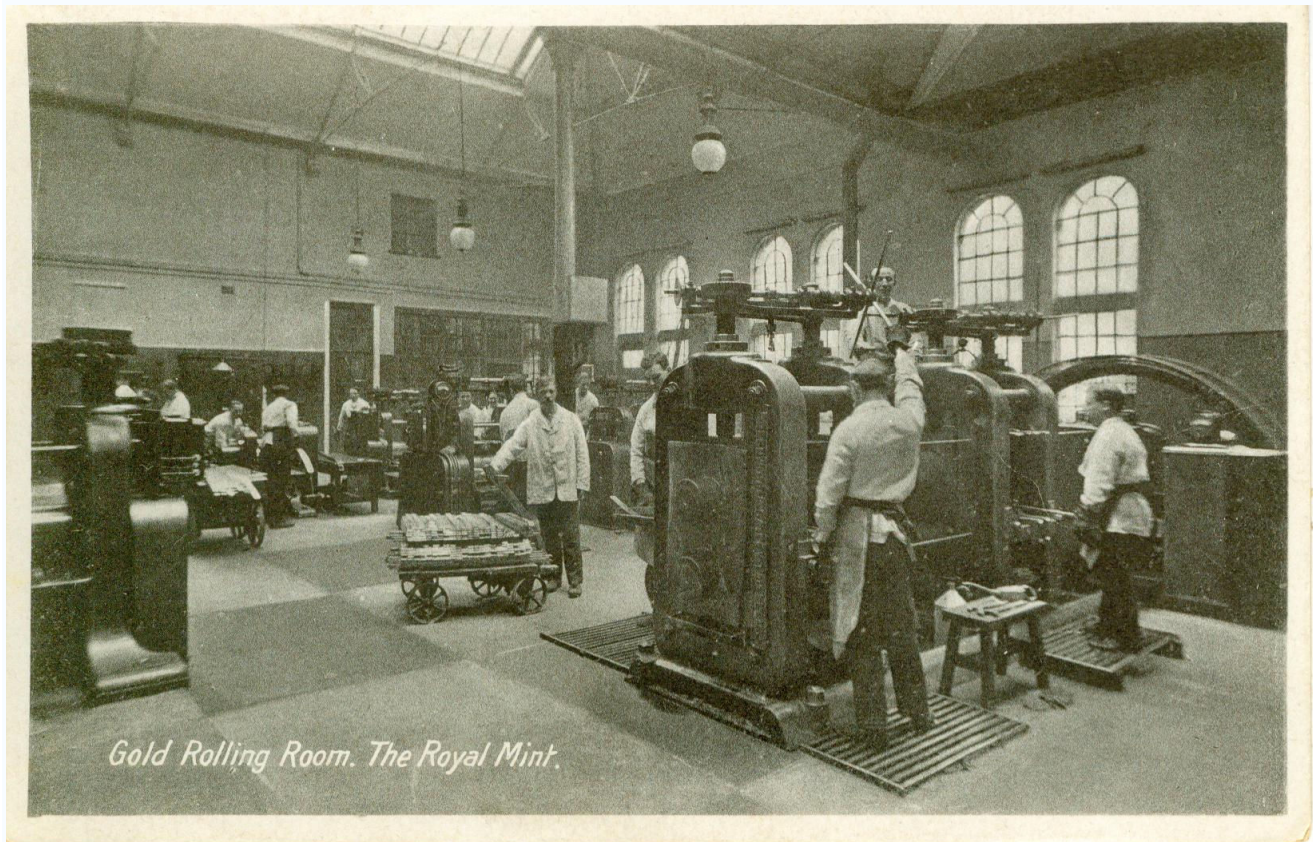
But whatever you call them, either an error or a variety, is fine with me.



*Overzealous die polishing led to the production of Kennedy halves without the designer's initials. Check your 1966, 1972 D, 1973, and 1982 halves for these varieties.*

### British Royal Mint Post Cards -- Part 4

This is the fourth installment from 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 rolling room.



*A postcard (circa 1912) depicting the gold rolling room at the British Royal Mint.*

### **Questions or Comments**

Please call Harold: 256-881-6268

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

Club's forum:

[http://www.coincommunity.com/forum/  
forum.asp?FORUM\\_ID=86](http://www.coincommunity.com/forum/forum.asp?FORUM_ID=86)

Club's web site:

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



**Madison County Coin Club  
14047 Camden Circle  
Huntsville, AL 35803**

### **Club Meeting Dates**

**Nov. 27** Election of 2007 Club Officers

End of year potluck and  
bourse night

**Jan. 23,  
2007** First meeting of the year.

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