
Madison County Coin Club Newsletter

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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.anclubs.org/>

Editor: Harold Fears

ANA Club Rep.: Jon Stimpson

President's Report

By: Harold Fears

Last month we had the honor of having David Hollander as our special guest. For those who might not know, David is considered by many to be one of the leading authorities on Alabama currency. His presentation on "An Introduction to the National Banknotes of the United States, Supported by the Alabama National Banknote Trial Census and the Alabama Collection" high lighted some of his many banknotes in his collection.

Dues were collected in March, but there are still a few members still that owe 2007 dues. If you have not paid your dues yet, please do so as soon as possible. As an added bonus this year, the club will be giving to each member, a coffee cup with our logo on it. So why not come to our April meeting, have a good time, and pick up your mug?



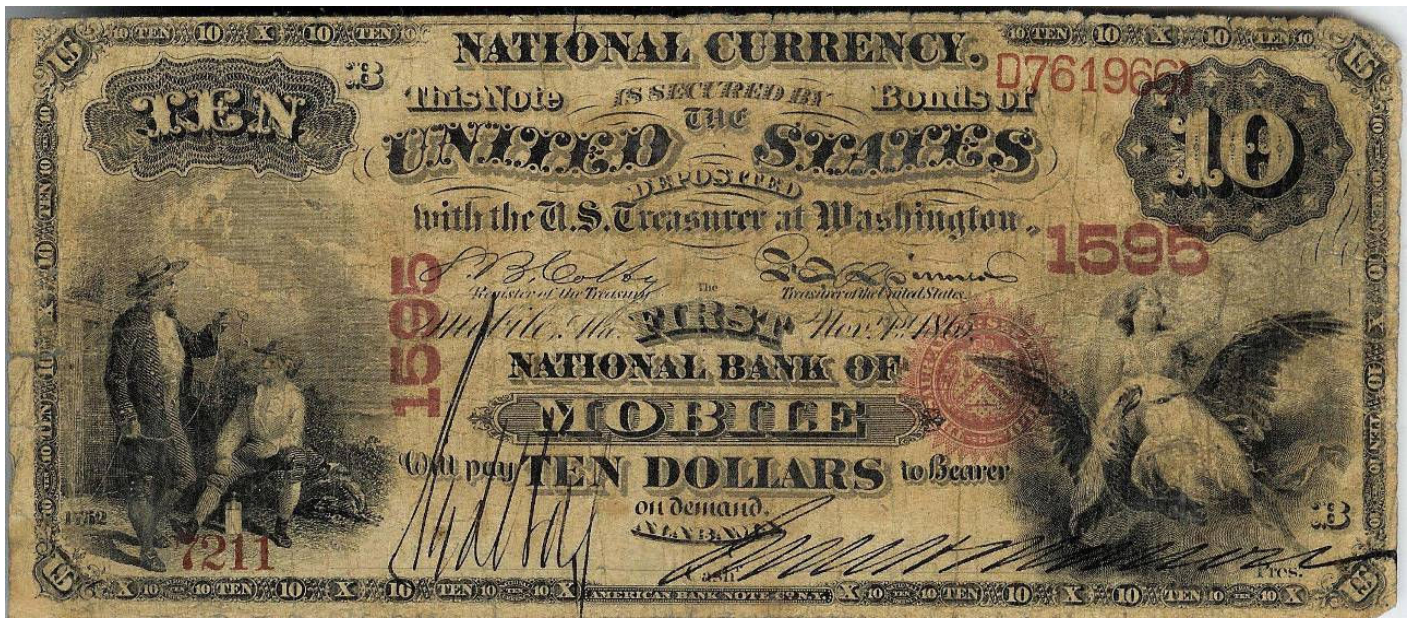
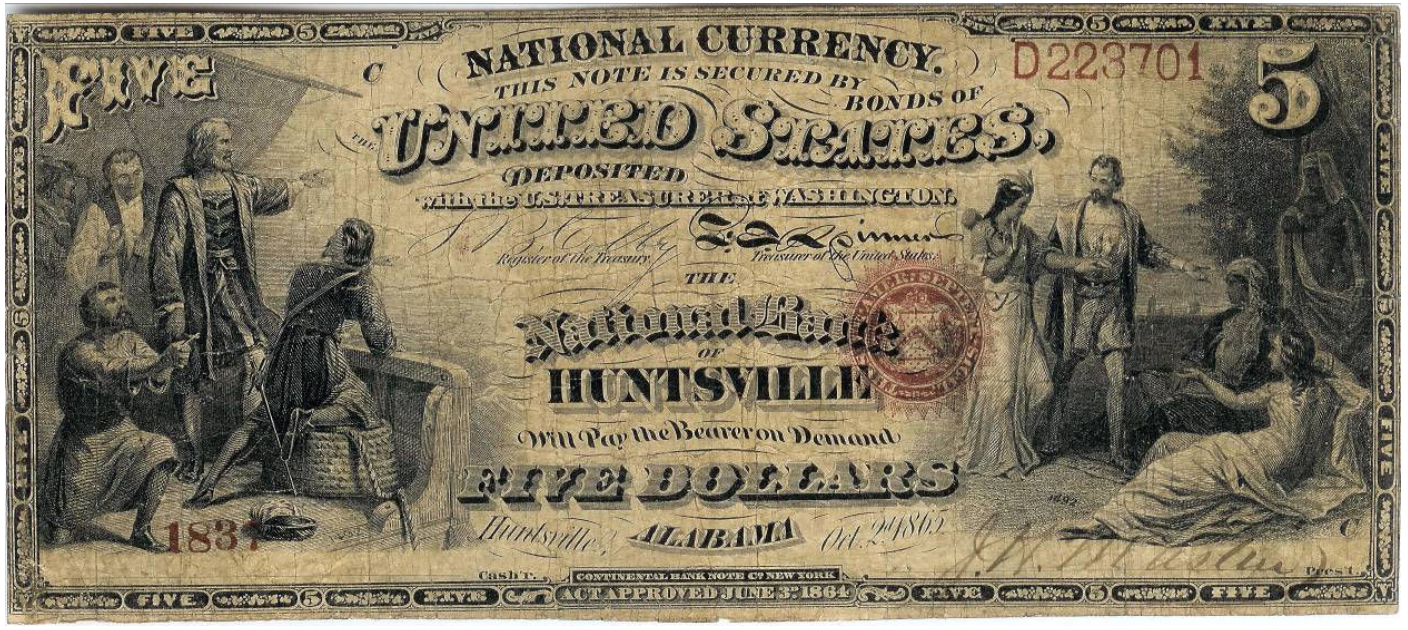
David receives his certificate for his presentation on "An Introduction to the National Banknotes of the United States, Supported by the Alabama National Banknote Trial Census and the Alabama Collection".

April Meeting Notice

The April meeting will be held Monday the 23rd at the Senior Center in Huntsville. We will be meeting in the Ceramics Room.

Richard Jozefiak presents "The Modern British Sovereign and Half-Sovereign"

Some Examples of National Currency

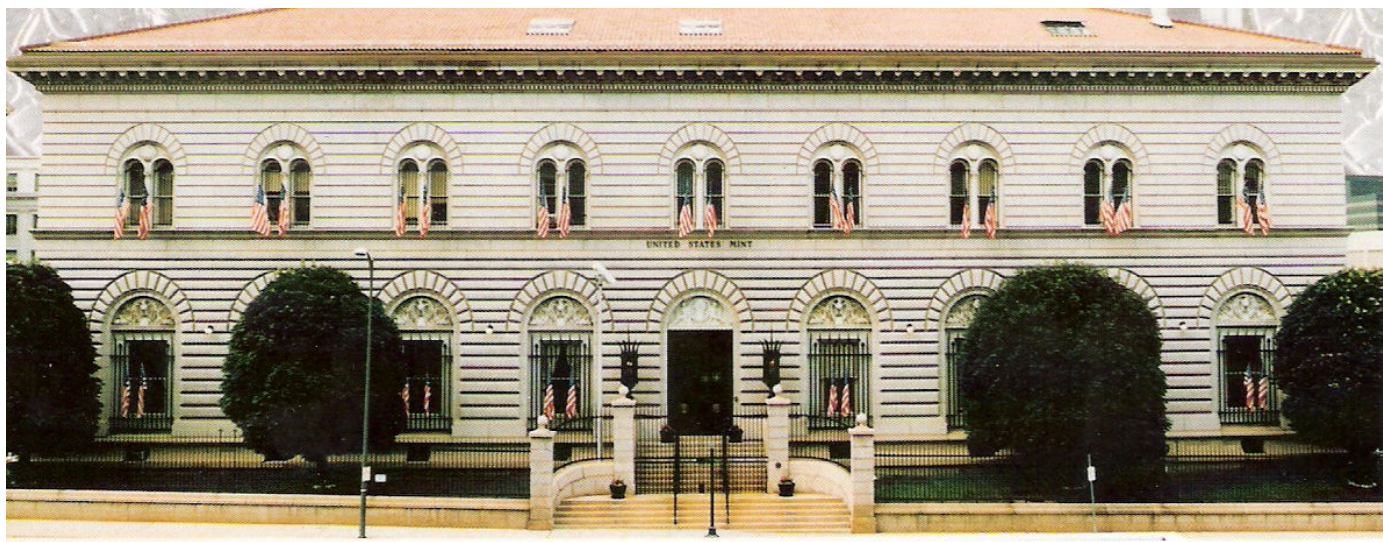


THE HISTORIC PAST OF THE DENVER MINT

by

Bob Jaques

ANA LM-6087



The Denver Mint

Situated a mile above sea level in the middle of downtown Denver, Colorado, stands a simple looking granite building that produces millions of coins each day. This building is the Denver Mint, one of four active mints in the United States today. The other three mints are located in Philadelphia, PA; San Francisco, CA; and West Point, NY.

The Denver Mint has a unique, rich, and colorful history. It was established by an Act of Congress on April 21, 1862 and began business in 1863 as a United States Assay Office. Their business was to assay raw gold brought in from the diggings and mines located in the hills in Colorado. The Assay Office began in the facilities of Clark,

Gruber & Company, a private mint making gold coins from the gold they purchased from the miners. The Government purchased the facilities from Clark, Gruber & Company for \$25,000, a large sum at that time.



Unlike Clark, Gruber & Company, the new Assay Office did not mint coins, but accepted the raw gold for

melting, assaying, and casting into gold bars. The gold bars were then returned to the depositors with the weight and fineness stamped on each bar.

By 1859, Over \$5 million dollars worth of gold and silver were on deposit at the Assay Office. On February 20, 1895, Congress provided for a new mint in Denver for gold and silver coin production. The site for the new mint was at Colfax and Delaware streets in downtown Denver, where it is today. The land purchase price was \$60,000.

Due to lack of full appropriations, the building was not completed immediately, and the Assay Office finally moved to the new location in 1904. Coinage operations began in February 1906.

To distinguish coins made at the Denver Mint, a "D" mintmark was placed on each coin produced. Any coins with a "D" mintmark prior to 1906 were for the gold coins minted at Dahlonega, Georgia.

In 1906 both silver and gold coins were manufactured with the new "D" mintmark. The silver coins were 1906-D Barber Dimes, Barber Quarters, and Barber Halves. The gold coins with the new "D" mintmark were the \$5 Half Eagle, the \$10 Eagle, and the \$20 Double Eagle.

The first penny with a "D" was the Lincoln in 1911; the first nickel with a "D" was the Liberty in 1912, and the first dollar with the "D" was the Morgan in 1921.



Last summer I visited the Mint and it is worthwhile to tour. However, you must have reservations, which can be made online 90 days prior to your trip. I asked the tour guide if there was any gold stored at the Denver Mint. He said that approximately one-third of all U.S. gold is stored at the Denver facility. The remaining two-thirds were split between Ft. Knox and West Point.

Now, a hundred and one years after it first began minting coins in 1906, the Denver Mint manufactures millions of coins each and every day. These large quantities are necessary to satisfy the strong demand by the public and collectors.

Introduction to Collecting

Alaska Tokens

by

Richard Jozefiak

ANA LM-6087

Collecting Alaska Tokens is an interesting and challenging numismatic experience. Currently there are over 1000 known Alaskan tokens, with new ones discovered by the collecting community every year.

The definition of what is a “token” for the purpose of this article is the following: A small (usually less than 1.5 inches), normally round, coin shaped item that was used in trade for the exchange of goods or services. The token can be of any material, but most are made of an inexpensive base metal. The token could be manufactured anywhere, but must have been used by a business located in Alaska.

Alaska tokens can be classified by the period they were issued, and many token collectors specialize in a period or token topic. The periods are:

1. Gold Rush Period- From about 1895 to 1912
2. Organized Territory Period- 1913 to 1930's
3. Depression Period- 1935 to 1936
4. World War II and Post Construction Period- 1942 to 1959
5. Statehood Period- 1959 to today

Most tokens are not dated, and the date of issue of a token is sometimes a best guess. There are no published grading standards for tokens, and is up to the token buyer to decide what standard they wish to use. Token topics are many, and some are: Towns or villages; business types (transportation, bars, stores, etc); government bases; wildlife; etc.

Alaska became a U.S. territory in 1867, but tokens did not become common until the Gold Rush Period of 1895. During this period, there was a great increase of people from the lower U.S., and with them came businesses to support the new activity.

Tokens were used by businesses as both an advertising piece, and a means to have people come to their shops to buy goods or get a service. Many tokens were “Good For” tokens, valued in equivalent U.S. amounts.

Most tokens of this period are very crude, with mostly letters. Surviving tokens of this period tend to be rare in any condition.

But businesses were not the only ones to issue tokens for use. In 1935 the

U.S. Government issued tokens for people as part of the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation (ARRC). The common name of these tokens are "Bingles". These are listed in the "Red Book" (*A Guide Book of United States Coins*), and as such, are collected by people whom normally do not collect tokens.

The next major token period was during the World War II period. The U.S. Government moved tens of thousands of GI's to the area to set up and establish military bases. On the bases, tokens were used at commissaries and base exchanges. Business off base used tokens again as both advertising and to encourage military personnel to shop at their store.

Alaska achieved statehood in 1959. The population of the state increased greatly with the development of natural resources, and tourism became important once jet service started to the area. Tokens were issued by many businesses to attract tourists.

By the 1970's, tokens became less important to businesses. The cost factor to order, monitor, give out, and redeem tokens did not seem to be worth the cost for using tokens. Businesses had other ways to advertise.

Collecting Alaskan tokens is an interesting numismatic topic, and one

that would take years to assemble a quality period or topic set.

Some Scenes from the last meeting



Verdery checks out a 20th century type set



Bob listens to Richard's discussion.

Nine Different Mints

Besides the main mint in Philadelphia there have been seven branch mints located in the United States. The branch mints include Charlotte, Dahlonega, Carson City, New Orleans, Denver, San Francisco, and West Point. Can you name the remaining U.S. branch mint?

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.

Help!

If you are receiving the newsletter via the post and would like to help reduce the cost to the club, please consider receiving it via the web at <http://mccc.anacclubs.org/> . If this is feasible, please email me at hkfears@knology.net .

Questions or Comments

Please call Harold: 256-881-6268

E-mail: hkfears@knology.net

Club's web site:

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

Meetings for 2007



January 22 Bob Jaques presents "Military Payment Certificates"



February 26 "State of the Coin Market" by Charles Cataldo



March 26 David Hollander presents "An Introduction to the National Banknotes of the United States, Supported by the Alabama National Banknote Trial Census and the Alabama Collection"



April 23 Richard Jozefiak presents "The Modern British Sovereign and Half-Sovereign"



June 25 Pot Luck – Bourse Night – Dennis presents "Building a West Point Set"



July 23 British Night by Bob Jaques



August 27 Dwight Maxwell presents Roman Coinage



September 24 – Computers by Mark Larson



October 22 – Commemoratives by Arthur Patrick



November 26 Pot Luck – Bourse Night



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Huntsville, AL 35803

«Mailing_Name»

«Street»

«City», «State» «Zip»