
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

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

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

Meeting Dates: 4th 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

Someone asked me the other day how to build a working library for British Commonwealth coinage. First I would recommend purchasing "The Guidebook and Catalogue of British Commonwealth Coins" by Jerome Remick. Next try to acquire a set of "The British Commonwealth of Nations" series by F. Pridmore. Spink published these impressive volumes during the 1960s. They are hard to find now, but the information in these books stands up to the test of time. The series had books covering the West Indies, European Territories, India, and Asia. The third step would be to purchase a basic catalog on United Kingdom coinage. Spink produces the annual "Coins of England and the United Kingdom".

As it happens, last month's speaker, Bob Jaques, gave a very interesting presentation on British Commonwealth coins. Fifteen members listened to his presentation, saw some unusual numismatic items, traded a few coins, and had a great time.

I hope to see you at our next coin club meeting.



Bob gives his talk on the "Coins of the British Commonwealth."



August is the Nickel Month

August is nickel month. So whether if you wish to trade, sell, or buy some key dates, the coin club August meeting is the place to be!



Victor D. Brenner, The Man Who Designed the Famous Lincoln Penny

By
Bob Jaques



Exactly 2 years from now, the famous Lincoln penny will celebrate 100 years of continuous circulation. It was on August 2, 1909 that the Lincoln penny was first introduced to the American public and placed in nationwide circulation. In 1909, more than 101 million pennies had been struck in the San Francisco and Philadelphia Mints.

The Lincoln penny replaced the Indian head penny, which had been in circulation from 1857 thru 1909 for a total of 52 years. According to *The New York Times*, "The Indian must remain on the one-cent coin. It is a conventionalized symbol, recognized by the Whole Nation, and it signifies liberty".

During the summer of 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt, who had a dislike for the current circulating coins when he became President in 1901, jumped at the approaching birthday centennial of Abraham Lincoln as the basis for a new design on the penny.

Roosevelt chose as the designer a Russian immigrant medallist by the name of Victor D. Brenner, who had successfully created a medal of Roosevelt to commemorate the construction of the Panama Canal.

Brenner worked carefully with Mint officials as he designed the profile of Lincoln and the wording for the penny. The Lincoln penny is the first one-cent coin to have the motto "In God We Trust".

Brenner placed his initials VDB on the bottom of the reverse design, and on May 10, 1909 production began on the Lincoln penny. However, on August 4, two days after the penny had been released to the public, Treasury Secretary Franklin MacVeigh ordered Brenner's initials removed.

Why MacVeigh made this sudden and surprising change by deleting the VDB has been the subject of controversy. Some say it was due to public pressure against the Russian immigrant's name on U.S. coins and others say it was due to pressure from Mint engraver Charles Barber, who was jealous of Brenner.

In 1918, a year after Barber's death, the initials were added to the obverse of the penny where the bottom of Lincoln's bust meets the field. The initials are almost too small to be seen without a magnifying glass.

The rarest coin in the Lincoln set is the 1909-S VDB with a mintage of only 484,000 cents being struck before the initials were removed from the dies.

In 1958, the only major change to Brenner's original design was on the reverse when the wheat

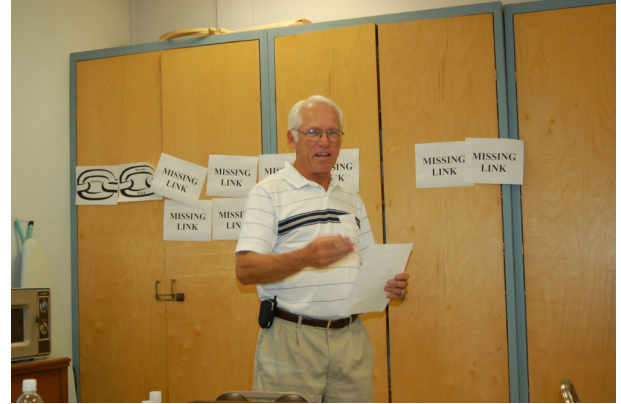
lines were dropped in favor of the Lincoln Memorial building in Washington, D.C.

After his classic achievement of designing the successful and beautiful Abraham Lincoln penny, Brenner designed a few medals and then he faded into obscurity and died in 1924.



1951 Bronze and Silver 76 mm medals. Tribute to VICTOR DAVID BRENNER by Schabel. His rendition of Mercury/Lincoln's log cabin and busts of Abraham Lincoln and Victor David Brenner.

Some Scenes from the July Meeting



2007 ANA Summer Seminar Experience

By

Richard Jozefiak
ANA LM-6087
TEC 2942

I was honored to be selected by the Board of Directors of the Blue Ridge Numismatic Association to attend a session of the 2007 American Numismatic Association (ANA) Summer Seminar. I attended week 2; June 30-July 5.

The ANA Summer Seminar is held on the beautiful campus of Colorado College in Colorado Springs, CO. Colorado College was founded in 1874, and is a private college. The ANA Headquarters is located on Colorado College property. Downtown Colorado Springs can be reached with a 20-minute walk or short bus ride. Pikes Peak (14,110 feet) is visible everywhere on the campus.

The ANA Summer Seminar has been going on for many years. Students have access to the ANA's great library, money museum, and facilities that are open extended hours during the Summer Seminar.

The ANA staff works long hours supporting the Summer Seminar.



Pikes Peak from Colorado College Campus

The main activities of the Summer Seminar are the day courses. The courses offered each year vary, and cover many fields of numismatics. There are also many other planned events and activities during the week. There are evening mini-seminars (at additional cost), presentations, the YN auction, a banquet, and arranged tours (at additional cost).

I flew from Huntsville, AL and arrived at the Colorado Springs Airport on late Saturday evening, and took a taxi to Colorado College. I checked into my room at the Colorado College Inn, a new housing option on campus. The CC Inn is a converted hotel that offers a private room and bath, along with air conditioning.



The ANA Headquarters in Colorado Springs

Meals were included, and provided by the Colorado College Worner Center cafeteria. I found the food to be typical college fare. The ANA Summer Seminar was not the only activity going on at the college. At least two other groups were holding events while the ANA Summer Seminar was in progress.

Weather in Colorado Springs during my one-week stay there was mostly hot, in the 90's.

Colorado Springs is at an altitude of about 6000 feet, and it takes a day or so to adjust. Dehydration is a concern, and the ANA provided cases of bottled water in the dorm areas, classrooms, and other locations. People were always encouraged to have a bottle of water and drink water to prevent medical problems.

Sunday began with breakfast, and with people lining up outside of ANA Headquarters to get a good place in line. The famous ANA book sale started at 9 am. The book sale is material that the ANA library no longer needs. This includes books, auction catalogs, magazines, and some other materials. Numbers were given out to people beginning at 8 am.

The door to the book sale was open at 9 am, and people whose numbers were called out quickly entered. The room quickly became full of people, and it was difficult to move about. After lunch on Sunday, the first class session of the day courses began at 1 pm and went to 4 pm. I took the course "United States Tokens", one of my numismatic collecting areas. The class instructor is the well known author and token collector David Schenkman.



Excitement at the ANA book sale

There were six other students in the class with me. With a small class size, this provided plenty of opportunities to interact and question the instructor and classmates. My classmates were from all over the country.

Monday began the normal schedule for the next four days. Breakfast was served in the cafeteria from 7:00 – 8:30 am daily. Class began at 9 am and went until lunch, about 11:45 am. They began again at 1:15 pm and went until 4:15 pm.



The ANA Money Museum

Most of the instructors for the courses are well known in the numismatic community, and are subject matter experts in their numismatic field. They volunteer to be instructors for the week to share their knowledge and love of their numismatic area. Many of the instructors do this on their own time.

After class on Monday afternoon, I gave an open presentation on “Alaska Numismatics -- An Overview from 1784 to Today”. I brought a number of Alaskan numismatic items to share and discuss.

While the Summer Seminar is in progress, the Young Numismatists (YNs) attending are working on a special project. They are tasked with putting on the annual YN auction, which raises funds to support the YN scholarships and costs for the next

year. Before coming to the Summer Seminar, students were asked to bring items for donation or consignment to the auction. The YNs prepare an auction catalog, sort items, staff the lot viewing tables, and run the auction. The more experienced YNs who have done this in past years, help the new YNs. Most of the YNs attending the Summer Seminar are doing so on scholarships from many different numismatic organizations and the ANA. A YN is about 22 years old or younger.



YN Auction Lot Viewing

The YN Auction for Session 2 was held on Wednesday evening, Independence Day, beginning at 7:00 pm. There was a large turnout for the auction, and a number of the lots brought record-setting bids. The auction is always great fun. A number of people made very generous bids for lots that normally would bring

only a few dollars. Many lots were bought, but given to different YNs. The auction lasted until about 11 pm, and raised \$20,000.

On Thursday night, the graduation reception and banquet was held beginning at 6 pm. The banquet was catered and a nice buffet was presented. There were many awards given out with plenty of photos taken. Friday, July 6, was checkout day. The ANA provided shuttle vans in the morning for people who wanted to go to the airport.

On Friday I went on the optional ANA arranged tour of the U.S. Mint in Denver. This tour is a floor tour, and is very different than the standard tourist tour. On the floor tour we were in small groups and got to see the coin production operations up close.

In summary, the ANA Summer Seminar is a great experience. What makes it so fun is the support and interactions of all the fellow students, instructors, and ANA staff. The many different activities offered are exciting and interesting for people of all ages and experience levels.

For more information about future ANA Summer Seminars, please go to <http://www.money.org/>

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.

On-Line Information

Club's web site:

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

Coin Community Forum:

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

Pictures and photographs to share:

<http://flickr.com/groups/coinclub/>

E-mail: hkfears@knology.net

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 Delong 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



Madison County Coin Club
14047 Camden Circle
Huntsville, AL 35803

«Mailing_Name»

«Street»

«City», «State» «Zip»

