

Madison County Coin Club

of Huntsville, Alabama



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August 2008

The President's Corner

The July meeting was a good one with the program by Richard Jozefiak on "Gold Sovereigns from 1817 to the Present." Richard's PowerPoint presentation was well done and his historical comments were interesting. He even brought some his sovereigns to show to the audience.

A special congratulations goes out to our Newsletter Editor Harold Fears for winning first place in the annual ANA newsletter competition for local coin clubs. The award was presented at the ANA Show in Baltimore on August 2, and was accepted on behalf of our Club by Richard Jozefiak. Harold did not attend the Baltimore Show.

Our next meeting promises to have an interesting program when Harold talks about "The 1813 Jersey Tokens."

We continue to have several guests each month and that means the word is getting around the community about our Club. It would be nice to be able to expand our meeting room.

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BRONZE MEDALLION REMINDER OF SHIP'S HISTORIC PAST

By Bob Jaques

One of the exciting areas of collecting interest within the numismatic community is that of exonomia, or, as defined by Webster, "the study and collecting of tokens, medals, coupons, etc".

My main interest is in numismatics, but I do find that anything of unusual or historical importance grabs my attention. Although I do not really collect exonomia, I must admit to having a few pieces that are unusual and historically significant.

Over the years historic medals have been struck incorporating original pieces of metal from an historic object, and then sold as a souvenir or as a fund-raiser.

As a former Navy veteran, I am especially interested in historical Naval memorabilia. In going thru a box of "stuff" recently in a hidden part of my closet, I came across a unique and interesting bronze medal.

When the medallion was purchased for \$2, it included not only a nice souvenir of the ship, but also a lifetime admission to see the ship.

On the obverse was the name "U.S. Frigate Constellation" and the date 1797. On the reverse are the words "this coin struck from parts of the frigate Constellation the first ship of the U.S. Navy". Interesting!

After some careful research, I discovered the medals, which measure 1-1/4" in diameter, were struck in 1955 and sold for \$2 each as a souvenir and fund-raiser to help with the renovation of the ship.

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The front



The front

The first frigate Constellation was first built in 1797 and served as a first line fighting ship with the U.S. Navy until 1853. It was then torn down and rebuilt as a corvette using the same name. A frigate is a fast ship with up to 60 guns and three masts. A corvette is a smaller ship with up to 38 guns on one level. The first

Constellation was completed before the USS Constitution and is considered the Navy's first ship. The Constellation is now located in a maritime museum in Baltimore, Maryland.

The bronze medallion in my collection must have been given to me since I have not been to the ship in Baltimore. The copper used in the bronze casting came from actual copper spikes used in the original construction. When the medallion was purchased for \$2, it included not only a nice souvenir of the ship, but also a lifetime admission to see the ship.



The USS CONSTITUTION is the oldest warship afloat still in commission.

If you like historical and unique items in your collecting interests, then consider exnumia. You might just find that item in your travels. ■

Why not bring a friend to the next meeting?

Some Scenes from the July Meeting



Bob and Richard preparing ...



The waiting is the hardest part ...



The gang of four searching for the one that got away.



You can always count on a fun time at the meeting!



Checking out that die variety ...



Bob presents Richard his educational award.

Jersey Copper 1/13th of a Shilling

By Harold Fears

These unusual denominations can be traced back to 1834 when Jersey decreed that English money would be the sole legal tender. At that time, 26 French *livres* were equal to one English pound. With 20 shillings to the pound and 20 *sous* to the *livre*, one shilling was worth 26 *sous*. Thus the Jersey penny or *pièce de deux sous* became 1/13th of a shilling, the Jersey half penny or *sou* 1/26th of a shilling, and the farthing or *pièce de deux liards* 1/52nd of a shilling.



Jersey is located off the coast of France in the English Channel.

One thing to note was that no one was obliged to receive in payment more than the value of one shilling in copper money.

During their twenty-five year life span, coins were issued only once for the one farthing and five times for both the half penny and penny.

These coins were ordered on July 13, 1840, sanctioned on September 11, 1840, and struck at the Royal Mint in 1841. The dies were engraved by William Wyon. The obverse has a dexter bust of Queen Victoria, with hair banded, as in the English

coinage of that period, with the legend "VICTORIA: D: G: BRITANNIAR: REGINA F:D:" and the date. The legend in English is Victoria, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith. The reverse has an ornamented shield of the arms of Jersey (gules and three gold colored lions passant gardent) with the legend "STATES OF JERSEY" around the upper half, while "1/52 OF A SHILLING", "1/26 OF A SHILLING", or "1/13 OF A SHILLING" around the lower half. The Jersey Government supplied this design to the Royal Mint. Then on November 12, 1841, the new coins arrived in Jersey aboard the steamship *Transit*.

During their twenty-five year life span, coins were issued for circulation only once for the one farthing and five times for both the half penny and penny. Also, proof only issues were struck in 1861 for the farthing and in 1865 for the penny. Due to the rise in copper prices, these heavy oversized copper coins were replaced in 1866 with smaller bronze coinage and then finally withdrawn from circulation in 1869 for recoinage.

The following table lists the year and the mintages for the large copper penny:

MINTAGES FOR THE JERSEY COPPER 1/13TH OF A SHILLING

1841-1865

1841	116,480
1844	146,600
1851	173,333
1858	173,333
1861	173,333
1865	Proof Only

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The obverse of the copper 1/13th of a shilling



The reverse of the copper 1/13th of a shilling

Due to the small number of coins, building a set of these unusual coins could present a rather interesting challenge for the average collector. Fortunately, these coins are relatively inexpensive and specimens range in price from \$5 for circulated examples to ~\$250 for uncirculated specimens. Proofs are also available and all are extremely rare.

Next month, we will take a look at the 1/52nd of a shilling. ■

Members' Notices

Rules for users of the member notice page: All notices are free and should be directed to the editor of the Madison County Coin Club newsletter (see back page for address). Notices will be limited to a maximum of 8 lines, including the name and contact information. The person entering the notice must answer all responses to notices. Preference will be given in the following order to notices when the page is oversubscribed in a single month:

1. Research Notices
2. Wanted Items
3. Trades Offered
4. For Sale Items

Looking for world coins or tokens with sailing ships, or dragons. Interested in crowns, and smaller denominations. Silver, Cupero-Nickel, bronze, Aluminum and the like. Contact Mark at TheLarsens@bellsouth.net

Looking for Alaskan Medals and Tokens. Contact: Richard at ANALMRJ@gmail.com or 256-337-5092

Looking for numismatic information concerning the Island of Jersey, Channel Islands. Especially interested in magazine or newspaper articles. Contact: Harold at hkfears@knology.net or 256-881-6268.

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. ■

2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All meetings are held at the Senior Center in Huntsville in the Ceramics Room. We meet on the fourth Monday each month except for May and December. Meetings start at 6:30 and typically end around 8:30. The Thomas W. Davidson, Sr. Senior Center is located at 2200 Drake Ave. SW, Huntsville, AL 35803.

JANUARY 28

Speaker: Bob Jaques

FEBRUARY 25

Charles Cataldo presents "*The State of the Coin Market*"

MARCH 24

Speaker: Dennis Schafluetzel, President of Georgia Numismatic Association, presents "*Carpetbagger Promotes, Combines and Rebuilds and Bankrupts AL & Chattanooga Railroad*"

APRIL 28

Speaker American Numismatic Association (ANA) Governor Radford Stearns presents "*The History of the Western World in 28 Coins*"

JUNE 23

Annual potluck and bourse night.

JULY 28

Speaker Richard Jozefiak presents "*The Modern Sovereign and Half-Sovereign: Gold Coins of the British Empire From 1817 to Today*"

AUGUST 25

Speaker Harold Fears presents "*The 1813 Jersey Tokens*"

SEPTEMBER 22

Open.

OCTOBER 27

Speaker: Robert Patrick

NOVEMBER 24

Annual Thanksgiving Celebration.

August is Foreign Coin Month

August is foreign coin month. So whether you wish to trade, sell, or buy some foreign coins, the coin club's August meeting is the place to be!



CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: [Bob Jaques](mailto:rjapilot@charter.net) (rjapilot@charter.net)

VICE PRESIDENT: [Harold Fears](mailto:hkfears@knology.net) (hkfears@knology.net)

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BOARD MEMBER: [Mark Larson](mailto:thelarsens@bellsouth.net)
(thelarsens@bellsouth.net)

Our Newsletter Receives First Place Award for Outstanding Local Numismatic Publication

The American Numismatic Association (ANA) awarded its highest award for coin club publications to the Madison County Coin Club (MCCC) on August 2, 2008 at the 117th ANA Convention in Baltimore, MD. The *Madison County Coin Club Newsletter* received the First Place Award for local coin club publications. Accepting the ANA award in Baltimore, MD was Richard, the founder and past-president of MCCC.



Richard accepting the ANA Award for MCCC Newsletter from Mr. Michael "Stan" Turrini, ANA National Coordinator



The Award

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In addition to our excellent programs, we will be upgrading our door prizes, so be sure to attend our next meeting on August 25th.

Sincerely,
Bob Jaques
President

Visit us on the web at <http://mccc.anaclubs.org/>