

# Madison County Coin Club

of Huntsville, Alabama



Volume 9, Issue 3

March 2009

## The President's Corner

The last meeting was a good one although your President goofed with the program. I was under the impression that Mr. Cataldo automatically had the program every February, but I failed to confirm with him. So he will be our program this month.

Richard filled in with an interesting program about "Coins on Glass", which was well received by the audience. Thanks Richard.

As a reminder, your Club dues are due March 1st so be sure to get with Mike and be current. Mike does a good job handling our Club's finances.

With the fluctuating coin market be sure to be at the next meeting and hear Mr. Cataldo give his views on the Market as a whole.

See you on the 23rd.

Sincerely,

Bob Jaques

## My Lucky Dollar: The 1903-S Morgan

*Mike Ford*

I am sure everyone has their story to tell about a bargain coin deal they got sometime in their life. A scarce date mistakenly buried in a bargain box for a dollar, a drastically under graded coin, or perhaps a scarce coin mistakenly identified by the owner. As a teenage coin collector in the late 70's I got my own bargain with a 1903-S Morgan dollar...not once...but TWICE! Two different coins on two distinctly different occasions. But they both had one thing in common; they were both with 1903-S Morgan dollars!

The 1903-S Morgan is a scarce date, not a super rare one like the 1893-S but certainly respectable. It is currently valued at \$95 in a low VG-8, \$425 in XF-40 and much more expensive in uncirculated grades: \$4,400 in MS-60 and over \$10K in MS-65.

For a Morgan Dollar it has a low mintage of only 1,241,000. However, surviving numbers are far, far fewer. The Pittman Act of 1918 melted millions of Morgans and several hundred thousand of the 1903-S dollars. According to David Bowers in his book: "A Buyer's Guide to Silver Dollars and Trade Dollars of the United States" the 1903-S is "one of the rarest Morgan Dollars in mint state. Curiously, the 1903-S is rarer in MS-60 than in MS-63." The coin, though much fewer exist, were very well struck accounting for the few Unc's to be in high grade. As with most Morgan's die varieties exist and a "micro s" version is specifically identified in the Red Book and carries a hefty premium over the normal larger mint mark.

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*The obverse of the 1903-S Morgan*

Well now for my story with the 1903-S. I started collecting coins as a teenager and was very active in buying Morgan dollars by the time I was 16. It was 1976 and I was 15 years old. My mother dropped off my 12 years old brother and I at a coin shop in downtown Atlanta. My brother was also an avid collector at even a younger age than me. While we were browsing around a young black woman walked in the store and over to the dealer to ask him how much he would give her for 2 Morgan Dollars she owned.

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*"Oh, I sold it to that young man over there" as she pointed to me.*

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The dealer offered her \$3 for one coin and \$4 for the other. His phone immediately rang and he disappeared in the back to answer it with his back turned to the young woman. I walked over and asked her if I could look at her coins and she complied. The coin the dealer had offered \$3 was a common 1901-O worth only about \$6 maximum at the time. The other, which the dealer had offered \$4, was a 1903-S in about XF-40 worth about \$80 at the time. My eyes lit up, as I did not have to look the coin up in my book, I knew it was worth far more than the dealer had

offered. So I offered her \$5 for the coin, as I watched to make sure the dealer's back was still turned. She agreed and I quickly pulled out a \$5 bill as she handed me the coin. Just as I turned away the dealer returned from his expensive phone call. He was certain the young woman needed the cash and would sell him both coins. He was going to throw the 1901-O in the bargain bin but he had plans to make a very good profit on the 1903-S. However, when he asked her, "Are you ready to sell your coins?" she replied "Yes, at least this one" as she handed him the 1901-O.

He immediately turned red "What about the other one?" he asked. "Oh, I sold it to that young man over there" as she pointed to me. As his eyes met mine, I realized he was less than happy with my stealing his deal. He gave the woman the \$3 for the 1901-O and she scurried out the door. As soon as she was gone he said to me in a very hostile voice "Who do you think you are buying that coin from my customer in my store?" I responded "Well you made her an offer then you turned your back on her, so I gave her a better offer." With that he threw both my brother and I out of his store. Of course I did not mind since I had gotten my bargain for the day!



*The reverse of the 1903-S Morgan*

Only a few years later, 1979 my brother and I were at a coin show in Georgia. I believe it was the GNA but not certain. We were checking out the bourse and I was looking for Morgans. I did not need a 1903-S since I already had one, but one caught my eye that I could not resist. It was at least an XF-45 with a better strike than mine. Of course, back then there was no 40 or 45, it was just XF. But I just had to look at the coin. I asked the dealer "Can I see one of your Morgans"? Since I was only 18, he did not pay me much attention and was busy reading a paper. So he poked his young daughter to assist me. I knew she had no knowledge of coins so instead of identifying the coin and mint mark I just said, "that 1903 dollar right there".

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*She pulled the coin. I looked it over and it was very nice with very full breast feathers on the reverse and no problems at all. I then asked, "How much are you asking?"*

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She pulled the coin. I looked it over and it was very nice with very full breast feathers on the reverse and no problems at all. I then asked, "How much are you asking?" The girl turned to her dad. He had heard my question and not even away from his paper he said "Eight fifty". I was puzzled. Did he really mean Eighty-Five dollars? It could not be only \$8.50 as this was about a \$100 coin. This was not the ignorant young woman; this was an experienced dealer who surely would not sell the coin for less than 10% of its value. So I said slowly "So you want eight dollars and fifty cents"? When he said "yes" it did not take me long to pull the money from my pocket to pay. The girl did the full transaction, taking the money from me and handing me my prize! I walked away quickly before he realized what he had done!

However, I no longer have either of these coins today. In 1980 I sold both of them. As I recall, I got \$50 for the one I had purchased for \$5 and \$85 for the one I had purchased for \$8.50. Ironically, exactly 1000% profit. Of course had I waited they would be over \$400 each.

Now I primarily collected Seated Dollars, but still check out the Morgans and the 1903-S. This time when I check out the 1903-S dollars I look for the much scarcer "micro s" variety. Of course, for the price of the regular mint mark dollar! Will I find my third 1903-s bargain? . ■



*"Micro -s" variety*



*Regular mint mark*

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

## The Jersey 1812, 1813, and 1814 Tokens

### Part 3: The "Common" and Druid Tokens

By Harold Fears

In last month's column, we learned about the extremely rare Jersey 1813 half penny token and how there are only a few known to exist. This month, we will start a discussion on the penny tokens, one of which can be obtained with a little persistence by the collector.

For the first penny token, the obverse has the Badge of the Prince of Wales, three ostrich feathers enfiled in base by a coronet, and on a ribbon the motto: ICH DIEN. The legend is "TO FACILITATE TRADE" and the date 1813 is beneath the badge. The slogan "TO FACILITATE TRADE" was used to encourage circulation.<sup>12</sup> The reverse is simply the inscription "ONE PENNY TOKEN" in three lines with the legend "JERSEY GUERNSEY AND ALDERNEY." The diesinker was Thomas Halliday, the most famous diesinker of the early nineteenth century British copper tokens. There are several different minor varieties depending on the graining of the edge and die orientation. The variety depicted had a rusted reverse die. This token is the easiest token in the series to locate but is still considered rare. Regardless of the edge type there are probably not more than a few dozen currently available to a collector. Both the obverse and reverse dies are muled with other dies of this period and form the basis of the series.

### 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.



*The obverse of the 1813 Jersey Guernsey and Alderney/Prince of Wales Plumes penny token*

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*This token is the easiest token in the series to locate but is still considered rare.*

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*The reverse of the 1813 Jersey Guernsey and Alderney/Prince of Wales Plumes penny token*

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For the next token, the reverse is similar to the first token. However on the obverse, there is a druid's head with the legend "PURE COPPER PREFERABLE TO PAPER." During this time copper was thought to be a good investment and there was a distrust of paper.



*The obverse of the Druid / Jersey, Guernsey and Alderney token*

If you are familiar with late 18th century tokens, then you are aware that the druid's head was a popular design. Ken Elks states, "This design can be traced to the Parys Mines Company. Starting in 1787, this company manufactured a penny, halfpenny and farthing tokens, primarily to pay their workers at their copper mines on the Isle of Anglesey. These tokens all bore the veiled head of a druid on the obverse and their cipher PMCo on the reverse. Not only were these the first such tokens but also the ones produced in the largest numbers, some 250 tons of pennies and 50 tons of halfpennies. The farthings were only issued in relatively small numbers; some of the later ones with different reverse designs were concoctions made especially for collectors. All the coins were manufactured at a private mint set up in Birmingham, owned by the Parys Mines Company."

This particular example of this very rare token is from the McCammon collection. There are probably less than four of these tokens available to collectors. ■



*The reverse of the Druid / Jersey, Guernsey and Alderney token is the obverse of the first token*

## Can You Identify this Coin?



This is a twelve year type coin with a salmon on the reverse. It is about the size of a half dollar and is made of copper-nickel coin. Can you identify it? The solution will be published next month in the newsletter.

Solution to last month's quiz: A 1973 one cent coin from the British Virgin Islands.

## 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, Copper-Nickel, bronze, Aluminum and the like. Contact Mark at [TheLarsens@bellsouth.net](mailto:TheLarsens@bellsouth.net)

**Looking for Alaskan Medals and Tokens.** Contact: Richard at [ANALMRJ@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:hkfears@knology.net) or 256-881-6268.

## Membership Dues

Your 2009 dues can be paid at the next meeting, or if you wish, you can send in your check to:

**Mike Campbell**  
**801 Randall Road**  
**Huntsville, AL 35802**

Membership	Amount Due
Regular	\$15.00 Senior Rate * \$12.00
Spouse (same address as Regular member)	\$5.00
Young Numismatist (YN)- Person 18 years or younger.	\$5.00
Young Numismatist	\$5.00
Young Numismatist	\$5.00
Family (all members of a family with the same address)	\$25.00

Please make check payable to Madison County Coin Club. Please support MCCC by promptly renewing you membership.

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



## CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: [BOB JAQUES](mailto:rjapilot@charter.net) (rjapilot@charter.net)

VICE PRESIDENT: [Dennis DeLong](mailto:fastfords1@bellsouth.net) (fastfords1@bellsouth.net)

SECRETARY: [Richard Jozefiak](mailto:analmrj@gmail.com) (analmrj@gmail.com)

TREASURER: [Mike Campbell](mailto:mcampbell7@juno.com) (mcampbell7@juno.com)

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

## 2009 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 26

Photographing Coins by John Lindberg

FEBRUARY 23

Coins on Glass by Richard Jozefiak

MARCH 23

State of the Coin Market by Charles Cataldo

APRIL 27

Early Dollars by Mike Ford

JUNE 22

Annual potluck and bourse night

JULY 27

Trade Dollars by Dennis DeLong

AUGUST 24

The Good Old Days by Frank DuVall

SEPTEMBER 28

Open.

OCTOBER 26

Commemorative Halves by Robert Patrick

NOVEMBER 23

Annual Thanksgiving celebration and bourse night



## March is Obsolete Denomination Month

March is obsolete denomination month. So whether if you wish to trade, sell, or buy some two cents, three cents, or twenty cent pieces, the coin club's March meeting is the place to be!



*An 1833 half dime*

Why not bring a friend to the next meeting?

## 2009 Coin Shows Around Huntsville, AL Area

Date(s)	Area	Location	Contact Info	Richard's Rating
Feb 14-15 Sept 19-20	Pelham (Birmingham), AL	Central AL Coin Show Civic Center 500 Amphitheater Road Pelham, AL Sa 10 am – 6 pm Su 10 am – 3 pm	Dr. Carl Shory 205-620-0560	★
Feb 21 March 14 April 11 May 23 June 13 July 11 August 15 Sept 5 Oct 17 Nov 14 Dec 19	Franklin, TN	Coin Show I-65 & Hwy 96 Best Western Hotel 1308 Murfreesboro Road Franklin, TN 9 am – 4 pm	Col. Tom Bass 615-740-7952 615-428-0125 tbass73142@aol.com	TBD
Mar 6-8	Chattanooga, TN	Tennessee State Numismatic Society Camp Jordan Arena I-75 Exit 1 Chattanooga, TN	Gayle Pike 901-327-1703 901-210-7669 (cell) pikegk@aol.com www.tsns.org	TBD
April 17-19	Dalton, GA	45 <sup>th</sup> Georgia Numismatic Association Coin Show Northwest Trade Center I-75 exit 333 2211 Dug Gap Battle Road Dalton, GA Fri- Sat 10 am – 6 pm Sun 10 am – 3 pm	Chip Cutcliff 770-421-8387 chascoins06@yahoo.com www.gamoney.org	★★★
May 8-9 Oct 2-3	Huntsville, AL	Rocket City Coin Show Knights of Columbus Hall 3053 Leeman Ferry Road Huntsville, AL	Charles Cataldo AL Coin & Silver Co. 256-536-0262	★
July 17-19	Bessemer, AL	Alabama State Coin Show 1130 Ninth Ave SW Bessemer, AL 10 am – 6 pm	Corbitt Chandler 205-939-1178 corbitchandler@bellsouth.net	★★
Aug 21-23	Dalton, GA	50 <sup>th</sup> Blue Ridge Numismatic Association Coin Show Northwest Trade Center I-75 exit 333 2211 Dug Gap Battle Road Dalton, GA Fri-Sat 10 am – 6 pm Su 10 am – 3 pm	Bob Hurst 321-383-1742 forvm@cfl.rr.com www.brna.org	★★★

**Richard's Rating:**



Small coin show, no educational programs



Medium/Large coin show, no educational programs



Large coin show, educational programs and/or exhibits. Worth the drive

TBD- Have not been to show