

Madison County Coin Club

of Huntsville, Alabama



Volume 10, Issue 4

April 2010

The President's Corner

Last month's program presented by member Mike Ford, who talked about the GSA Carson City Dollars, was very good and informative.

We need to have more members present a program to the Club about their collecting interests. I know there isn't one person who does not have an interesting coin story to tell. So I challenge you to let me know what month you would like speak.

We also had a good attendance in March with 14 members and one guest present. I am pleased with our increased club participation.

Next month is the Huntsville Coin Show. Mark your calendars to help support our local coin show May 7th and 8th.

Our next program will be entitled "America the Beautiful: Alaska" by Richard Jozefiak. Richard has been a collector of anything pertaining to Alaska and this will be a good program. Please plan to attend.

See you on **April 26th.**

Bob Jaques

THE GOBRECHT DOLLAR: A VERY RARE COLLECTIBLE TYPE COIN

By Bob Jaques

A couple of months ago I purchased an outstanding type collection from a doctor's estate in Morgan County. This collection was a high quality type set that had several rare coins in it.

One of the dollar type coins was a very rare Gobrecht silver dollar, and although lightly cleaned, the coin had sharp detail on the obverse and reverse. A beautiful coin!

Not knowing very much information about the Gobrecht Dollar, I decided to do some research about this famous dollar coin.

These were the first dollar coins struck for circulation since silver dollar minting was suspended in 1803. This suspension ended in 1831, but dies for a new dollar were not made until 1835 for coins dated and minted in 1836.

The dollar pair of dies was engraved by a Mint employee named Christian Gobrecht, and the dies were based on designs by Thomas Sully and Titian Peale. The first obverse die was dated 1836 and featured Seated Liberty in a plain field with the date below her. In the field above the date in small letters is the inscription "C.GOBRECHT F." This is the first time on a U.S. coin the engraver placed his name on the obverse. The "F" is Latin for *fecit*, or "made it". So it says "C. GOBRECHT MADE IT". This is quite unique on a coin, but very common on medals. After some trial

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strikes, Gobrecht's name was placed on the base of Seated Liberty.

There were many restrikes in the 1850's and 1870's because these coins were very popular with collectors.

The reverse die had a flying eagle flying upward with 26 stars around it, and the legend "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ONE DOLLAR". The Gobrecht flying eagle is very similar to the eagle of the Flying Eagle penny of 1856 - 1858. By December, 1836 1,000 coins were minted for circulation.



Dollars were minted in 1837 using the dies of 1836 but were oriented in a medal fashion top to top when rotated rather than the usual reverse upright when turned horizontally. The top to top rotation distinguished coins minted in 1837 from those minted in 1836. Only 600 Gobrecht dollars were struck in 1837, which had the 1836 date. Only by rotating the coin could it be distinguished from the 1836 strikes.

In 1838 a new design was made which deleted the engravers name from the obverse and added 13 stars in the field around the upper half of Seated Liberty. The 1838 dollars also had a reeded edge where the 1836 and 1837 coins all had a plain edge.

There were many restrikes in the 1850's and 1870's because these coins were very popular with collectors. The restrikes can be distinguished by looking at a die rotation chart. Almost all were re-struck using a cracked die. These coins are very valuable as well as the original 1836, 1837, and 1838 dollar coins. The Gobrecht dollars did not circulate due to the small quantity minted

As I held and admired this rare coin in the collection I bought, I knew I could not afford to keep it as it was worth many thousands of dollars. I was able to sell my Gobrecht to a longtime collector who was thrilled to own this very rare and desirable coin. ■

Inclement Weather Notice

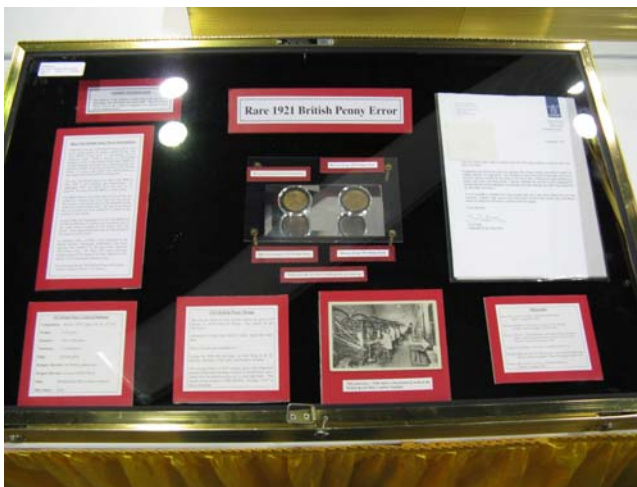


If the Huntsville City Schools are closed due to inclement weather, then the Huntsville Senior Center is closed. There will be no club meeting if the Huntsville Senior Center is closed. Local TV and radio stations will give notice of any Huntsville school closure.

Richard's Numismatic Happenings



For National Coin Week (April 18-24) Richard had an exhibit at the Madison Public Library, City of Madison. It will be on display for the month of April. The exhibit title is "Beautiful Places, Landmarks & Mintmarks".



At the ANA National Money Show in Fort Worth, TX March 25-27, he won the following awards for 2 exhibits "Official Alaska Statehood Medals", won 3rd place in Class 1 (History and Politics).

This exhibit also won the National Coin Week Award for "Best exhibit to educate the public about a numismatic topic, suitable for installation in public spaces with the total value of the numismatic items not to exceed \$250". This award includes a \$1500 scholarship to the ANA Summer Seminar, the award endowed by John Albanese (CAC).



His exhibit at the ANA show "Rare 1921 British Penny Error", won 3rd place in Class 6 (Science).

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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.



2 Dollar Coin
"Toonie"

Looking for circulated contemporary Canadian coins. Also have a few available, including some older items. Contact: Mike at mcampbell7@juno.com

April is Nickel Month

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



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

2010 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 25

FYLING EAGLE CENTS 1856-1858 BY BOB JAQUES

SNACKS: BOB JAQUES

FEBRUARY 22

STATE OF THE COIN MARKET BY CHARLES CATALDO

SNACKS: HAROLD FEARS

MARCH 22

GSA CARSON CITY DOLLAR SALE BY MIKE FORD

SNACKS: JIM KEIRSTEAD

APRIL 26

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL: ALASKA BY RICHARD JOZEFIAK

SNACKS: RICHARD JOZEFIAK

JUNE 28

ANNUAL POTLUCK AND BOURSE NIGHT

SNACKS: EVERYONE!

JULY 26

THE 1887 COINAGE FROM ENGLAND BY HAROLD FEARS

SNACKS: JOHN LINDBERG

AUGUST 23

Open.

SNACKS: MIKE FORD

SEPTEMBER 27

Open.

SNACKS: GREG WARD

OCTOBER 25

COMMEMORATIVE HALVES BY ROBERT PATRICK

SNACKS: NICK SKOGLAND

NOVEMBER 22

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION AND BOURSE NIGHT

SNACKS: EVERYONE!

CLUB OFFICERS

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

VICE PRESIDENT: JOHN LINDBERG
(Lindbergjohn@hotmail.com)

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)



Can You Identify this Coin?



This crown has a crocodile on the reverse. Can you identify it? The solution will be published next month in the newsletter.

Solution to last month's quiz: A British 2007 50 pence coin.

2010 Coin Shows Around Huntsville, AL Area

Date(s)	Area	Location	Contact Info	Richard's Rating
Feb 13-14 <i>Sept 18-19</i> (tentative)	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	★
Mar 5-7 Nov 5-7	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	★★
April 16-18	Dalton, GA	46 th 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 7-8 (tentative) Oct 22-23 (tentative)	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	★
May 20-22	Nashville, TN	Whitman Coin and Collectibles Nashville Convention Center 601 Commerce Street Nashville, TN 45644	David Crenshaw info@whitmanexpo.com 404-214-4322	TBD- This is a new Whitman show, and will be large
July 16-18 (tentative)	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 20-22	Dalton, GA	51 th 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