

Madison County Coin Club

of Huntsville, Alabama



Volume 20, Issue 6

July 2020

Our next coin club meeting is a virtual meeting and will be hosted on Zoom. Use the information below to join:

Topic: Madison County Coin Club -- July Meeting

Time: Jul 28, 2020 06:30 PM Central Time

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79600657017?pwd=SFpXc1ZiaUdhZm9pY2dHQUW5PelpZUT09>

Meeting ID: 796 0065 7017

Passcode: 6B51S0

We will closely monitor the health of the community in the upcoming months and determine if virtual meetings are our best option to preserve the health of our members and guests.

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"Numismatics, like some aspects of astronomy and natural history, remains a branch of learning in which the amateur can still do valuable work, and it is on the great collecting public, or rather on that part of which is interested in the subject at a scientific level, that the progress of numismatic science largely depends."

Philip Grierson - Professor of
Numismatics, University of Cambridge

HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS MINT VISITED

By

Bob Jaques

Last February, while in Mobile for a meeting, I decided to drive 2 hours to New Orleans and spend the afternoon in the famous French Quarter. When I worked as a salesman years ago, I went to New Orleans on a monthly schedule. I liked the French Quarter with all its history, old architecture, and interesting people.

Remembering that the branch of the U.S. Mint was once in New Orleans, I decided to find it and see if it was open to the public. Thanks to GOOGLE, I located the old Mint and discovered it was on the north side of the French Quarter. I put the address in my GPS and drove right to the old building.

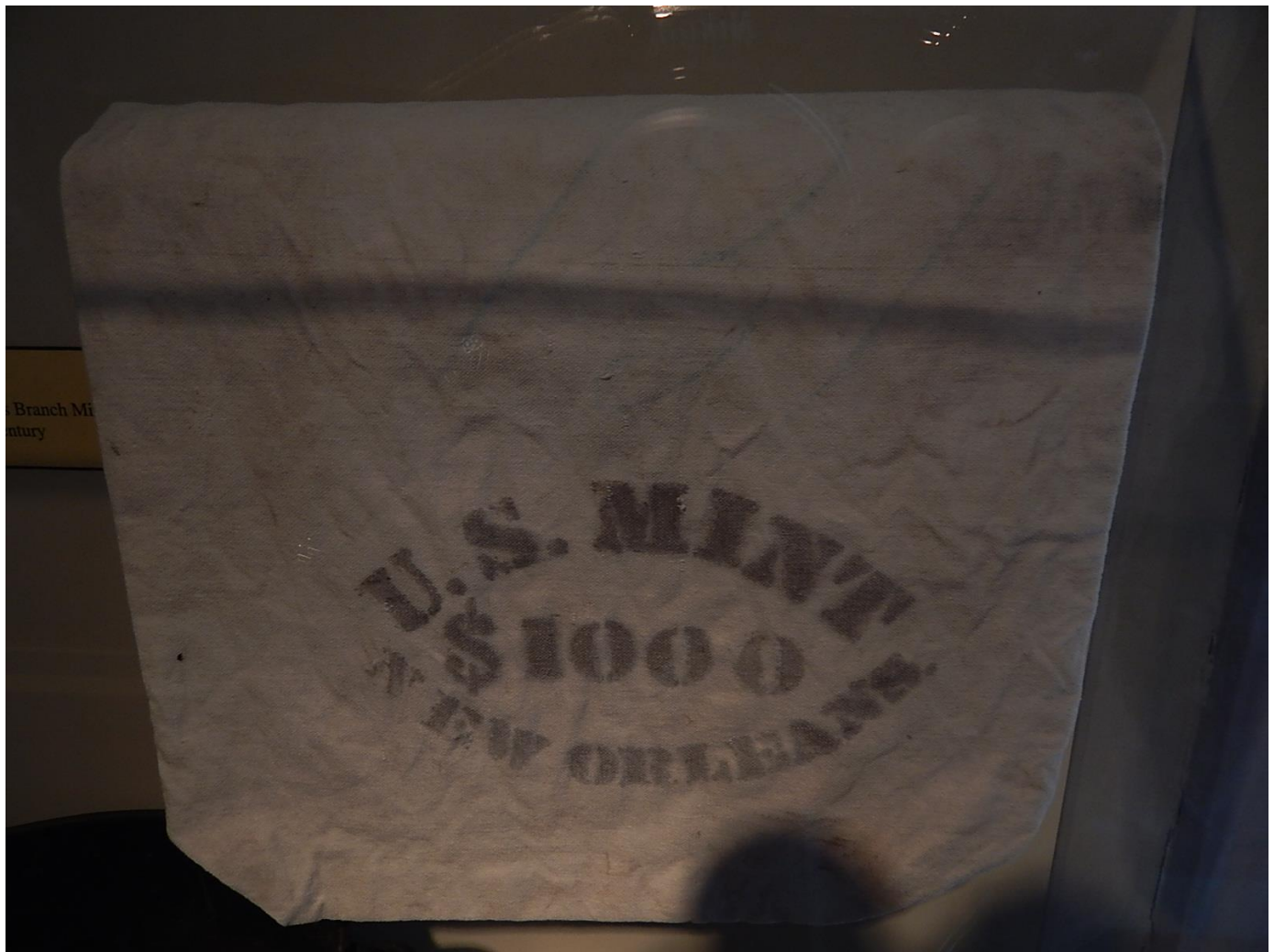
The following is a brief history of the New Orleans Mint. It was authorized by Congress in the same Bill with the construction of the Charlotte, N.C. Mint. Both Mints were opened in 1838.



The New Orleans Mint was open from 1838 and closed in 1861 due to the Civil War. It re-opened in 1879 during the Reconstruction Period and closed permanently in 1909. During its years of operation, over 427 million gold and silver coins were struck with a face value of \$307 million dollars. Almost all denominations were minted during those years.

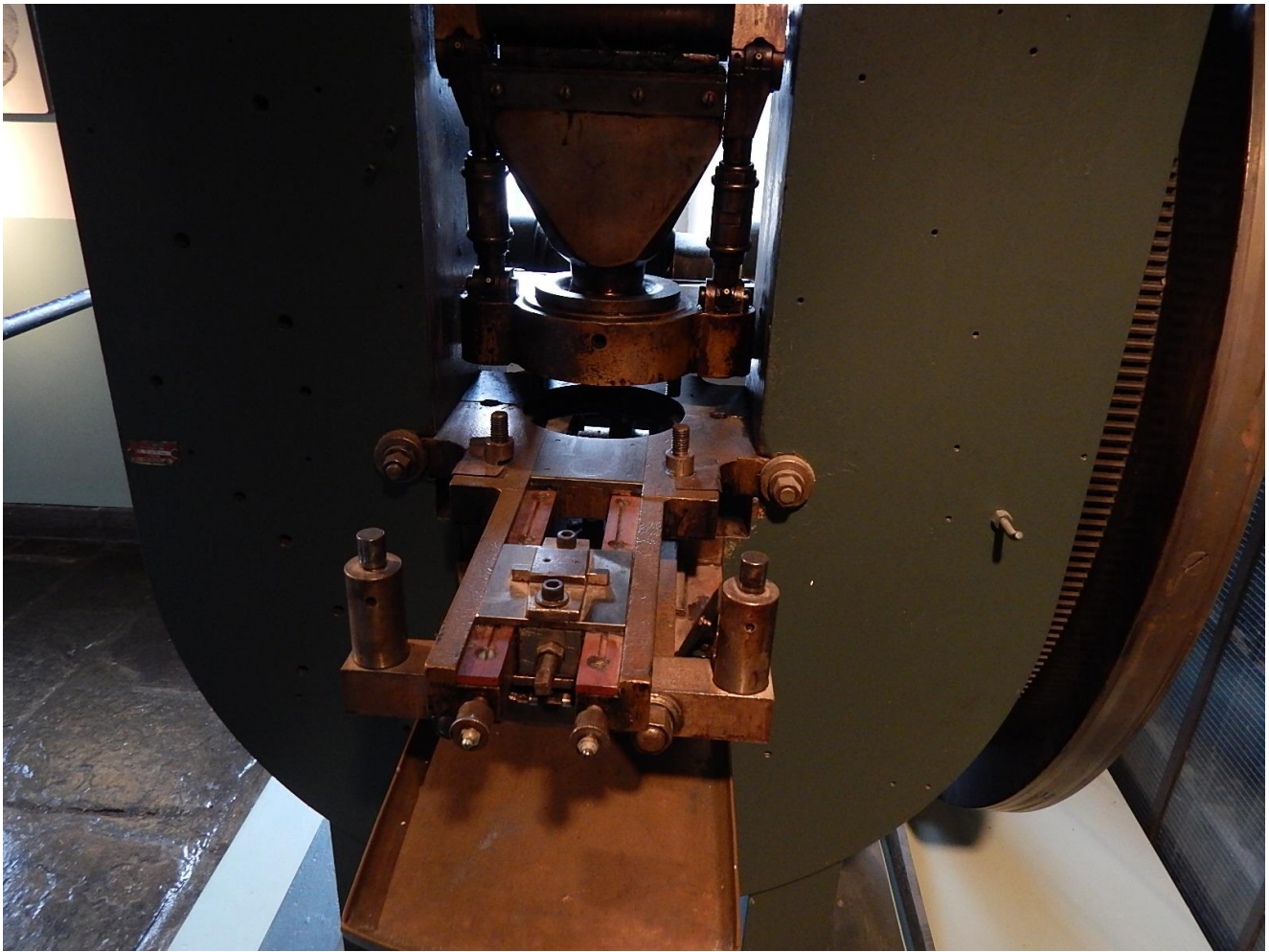


In 1861 the Mint was operated by three Governments. From Jan thru March it was under U.S. Government control. Then from April to late May it was under control of the State of Louisiana. Finally in June and July it was under control of the Confederacy. There are certain diagnostics to determine under which Government made the famous 1861-O half dollar. Half dollars made by the Confederacy are low mintage and eagerly sought after. I have a CSA 1861-O half dollar in my collection.



After being decommissioned as a Mint, the building served a variety of uses. It was an assay office, a Coast Guard storage facility, and a fallout shelter. Since 1981 the building serves as a branch of the Louisiana State Museum. The New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park is located on the second floor. The third house the Louisiana Historical Center. The first floor has an exhibit of coins made at the mint and artifacts of the minting that was done.

When I went into the building, I asked the receptionist for a brochure about the Mint. And to my surprise, they did not have one to pass out to visitors. The old Mint is now a National Historic Landmark.



Once inside the old Mint you could see that the stone floors had wear spots on them. In one corner was an old coin press silent after no longer being used.. There were old wood carts with heavy iron wheels used to move bages of freshly minted coins. Also visible were several large scales used for weighing large pallets of coins. In several secured glass display cases were examples of many coins minted at the Mint during its years of operation.

If you decide to travel to New Orleans to visit the many museums and the French Quarter, be sure to take time to tour the old New Orleans Mint. It is time well spent especially for coin collectors.



The Commemorative Coins of the Weimar Republic: Part 16 – Evacuation of the Rhineland

The treaty of Versailles provided for the German demilitarization of the Rhineland and occupation of the area by allied troops until 1935. Due to the efforts of the German Foreign Minister Gustav Stresemann and the Locarno Pact, the last foreign troops were withdrawn from the area in 1930. The obverse depicts the German eagle sitting upon a bridge across the Rhine. The inscription reads “DER RHEIN DEUTSCHLANDS STROM – NICHT DEUTSCHLAND’S GRENZE” meaning “The Rhine is Germany’s river – Not Germany’s Border.” Perhaps this was a warning of things to come. The reverse is the eagle, shield, and denomination. Both the 3 mark and 5 mark denominations were made. The coins were minted in all six mints. From our earlier discussion of the series, we remember the 6 mints were:

A -- Berlin
D -- Munich
E -- Muldenhutten
F -- Stuttgart
G -- Karlsruhe
J -- Hamburg

For these coins, the mintages are:

Mint	3 Marks	5 Marks
A	1,734,080	325,140
D	449,920	84,360
E	38,400	44,700
F	320,960	60,180
G	195,200	36,600
J	261,440	49,020

NGC states that an example of an uncirculated 3 mark coin has a retail value of \$250 while the larger 5 mark coin has can be purchased for \$325.

Why not bring a friend to the next meeting?



