

Madison County Coin Club

of Huntsville, Alabama



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The President's Corner

Hey Everyone,

Our October meeting was our first meeting in the large conference room in the Rock & Gem building. It is a nice spacious room that can easily accommodate our club. Harold Fears had the honor of being the first presenter in our new meeting room. Harold's presentation on varieties of Guernsey coins was very interesting. He tested our ability to identify some of the subtle differences between the obverse and reverse designs on early dates. It was a little tricky identifying all of them and some of them I missed! The Guernsey varieties remind me of the many reverse varieties associated with early Morgan dollars. Nice job Harold! Our November meeting will be our potluck dinner and auction. So please bring a tasty dish and any coins you would like to sell auction style.

See you in November!

Doug

It's Our Annual Pot Luck and Bourse Month



The next meeting is our annual end of the year potluck supper. The club will provide drinks, paper products and utensils. Please bring a dish to share with your fellow club members. It is also our bourse night. Come see what treasure you can find! We will also vote for next year's officers.

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The Guernsey 1874 Eight Doubles

Guernsey is an island in the English Channel off the coast of Normandy that is part of the Bailiwick of Guernsey, a British Crown Dependency. It is the second largest of the Channel Islands after the island of Jersey. Like Jersey, it is not part of the United Kingdom, although UK does manage aspects of international relations. The bailiwicks of Jersey and Guernsey are often referred to collectively as the Channel Islands. Guernsey has a mixed British-Norman culture, although British cultural influence is stronger, with English being the main language. The island has a traditional local language known as Guernésiais.



Between 1830 and 1966, Guernsey had four coin denominations. They were 1, 2, 4 and 8 doubles (pronounced "doob" in Guernésiais) and all carried very similar designs. With the Island's arms and name (spelled in French as "Guernesey") on the obverse and the denomination and date on the reverse, Guernsey coinage has been called "the duller coins in the world." In addition, the 8 double coins featured a wreath on both sides.

During this time, Guernsey used 6 mints to produce coins. They were:

1. M Boulton Watt & Co. (Soho Mint)
2. Henry Toy & Co.,
3. M. Partridge & Co.
4. Heaton & Sons,
5. The Mint of Birmingham
6. Royal Mint

Since Guernsey population is small (currently the population is less than 63,000), coins were not minted every year. As you can see below, there are not that many coins to form a complete collection.

- 1 Double: 14 years coins were minted from 1830 - 1938
- 2 Doubles: 16 years coins were minted from 1858 - 1929
- 4 Doubles: 20 years coins were minted from 1830 - 1956
- 8 Doubles: 22 years coins were minted from 1834 - 1959

Mintages for all denominations are typically very low. For example, see the table below for the one and two doubles.

One Double		Two Doubles	
1830	1,648,640	1858	56,128
1868	64,368	1868	35,136
1885	56,016	1874	45,216
1889	112,032	1885	71,280
1893	56,016	1889	35,616
1899	56,000	1899	35,636
1902	84,000	1902	17,818
1903	112,000	1903	17,818
1911	44,800	1906	17,820
1911	89,600	1908	17,780
1914	44,800	1911	28,509
1929	79,100	1914	28,509
1933	96,000	1917	14,524
1938	96,000	1918	57,018
		1920	57,018
		1929	79,100

Guernsey's Basic Designs for their Coins



There are several interesting features will be observed in the study of this coinage. As mentioned earlier, their coinage came from various mints, including two which are relatively unknown in numismatic circles. For the 1864 issue the Henry Toy & Co. of Birmingham was the manufacturer. For the 1868 and 1874 issues, the coins were minted by L M. Partridge & Company of Birmingham.

Another interesting thing is that there are various die varieties on many of their coins. Most of these involve the number of leaves and berries found on the wreaths. As an example, let's take a look at my 3 different types of the 1874 Eight Doubles.



1874 Type 1 Obverse



Left: Leaves 3-4-1-4; berries 2-1-1-1
Right: Leaves 2-1-4-4; berries 1-1-2-1

1874 Type 1 Reverse



Left: Leaves 3-3-4-3; berries 2-2-2-1
Right: Leaves 3-3-3-4; berries 2-2-2-1

1874 Type 2 Obverse



Left: Leaves 3-4-1-4; berries 2-1-1-1;
Right: Leaves 2-1-4-4; berries 1-1-2-1

1874 Type 2 Reverse



Left: Leaves 3-3-4-3; berries 2-2-2-1
Right: Leaves 3-3-3-3; berries 2-2-2-1

1874 Type 3 Obverse



Left: Leaves 3-4-1-4; berries 2-1-1-1;
Right: Leaves 2-1-4-4; berries 1-1-2-1

1874 Type 3 Reverse



Left: Leaves 3-3-4-3; berries 2-2-2-1
Right: Leaves 3-3-3-3; berries 2-2-2-1

Obverse Notes



On the left branch note the location of the 5th berry compared between the die used for the first two types and the Type 3 die.



On the right branch of Type 3, the tip of leaf 8 and berry 4 overlap.

Obverse Notes



Trace of extra leaves can be found on the die used for Types 1 and 2.

So What Does an 1874 Guernsey Eight Doubles Cost?

According to the NGC website, the values on an 1874 Guernsey Eight Double are: \$5 for fine, \$11 for very fine, \$40 for an extra fine example, and an uncirculated coin is \$225. With that being said, I would recommend staying away from coins with verdigris, i.e., green copper corrosion. I would also be careful about purchasing any Guernsey double from ebay. A good percentage of coins I see have problems and are typically overgraded. With that being said, you can still find nice examples there. Just be careful.

Reverse Left Branch



Note the differences, especially with the grouping of 4 leaves.

Reverse Right Branch



Note the differences on the right branch. Type 1 has 13 leaves, compared to 12 for the other two. Also note that Type 2 has a ghost leaf that nearly touches the S.

Guernsey other 1874 Coinage

The year 1874 is the only time the M. Partridge & Company minted coins for Guernsey. In addition to the 73,248 eight doubles minted with the date of 1874, two other denominations of coins were also struck in 1874. The four doubles coin had 69,216 made along with 45,216 for the two doubles coin. For the two doubles coin, there is narrow *reverse* legend and a wide *reverse* legend. Nice circulated examples for all three denominations can be found for under \$10 each.

Reverse Notes



Type 1 has an extra leaf on the right reverse branch, while Type 2 has a trace of an extra leaf near the “S”. This not present on Type 3.



A comparisons leaves and berries found on the 3 reverse dies.

Celebrating 20 Years of the Madison County Coin Club (Part 10)- “20 Year Anniversary History of The Madison County Coin Club (2001-2021)”

**By
Richard Jozefiak**

This article completes my 2021 10-part series on the club’s twenty-year history (2001-2021). I started researching for this book in April 2020 when I was at home and everything seemed to be shut down due to COVID-19.

Information came from a number of sources: *MCCC Newsletter*, meeting minutes, and speaking/emailing with many club members. I reviewed twenty years’ worth of materials.

The book is complete with over 80 pages, with many photographs in it. At times it was hard to select one photograph over another. The 2021 10-part series I wrote for the *MCCC Newsletter* came from different parts of the book as I was writing it.

I hope you find the book “*20 Year Anniversary History of The Madison County Coin Club (2001-2021)*” interesting and useful.

The book’s table of contents is:

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Madison County Coin Club Website Update

Our Madison County Coin Club website (<http://mccc.anacclubs.org/>) has two links that will give you access to all our previous newsletters dating back to 2005! We also have a link to programs that are presented at club meetings! This gives you an opportunity to read previous articles posted in our newsletters, as well as, review recent programs. These resources can be very useful in increasing your knowledge on specific coins, a series, types, and other coin-related topics. Go check it out!

Read our previous newsletters at:
<http://mccc.anacclubs.org/newsletters/>

Read our previous programs at:
<http://mccc.anacclubs.org/programs/>

Club Officers

President: [Doug Glandon](#)

Vice President:

Secretary: [Wayne Koger](#)

Treasurer: [Mike Campbell](#)

Board Member: Kurt Springfield

The Club's Mailing Address:

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