

Madison County Coin Club

of Huntsville, Alabama



Volume 21, Issue 7

July 2021

The President's Corner

Hey Everyone,

We had our first in-person meeting since February 2020 in June! It was great seeing everyone! We had several new members present, who had joined in the last year, that we had not in person! It was nice to meet these new members! We also had a great presentation from Stan Benedict. It was great to hear about all of the metals that have been minted by the US Mint for US minorities that had a major impact during WWII. We really enjoyed your presentation, Stan! In July, we will be celebrating the club's 20th anniversary. Richard Jozefiak, the club's founding member and first president, will be presenting a special program that will cover the history of the club from its beginning to the present. I'm looking forward to Richard's presentation! You don't want to miss it!

Doug

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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

The Channel Islands Copper Tokens of the Nineteenth Century

Part 1: An Introduction and the Half Penny

In the islands of Jersey and Guernsey various unofficial copper tokens issued by banks and firms appeared between the years 1812 and 1814. The reason for minting these and other copper 19th century tokens is detailed in [*The Bazaar, the Exchange and Mart*](#) of September 22, 1886 by Richard Thomas Samuel. He wrote:

“The issue of the regal copper coinage of 1797 (known as that of the 'Soho' type), supplied a great want in the national currency; but the expensive warfare of the period, in which this country was engaged, enhanced the price of copper, and much of that heavy coinage, consisting of twopenny and penny pieces, consequently found its way to the smelting houses; while the value of the tokens of the eighteenth century becoming intrinsically enhanced, large quantities of the more honest description of those pieces also disappeared; and the spurious ones, being decried by authority, likewise found their way to the melting-pot. Thus another deficiency in the quantity of the copper currency soon arose. Eventually, however, the price of copper fell, and then this branch of trade came comparatively depressed, so that, about the year 1811, the large copper companies and other firms, seeing that the change in the value of the metal afforded a favorable opportunity for supplying the deficiency in the circulating medium, took advantage of the circumstance, and commenced striking and issuing a fresh series of provincial copper coins, such pieces constituting the nineteenth century series of tokens proper, as it may be termed.”

According to some, these copper tokens were probably all private issues. Others think that these were patterns to be approved by the Island authorities. Depending on your source there are various different issues of penny tokens that circulated on



the island. However everyone will agree that there is only one half penny token. As far as the other tokens themselves, with the exception of the Prince of Wales Plumes / Jersey, Guernsey and Alderney combination penny, all Jersey copper penny tokens are *very* rare. (The Prince of Wales Plumes / Jersey, Guernsey and Alderney combination is *just* rare.)

Things to note about these tokens:

- Guernsey has the English spelling, not the French.
- All of the penny tokens have a diameter of 34 mm.
- The diameter of the half penny token is 29 mm.
- The mintages are unknown.

Our first token we will take a look at is the half penny token. Although this is not the rarest of these tokens, this is still the most sought after token of the series. The obverse depicts the Price of Wales' feathers issuant from a coronet. The motto on a ribbon is ICH DIEN ("I serve"). The legend TO FACILITATE TRADE was meant to encourage circulation at a time when the shortage of change often caused merchants to charge a premium. This slogan also appears on ther tokens of the period.





*The obverse depicts the Prince of Wales feathers.
(Actual size is 29 mm.)*

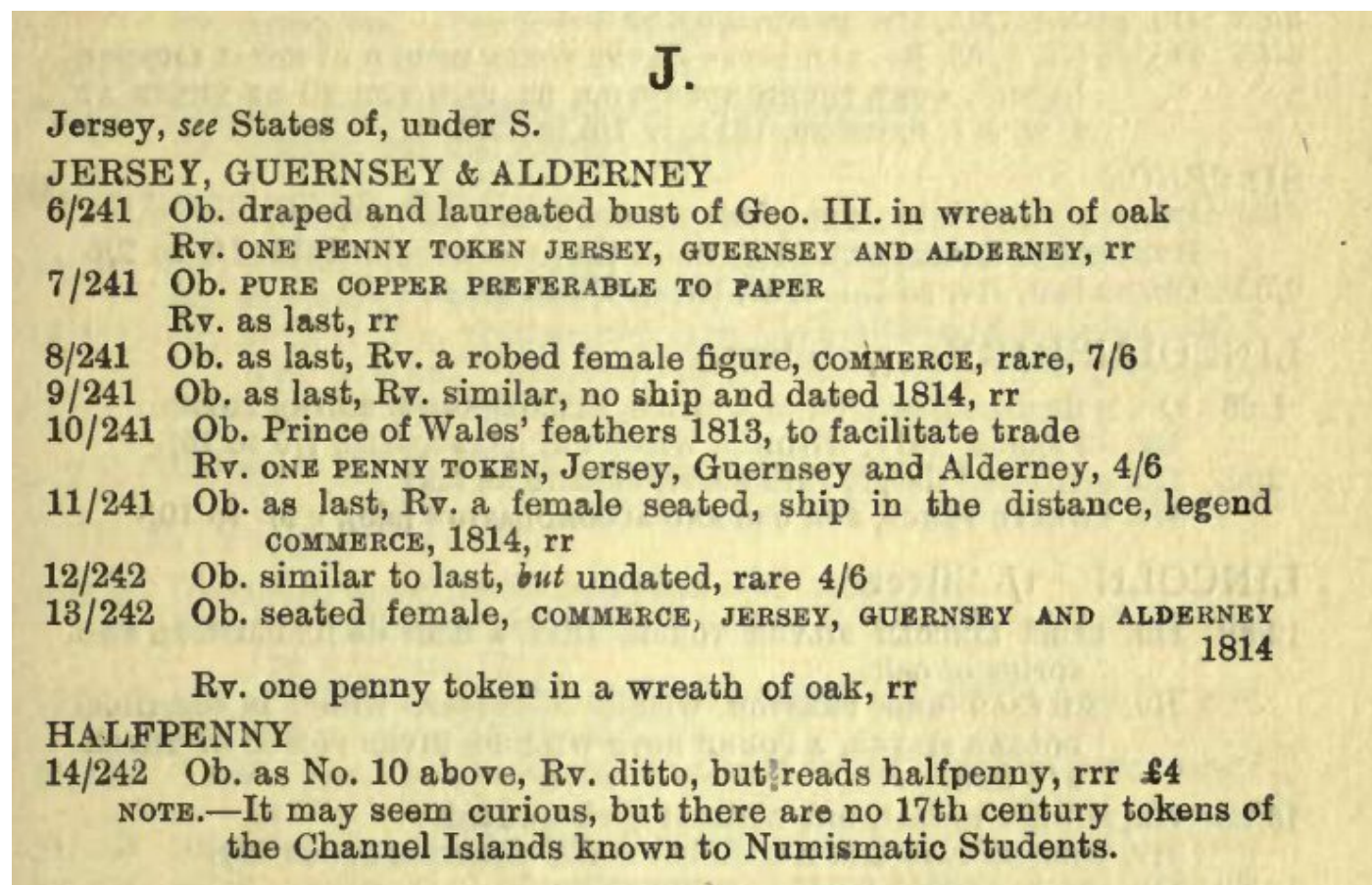
Note that this particular example is from the Pridmore collection and then later the McCammon collection. This is depicted on the front cover of his book, "*Currencies of the Anglo-Norman Isles*". There are at least three or perhaps even four available to collectors. All or in captivity and haven't been on the market for years.



The Half Penny Token is the most desirable token in the series.

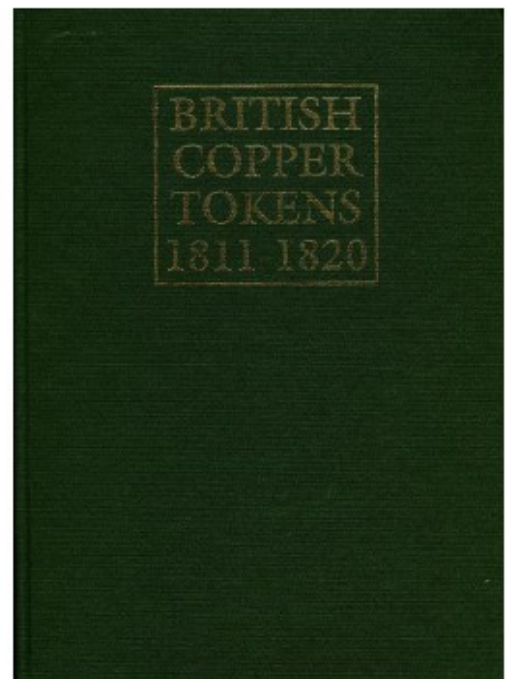
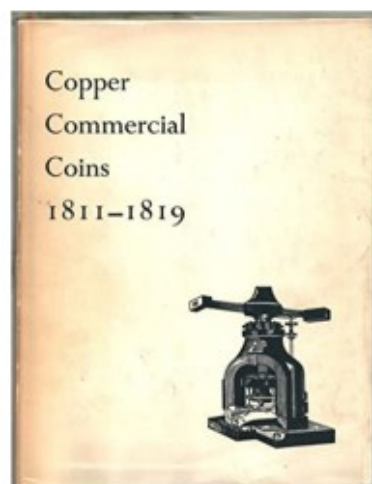
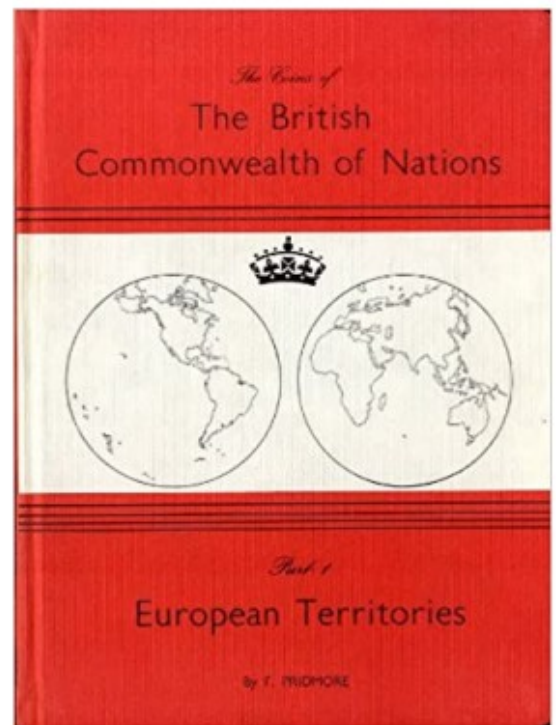
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As seen below from one of the earliest known price guide of British coins and tokens, the 1813 Jersey half penny was listed as extremely rare even in 1912 and was valued at £ 4, which was about the average income per month.



A page from Kent's "*Valuation of British Coins and Tokens for 300 Years, 1600 - 1912*" with rarity and pricing for various Jersey tokens. The rarity of the HALFPENNY is listed as RRR and the pricing was 4 pounds. (The tokens are catalogued according to Atkins book of 1892 "*The Coins & Tokens of the British Empire*".)

To learn more about 19th century British copper tokens in general, you need to read the best book on the subject, "[British Copper Tokens 1811-1820](#)", by Paul and Bente Withers. This book is fully illustrated and was written to set the standard. There are a couple of other books I need to recommend in the study of these tokens. They are: "*Currencies of the Anglo Norman Isles*" by A.L.T. McCammon and "*The Coins of The British Commonwealth of Nations, Part 1: European Territories*" by F. Pridmore.



To learn more about British copper tokens, check out these books.

Answers to Last Month's Aaron's Non-Cents Word Scramble

1. TERI BLY=LIBERTY
2. LIVERS=SILVER
3. LE AGE=EAGLE
4. DE RAG=GRADE
5. CLAD UNIT
CURE=UNCIRCULATED
6. TITAN SUM
SIM=NUMISMATIST
7. CAUTION=AUCTION
8. RUER QAT=QUARTER
9. NERVED=DENVER
10. THEN CLAP=PLANCHET
11. VERBOSE=OBVERSE
12. HELIPAD PHIAL=PHILADELPHIA
13. ENCORE IF TUT=COUNTERFEIT
14. TINK MARM=MINTMARK
15. LILO NUB=BULLION
16. TROLL ECCO=COLLECTOR
17. LE READ=DEALER
18. EVICT MOMMA ROE=COMMEMORATIVE
19. AN EDITION MON=DENOMINATION
20. CRYER NUC=CURRENCY



Bargain Bin or Treasure Chest?

By Odas Wayne Koger

Part II of IV: What is a Hoard, Anyway?

As we left off in Part I, *Like a Moth to the Flame* (or, *Is He Bona Fide?*), published in the May 2021 newsletter, an exciting opportunity had arisen for me. In March 2021, Steve Young, a coin collector buddy of mine who was preparing to begin business as a coin dealer, offered to let me have first pick of a bin of coins that he said was so heavy he couldn't lift it.

Although I'd never picked up a bin (which can vary in size, of course) of variously-sized coins in 2x2's and flips, based on Steve's description, this sounded like a heck of a lot of coins. And, hey, might this qualify as one of those hoards I'd read about?!

Hoard: (noun) "a stock or store of money or valued objects, typically one that is secret or carefully guarded."

Okay, maybe this *wasn't* exactly a hoard, given the "secret or carefully guarded" part.

So, what was so exciting here for a guy who *used to be* a Bargain Bin Junkie? Was this a batch of inexpensive, mixed-country coins piled into a big plastic container? (Well, . . . yes.)

And didn't this then clearly qualify as a bargain bin?

(Well, . . . yes, I suppose.)

But my quick and agile human brain immediately called on its wonderful ability to rationalize essentially anything and began to conjure up not a mere lame excuse but a clear, court-worthy case for investing (nice word, huh?) the time to go through this bin.

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, let me offer for your consideration the following evidence in favor of taking the dive:

First, this would not just be any old bargain bin. It was a bargain bin that had been *put together by Steve*. Now, Steve is a “Coin Nut” if there ever was one, with a long-time fascination with coins, and a global interest in all things numismatic. In conversations with him I’ve never brought up a coin that Steve was not familiar with (except one token—but that’s a story for another day!). Steve spoke glowingly of there being lots of “cool coins” in the bin, with coins from countries that (even) he had never heard of, old stuff, and crown-sized goodies—and he said that he would “treat me right” with pricing. Steve had turned me on to several coin dealers in the past, always ending the referral with the words, “and he’ll treat you right.” This was Steve’s way of saying that I would get a fair price from the dealer.

Secondly, over time Steve had come to have an idea about my collecting interests – inexpensive coins with great artwork, significant age, a history, or other interesting aspects – so if he thought this would be fun for me, it was an informed thought. To add a little perspective, Steve’s first show as a dealer (White Tiger Trading Company) would be the Georgia Numismatic Association (GNA) Anniversary Coin Show, 16-18 April 2021 at Dalton, GA, where Steve would offer a range of merchandise from bags of loose coins right up to high-dollar, relatively rare specimens. Always enthusiastic in any conversation with anyone about anything related to the hobby, Steve is all about the fun part of coin collecting and he intends that folks who stop by his table have a good time. Recently retired from civilian (and previously, military) Government service, this was not so much a business he was getting into as the next logical extension of what he loved to do, offering him even better pathways to collecting and all its aspects. My point here is that it’s not like Steve needed my business: he just thought I’d have a ball searching through these coins.

And finally, to really solidify the case, this would also be an extremely convenient situation for me, with Steve living right around the corner from me and allowing me to sit at his dining room table to go through the coins.

So, although my journey as a Bargain Bin Junkie had led to my swearing off bin diving, any reasonable person, any peer coin collector—you (remember, you're on the jury!)—and, obviously, yours truly, could/can see that this was an opportunity not to be missed. Heck, this wasn't a bargain bin, it was a *treasure chest*! And what kind of coin collector would I be if I passed on exploring the contents of a treasure chest?

You got it, no verdict necessary: I plead guilty!

My only concern was the potentially large number and accompanying cumulative cost of the coins I would find that I wanted to tote home.

I arrived at Steve's house early one morning a couple of days later, armed with a laptop (for referencing my coin collection inventory to prevent duplications), snacks, and a considerable load of anticipation.

Steve had cleverly overcome the problem of not being able to lift the bin by acquiring two smaller bins and splitting the booty into halves. The coins were in 2x2 cardboard holders and flips, with some important attributions, typically identification of issuing country, date and denomination, plus an occasional KM#; and each was priced. Surveying the totality of what was before me, this was indeed *a lot* of coins.

I estimated that the bin—now bins—held three to five thousand coins.

Why not bring a friend to the next meeting?



The bins took up half of Steve's dining room table.



100 holders, spread out a bit. Based on my estimate of 3000-5000 coins, I would be going through 30-50 such piles, inspecting each coin.

The pure logistics of the task before me, the process of reviewing and analyzing—of just touching—so many coins multiple times was a bit overwhelming.

Here's what I would be looking for:

1. Coins from countries not represented in my collection;
2. Unusual shapes;
3. Early dates;
4. High grades;
5. Replacements for low-grade coins I had paid little for;
6. Striking artwork;
7. Light tones (no dark coins—or have a good reason to make an exception);
8. Character—meaning the coin somehow looked like it had a story to tell; and
9. Unusual items (could be anything!).

Ultimately, each selected coin must add to the interest of my collection—and I had to answer the complex question, “is the grade and tone of this coin acceptable or will I likely find a better specimen of this coin in the future?”

Fortunately, I had considered in advance how to best go through many coins quickly while not missing the gems I was after. Here's the approach I settled on:

1. (Touch 1) Lift out of the bin and spread a couple of handfuls of holders on the table;
2. (Touch 2) pick up a holder, turning it over if necessary in order to see the attribution information, typically on the obverse;
3. at this point discard some, but likely look at the reverse of many/most because that's where the artwork is that I tend to be most attracted to;
4. put selected coins into stacks by country, in alphabetical order;
5. (Touch 3) after going through all the coins in the bin, spread out each country stack;
6. (Touch 4) compare duplicates and overall specimens from that country, considering eye appeal, attribution information and price; at this point I might

also check my inventory in order to avoid duplicating coins already in the collection;

7. (Touch 5) pitch discards back into the bin, while retaining selected coins in the country stack; and
8. (Touch 6) tally up the price of all the coins in all the stacks and settle up with Steve.

So, what was the reality of Steve's bin . . . that I spent almost *12 hours* going through?

The answer to that, Dear Reader, will have to wait until next month's newsletter!

And . . . I only went through one of the two bins!

Decisions, decisions

Continued in next month's newsletter:

Part III: What About That Other Bin, uh, Treasure Chest?

or

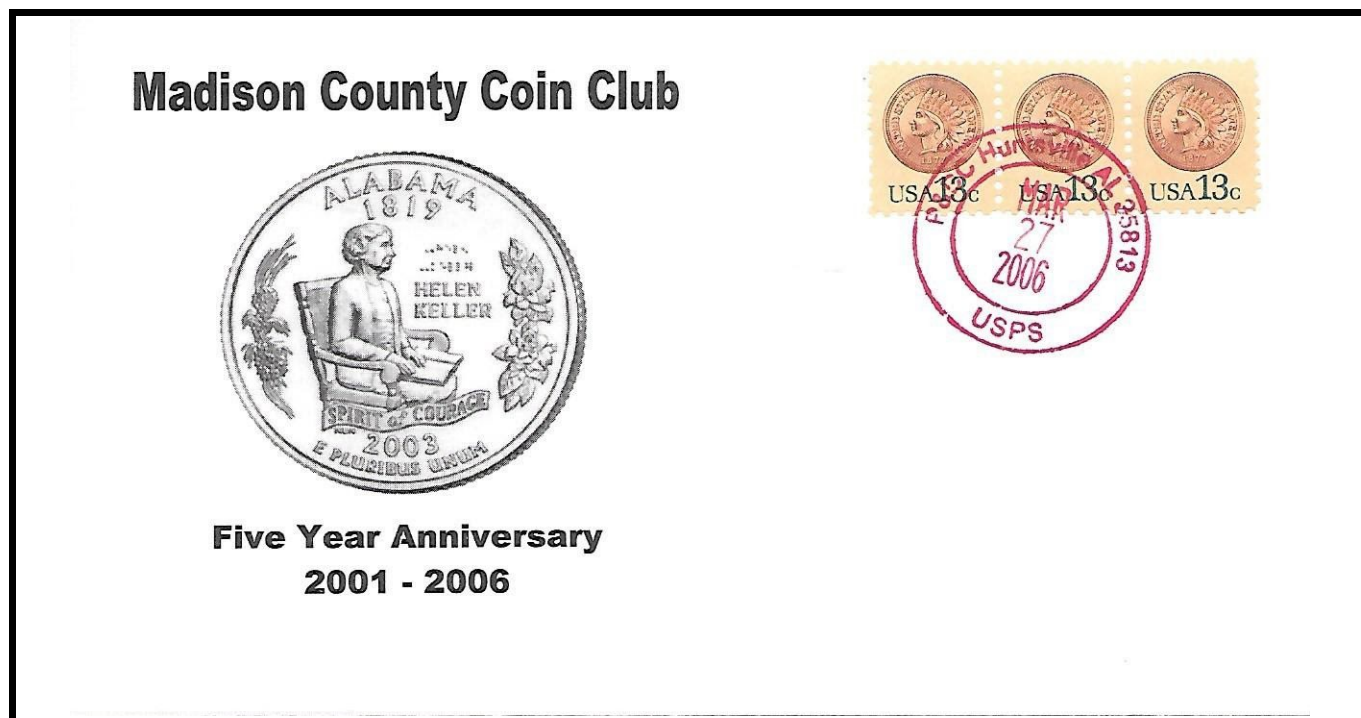
Drawing Lines in the Sand

(In regard to the content of this article, I invite you to advise me of corrections, to share your experiences and thoughts, to provide references to related articles in publications and on web sites, etc. My email is ode2joyboytoy@gmail.com. Thanks! Wayne)

Celebrating 20 Years of the Madison County Coin Club (Part 6) Club Collectable Items Over the Years

By

Richard Jozefiak



2006- First Day Cover for club's 5th anniversary

Madison County Coin Club has issued six collectable items since its founding in March 2001. These items were each designed and sold to club members at meetings and local coin shows. The first item sold was the first day cover in 2006 for the club's 5th anniversary. Then a coffee mug was sold in 2007.

A T-shirt was produced in 2009, and in 2011 a limited edition 3-medal set for the club's 10th Anniversary/100th meeting was issued. For the club's 20th Anniversary/200th Meeting, a silver medal and three medal (copper, brass and

nickel) set were produced. A First Day Cover for the club's 20th Anniversary/200th Meeting was also produced.

The table below is a summary of the items:

MCCC Collectables List					
Item	Project Lead	Year	Quantity	Price	Still Available
First Day Cover	Bob Jaques	2006	Unknown	\$1.00	No
Coffee Mug	Mark Larson	2007	144	\$5 (one free to new member)	No
T-Shirt	Harold Fears	2009	36	\$15.00	No
10th Anniversary - 100 th Meeting 3 Medal Set	Richard Jozefiak	2011	50 sets	\$50.00	No
20th Anniversary - 200th Meeting Silver Medal & 3 Medal Set	Richard Jozefiak	2021	25 sets (some extra single medals produced)	\$110 (silver) \$12 3 Medal Set	No
First Day Cover	Bob Jaques	2021	35	\$0.00	TBD



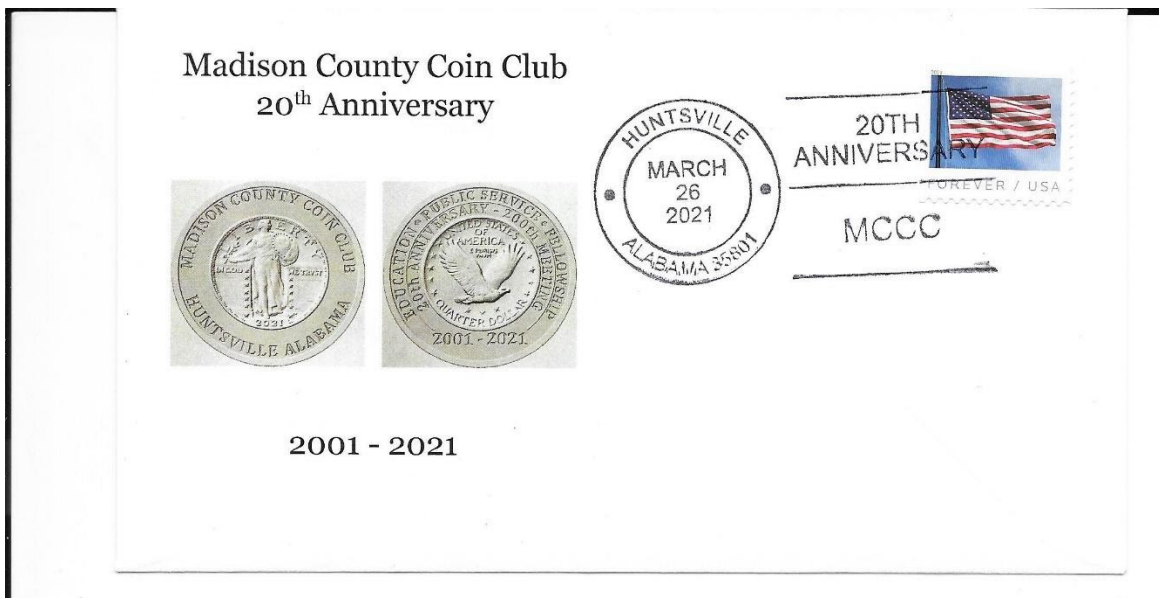
2007 - MCCC Coffee Mug



2009 - T-Shirt



2011- 10th Anniversary/100th Meeting 3-Medal Set



2021- 20th Anniversary/200th Meeting First Day Cover





Top Row: Silver Medal (Obverse and Reverse), 39 mm, 1 oz .999 fine, serial number on edge

Middle Row: Obverse of Copper, Brass and Nickel medals

Bottom Row: Reverse of Copper, Brass and Nickel medals

(Photo by: Richard Jozefiak)

Some Scenes from our Last Meeting



There was a good turnout on 22 June 1921 at our first in-person meeting since Covid-19 forced meetings online. It was also our first meeting at the Sandra Moon Community Complex.



Club President Doug Glandon (L) presents Aaron Wales with an ANA Educational Award for his 27 April 2021 meeting presentation on “Lincoln Cents Through the Years.”



Club President Doug Glandon (R) presents Stan Benedict with an ANA Educational Award for his 22 June 2021 meeting presentation on "The (Mostly) Unsung Heroes."

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- Members enjoy coin and paper money grading/conservation direct submission privileges to NGC®** (Numismatic Guaranty Corporation), **NCS®** (Numismatic Conservation Services), and **PMG®** (Paper Money Guaranty) for grading, authentication and certification services.



The top half of the poster features a teal background. Four spotlights in yellow, orange, yellow, and teal shine down from the top. Below them is a dark teal silhouette of the Chicago skyline, including the Willis Tower and a Ferris wheel. A large, detailed image of a 1909 Lincoln Cent is positioned on the left side of the skyline.

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2021 Coin Shows Within Driving Distance From Huntsville				
Aug 27-29 Oct 22-24	Gadsden, AL	72nd Annual Northeast Alabama Coin Show Gadsden Mall 1001 Rainbow Drive Gadsden, AL Sat-Sun 10 am- 9 pm	Blaine Smith 256-820-9691 blainelsmith@ca bleone.net Rainbow City Coin Club	+
July 16-18	Bessemer, AL	Alabama State Coin Show 1130 Ninth Ave SW Bessemer, AL Bessemer Civic Center 10 am – 6 pm	Corbitt Chandler 205-616-9385 jcolyn@aol.com	++
Aug 20-22	Dalton, GA	62nd Blue Ridge Numismatic Association Coin Show Dalton Convention Center I-75 exit 333 2211 Dug Gap Battle Road Dalton, GA Fri-Sat 10 am – 6 pm Sun 10 am – 3 pm	Jacob Hall 865-607-9645 Jacob@Hallmark RareCoins.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- **+++**

The ANA eLearning Academy Courses

Enjoy online courses and lectures from fellow collectors and experienced numismatists. The courses are free and open to the public. See <https://info.money.org/elearning> for details.

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: [Julian Olander](#)

Secretary: [Wayne Koger](#)

Treasurer: [Mike Campbell](#)

Board Member:

The Club's Mailing Address:

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