

# Madison County Coin Club

of Huntsville, Alabama



Volume 21, Issue 8

August 2021

## The President's Corner

Greetings Everyone,

I hope everyone has had a great summer! So much better than 2020, right? As you may know, we have changed our meeting location to the Sandra Moon Complex (Old Grissom HS campus). I want to thank Bill Friday from the Rock & Gem Club for being instrumental in helping us relocate to our new location. Thanks for your help, Bill! As part of our move to the new location, we have had to change our meeting date to the "third" Tuesday of the month. Also, I want to take this opportunity to thank Richard Jozefiak for speaking at our July meeting on the 20-year history of the club. Richard was the club's charter member and first president, so we were honored to have him speak to the club. Thanks again, Richard!

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 2: The Prince of Wales / Jersey, Guernsey and Alderney Penny**

For our first penny token, the obverse has the Badge of the Prince of Wales, which is three ostrich feathers enfiled in base by a coronet. On a ribbon is the motto: ICH DIEN. The legend is "TO FACILITATE TRADE" and the date 1813 is beneath the badge. Note that the slogan "TO FACILITATE TRADE" was used to encourage circulation. 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. A notable variety has a rusted reverse die. Both the obverse and reverse dies are muled with other dies of this period and form the basis of the series.

This token is the easiest token in the series to locate but is still considered rare. Occassionally, one will pop up on ebay for the acute collector.



*The date form a normal die*



*The date form a rusted die*



*This token is the easiest token in the series to acquire but is still considered rare.  
They occasionally pop up on ebay.*





*Like most examples in this series, these tokens circulated and very few survive today. Most are not as nice as this example.  
(Actual size is 34 mm.)*

Both the obverse and reverse dies are muled with other dies of this period and form the basis of the series. As illustrated below, these dies were used multiple time by various entities to produce tokens. The W number, for example, refers to the identification used by Paul and Bente Withers in their book, [\*British Copper Tokens 1811-1820\*](#).



*The Die Pairings Makes an Interesting Series*

Next month, we will look into the the Druid / Jersey, Guernsey and Alderney penny token.

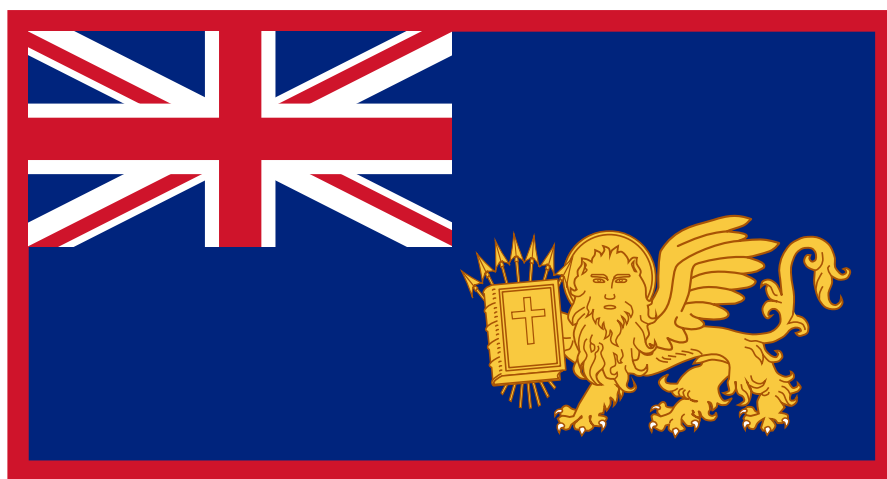
## The Coinage of the United States of the Ionian Islands

The United States of the Ionian Islands was a protectorate of the United Kingdom between 1815 and 1864. It covered the territory of the Ionian Islands which was later ceded to Greece as a gift of the United Kingdom to the newly enthroned King George I at the end of the protectorate.

The obol (plural oboli) was the currency of the United States of the Ionian Islands between 1819 and 1864. Until 1834, 1 obol = 4 lepta (singular lepton), after which 1 obol = 5 lepta.

In 1819, the British Royal Mint in London struck three coins in copper, corresponding in size and weight to the British Penny (Two Oboli), Halfpenny (Obol), and Farthing (half Obol). Although this coinage was supplied to the islands in 1819 and 1820, it was only released into circulation in 1821. Previously, the Turkish para was the popular small coin, and one which the population were familiar. To overcome the public aversion to the new new English pieces, a locally struck coin was made using Turkish para as blanks. This was the lepton or quarter obol coin of 1821. Later, the Royal Mint struck lepton but the denomination was 1/5 obol.

It is interesting to note the the obverse of each coin has the winged lion of St. Mark holding in it's dexter paw a sheaf of seven arrows. The sheaf is ornamented with a cross. This is the symbol of Venice with the seven arrows representing the seven Ionian islands. The reverse of the coins depict Britannia.



*The Flag of the United States of the Ionian Islands*





*The United States of the Ionian Islands*



*A rare Ionian medal depicting the seven islands.*





*All three copper coins minted by the Royal Mint have the same obverse and reverse. The denomination is determined by the size of the coin.*





*The reverse of the copper coins.*



*The 1821 lepton is the only coin of the series with an indication of the denomination.*





*Starting in 1834, the Royal Mint minted leptons with a denomination of 1/5 oboli.*





*These coins were minted 8 times from 1834-1862.*

# **Bargain Bin or Treasure Chest?**

*by*  
*Odas Wayne Koger*

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

or  
Drawing Lines in the Sand  
8 August 2021

As we ended Part II, What is a Hoard, Anyhow? in last month's newsletter, I had just spent almost *12 hours*—yep, in a single day!—going through a container of coins that had been put together by a coin collector buddy, Steve Young, who was preparing to set up at his first show as a dealer.

So, which was it? Bargain Bin or Treasure Chest?

Had my enthusiasm for the hunt and my experience with Steve's keen eye and understanding of what makes coins interesting and fun set unrealistically high expectations for this batch?

Nope: It was indeed a Treasure Chest! But while the finds were remarkable, the prices of the coins were bargain-bin.

I ended up with 347 coins issued by 106 countries from around the globe, for \$560. That's an average price of \$1.63 per coin. Included were 22 silver and 40 free coins (Steve marked as free anything he valued at less than \$1). There were also 23 new/different finds that I'm not counting as countries, including coins from states/provinces of Germany, Canada and India; plus, three Royal Mint Medallions taken from proof sets—and my first leper colony coin.

Other impressions/results:



1. Steve was very nice, hospitable, and otherwise left me to have fun—for 12 hours, encouraging me to take my time and belaying my concerns about wearing out my welcome.
2. I checked an amazing number of countries—34!—off my one-coin-from-every-country-in-the-world list.
3. While inexpensive, the selected coins ran the gamut of “cool,” from centuries old to recent, from Poor to Mint State, from nicely aged in tone to bright and shiny, and from tiny to larger than crown-sized. They were composed of most metals ever made into a coin (nope, no gold!) and were covered with wonderful artwork. And among them were scalloped and multiple-sided eye-catchers, plus some with unusual edge treatments.
4. It’s hard to imagine less hassle in obtaining such a vast array of inexpensive, desirable coins.
5. I went through only one of two equally-sized bins!

It took a few days to formulate my assessment of the haul. As the picture came together to be as I’ve described, the obvious question began to loom large:

*What about that other bin?*

Should I call it quits or should I go through the other half of the Treasure Chest?

No doubt Blackbeard was rolling over in his watery grave as I pondered this question!

While lacking the bold encouragement of a bottle of rum, but with the gentle loosening of conservative inhibitions offered by a glass or two of red wine, I proceeded to analyze the situation methodically before jumping to the final, pretty much obvious conclusion.

In the back of my mind though was the thought that I needed a pretty good set of arguments to explain to my wife how I really wasn’t going overboard by diving into the second bin . . . , uh, Treasure Chest.

Hmm, so what were my expectations for the second batch of coins?

There would be the same hospitable, no-hassle private coin showing three minutes from my house; and the coins were likely to be similar in quality, price, and variety to those of the first bin. Based on my vague understanding of distribution curves I would likely find another bunch of German state coins (I gleaned 18 from the first bin), but maybe not another leper colony coin (there was only one in the first bin), etc.

I could expect to reject, on the initial viewing of coins in the second bin, a number of coins that I would likely see a lot of again but had no interest or no further interest in acquiring:

1. Any Barbados
2. Any Bermuda
3. Bahamas, except for the remaining varieties of 70's cents
4. British large pennies
5. Canadian, except for bank tokens or other unusual
6. Cayman Islands, except for old ones
7. Jamaican, except for old ones
8. Japanese square-hole coins
9. The Russian commemorative group
10. The Polish commemorative group

But while these could be quickly discarded in the initial sort, the final selections from what remained would be a slow process because I'd not yet inventoried the first bin's finds so that I could readily identify duplicates from the second bin. Such an inventory would take me weeks to complete and Steve's first coin show was coming up in only a few days. The alternative was to carry the box of acquired coins (that I had at least grouped and tabbed by country) back to Steve's so that I could physically compare them as necessary during final selection. Such comparing would be very time-consuming, but fun in its own way! I *am* a coin collector you know, and we *do* find pleasure in comparing minute details on small discs of metal and such!

I realized after doing all this considering that my wife was not apt to see the case for diving the second bin in a good light—and she didn't, to include eye-rolling and a half-hearted attempt at “talking sense into me.” But over the years she's learned to pick her battles, so she withdrew from the field quickly, conserving her considerable resources to influence the outcomes of future differences of opinion that were more important to her own interests.

At 9:00 am on Saturday, 27MAR21, I arrived at Steve's house to dive the second bin.

But I had relooked each of the several steps of the selection process (see Part II, published in July, for the approach used to sort through the first bin) and made several minor changes and one significant change that I thought would really speed up the initial selection of coins to help offset the second bin's more challenging final selection.

The changes required me to carry some unusual accessories to Steve's:



Yes, that's a music stand!



And yes, Dear Reader, I wrote out the new process in excruciating detail—the better part of a page—but will spare you the torture of reading it! I will tell you that the gist of this setup is that I can look at two coin holders at the same time while making the initial sort between rejects and potential keepers. This arrangement also allows a more ergonomic, comfortable head position, allowing me to look straight ahead instead of looking down:



Two at a time!

Does all this sound crazy to you? Well, much madness requires much method! And remember, I was expecting an investment in time well in excess of the 12-hour first bin marathon.

I did the initial separation of rejects and potential keepers in four hours. It then took three hours to separate the huge pile of potential keepers, perhaps 40% of the bin, into country stacks. I had just started the final selection process, having gone through about a dozen country stacks, when my wife called me and told me we had a water leak at home, so I had to leave ASAP and didn't make it back that day.

What I had learned so far about the second bin was that, as expected, the coin variety was similar to that of the first bin. I breezed through rejecting the coins that I

listed above, moving along very quickly through the initial sort. Sorting the potential keepers into country stacks was slow and the final selection by country looked like it was going to be *really* slow. This step required checking my inventory on the laptop and then physically comparing potential keepers to coins I selected from the first bin that weren't yet in the inventory. For the few countries that I had made a final selection on, I had retained very few coins, but they were good finds. I expected this outcome to continue—and it did.

I also found some coins I had acquired from the first bin that I wanted to trade out for better versions from the second bin. This typically resulted in a higher cost for a higher grade.

I finished the second bin on Sunday, 28 March 2021.

All in all, the time required to search the second bin was about the same as the first bin, which meant that the revised sorting process was successful.

From the second bin, I ended up with 289 coins from 87 countries, including 21 to check off of the one-coin-from-every-country-in-the-world list, for a discounted price of \$500. That's an average price of \$1.73 per coin. Included in this count are 23 free coins. There were also 22 new/different coins that I'm not counting as countries. These include coins from states/provinces of Germany, Canada, India and others; plus a Leningrad Mint Medallion.

Altogether, for both bins combined, I ended up with 636 coins from 134 countries, including checking off 55 from the one-coin-from-every-country-in-the-world list. Average price: \$1.67 per coin! It was quite a haul:

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



*So, what to do with 636 finds in the que to inventory?*

Clearly, it was time to rethink “inventorying.” But that’s a story for another day!

Continued in next month’s newsletter, Part IV, the final and by far the most interesting article in the series: What’s in a Bargain Bin for You?

[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](mailto:ode2joyboytoy@gmail.com). Thanks! Wayne]



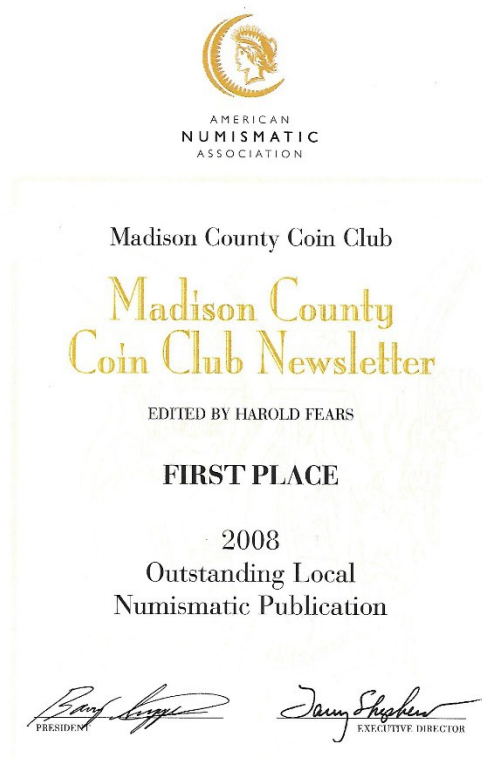
## **Celebrating 20 Years of the Madison County Coin Club (Part 7) Awards Club Has Received**

*By  
Richard Jozefiak*

The club has received many ANA awards over the years. Some awards were to the club for participating in ANA activities, other ANA awards were given to members for their contribution to the club and hobby. Below are some of the awards received.

Harold Fears has been editor of *MCCC Newsletter* since late 2005. He has expanded the newsletter to add new features and see that the MCCC Newsletter is an award-winning publication. Each year since 2008 the club has competed in the annual ANA Club Publication contest.

Many local coin clubs, some a lot larger than MCCC, submit their publication to this contest. The ANA presents the publication awards every August at the World's Fair of Money coin show, held in different cities.



*Editor Harold Fears received his first of many ANA Publication Awards in 2008*

## **ANA Publication Awards Received for the *MCCC Newsletter***

<b>No.</b>	<b>YEAR</b>	<b>ANA CATEGORY</b>	<b>PLACE</b>	<b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b>
1	2008	Outstanding Local Numismatic Publication	First	Harold Fears
2	2010	Outstanding Local Numismatic Publication	Second	Harold Fears
3	2014	Outstanding Electronic Numismatic Publication	Second	Harold Fears
4	2015	Outstanding Electronic Numismatic Publication	Third	Harold Fears
5	2016	Outstanding Electronic Numismatic Publication	Second	Harold Fears
6	2018	Outstanding Electronic Numismatic Publication	Second	Harold Fears
7	2019	Outstanding Electronic Numismatic Publication	Second	Harold Fears
8	2021	Outstanding Electronic Numismatic Publication	Second	Harold Fears



*Editor Harold Fears with the 2018 ANA 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Publication Award- August 28, 2018*

The club has participated in the “Club Trivia Challenge” since its start by the American Numismatic Association (ANA) during National Coin Week. In 2012, the club won first place in this national contest. The club received a ¼ oz American Gold Eagle as prize, which was auctioned at a club auction with the funds going to the club. The club won again in 2020 with a perfect score, and received a prize from the ANA.

The trivia contest is popular with club members, and the club has entered the contest each year. The ANA holds the contest each April during National Coin Week.





Club Members Receiving ANA Awards from  
58<sup>th</sup> ANA President Walter Ostromecki



*ANA President Walter Ostromecki (L) presenting awards to Bob Jaques, ANA Point of Light Award; Harold Fears, ANA Presidential Award, and Mike Campbell, ANA Point of Light Award at the February 24, 2014 club meeting.*



*Presented to MCCC by Walter Ostromecki, 58<sup>th</sup> ANA President at the February 25, 2014 club meeting*

The ANA recongized the club's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversay/200<sup>th</sup> Meeting celebration held on Tuesday, July 27, 2021 in Huntsville, AL.



*ANA Outreach Programs Coordinator, Richard Jozefiak (red shirt) presented the ANA certificate to the MCCC officers at the July 27, 2021 meeting*



*ANA Certificate of Recognition*



## Some Scenes From Last Month's Meeting



*Kurt Springfield (L), MCCC Board Member, Presents Richard Jozefiak with an ANA Educational Award for his 27JUL21 presentation on MCCC 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & 200<sup>th</sup> Meeting Highlights*



*Richard Jozefiak presents the Club with an ANA Certificate recognizing the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary / 200<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCCC. L to R are Kurt Springfield, MCCC Board Member; Richard Jozefiak; Wayne Koger, Secretary; Harold Fears, Newsletter Editor; and Mike Campbell, Treasurer.*







*Richard Jozefiak, MCCC Founding Member and First Club President*



<b>2021 Coin Shows Within Driving Distance From Huntsville</b>				
<b>Aug 27-29 Oct 22-24</b>	Gadsden, AL	<b>72nd Annual Northeast Alabama Coin Show</b> 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	<b>+</b>
<b>July 16-18</b>	Bessemer, AL	<b>Alabama State Coin Show</b> 1130 Ninth Ave SW Bessemer, AL Bessemer Civic Center 10 am – 6 pm	Corbitt Chandler 205-616-9385 jcolyn@aol.com	<b>++</b>
<b>Aug 20-22</b>	Dalton, GA	<b>62nd Blue Ridge Numismatic Association Coin Show</b> 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	<b>+++</b>

**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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