

# Madison County Coin Club

of Huntsville, Alabama



Volume 23, Issue 9

September 2023

**Our next meeting will be at  
the South Huntsville Public  
Library**

**7901-L Bailey Cove Rd SE  
Huntsville, AL 35802**

**On Monday  
September 18, 2023  
from 6:00 – 7:30  
Doors Open at 5:30**

## **The (Vice) President's Corner**

At our 18SEP23 meeting, David Hollander will give a presentation on "Bad Boy Bankers of Alabama."

It's fair to say that David is an expert on historical Alabama banknotes, banks and bankers and that his presentations on this subject area have been annual treats for the MCCC for many years.

I admittedly know very little about this numismatic niche and have David's presentations to thank for 99 percent of that!

Certainly, many of us remember when sales transactions were conducted by paper money and checks and banks were brick and mortar places where we would have to show up in person to do our business there.

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Today though, most of our dealings with banks and bankers are online, we make purchases via debit and credit cards, and the only banknotes (“paper money”) passing through our hands are Federal Government issue.

Lost to us is a near-forgotten time (1781-1935) when almost all banknotes were issued by and were obligations of private commercial banks. (However, if you have an interest in foreign banknotes, private issues still predominate in the few places where their issue remains legal: Scotland, Northern Ireland, Hong Kong and Macau.) <https://www.cato.org/blog/how-us-government-paper-currency-began-how-private-banknotes-ended>

And, more pertinent to David’s upcoming presentation, what do we know about our bankers? Do you know the name of your banker? Of any banker?

Concerns about bank failures, both in the US and abroad, have been in the news in recent days. With the advent of deposit insurance, ever more stringent regulations and other interventions by national governments in the banking business, the harsh reality of the bank failure of bygone days— where you and your neighbors go to the bank and your savings (and everyone else’s) are simply not in the vault: poof, gone forever!— is no longer in the back of our minds and we tend to be little motivated to stay in touch with the health and wellbeing of our local bank and the character of their employees.

We also tend to take a lot for granted. 😊

The lessons of history can offer insights for today and for the future; David Hollander will be offering up some (doubtlessly colorful) history to you at our next meeting.

What *do* we need to know about those “Bad Boy (and Girl) Bankers of Alabama”?

Wayne

## Some Scenes from our Last Meeting



*Steve preparing for his lecture.*

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



*Having fun*



*Getting ready*



Wayne leads the meeting.

*"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

## Encased Coins

*By  
Randy Partin*

An Encased Coin is a token, most commonly a penny, that has been inserted into an aluminum ring or an encasement of another composition. When inserted into an aluminum ring the coin is placed into a press that squeezes the encasement tight to the coin and presses advertisements or other design elements into the metal. If the encasement is not metal the coin is inserted by hand as the piece is made. Frequently one side will have a slogan such as Keep Me and Have Good Luck. Hence these cents were called lucky pennies by many. These were sold to businesses as advertising pieces, and as souvenir pieces. They could be customized with a wide variety of information, including Name, Address, Phone Number and advertising slogans. This defines what is considered a "traditional" encased coin. Most of the time the coin obverse shows on the non-advertising side which is considered the reverse of the encased cent. The important side to an encased cent collector is actually the advertisement side.

The most encountered shapes are either round or horseshoe as shown below.



The encasement usually has good luck symbols such as the horseshoe, wishbone, rabbit's foot, four-leaf clover and many contain them all. Generally, they are issued unholed but many are also issued holed to go onto a keychain like the above horseshoe example. They were first widely issued in 1901. The heyday of encased cents was from the 1940s to 1960s. Occasionally you will find the aluminum encasement with the coin removed as the coin was either punched out to spend or save. Sometimes someone will try to replace the coin with another. There are

several ways to spot if there is a replaced cent. The bust of Lincoln may not be facing the reverse side of the encasement or possibly not be positioned properly. Other ways to tell is that the coin may be loose or not evenly set in the encasement. You can also hold it up to a light and if you can see light coming between the coin and the encasement it is a replaced coin. There are very few encased coins with an original coin dated prior to 1901.

Here is an example of an encased Indian Head cent on a chamber pot shaped encasement. This one also has a “good for” value like a token!



**Editor's Note:** Randy has written many articles for the Token & Medal Society, other publications and co-authored several books. One such book, "*Cigar Brand Names on Tokens & Other Exonumia*" he writes that in the early 1900s cigar smoking had become so prevalent that, "at shooting ranges in amusement arcades a fine cigar was often the prize for hitting the bull's eye." Hence the expression – "Close but no cigar." – came to be applied to anything in life that was a near miss, he concluded.

There are other scarce to rare shapes such as Liberty Bell, teddy bear, oval, goblet, heart and more. Below is an encased cent in the shape of a loaf of bread. Mead's is the only advertiser I know of that used this bread shape.



Chevrolet ran an ad campaign using encased cents in 1948 where most, if not all, their dealerships issued an encased cent that year. Some collectors try to collect all the '48 Chevy pieces as a series. There are hundreds of different ones, and all are round. A listing of them was published in a TAMS Journal supplement back in the 80s I believe. TAMS is the Token & Medal Society. They put out a high-quality journal 6 times per year.



The S.A. on the reverse is for "Sex Appeal". Their ad at the time ran something like "Chevrolet has Sex Appeal". Some of the Chevy pieces have the "S.A." on the reverse, like this one, but not all.

Encased cents can also be in brass holders, plastic holders or celluloid holders. Below are a few examples.







**Why not bring a friend to the next meeting?**

It is uncommon to find coins other than a penny in vintage encasements but nickels, dimes, quarters, half dollars and even dollars have been used in encased coins over the years.





**Why collect them.** Encased coins are tokens. There are many good reasons to collect encased coins. First is that they are inexpensive to collect compared to any silver or gold coin. Most can be purchased for between \$5.00 and \$20.00. They can be collected in a variety of ways. Many collect just a particular city or state. Some encased collectors collect by business type: Automobile dealers, banks, National Parks, barbershops, restaurants, and many others.

With encased coins one interesting set would be to try to put together a date set from 1901 to the current year of encased cents. Add in mint mark to the date set and it would even more challenging. However, it would be an interesting collection! As you can see there is a wide range of collecting possibilities in encased coins. Everything from odd shapes to different denominations to types of businesses, what state they are from and on and on.

There are as many ways to collect encased coins as there are collectors. The possibilities are endless!

## ***MCCC Newsletter Wins ANA Third Place Publication Award***

*By  
Richard Jozefiak*

At the 132<sup>nd</sup> American Numismatic Association (ANA) Convention held August 8-12, 2023 in Pittsburgh, PA, it was my honor to accept a publication award on behalf of *MCCC Newsletter* Editor Harold Fears. ANA publication awards were given out at the ANA Member Awards and Donor Reception on Thursday, August 10.

*MCCC Newsletter* received the third-place award in the ANA “Outstanding Club Publication Awards”, eNewsletter category. Second place went to *The SScanner* (South Carolina Numismatic Association) and first place went to *E-Sylum* (Numismatic Bibliomania Society).

Harold Fears has been the editor of the *MCCC Newsletter* since 2004 and has won a number of ANA publications awards for his work. Congratulations to Harold for winning another ANA publication award!



*Richard Jozefiak receiving ANA Third Place eNewsletter Publication Award on behalf of Harold Fears from ANA Governor Mary Lynn Garrett on August 10, 2023*



AMERICAN  
**NUMISMATIC**  
ASSOCIATION

Madison County Coin Club

# **Madison County Coin Club Newsletter**

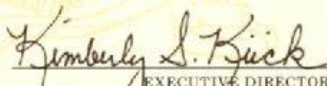
EDITED BY HAROLD FEARS

**THIRD PLACE**

**2023**

**Outstanding Electronic  
Numismatic Publication**

  
PRESIDENT

  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Newsletter Articles

I always encourage and welcome new articles for *our* Newsletter. They can be on any numismatic topic. Articles can be of a research nature, or a simple "show and tell". They can be fun, or they can be serious. It's up to you! Here's a few ideas:

- *Finds at recent coin shows*
- *Error and die varieties*
- *A numismatic game, riddle, brain teaser, crossword, sudoku, etc.*
- *Research notes*
- *New issues from around the world*
- *A series on a particular issue*
- *An interesting experienced on eBay*
- *Numismatic definitions*

Ideally, articles should be at least 1/2 page in length, and images are always helpful.

If you are interested in submitting an article, you can email me. You can also discuss ideas for regular feature columns with our board members.

Thank you, Harold Fears

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

# A Penny for your Thoughts

By  
Monica Couch

When was the last time you said that phrase? If I said it, my son would probably say, "it's not a penny mom. It's a cent." He takes every opportunity to correct me when possible.

The simplest meaning for "a penny for your thoughts" is: "What's on your mind?" or "Tell me what you are thinking," especially when someone hasn't said very much and has been quiet for a while. Ultimately, it is an invitation to a person to express their ideas.

Looks like the phrase is at least 500 years old, and so getting a precise etymology is difficult. James Rogers in the "The Dictionary of Clichés" says that the saying is from a time when the British penny was worth a significant sum. I don't think Brits can say that any more as a penny is no longer minted currency and hasn't been circulated since 1970.

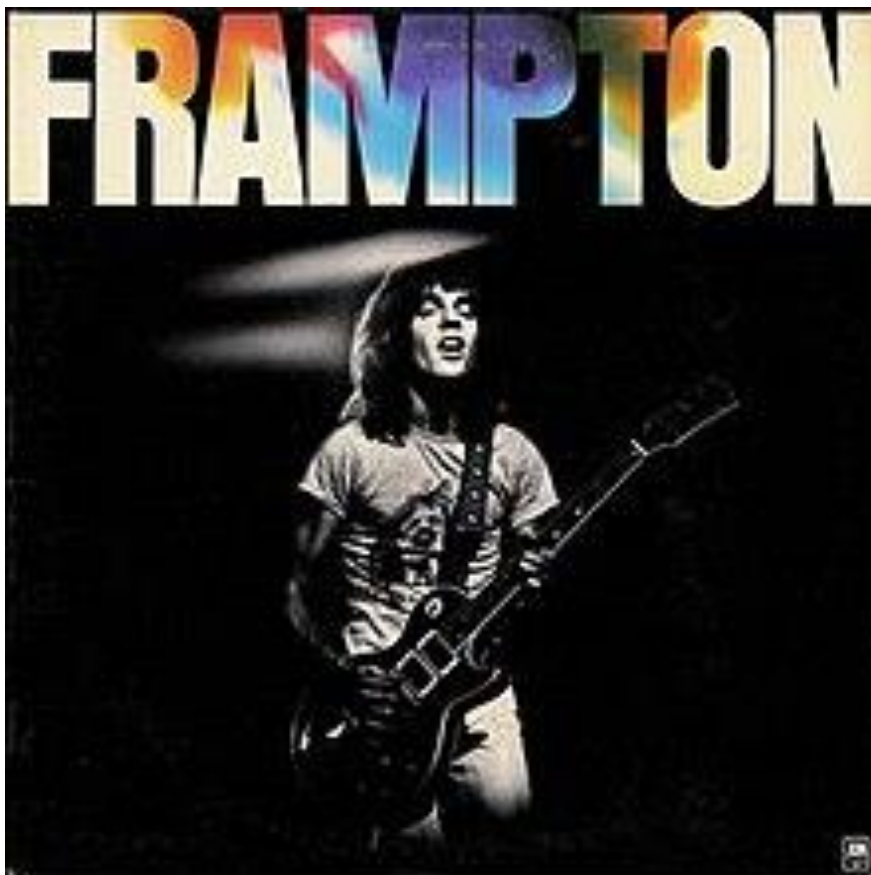


**Sir Thomas More**

There is evidence of the phrase in early writings. In 1522, Sir Thomas More wrote (in 'Four Last Things'):

'It often happeth, that the very face sheweth the mind walking a pilgrimage, in such wise that other folk sodainly say to them a **peny for your thought**.'" More was a renowned lawyer, judge, philosopher, author, and statesman. You may recall More also wrote Utopia. He served as the Lord High Chancellor of England. The reigning ruler during that timeframe was Henry VIII (1509-1547). Opposing the King for his separation with the Catholic Church and his annulment with Catherine of Aragon, he committed treason and was executed.

Did you know that musician Peter Frampton had a song “Penny for Your Thoughts” in 1975. It was on his album called Frampton (which was released before the more popular Frampton Comes Alive album the following year). It’s an acoustic gem that you should definitely listen to. It lasts all of 1 minute 27 seconds. It features his melodic guitar skills and technical wonder. You’ll find it captivating and extremely toe tapping. Frampton wrote the whole album in 3 weeks and was recorded at Clearwell Castle in Gloucestershire.



Related (but only slightly), I’ve been listening to a lot of comedy lately on Laugh USA which is a station on XM radio. So, I’m “all about” jokes right now. I’m not sure if you have heard this one or not. It’s an oldie, but goodie! “When someone asks you, A penny for your thoughts, and you put your two cents in, what happens to the other penny?” That’s courtesy of George Carlin. I’m sure most remember his comedy. I hope this brings you a laugh.

**One thought =**



# My 1969 Jamaican Proof Set

By  
H. K. Fears

Recently on eBay, I was the high bidder (or as Doug would say, “the winner”) on an auction for a 1969 Jamaican proof set. This set with the first decimal coins for Jamaica includes 6 coins: 1, 5, 10, 20, and 25 cents along with a \$1. Unlike most Jamaica proof sets you see; this one was not minted by the Franklin Mint but by the British Royal Mint. Back in 1969, the issue price was \$15.00 and only had a mintage of 8,530. Over 50 years later, my total cost including postage and taxes was \$8.58.



*The Jamaican proof set of 1969 was minted by the British Royal Mint.*



**Ackee, a native edible fruit,**  
is widely consumed in Jamaica where  
it is the national fruit and one of the  
main components in the national dish:  
Ackee and Saltfish.

**Jamaica is home**  
to the American crocodile (*Crocodylus*  
*acutus*), the only species of crocodile  
they have here.





### ***Lignum vitae* is Latin**

for "wood of life". The plant derives its name from its medicinal uses; *lignum vitae* resin has been used to treat a variety of medical conditions from coughs to arthritis, and chips of the wood decocted for like purposes.

### **The Blue Mahoe**

(*Hibiscus elatus*) is the national tree of Jamaica. The tall, straight trunk and the green, broad leaves with the hibiscus-like flowers are a sight to behold. It is a symbol of strength and resilience.



**The doctor bird**

or swallow tail  
hummingbird

(*Trochilus*

*Polytmus*), is one of  
the most outstanding  
of the 320 species of  
hummingbirds. It lives  
only in Jamaica.



The reverse design of the dollar piece was modelled by Mr. Paul Vincze, and the reverse designs of the other decimal denominations were modelled by Christopher Ironside.



**Alexander Bustamante**  
was the first Prime Minister of Jamaica.



### **The common reverse**

of these coins has the Jamaican Coat of Arms along with denomination and date.

## An Important Correction on the Mintage of the 1969 Jamaican \$1

Various numismatic sites, such as NGC World Coin Price Guide (<https://www.ngccoin.com/price-guide/world/jamaica-dollar-km-50-1969-1970-cuid-1121060-duid-1427346>) and Numista (<https://en.numista.com/catalogue/pieces11486.html>), state that the mintages of the 1969 Jamaican \$1 piece are 47,000 circulation pieces and 30,000 proof pieces.

Year/Mint	Denom	Mintage	Find it on eBay	Find it on MA SHOPS	\$	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
1969	Dollar	47,000	Shop eBay!	Shop MA-Shops!	\$ 1.00	-	-	2.00	-	3.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
1969 Proof	Dollar	30,000	Shop eBay!	Shop MA-Shops!	\$ -	-	-	4.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1970(fm) (M)	Dollar	5,000	Shop eBay!	Shop MA-Shops!	\$ -	-	-	2.50	-	3.50	-	-	-	-	-	-
1970(fm) (P) Proof	Dollar		Shop eBay!	Shop MA-Shops!	\$ -	-	-	5.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

However, the documentation given with the 1969 proof sets state that only 8,530 sets were minted. On page 17 of the Royal Mint Annual Report 1969 Volume No.100 (<https://library.royalmintmuseum.org.uk/archive/royal-mint-annual-reports/royal-mint-annual-report-1969-volume-no100?>), reads that 33,530 "proof, specimen, and selected" sets were minted. Since the documentation with the proof sets state that 8,530 were minted, this leaves a total of 25,000 "other" sets.

(iii) PROOF, SPECIMEN AND SELECTED COINS	
Jamaica	
33,530 sets each containing 1 dollar, 25 cents, 20 cents, 10 cents, 5 cents and 1 cent	} Date on coins 1969
35,000 sets each containing a penny and a halfpenny	

Page 69 of the Royal Mint Annual Report 1969 Volume No.100 reports the circulation mintage of other Jamaican coins, but the \$1 coin is not listed there. Also note, that the Royal Mint Annual Report 1970 Volume No.101 page 46 reports that 5000 coins were minted with the 1969 date.

Doing the math leaves us with **8,530 proof** coins along with **30,000 non-proof** strikes. The Royal Mint Museum confirmed this information in an email to me.

## Can You Identify This Coin?



In this section each month a new coin will be pictured, and your task is to see if you can identify it. Can you step up to this numismatic challenge every month? Email you answer to [hkfears@gmail.com](mailto:hkfears@gmail.com) and we will publish the names of winners in our next newsletter.

Last month Steve Young, Monica Couch, and Wayne Koger both were able to identify the mystery coin, a 1936 British West African penny issued by the King's Norton Mint. Monica said the coins were also minted by the Heaton Mint.



*1936 One Penny  
From British West Africa*

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

## **The Minute Man**

By Ann Fulmer

Steve brought a brass manilla for viewing. Manillas of copper and brass were the first true general-purpose currency known in West Africa, used for ordinary market purchases. Randy brought in several Alabama tokens to share with the group.

There was a reminder that the local coin shop, Alabama Coin & Silver, is open Mon-Wed from 11-3.

Mr. Steve Young made a presentation on Stories from Coin Shows. Steve has been collecting for over 50 years. He started in 1975. He joined a coin club and began collecting in the Whitman Coin Folders. He has always loved attending coin shows. He began subscribing to Coin World magazine and buying books on the subject.

Later, he joined the Air Force and went to Japan. He collected coins there. Some of those coins were made from jade. He discussed an 1854 Chinese master coin. Did you know that bats are the symbol of traditional Chinese pawn shops? There are coins with a symbol of a bat hanging upside down and holding a coin. Steve shared a coin from Hong Kong with a bat. The bat signifies fortune (fortune & bat have similar pronunciation in Chinese) and the coin signifies benefits.

Later, he traveled to San Antonio, Texas. He commented on the number of collectors in that area. Steve has met so many interesting people at shows. As someone who collects and presents at shows, he gave some helpful tips for buyers at shows:

- Bring a 10x loupe for looking at coins
- Know what you are looking for
- Don't pass up great deals
- Buy the coin not the slab

Note: A coin slab is a type of holder for a coin. Slabbed coins are typically from one of the coin grading companies. The practice of sending coins to third-party grading companies and then "slabbing" them began in 1986. When a grading

company grades the coin, it is sealed in a tamper proof slab with a barcode and a hologram.

Door prizes were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize: American Eagle 2013: Ian Kubecki
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize: Quarter Eagle: Patricia Douglas
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize: Vicksburg Quarters: Wayne Koger

In attendance: 23 members and guests



*Example of a Chinese coin with a bat on the design.*

## Door Prizes



Each meeting the club gives away several door prizes. The winners of at our last meeting were:

First Prize:	Ian Kubecki:	2013 Silver Eagle
Second Prize:	Patricia Douglas:	2022 Quarter Silver Eagle
Third Prize:	Wayne Koger:	Vicksburg Quarters

## 2023 Coin Shows within Driving Distance from Huntsville

DATE	Location	Contact
Sep 10	The Greater Atlanta Coin Show 500 Powder Springs Street Marietta, GA 30064	Bob O'Brien 770-772-4359
Oct 26-28	International Money Exposition Music City Convention Center 201 Rep. John Lewis Way South Nashville, TN 37203	COL Steven Ellsworth <a href="mailto:Ellsworth@IMEX.show">Ellsworth@IMEX.show</a>
Oct 27-28	The Gadsden / Rainbow City Coin Club Coin Show 201 George Wallace Dr Gadsden, AL 35903	Blain Smith 256-405-5183

## Members' Notices

Rules for users of the member notice page: All notices are free and should be directed to the editor, [hkfears@gmail.com](mailto:hkfears@gmail.com), of the Madison County Coin Club newsletter. 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

**World Coins, Tokens, Jade, Relics, etc. for sale.** Contact: Steve Young, P.O. Box 8031, Huntsville, AL 35808, 334-300-5409 [taegu\\_steve@hotmail.com](mailto:taegu_steve@hotmail.com).

## 2023 Madison County Coin Club Program Refreshments and Programs Schedule

Meeting Date	Refreshments	Program
Jan 23	Wayne Koger	Harold Fears Foreign Coins with U.S. Mint Marks
February 20	Harrison Knowlton	Todd Hutto British Conder Tokens
March 20	Todd Hutto	Harrison Knowlton Counterfeit Coins & Currency
April 17	Ann Fulmer	Ben Crow Hawaii and North Africa Bills
May 15	Harrison Knowlton	Fellowship Time
June 26	4th of July Potluck, Bourse Night, and Auction	
July 17	Aaron Wales	Aaron Wales Nickels
August 21	Doug Glandon	Steve Young Stories from Coin Shows
September 18	Don & Jennie Adams	David Hollander Bad Boy Bankers of Alabama
October 16	Chad Thrasher	Todd Hutto Charles the First and the British Civil War
November 20	Thanksgiving Potluck, Bourse Night, and Auction Election of Officers	
December- NO MEETING		

## Madison County Coin Club

For over twenty years, the Madison County Coin Club has served the north Alabama community by bringing numismatists together for the love of coin collecting. The Club strives to impart knowledge to its members through presentations and personal experiences. Through the sharing of knowledge and experiences, it enhances and enriches coin collecting for the numismatic community. Speaking of our members, we have a vast group of collectors who collect all types of United States coins, as well as foreign coins. Many of our members collect coins from a certain era (19th century, for example), while others collect strictly modern coins. We also have members who collect only a certain type of coin (Seated Coins, Morgan Dollars, and Commemoratives, to name a few). Some members focus solely on foreign coins (for instance English, German, and Chinese) which can span many centuries. This diversification makes our club dynamic, providing something for every type of collector.



Members of the club enjoy a number of benefits:

- Monthly lectures, covering a range of numismatic topics
- Access to the club's extensive numismatic library
- Monthly notices via email of club events
- Able to purchase club medals

We are keen to encourage anybody with an interest in numismatics to join the club. We provide a warm and friendly welcome and are very keen to encourage those new to the study, collecting of coins, tokens or banknotes.

The club is a member of the American Numismatic Association (Member #C-195870 Region 20, AL & GA), Alabama Numismatic Society (ANS), Georgia Numismatic Association (GNA), and the Florida United Numismatists (FUN).



## **The Club's Mailing Address:**

**Madison County Coin Club**  
P.O. Box 12242  
Huntsville, AL 35815

## **Club Officers**

President: <a href="#">Doug Glandon</a>	Vice President: <a href="#">Wayne Koger</a>
Secretary: Aaron Wales	Treasurer: <a href="#">Mike Campbell</a>
Board Member: Kurt Springfield	Librarian: <a href="#">Ann Fulmer</a>
Newsletter Contact: <a href="#">H.K. Fears</a>	Dues and Membership Info: <a href="#">Mike Campbell</a>

## **Club Library**

Madison County Coin Club members can access our lending library of more than 130 books, auction catalogs, and periodicals. The library features resources and materials on subjects including but not limited to U.S. and foreign coins, ancients, paper money, tokens, and medals. You can request materials by emailing the librarian, [Ann Fulmer](#). Library materials are checked out to members for a four-week period. You can email the librarian to renew items for another four-week period (as long as no other member has submitted a hold on the item/items). To return your items simply bring them to one of our meetings.

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