

# Madison County Coin Club of Huntsville, Alabama



Volume 24, Issue 8

August 2024

**Our next meeting  
will be at the  
South Huntsville Public Library  
7901-L Bailey Cove Rd SE  
Huntsville, AL 35802  
On  
August 19, 2024  
from 6:00 – 7:30  
Doors Open at 5:30**

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## The Minute Man

*By Aaron Wales*

*July 15, 2024*

Thanks to all the visitors and guests attending. The meeting had a great turn out. A special thank you to friends and family that attended my presentation.

Door Prizes were awarded:

- 1) American Eagle 1987: Chad Thrasher
- 2) Bicentennial Kennedy from '76 (40% silver): Shane Armstrong
- 3) 2 Mini American Eagles: Tim Tolar

Coin Show news:

- Dalton GA has the Blue Ridge Numismatic Association Show; August 1-3 w/ ~350 dealers and ~500 Tables
- Alabama Numismatic Society is hosting the Bessemer Show this weekend the 19-21<sup>st</sup>. If anyone wants to ride with Mike

*continued on page 2*

Campbell, please contact him. Note, the organizer was a supporter and had a table at the HUNTSPEX Show.

ANA news:

- The Numismatic Diploma Program (NDP) has a series of 6 online programs available for a certification. The first course is available online. Registration is \$25 and the course is \$50. Additional courses will be held 6-8 months apart and the cost will be \$50 each.
- For those that are interested in ANA membership, speak with Harold for information regarding a special regarding \$10 off sign up.

Announcements:

- The meetings are now live streamed via YouTube.
- The MCCC newsletter placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in Nationals. Please submit newsletter articles for any subject matter coin related to Harold Fears. Ideas include a purchase at a recent show.
- If anyone is interested in working on the club website, please contact Harold Fears.
- Nathan indicated that on a recent trip to Atlanta he heard a Coin related podcast that mentioned the MCCC medal. There was a special guest that went to school with Daniel Carr. All the discussion was very positive, and they mentioned how impressed individuals were with the medal.
- One may need to be leery of counterfeits sold on different sites. These do occur and can be very disappointing.

Show & Tell:

- Harold brought a token from the Channel Islands off the coast of France from 1813. It is extremely rare. The reverse has an image of Justice with the olive branch and a scale. It's made of copper.
- Doug Glandon brought in the Journal of Barber Coin Collector Society. It's a quarterly journal that one receives with membership which is ~\$20. Note their website has valuable information such as rarity ratings of every grade that are very accurate.
- Chad Thrasher brought the PCGS Market report. On page 32 -33 is a discussion of mercury dimes from 1941 and 1942. Chad brought in 2 examples. His first was part of his grandfather's collection. The second was

*continued on page 3*

cleaned, but it was needed to fill a set. Friendly reminder that a cleaned coin can alter the value.

I gave a presentation on “The History of Transnistrian Currency”. It’s on the coin club website if you missed it. I hope those attending enjoyed it. I learned a great deal by working on the project. I mainly got interested during the 7<sup>th</sup> grade while studying geography. But another coin club member brought a show and tell item of a Transnistrian plastic coin to a meeting. Thank you to the members for piquing my interest!

I believe next month is a special Show & Tell time with no presentation for all members to bring a special item or items to share with the body at large. I hope you can find something in your collection to share. See you then.



*The gang settles in for the meeting.*



*The excitement builds*

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





*Aaron's presentation on "The History of Transnistrian Money"*

### **Madison County Coin Club Website Update**

Our club's website (<http://mccc.anaclubs.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.

***Read our previous newsletters at:***

***<http://mccc.anaclubs.org/newsletters/>***

***Read our previous presentations at:***

***<http://mccc.anaclubs.org/programs/>***

## Last Meeting's Door Prizes



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

First Prize:	Chad Thrasher:	1987 Silver Eagle
Second Prize:	Shane Armstrong:	Bicentennial Kennedy
Third Prize:	Tim Tolar	Two Mini American Eagles

# *The Numismatic*

DIPLOMA

# PROGRAM

has been redesigned and is offered through our eLearning Academy to members of the ANA.

**The first course debuted on April 29.** You may sign up now by visiting the link below and completing the online form. The cost for the first course is only \$75. The charge includes a \$25 one-time registration fee and a \$50 course fee.

*For members who have completed the previous diploma program courses and passed the final exam, there will be a discounted rate. For more info, contact Christian Strayhorn at [cstrayhorn@money.org](mailto:cstrayhorn@money.org).*



**SIGN UP TODAY**

[money.org/diploma-program](https://money.org/diploma-program)

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION





# Pieces of Eight, It's Never too Late

By Aaron Wales

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, my mom, my grandmother, and I manned the MCCC table at the HUNTSPEX combined coin, stamp, and postcard show. I had a good time and I enjoyed seeing all of the people who were interested in joining the club. I brought some items that I had gotten at club meetings to show other people what they could win as door prizes. I'm very lucky, so I ended up bringing quite a few items to show. I thought the stamp and postcard booths were very interesting and I feel like there was something there for everyone. I would recommend going if you have not gone before.

While we were there, we went over to Steve Young's booth and looked at his selection of coins he had brought for sale. There were a couple that caught our eye, but the one that we were most interested in was a Mexican "Pieces of 8" coin from 1783. But this was not your normal Mexican coin. It was from the El Cazador shipwreck.

"Pieces of 8" are often called America's first silver dollars. They contain .903 oz of pure silver. Spanish 8 Reales extensively circulated all across North America in the late 1700's and continued well into the 1800's, even after the US Mint opened around 1793. Each coin was struck in Mexico City, Mexico during the late 1700's while Mexico was still under Spanish rule.

On 20 October 1783, Charles III of Spain sent the El Cazador on a mission to provide much needed currency to the Spanish colony of Louisiana. The Spanish Brig of War sailed to Mexico where it was loaded with 450,000 silver Spanish Reales. That is equivalent to 37,500 pounds of silver. On 11 January 1784, it set sail for New Orleans and was never heard from again. Historians speculate that had *El Cazador* reached her destination, Spain may never have transferred ownership of New Orleans and the surrounding territory back to France in 1801 - a transfer that paved the way for the United States acquisition of the Louisiana territory in 1803.

On 2 August 1993 a butter-fish trawler, *Mistake*, snagged her nets 50 miles south of Louisiana in the Gulf of Mexico. The crew held their breath as they raised what were sure to be damaged nets. Mysterious black clumps were all they found. While some crew members kicked them into the water, the cry of "COINS! COINS!" rang out.



Craig Boyd conducted the delicate and dangerous process of bringing *El Cazador's* final cargo to the surface in 2002. The coins were originally stored in the Grand Bay State Bank in Grand Bay, Alabama but are now administered by the Franklin Mint.

On the obverse is CAROLUS·III DEI· GRATIA which is Latin for Carlos III by the Grace of God. There is also a portrait of Charles the III of Spain and a date of 1783. On the reverse are the Hispanic coat of arms which is a pair of pillars separated by a crowned simple shield with lions, castles, pomegranate and three centralized Fleurs-de-Lis.

We also purchased a 1902-0 Morgan Dollar from someone else's stand. It is graded MS65 and was graded by ICG. I selected it because I did not have any Morgan Dollars dated 1900-1904 in my collection. We got a good deal for the coin and I think it has a nice color to it. This is going to make a fine addition to my collection.



*1783 Mexico 8 Reales  
El Cazador Shipwreck*



1902-O Morgan Dollar

A big thank you to my grandmother for these purchases. She has always supported my love of coins. They were a reward for making straight A's in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Overall, I really enjoyed the show and hope to man the MCCC table next year. I'll have to make sure to keep my grades up in 8<sup>th</sup> grade so I can be on the lookout for more great finds at next year's show.

*"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



# Some Mint Records Concerning the 1885 Dies

Courtesy of the [Wikimedia Commons](#)

December 31<sup>st</sup> 5

Hon Paul M. Fox  
 Superintendent  
 Sir;

I have the honor to report that the following Dies were used in the Coinage of 1885, to-wit;

DIES.	GOLD.						SILVER.			MINOR.			GRAND TOTAL.				
	DOUBLE EAGLES.	EAGLES.	HALF EAGLES.	THREE DOLLARS.	QUARTER EAGLES.	DOLLARS.	TOTAL.	STANDARD DOLLARS.	HALF DOLLARS.	QUARTER DOLLARS.	DIME.	TOTAL.		FIVE CENT.	THREE CENT.	ONE CENT.	TOTAL.
OBVERSE	2	10	16	2	2	4	36	89	2	2	31	124	30	3	48	81	241
REVERSE	2	9	16	2	2	5	35	88	2	2	28	120	24	3	48	75	230
TOTAL.	4	19	31	4	4	9	71	177	4	4	59	244	54	6	96	156	471

These numbers agree with the numbers reported by the Engraver as delivered to the Coiner, during the year 1885, and include the Dies used for striking Proof Coins.

All of these dies were destroyed this day



by the use of the forge and sledge, in accordance with the provisions of Section no 3550 Revised Statutes.

The following statement exhibits the number of pieces struck per pair of dies used, during the year 1885, and includes the dies employed to strike proof coin, as the proof pieces appear in the aggregate number of pieces struck.

The goal of the Newman Numismatic Portal is to create the world's most comprehensive online encyclopedia of American and Colonial coinage, currency, realia, and related correspondence and published literature. Materials from the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society's coin collections and supporting reference libraries have been digitized along with Washington University Libraries' collections. You can check their web site at: <https://nnp.wustl.edu/> .

Another great source is:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Newman Numismatic Portal](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Newman_Numismatic_Portal)

# Having Some Fun with a Digital Microscope

## A Closer Look at the Guernsey 1902 Eight Doubles

*By H.K. Fears*

Each month I'm planning to take a closer look at a coin using a digital microscope. Hopefully, you will find this interesting as much as I do.

As some of y'all might know, I collect coins from the Channel Islands. Recently, I took a closer look at the Guernsey eight doubles of 1902. With a "large" mintage of 235,200, there are still plenty of nice examples to acquire.

Looking at only four coins from my collection, I found three varieties that I will share. These three varieties are defined by differences in the letter U of GUERNESEY, the stem configuration on the obverse's left branch, and the differences in the date.



*The Setup*

<b>Some Die Varieties of the Guernsey 1902 Eight Doubles</b>			
<b>Type</b>	<b>U in GUERNESEY</b>	<b>Stem to Berry</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	Normal	Right	Small spacing between 1 and 9
2	Reworked	Right	Repunched 9
3	Normal	Left	Larger spacing between 1 and 9





*The obverse uses the French spelling of Guernsey.*





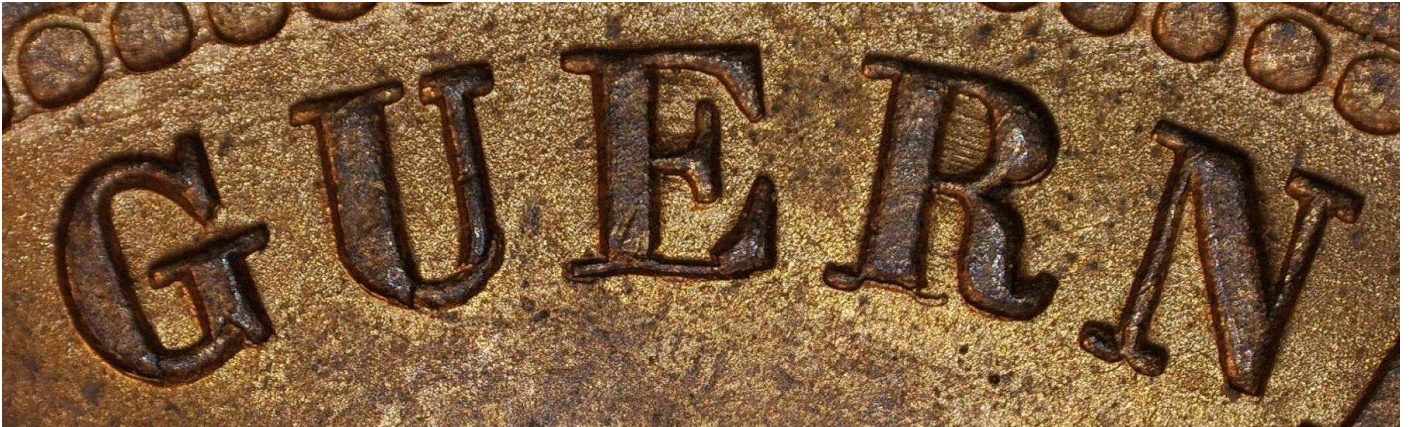
*The mintmark is that of the Heaton Mint, which was in Birmingham, England.*



## *The Letter U in GUERNESEY*



*The first and third obverse die varieties have the letter U in a deteriorating state.*

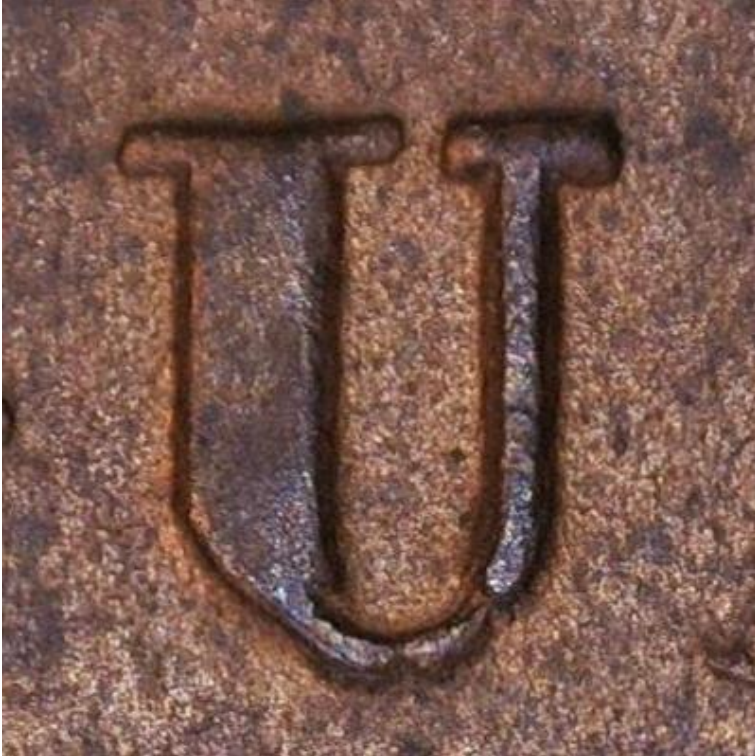


*The second type has the U clumsily repaired.*

One can easily see the difference in the letter U.

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





The letter U in GUERNESEY is in a deteriorated state. This is found on the first and third die varieties.

The letter U has been repaired for the second die variety.







There are several differences with the stalk on the left side below the top two berries.



Guernsey is one of the Channel Islands. It is located off the coast of France.





*The first two obverse die varieties have the stem going to the berry on the right.*





*The third obverse die variety has the stem going to the berry on the left.*





*For the first reverse die variety, there is a small gap between the 1 and the 9.*



*For the second reverse die variety, the 9 has been slightly repunched.*

**For More Information about coins from Guernsey see:**

- *Currencies of the Anglo-Norman Isles* by A.L.T. McCammon (Spink, 1984)
- *Guernsey Coinage* by W. Exley (Guernsey, 1969)





*For the third reverse die variety, there is a larger gap between the 1 and the 9.*



*The repunched 9 is found on the second type.*





*The alignment of the digits in the date.  
Also note the spacing between the 1 and the 9.*



## 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 the [newsletter editor](#) and we will publish the names of winners in our next newsletter.





Last month Mike Campbell and Wayne Koger were able to identify the mystery coin, a 1990 two pounds coin from the Bailiwick of Jersey.





# QUIZ TIME

## Women's Equality Day



*Women's Equality Day* is observed annually on the 26th day of August. On this day in 1920, women were guaranteed the right to vote when the 19th Amendment was passed.

This month's activity involves identifying women portrayed on money. Best of luck!

1. Who is the only woman to appear on a United States note and a United States coin?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Known as the First Lady of Argentina, this woman who died tragically at the age of 33 appears on this bi-metallic coin minted in 1997.

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Coin: \_\_\_\_\_

3. This coin, first minted in 2002, features the first female winner of the Nobel Peace prize.

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Coin: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Who was the subject and on what coin did the first actual woman appear on a regularly circulating United States coin?

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Coin: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Although it has never been conclusively proven, it is thought that this Philadelphia socialite was the model for the "Draped Bust" series.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Who was the first woman to appear on a United States coin and on which coin did she appear? Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Coin: \_\_\_\_\_

7. This Polish poet and activist for Polish independence is on the reverse of a coin minted in 1978.

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Coin: \_\_\_\_\_

8. This coin minted in 1937 features the first baby of European descent born in North America on the reverse.

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Coin: \_\_\_\_\_

9. This painter of historic scenes was born in Switzerland but grew up in Austria. She is depicted on the front of a note printed in 1969.

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: \_\_\_\_\_

10. First produced in 1741, the empress on this coin probably has the distinction of appearing on a coin for a longer period of time than anyone.

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Coin: \_\_\_\_\_



**Answers to last month's Quiz Time:**

1. This United States commemorative coin comes in two varieties and holds the distinction of being the largest denomination for a United States commemorative or regularly circulating coin.

Coin: 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition 50 dollar gold coin.

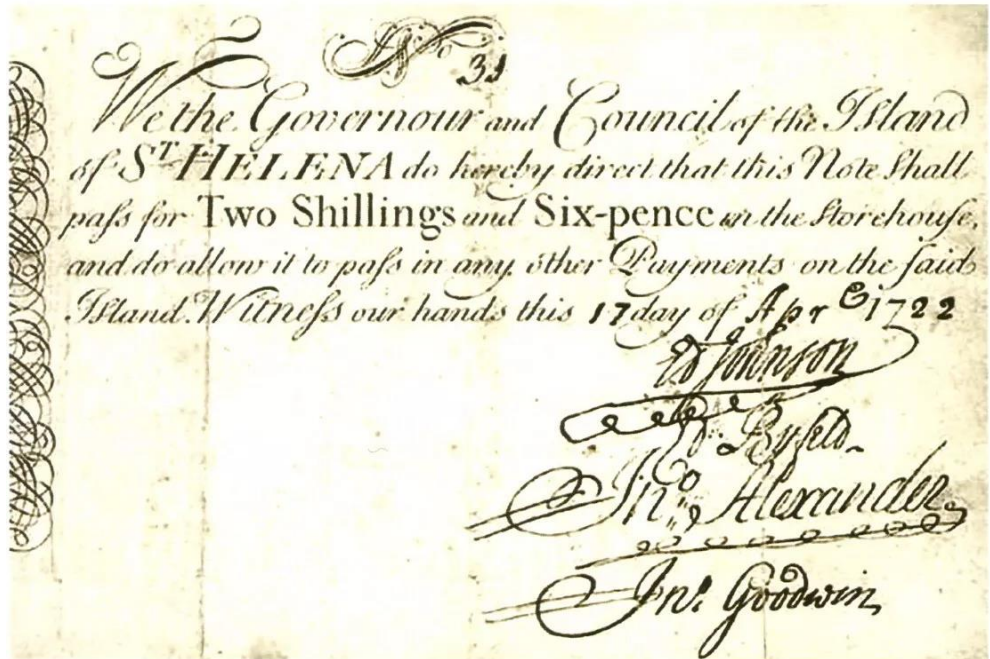


2. This ancient coin mentioned in the biblical chapters of Mark and Luke had a value of 1/128th of a denarius.

Coin: Lepton or Prutah of Judea also known as the Widow's Mite.

3. This note, issued in 1772, was used on a very small island that for a while was the home of Napoleon.

Note: St. Helena 1772 2 shillings 6 pence note.





4. This note, which was unissued, was the highest denomination note printed in Hungary.

Note: 1946 1 million billion pengo

5. This coin has been identified as the smallest (in size) of United States Coins.

Coin: Silver three-cent piece or trime



6. This money can reach 12 feet in height and weigh up to as much as 5 tons.

Coin: Yap Stone money

7. This copper "coin" weighs about 44 pounds and was used until the time America claimed its independence.

Coin:  
Sweden 10  
plate money



daler



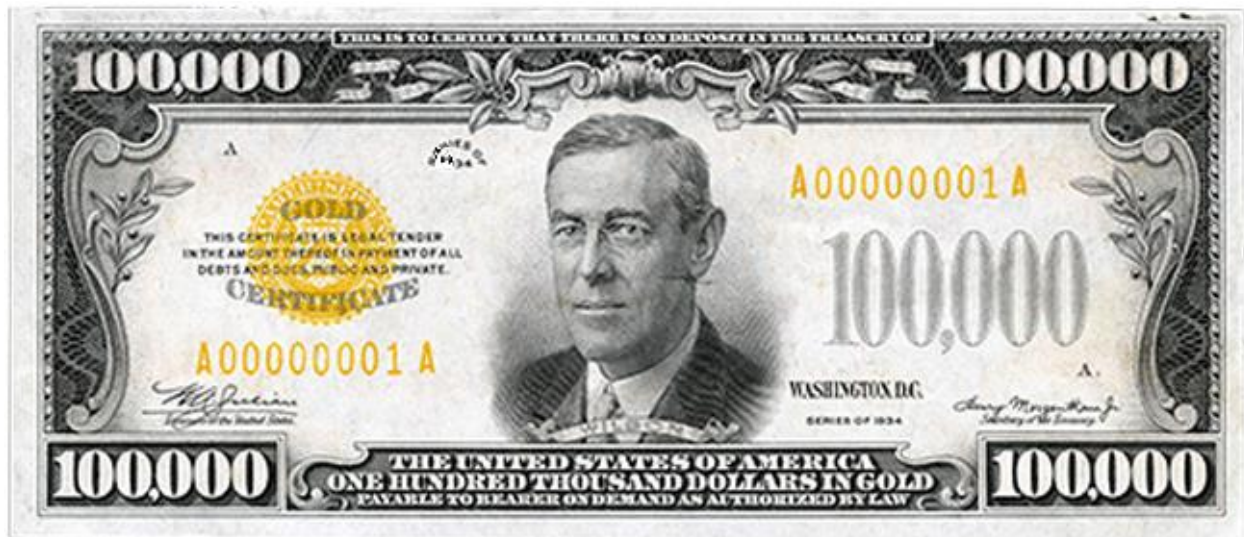
8. This small gold coin minted in 2005 may be the tiniest modern gold coin in existence with a total weight of only 0.49 of a gram and a gold content of .0092 of a troy ounce.

Coin: Liberia 25th Anniversary of the Krugerrand 2005 10 dollars gold



9. This highest denomination United States paper currency was never issued for general circulation and features Woodrow Wilson on the front.

Note: United States 1934 \$100,000 Gold Certificate



10. This coin is the largest gold coin now in existence.

Coin: Australian Kangaroo 1 million dollar gold coin

## Members' Notices

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

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### Buying Tokens

Contact me if you want to buy or sell tokens, medals, pinback buttons, encased coins, etc.

Randy Partin  
P.O. Box 276  
Scottsboro, AL 35768  
[AUBRPARTIN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:AUBRPARTIN@GMAIL.COM)





## Antique British Coin Scale for Sale

Circa - 1890's to 1920's. Used by Banks and Retail Businesses to weight and count pre-decimal British silver coins.

Great working condition with original patina. Brass scale pan, cast iron frame, and wooden base. Very heavy, so local pickup is best.

13" tall – 9" wide

A wonderful gift for a British coin collector.

**\$65**

Please contact [Todd](#).



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## World Coins, Tokens, Jade, Relics, etc. for sale

Contact: [Steve Young](#), P.O. Box 8031, Huntsville, AL 35808, 334-300-5409.

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## Looking for Alaskan Medals and Tokens

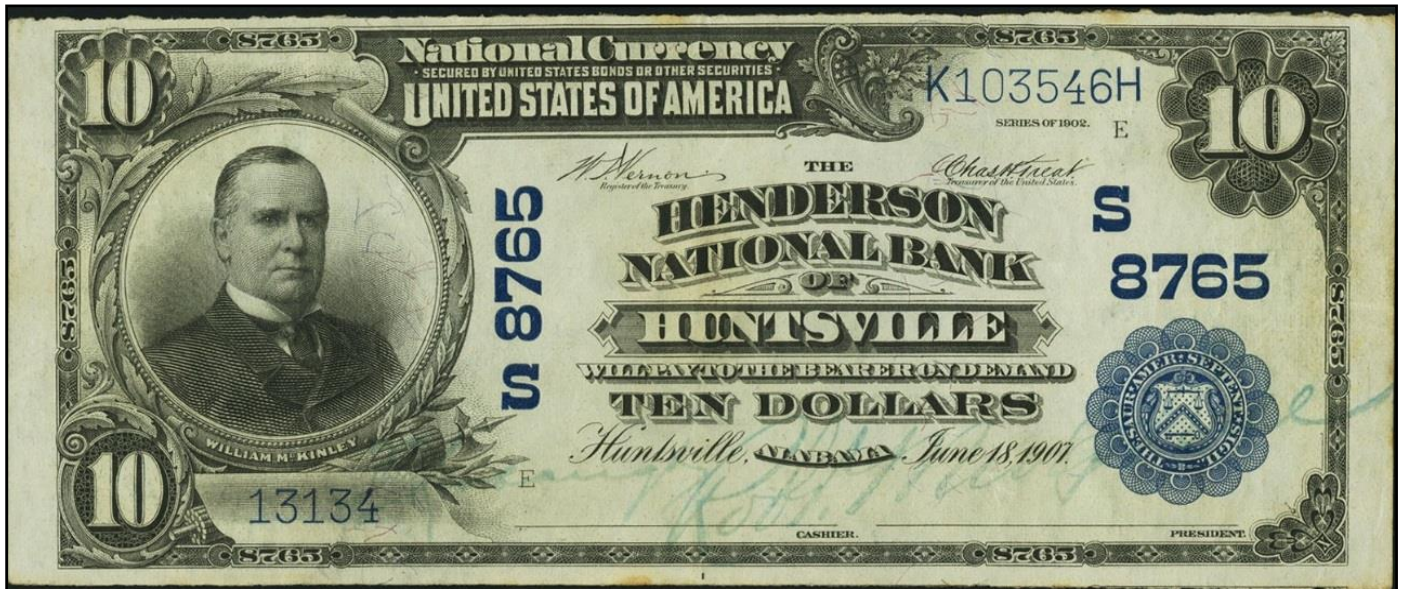


Contact: [Richard](#).



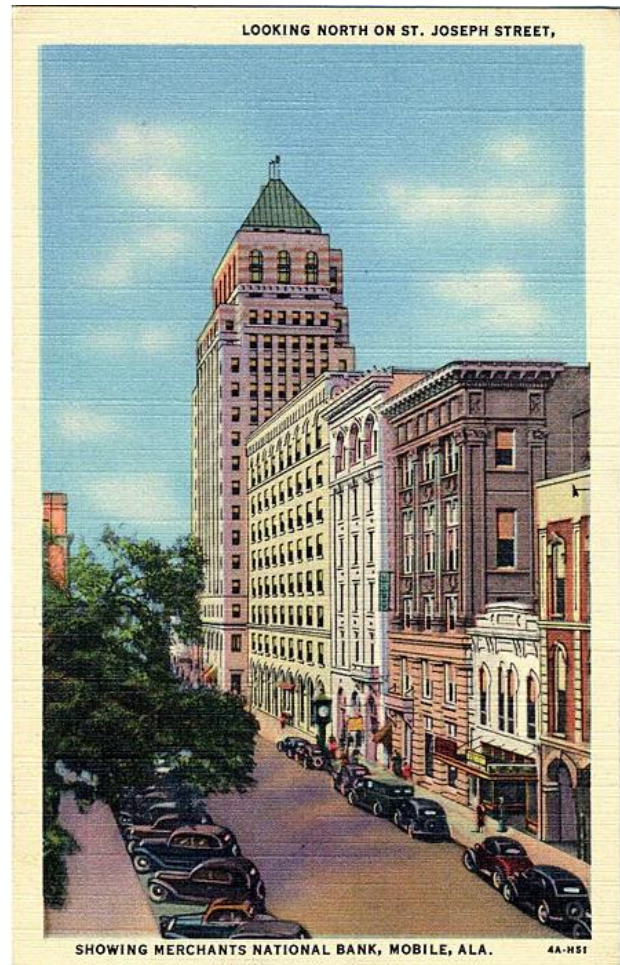


## Wanted Alabama Large Size National Banknotes and better Alabama Obsolete Banknotes



Also, postcards portraying Alabama Banks.

Call David at 256-468-5891.





**Looking for the 2020 P and D  
George H.W. Bush Presidential Dollar**



I'm looking for one each, P & D, George H.W. Bush dollar coins. Please contact Mike at: [mikathy48@gmail.com](mailto:mikathy48@gmail.com) .



## 2024 Madison County Coin Club Program Refreshments and Programs Schedule

Meeting Date	Refreshments	Program
Jan 22	Pat Douglas and Gerry Steele	Harold Fears <i>Coins of German East Africa</i>
February 19	Dale Holcomb	Kurt Kelley <i>Civil War Medals and Coinage</i>
March 18	Wayne Koger	Everyone <i>Show and Tell</i>
April 15	Harold Fears	Todd Hutto <i>The King with No Coins</i>
May 20	Garey Beal	Chad Thrasher <i>Human Habits and Numismatic Discoveries</i>
June 17	<b>4th of July Potluck, Bourse Night, and Auction</b>	
July 15	Aaron Wales	Aaron Wales <i>The History of Transnistrian Money</i>
August 19	Ann Fulmer	Everyone <i>Show and Tell</i>
September 16	Doug Glandon	David Hollander <i>Alabama Banknotes</i>
October 21	Steve Young	Steve Young TBD
November 18	<b>Thanksgiving Potluck, Bourse Night, and Auction Election of Officers</b>	
<b>December- NO MEETING</b>		

## 2024 Coin Shows Within Driving Distance From Huntsville

Date(s)	Area	Show & Location	Contact Info	Richard's Rating
Nov 8-10	Chattanooga, TN	<b>Tennessee State Numismatic Society</b> <b>Camp Jordan Arena</b> <b>I-75, Exit 1</b> <b>Chattanooga, TN</b> <b>Fri &amp; Sat 10 am – 6 pm</b> <b>Sun 10 am – 3 pm</b>	Bob Hurst 321-427-6474 forum@comcast.net www.tsns.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- +++

### Numismatic Crimes

John Cieniewicz reports he stays aware of current numismatic crimes. His main source of information comes from The Numismatic Crime Information Center (NCIC). NCIC disseminates current crime related issues to the numismatic industry and provides local, state and federal law enforcement agencies with the fundamental investigative techniques, knowledge and understanding to respond effectively to the complex challenges encountered during a numismatic crime. You can check it for yourself at <https://numismaticcrimes.org/> .



## Newsletter Articles

We 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.

Contact the [newsletter editor](#) with your idea.

## Money Talks Radio Show Archive

In 1992, "Money Talks," a radio program on the history and lore of money, began broadcasting across the country on several local radio stations. The "Money Talks" broadcasts were typically 2-4 minutes long and consisted of coin stories that were recorded to educate and encourage interest in the hobby of numismatics. You could hear all these stories at <https://www.money.org/money-talks-radio-archive/> .

## 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 several 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: [Wayne Koger](#)

Secretary: Aaron Wales

Board Member: [Kurt Springfield](#)

Newsletter Contact: [Harold Fears](#)

Vice President:

Treasurer: [Mike Campbell](#)

Librarian: [Ann Fulmer](#)

Dues and Membership Info: [Mike Campbell](#)

## **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 if no other member has submitted a hold on the item/items. To return your items simply bring them to one of our meetings.

## **Club's YouTube Channel**

You can subscribe to our YouTube Channel at [MCCC Meeting](#). There you will find links to both upcoming and past meetings.

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