

Madison County Coin Club

of Huntsville, Alabama



Volume 26, Issue 8

August 2026

Our next meeting will be at the

South Huntsville Public Library
7901-L Bailey Cove Rd SE
Huntsville, AL 35802

Tuesday August 18, 2026
from 6:00 – 7:30
Doors Open at 5:30

The presentation will be:

Show and Tell
by Everyone

The 2027 MCCC Club Medal

Just a short note on the status of the Madison County Coin Club's 2027 medal. Mr. Carr has had a very full schedule this year, which has pushed back our usual timeline. The good news is he has agreed to produce a medal for our club again in 2027.



Our 2027 medal will be patterned after the 1879 Coiled Hair \$4 Stella, one of the most distinctive and sought-after designs in American numismatic history. We expect to have more details — including pricing, mintage, and ordering information — available in October, once we're able to finalize things with Mr. Carr

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Some Scenes from our last Meeting



Aaron gives his presentation



Chad shows his space medals



*What coin was the first with a Philadelphia mint mark?
It's not the 1942 nickel!*

Why not bring a friend to the next meeting?

Last Meeting's Door Prizes



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

First Prize:	Aaron	Silver Eagle
Second Prize:	Stephen	Two 1/10-ounce silver eagles
Member Prize:	Keith	Dolly Madison Silver Proof Dollar

Rhode Island Museum Artifact

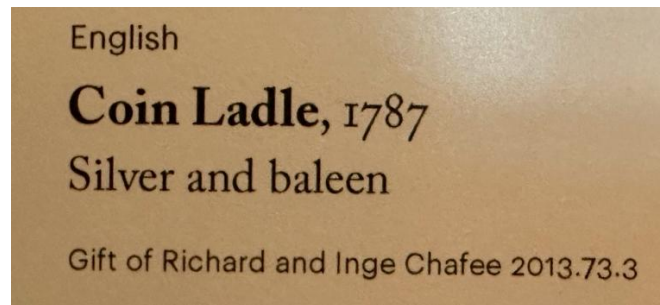
By Monica Couch

While traveling to Rhode Island last year, we went to the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) Museum in Providence. It's situated on College Hill. The school was founded in 1877 and is a premier art and design college. The museum is one of the largest college art museums in the country. College Hill is also home to Brown University.

Walking through exhibit halls, I noticed a ladle that incorporated a coin in the design. It definitely caught my eye due to Aaron's interest in numismatics. I was certainly intrigued as I had not seen something like it before. Hence, I decided to do some research.

Pictured below are two views and the catalog reference for the museum piece. It states English Coin Ladle dated 1787 comprised of silver and baleen. I thought it interesting that baleen is listed. In researching, that could refer to keratinous material used for filter feeding from animals such as whales. But it struck me as odd to be listed for this ladle.





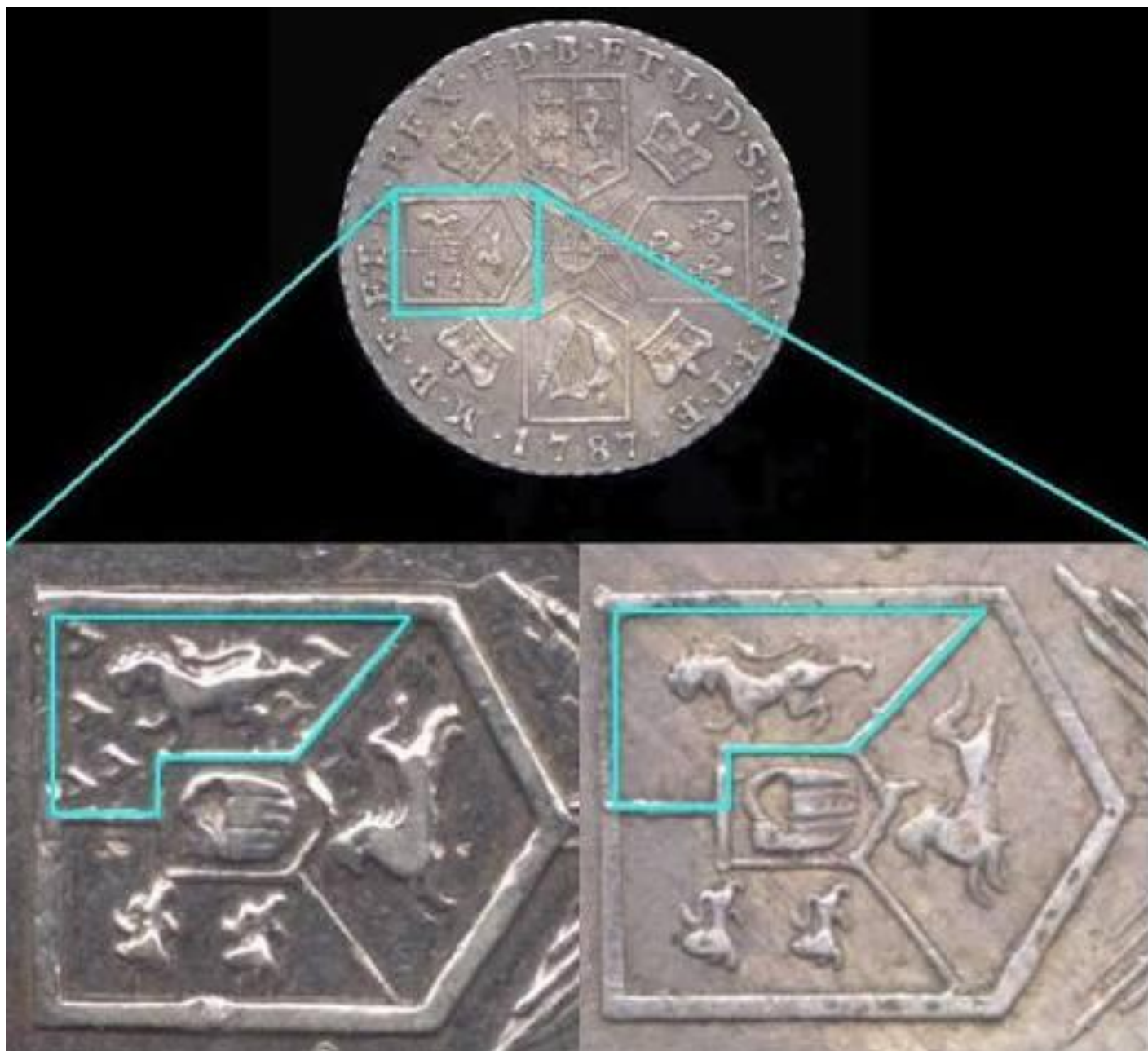
The coin is a Great Britain shilling featuring George III. George III reigned from 1760-1820. George III is renowned for various highlights of his reign including:

- Imperial expansion of lands in Canada, North America, and India
- The loss of the colonies in America during the American Revolution from 1765-1789
- Presiding over Britain's role in the Napoleonic Wars from 1803-1815 which culminated in a momentous victory at the Battle of Waterloo
- Achievements in astronomy and science to include commissioning the King's Observatory
- The founding of the Royal Academy of Arts to include providing for its permanent home at Somerset House and appointing its first President.
- Issues with mental illness later in his reign which earned him the name "Mad King George"

The obverse incorporates the words GEORGIVS III DEI GRATIA and an armored bust facing right. DEI GRATIA is Latin for "By the Grace of God." The reverse was not visible when viewing the artifact. But it includes a list of the monarch's titles. The lettering listed includes:

- **M • B • F • ET • H • REX**
 - **Magnae Britanniae Franciae Et Hiberniae Rex**
 - **Translation:** King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland. British monarchs historically claimed the throne of France, though it was largely a symbolic title.
- **F • D**
 - **Fidei Defensor**
 - **Translation:** Defender of the Faith.
- **B • ET • L • D • S • R • I • A • T • ET • E**
 - **Brunsviciensis Et Luneburgensis Dux Sacri Romani Imperii Archi The-saurarius Et Elector**
 - **Translation:** Duke of Brunswick and Luneburg, Arch-Treasurer and Elector of the Holy Roman Empire

The reverse also has a cruciform arrangement of four shields of arms depicting the arms of Ireland, France, Hanover and possibly England/Scotland combined. There are different varieties that pertain to whether or not there is a semée of hearts (or not) in the Hanoverian shield. For those that don't know, a semée describes a shield that is evenly covered with a small and repeating symbol. It is typically in the background. In the center is a circle containing a cross inside a radiate star. There are four crowns arranged with one between each of the coats of arms. Shown below is the reverse with enlargements to highlight two variations one with and one without a semée of hearts.



Utilizing coins as part of a ladle was mainly for a punch or toddy ladle. The history of the toddy dates all the way back to British-controlled India in the early 17th century. The Hindi word “*taddy*” meant “*beverage made from fermented taddy palm sap*” a drink that was served cold. By the 1780’s, the term evolved in British-occupied India to describe “*a beverage made of alcoholic liquor with hot water, sugar, and spices.*” The British claimed it as their own and started serving it during the winter months using Scotch whisky, hot water and exotic spices from India.

These ladles embellished with coins were crafted in Europe and America from the 17th through the 19th centuries. The integration of coins into ladles served a few specific purposes:

- **As the Bowl Itself:** Silversmiths often took genuine, circulating silver coins (like crowns, shillings, or Spanish dollars) and hammered, flattened, and shaped them into the bowl of the ladle. The bowl of a ladle is the deep, cup-shaped end of the ladle (the spoon part) used to scoop and pour liquids.
- **As a Decorative Medallion:** In some designs, a real coin was soldered directly into the center of an already-formed ladle bowl.
- **Other Theories:** Many experts believe coins were embedded in ladles during times of silver shortages to reinforce a thinning bowl. During King George III’s reign, the mint issued a shilling in 1763 and did not issue another one until 1787. It would not issue another shilling until the coinage reform era started in 1816. In Great Britain during the 18th century, the official face value of coins was often lower than the bullion value of the silver they contained. As a result, genuine coins were frequently melted down for their metal. Note, it was strictly illegal to melt down legal coin of the realm for its metal value in Britain in 1787. Under English law, tampering with or destroying genuine gold and silver currency was considered a severe offense, and melting it to sell as bullion was prohibited. Other historians theorize the use of coinage in ladles as a status symbol, a way to personalize a gift, or simply the fashion of the time.

Today, these coin-integrated ladles are highly collectible antiques. I was fortunate to see one at a museum. Make sure you keep your eyes out for other remarkable items embellished with coins. You never know what you might find.

Parkers Landing Bridge Co – Parkers Landing, PA

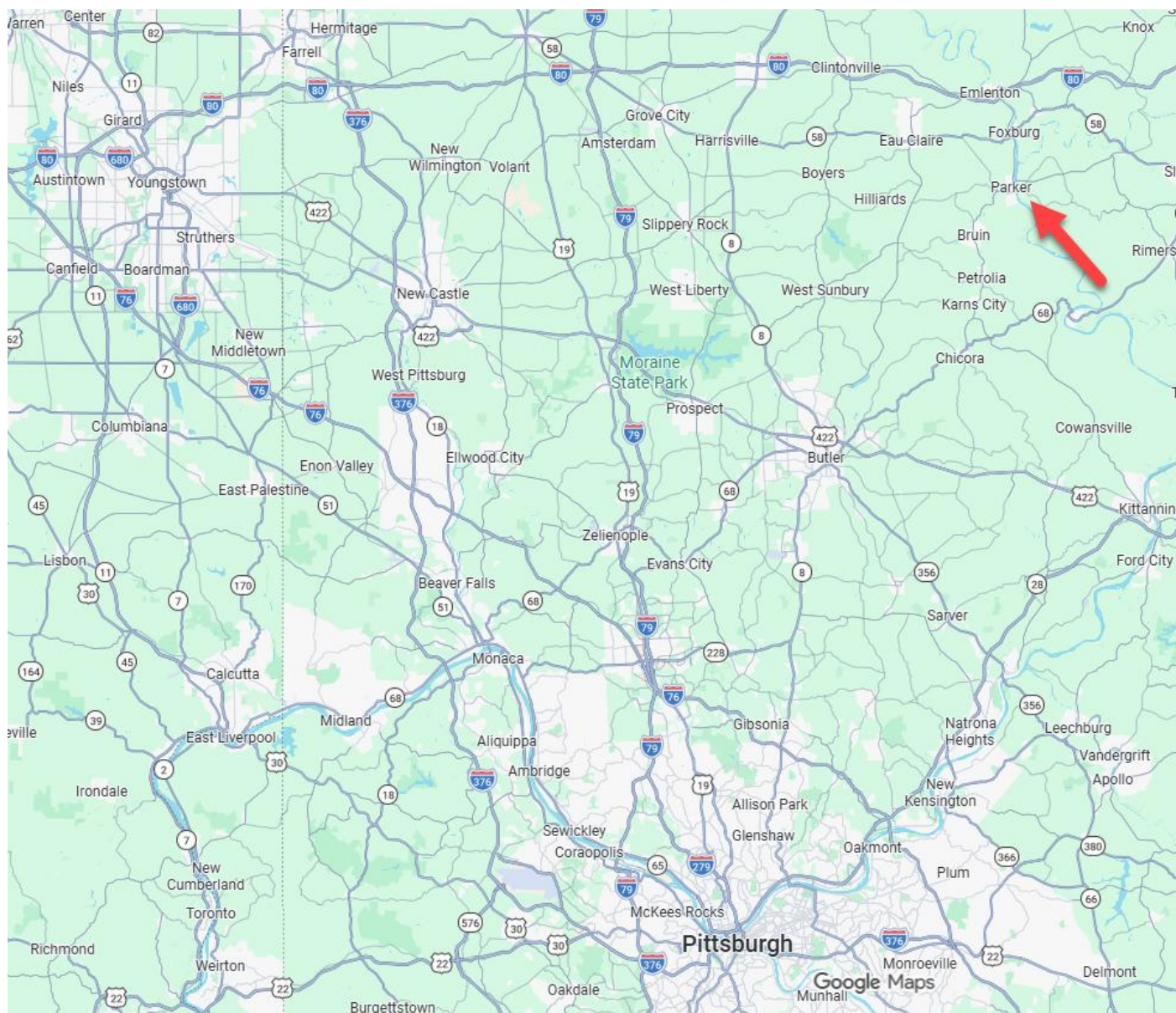
By Randy Partin

Parkers Landing, today called Parker, is a city located on the Allegheny River in Armstrong County, Pennsylvania. The population was 695 people as of 2020. In 1873 small communities of Parkers Landing and Lawrenceburg combined and were incorporated as Parker, PA. The city was named for Judge John Parker, a lead surveyor of Lawrenceburg and founder/owner of Parker's Landing. Residents assumed that Parker would quickly become a major population center, and at the height of the oil boom, the population of Parker grew to over 20,000. The boom quickly went bust, however, and by the 1880s the "city" returned to its historic small village size—a population of approximately 1,000.





After the Civil War the only way to cross the river at Parkers Landing was a small ferry operated by James P. Parker. In 1872 S.D. Karnes, H. R. Fullerton and James Parker formed the Parkers Landing Bridge Company and built a "Substantial Iron Bridge" crossing the Allegheny River for railroad, and vehicle traffic. The bridge cost the then huge sum of \$80,000 and was operated as a toll bridge.



The Parkers Landing Bridge Co. Issued five different tokens over its operational life. The above example is listed as Pennsylvania 745-B in Atwood's transit token catalog. It is a whimsical take on "one foot passenger" showing a man with a wooden leg on the reverse of the token and was good for one trip across the bridge by a pedestrian. The token is a dark brown vulcanite, 25mm in diameter. Catalog valuation given on this piece is \$350.00.



The original bridge was declared unsafe and demolished in 1930. It was replaced by the below dual lane truss design bridge in 1934 which is still in use today.

"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."

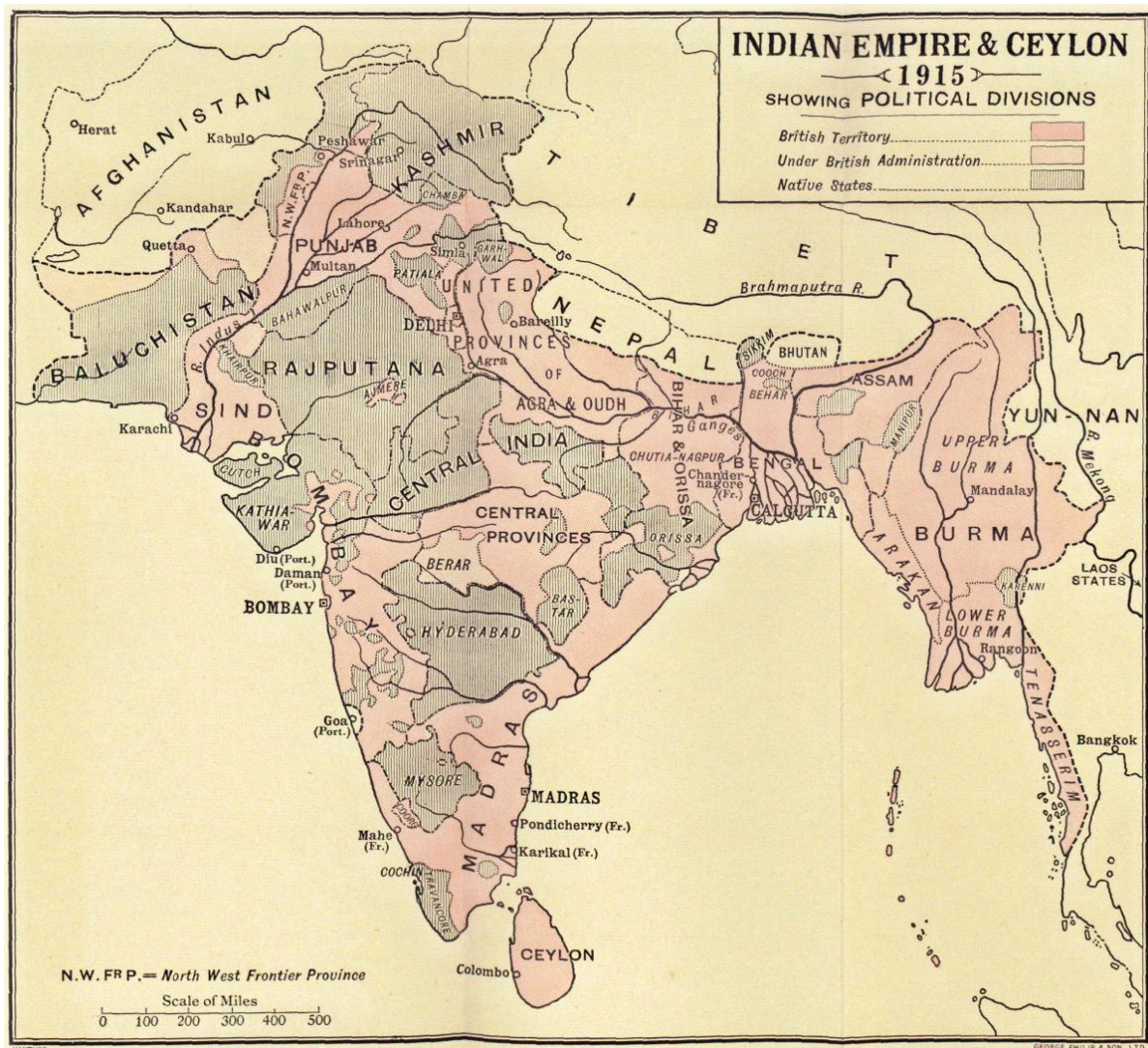
Philip Grierson - Professor of Numismatics, University of Cambridge

Spotlight on Coins: The 1901 Ceylon ¼ Cent

The 1901 quarter cent is the numismatic full stop on sixty-four years of Victoria's image on Ceylon's smallest coin. At 14.3 mm across, it is easy to overlook — but in the hand, its tiny Talipot palm and three-language inscription tell a bigger story than its weight of 1.18 grams might suggest.

Ceylon under British Rule

Ceylon (present-day Sri Lanka) became a British Crown Colony in 1815 following the Kandyan Convention. It had previously been a Dutch possession, and before that the coastal regions were held by Portugal. By the late nineteenth century, it was the heart of the British Empire's tea and rubber industries. A decimal currency system — rupees and cents — was established by Order in Council dated 18 June 1869, declared legal tender from 1 January 1872.



The Sterling exchange rate was set at ten rupees to one pound, giving the quarter cent a notional value of £0.000625 — about one-quarter of an English farthing. It was the smallest denomination in regular use.

The Quarter Cent in Daily Life

To a modern observer the quarter cent seems an absurdly small unit of value, yet it had genuine purchasing power in late Victorian Ceylon — sufficient, at prevailing wages and prices, to buy a handful of betel or a small quantity of salt in the bazaar. Ceylon's lowest-denomination copper coins circulated intensively among the island's agricultural and market-trading population, passing through thousands of hands before wearing smooth. For this reason, uncirculated survivors are genuinely scarce.



Ceylon Betel Nut

The Last Year: 1901

Queen Victoria died on 22 January 1901. The 1901 quarter cent is the final issue of the Victoria series for Ceylon — it was the very last year in which her portrait could legally appear on a new coin. Whether the coin was struck before or after her death on 22 January is not definitively established, but the Calcutta Mint routinely struck dated coin orders in batches, and it is plausible that at least some of the 216,000 pieces were coined after her passing. Either way, the 1901 date gives the coin a powerful historical resonance as a numismatic full stop on sixty-four years of Victorian Ceylon coinage. Victoria's reign lasted from 20 June 1837 to 22 January 1901 — 63 years and 216 days. The quarter cent series for Ceylon spanned 1870 to 1901 under her portrait, then continued under Edward VII (1904 only) before the denomination was demonetized by Order in Council of 18 October 1909 with effect from 1 July 1910.

Obverse

The obverse has a dexter coroneted bust of Queen Victoria and is attributed to engraver Leonard Charles Wyon. This is consistent across the entire Victorian Ceylon small denomination bronze series — Wyon is credited on the Ceylon half cent and one cent of the same era as well. The legend reads VICTORIA QUEEN, broken by a fret border. A dot circle runs within the raised rim. The portrait replaced the earlier Young Head design that had appeared on Ceylon coins from 1870. The Old Head portrait on Ceylon copper was introduced across all denominations in 1892.





On the truncation is C.M., which stands for "Calcutta Mint."



Leonard Charles Wyon 1826-1891: Prolific master die-engraver and medalist who prepared many dies for coinage used all over the British Empire

Reverse

The distinctive **Talipot palm** (*Corypha umbraculifera*) occupies the center of the reverse — a design unique to Ceylon's coinage and found on no other British colonial series of the period. The denomination appears in three scripts: QUARTER CENT in English above; ¼ සතය (sata) in Sinhala on the left; ¼ சதம் (satam) in Tamil on the right. The year 1901 appears below within the annulus, with CEYLON completing the legend.





Talipot Palm

The Talipot palm is native to Ceylon and India, growing to over 25 meters. It flowers only once in its lifetime — after 40 to 80 years — then dies. Its enormous leaves were historically used for manuscripts, umbrellas, and thatch. Its selection as the reverse motif for Ceylon's coinage in 1870 was a deliberate reference to the island's distinctive natural heritage.

The Trilingual Legend

The use of English, Sinhala, and Tamil on the reverse — all three principal languages of Ceylon — is a notable feature of the series and reflects the island's complex linguistic and ethnic composition. Ceylon's population in 1901 comprised Sinhalese (approximately 66%), Tamils (25%), and smaller communities of Moors, Burghers, and others. The trilingual design was a pragmatic acknowledgement that the coin needed to be readable by all its users.

Physical Character

At 14.3 mm in diameter and 1.18 g in weight, the quarter cent is a very small coin — smaller than a modern British five-pence piece. It is struck in copper with a plain (smooth) edge and medal orientation (0° die axis). The relief on both sides is relatively low, suited to the practical demands of commercial coinage produced in large numbers for tropical circulation. On well-preserved examples, the Talipot palm and the trilingual scripts are crisply rendered; on circulated pieces, the fine Sinhala and Tamil letterforms often wear first.

Calcutta Mint

The 1901 quarter cent was struck at the India Government Mint, Calcutta (now Kolkata) — not at the Royal Mint in London. By this period the Calcutta Mint was the standard production facility for the lower-denomination



copper coinage of Ceylon, with the Royal Mint in London producing the working dies and punches and the Calcutta Mint striking the coins from them. Calcutta was geographically far closer to Ceylon than London and could respond more rapidly to the island's currency needs. The shift of Ceylon's copper coinage production to Calcutta had taken place progressively from the 1870s. No mint mark appears on the coins — the Calcutta origin is established through Royal Mint Annual Reports and Pridmore's catalogue research rather than from any mark on the coin itself.

Mintage: 216,000

A mintage of 216,000 pieces is modest by the standards of British colonial copper coinage of the period. For comparison, the Ceylon one cent of 1901 had a mintage of approximately 1,008,000. The quarter cent's smaller mintage reflects its marginal role in commerce — useful but not indispensable — and explains why survivors in high grade are considerably rarer than the one cent of the same year. Pridmore (1961) gives figures consistent with this. Some secondary sources estimate the total differently based on which Royal Mint Annual Report is consulted.

Indian Mint Restrikes

A number of Victoria Ceylon copper coins were restruck in precious metal at Indian mints — gold and silver versions produced for collectors rather than for circulation. These are listed for various years of the Young Head series. The 1901 Old Head quarter cent is not currently known in a precious metal restrike, though one or two such pieces for this date may exist in private collections. Compare the Edward VII quarter cent (1904 only), for which a gold pattern is recorded — listed separately on Numista as a gold pattern piece.

Market Overview

The 1901 Ceylon quarter cent is a modestly collected coin in average circulated grades — common enough at VG to VF that a collector building a type set can acquire one readily for a few dollars. However, specimens in EF and above are meaningfully scarcer, and certified MS examples command a significant premium. The coin's status as the last Victoria issue for Ceylon lends it a collector story that supports values above those of mid-series dates.

Color Premium (Uncirculated)

For uncirculated copper coins, color designation significantly affects value. The three standard color grades for copper are Brown (BN), Red Brown (RB), and Red (RD). A 1901 quarter cent in MS-63 BN might fetch \$80–\$120, while the same coin in MS-63 RD could reach \$200+. Full red examples with no spots or cleaning are rare for this issue, as the small Calcutta Mint coins were often stored in bulk and subject to atmospheric toning.

What to Look For

When examining a 1901 quarter cent, prioritize sharpness of the Talipot palm fronds on the reverse and clarity of the trilingual denomination — these areas wear first and their sharpness is the best guide to grade on this type. On the obverse, the detail of Victoria's veil and crown jewels distinguishes EF from VF. The date digits

should be well-spaced and fully legible; die cracks are documented on this series and do not significantly affect value, but they confirm originality.

Problems to Avoid

Cleaned coins are common in the Ceylon copper series. Cleaning removes natural patina, leaving a harsh, bright, or hairline surface that is easy to spot under magnification but sometimes missed in casual inspection. Original untouched coins have a warm, even brown tone; artificially brightened pieces show unnatural color and microscopic parallel hairlines. Environmental damage — corrosion spots, green verdigris, edge nicks from bulk storage — is also frequently seen and substantially reduces value. For uncirculated examples, check for original red under the Talipot fronds and in the recesses of the obverse legend — areas that collectors and cleaners most often miss. Certified (slabbed) coins from NGC or PCGS remove the guesswork on grade and authenticity.

In a Collection Context

The 1901 quarter cent fits naturally into several collecting themes: a date set of Victoria Ceylon copper (1870–1901); a type set of British colonial quarter-cent denominations; a last-year-of-issue collection of Victorian colonial coinage; or a Ceylon / Sri Lanka country collection. Its role as the final coin of a 64-year reign makes it a natural set-closer, and collectors who build the complete Victoria Ceylon series — eight denominations across six dates — regard the 1901 quarter cent as the final piece.

Related Coins

The closest related pieces are the 1901 Ceylon half cent (KM# 91) and 1901 Ceylon one cent (KM# 92) — both also last-year Victoria issues sharing the Old Head obverse and Talipot reverse format and struck at the same Calcutta Mint in the same year. The 1904 Edward VII quarter cent (KM# 100, de Saulles portrait, DES below truncation, right-facing bust) is the direct successor and closes the denomination's history.

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

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



Last month Jonathan Deller, Wayne Koger, and Mike Campbell were able to identify the mystery coin, a 1976 Haitian 25 Gourdes coins.



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 research 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.

Buying Tokens

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

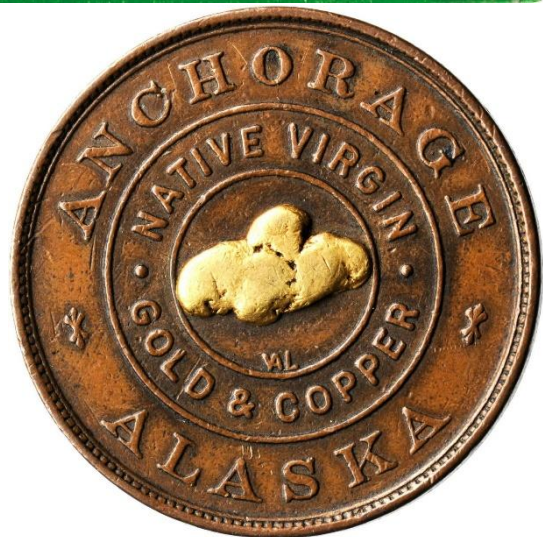
Randy Partin
P.O. Box 276
Scottsboro, AL 35768
AUBRPARTIN@GMAIL.COM



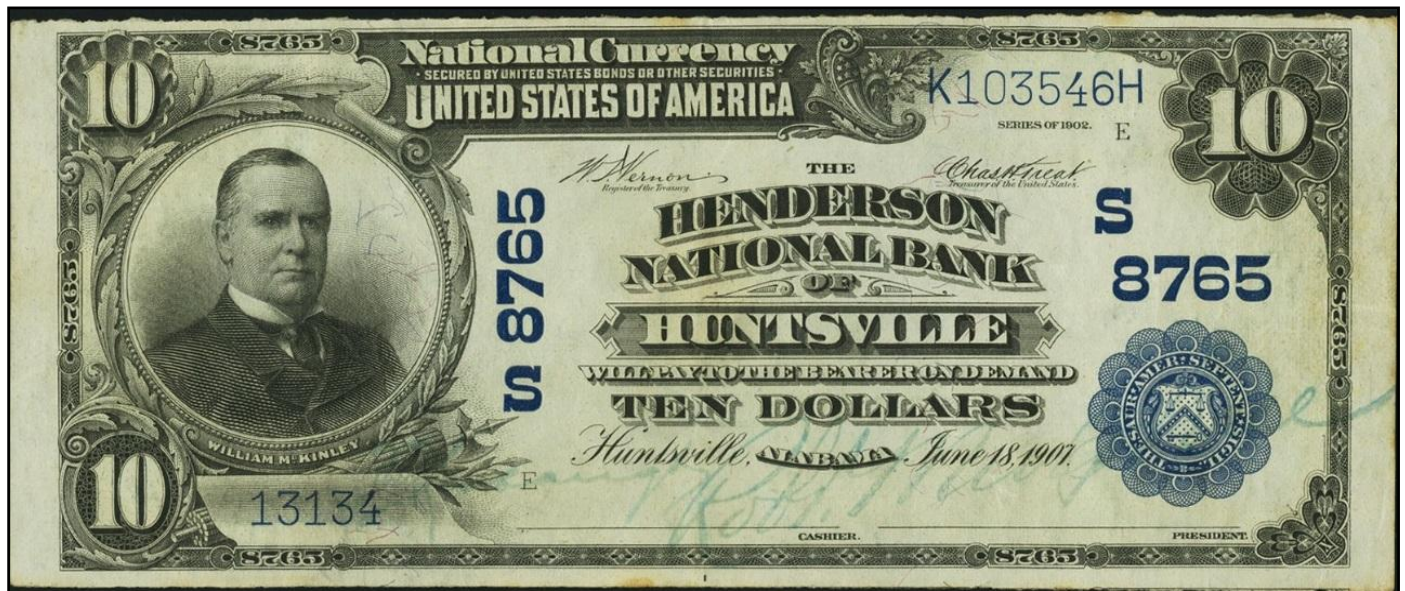
Looking for Alaskan Medals and Tokens



Contact: [Richard](#).

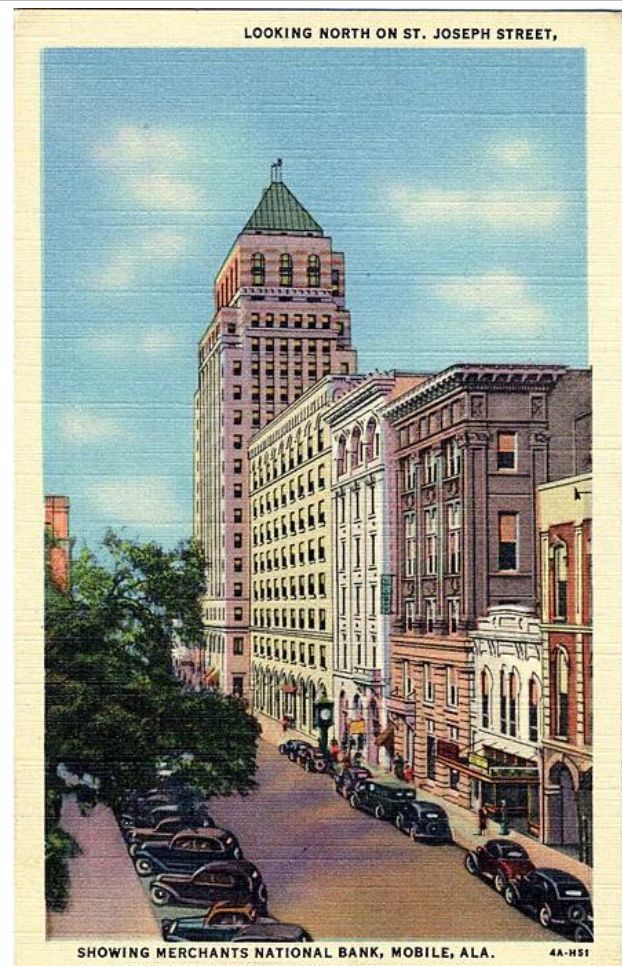


Wanted Alabama Large Size National Banknotes and better Alabama Obsolete Banknotes



Also, postcards portraying Alabama Banks.

Call David at 256-468-5891.



2026 Madison County Coin Club Program Refreshments and Programs Schedule

Meeting Date	Refreshments	Program
January 26	Meeting Cancelled	
February 2	Harold Fears	Everyone Show and Tell
March 16	Provided by the Club	Richard Jozefiak The Club's Past, Present and Future
April 6	Wayne Koger	Stephen D'Angelo <i>Odd Denominations</i>
May 18	Ann Fulmer	Kurt Kelley <i>Collecting Seated Liberty Half Dimes 1837-1873</i>
June 1	Potluck, Bourse Night, and Auction	
July 13	Aaron Wales	Aaron Wales <i>2-5-0 What to Know</i>
Tuesday August 18	Chad Thrasher	Everyone Show and Tell
September 21	Nate Burrows	David Hollander The Wonderful World of Banknote Collecting
Tuesday October 20	Keith George	Chad Thrasher My Collecting Journey and What I Would Tell My Younger Self
November 16	Thanksgiving Potluck, Bourse Night, and Auction Election of Officers	
December- NO MEETING		

2026 Coin Shows Within 3 Hour Driving Distance From Huntsville

Date(s)	Area	Show & Location	Contact Info	Richard's Rating
Aug 5-8	Dalton, GA	67th 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	Ronda Leeper 678-232-6982 ronda@leeper.biz www.brna.org	+++
Nov 13-15	Chattanooga, TN	Tennessee State Numismatic Society Camp Jordan Arena I-75, Exit 1 Chattanooga, TN Fri & Sat 10 am – 6 pm Sun 10 am – 3 pm	Bob Hurst 321-427-6474 forum@comcast.net www.tsns.org	++

Madison County Coin Club

For over twenty-five 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: [Nathan B.](#)

Vice President: [Wayne K.](#)

Secretary: [Keith G.](#)

Treasurer: [Mike C.](#)

Board Member: [Kurt S.](#)

Librarian: [Ann F.](#)

Board Member: [Todd H.](#)

Membership Info: [Mike C.](#)

Newsletter Contact: [Harold F.](#)

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.

Join the Club

The membership form can be found [here](#) on our [website](#).