

# Madison County Coin Club

of Huntsville, Alabama



Volume 24, Issue 5

May 2024

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

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## **The President's Corner**



## **Some Scenes from our Last Meeting**

## Madison County Coin Club Numismatic Lending Library



Did you know that being a member of the club that you can borrow research materials and books from our library. Our lending library has 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. Books in the library are not available at each meeting as we do not have storage space available at the Huntsville Library. You can search the online library catalog for available materials at our website: <http://mccc.anaclubs.org/> . Then you can request materials by emailing the librarian, [Ann Fulmer](mailto:ann.fulmer@mccc.anaclubs.org). 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.

## Helpful Hints

*By Tony Swicer*

1. Carry a Grey Sheet to the coin show, not a Red Book. Make sure the dealer you are dealing with sees the Grey Sheet. You will probably get a better price.
2. It is acceptable to bargain on the price of an expensive coin. After all, dealers haggle over prices all the time.
3. Always use a magnifying glass when buying a coin.
4. If you get quotes on coins over the phone, ask a local dealer what his price is. Ask before you buy, you can save a lot of headaches and money.
5. Don't use tape on coins.
6. For bulk coins use rolls, either paper or plastic tubes. Cardboard 2x2's do not make a coin worth more money.
7. Coins that are black, are corroded, or otherwise damaged, should not be saved.
8. Don't clean a coin just to make it shiny. Dipping should only be done on coins with mint luster under the toning. Heavily circulated coins should not be cleaned.
9. If cleaning is necessary, the least harmful cleaner is acetone. Second is ammonia, and finally a dip like Jeweluster. Use a cotton swab with the first two cleaners.
10. What makes a coin rare? Low mintage combined with a low survival rate, high quality, and demand for the item.
11. TV, printed media, and telemarketers will push modern coinage in certified holders grading MS or PR-69 and MS or PR-70. Therefore, some people are under the misconception that these coins are valuable. The fact is that most modern coins all grade 69 or 70 because of the modern technology used to mint coins today. If everything minted will grade 69 or 70 then that is the accepted norm. There is no need to pay more for these coins when they are average grades for the series. If you purchase a 500-count box of Silver Eagles still sealed from the mint, 55% will grade MS-69, and 45% will grade MS-70. Nothing else is not the norm.

12. Be aware of thousands of fake coins coming out of China. Most fakes are under the standard weight. Silver coins are usually plated silver on brass. Many of these fakes show up at your local flea market for bargain prices.
13. There are two separate coin markets in our country. One market is the traditional coin market where you go to coin shops, coin clubs, and coin shows and bid at auctions. Then there is the online market such as e-Bay where buyers and sellers get together worldwide. The traditional market has been around for years with a set structure such as a Grey Sheet to know wholesale and retail pricing. We have a guiding governing body, the ANA and the dealer organization, the PNG. If there is a problem, we can usually fix it. Most dealers are professional.
14. With the online market you have anyone under the sun putting items up for sale, many times with no clue of the value or authenticity. There is virtually no one to police the internet. The server doesn't police fakes well. How do you get your money back from China when the coin is a fake?
15. I call online trading the "Final Frontier". If you can't get your money for an item there, then there is nowhere else to go. Here's an example: If a coin sells online for \$15, in the traditional market it may sell for \$10. So, if you buy online, don't expect to sell the item in the traditional market for a profit.
16. Numismatic items not made by the US Mint are generally called novelty items and they are of little value. A 4 oz. silver piece that looks like US currency, large silver items that resemble a US coin, such as a Silver Eagle, and "Tribute coins" that are reproductions are examples of novelty items. They are not collected by most coin collectors.
17. The Grey Sheet has a "Bid" and "Ask" price for most coins. Bid is generally thought of as the price a dealer somewhere in the country is willing to pay for that specific coin. The Ask is what a dealer is willing to sell for. Very rare coins can sell over bid and ask. Very common coins can sell well below bid, such as proof sets and mint sets which are plentiful. The Grey Sheet is a guide!!!!
18. If you are at a flea market or garage sale and you are looking at silverware, it must be hallmarked with the magic word "Sterling" or ".925". If neither of these two terms is on the item, then there is a 99% chance the item is silver plated and worthless.

19. Any item marked .999 silver, 10 MIL, is plated. Anything with "MIL" in the title is plated.

20. To get the latest price of gold and silver, go to [www.kitco.com](http://www.kitco.com).

21. To figure out what dealers should be paying on 90% silver coin, take spot silver times.

.715. Example: Silver at \$47 oz. times .715 = 33.6 times face = melt. Now allow .5 off, and you can get 33.1 times face from the dealer.

22. Florida coin dealers are generally easier to deal with than dealers from the northeast. You can generally get a cheaper price on a coin. I always found that I could deal easier in the mid-west and west vs. the east. The east is very competitive.

23. At a coin show, you cannot assume that the price a dealer quotes you is a fair price. You had better know what the value is before you buy. Example: A customer buys a note at a recent show for \$1200. He assumes this is a fair price, when in reality the note bids for \$475. He overpaid \$725.

24. When buying early copper coins, such as Lincoln Cents, Indian Cents, and Large Cents, if you are spending hundreds of dollars, buy the coin slabbed PCGS or NGC. If you buy an early Large Cent for \$1000, you are asking for trouble unless it is certified. Ask yourself, "why isn't the coin certified?" Probably because it won't certify.

## **Inclement Weather Notice**



If the Huntsville Public Libraries are closed due to inclement weather, there will be no club meeting. Local TV and radio stations will give notice of any closure.



## Victor Dubreuil

*By H.K. Fears*

*He was obsessed with money, doubtless, because he never had any. — Alfred Frankenstein on Victor Dubreuil*

Victor Dubreuil (1842-1946) was a French American artist that produced many painting of satirical still lifes depicting money. Although very little is known about him, his fool-the-eye or as art critics would say - trompe l'oeil - paintings were about money. Here are some of my favorites:

- Take One
- Five Dollar Bill
- Don't Make a Move!
- Safe Money
- The Cross of Gold
- Money to Burn
- Barrels of Money
- A Few Bills
- Basket of Money
- Still Life with Money Pile and Champagne

In fact, he painted money so accurately, that he was suspected by government officials of counterfeiting the U.S. dollar bill. One of his paintings, "Barrels of Money," a copy of an earlier version, was confiscated by the government and kept in security for several years with a mandate that the original be destroyed.

Victor Dubreuil was originally from France. In 1881 after stealing 500,000 francs from his bank, he turned up penniless in the United States and began to paint his trompe l'oeil images of dollar bills.



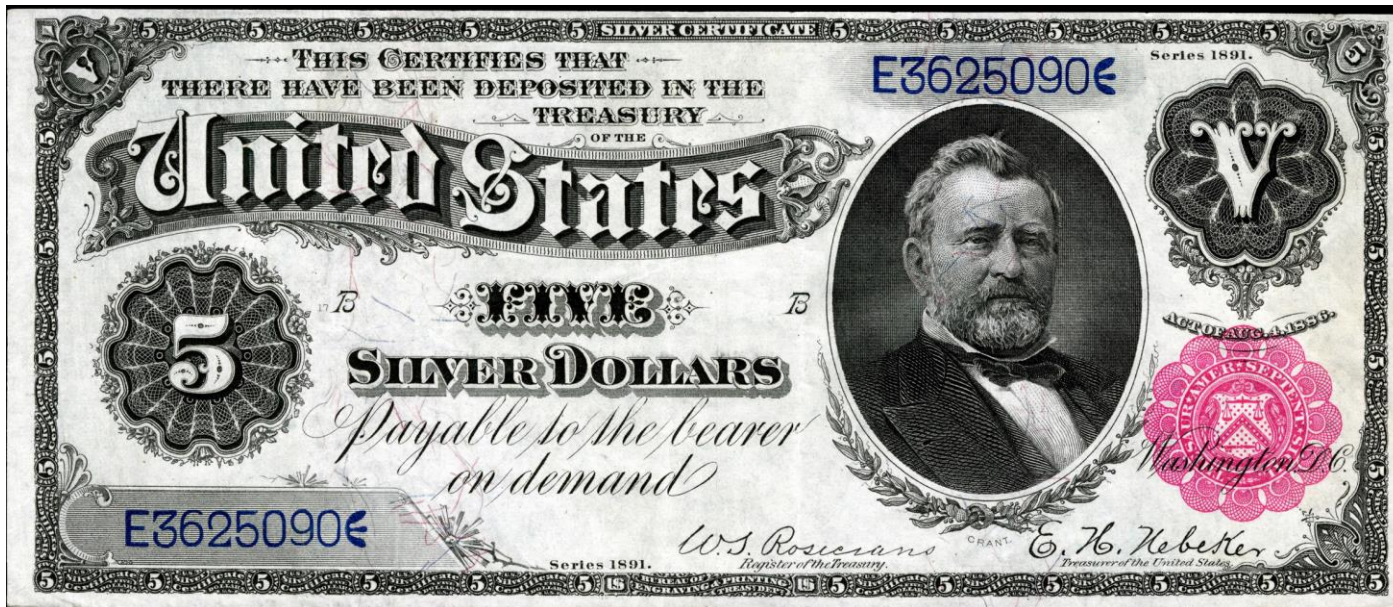
*Take One*



Five Dollar Bill



His painting compared to a real \$5 note.





*Don't Make a Move!*



*The one dollar bill here depicts Martha Washington.*



Safe Money



The Cross of Gold





*Money to Burn*

The American federal authorities had an increasing suspicion that he was engaged in counterfeiting. In 1897 a Treasury Department Secret Service agent, acting on a law prohibiting the reproduction of currency in any form, ordered the removal of Dubreuil's painting *A Barrel of Money* from a New York "beanery" until the U.S. district attorney could give an opinion as to its legality. Almost two years later, a similar barrel picture by Dubreuil, "considered by artists a valuable piece of art", was confiscated from a Boston shop window and sent to the head of the Secret Service in Washington.



*Barrels of Money*  
Sold May 2016 for \$93,750



*A Few Bills*

The painting depicts seven U.S. notes attached to a wall. Among the notes depicted are an 1891 \$1 silver certificate, an 1886 \$5 silver certificate and an 1891 \$2 silver certificate. This painting sold for \$20,000 in June 2016.



*Basket of Money*  
\$62,500 March 2015

*"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



*Still Life with Money Pile and Champagne*  
Sold for \$6,600 in October 2015

## The Club's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Medal

By H.K. Fears

Madison County Coin Club has issued various collectible items since its founding in March 2001. These items were each designed and sold to club members at meetings and local coin shows. In 2011 a limited edition three medal set for the club's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/100<sup>th</sup> meeting was issued. The three medals were copper, brass, and nickel. Only 50 sets were minted, and the issue price was \$50.



*In 2011 the club issued three medals to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.*



*The obverse of the club's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary medal.*



*The reverse of the club's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary medal.*



## 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.



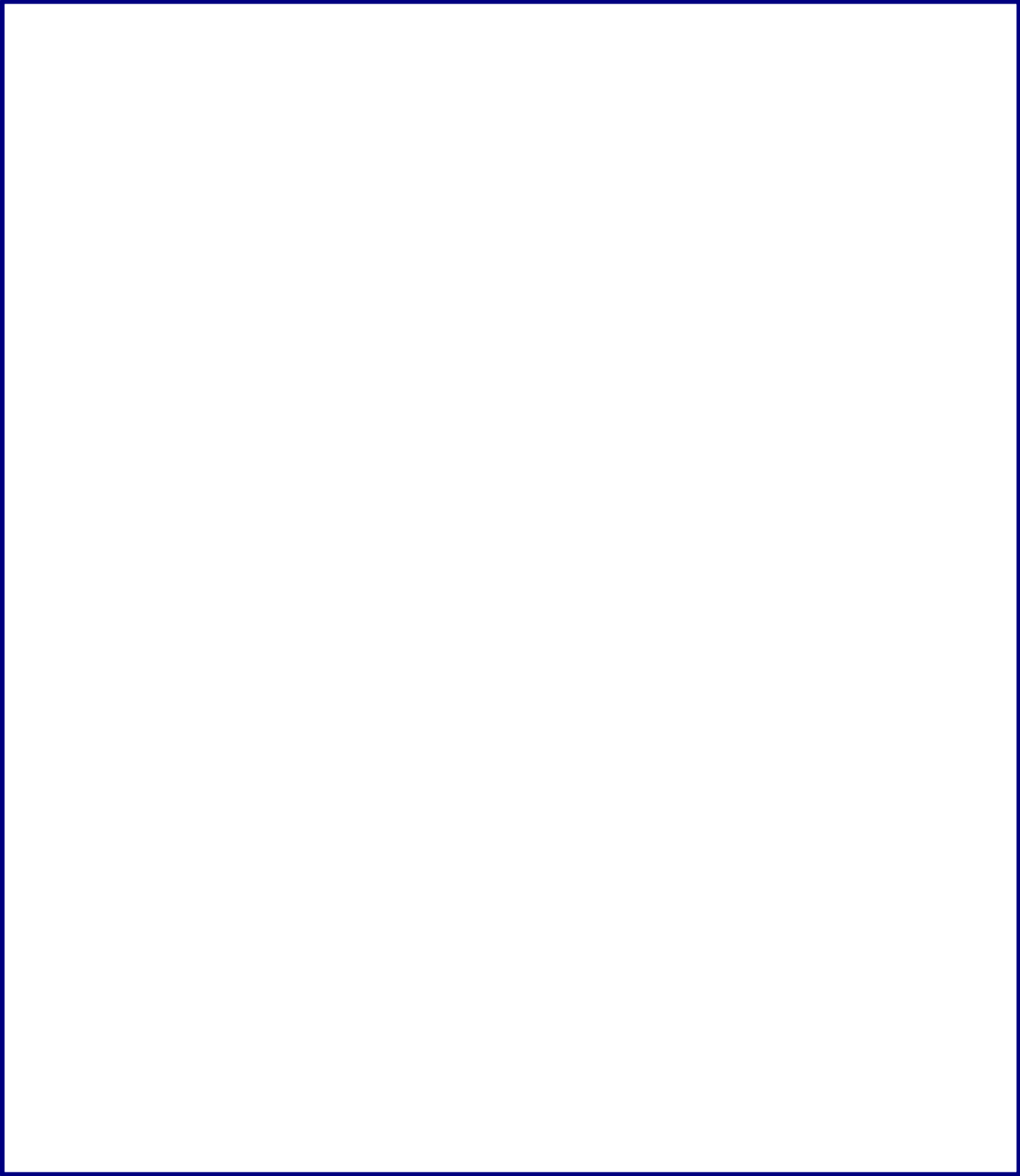
Last month Gerald Steele, Mike Campbell, Monica Couch, Ann Fulmer, Wayne Koger, and Dale Holcomb were able to identify the mystery coin, a 1990 two pound coin from the Island of Jersey. It was issued to commemorate the battle of Britain.



*A George VI 5 kori coin from Kutch. The dates are 1942/VS 1999.*

# **The Minute Man**

*By  
Aaron Wales*



## 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

# QUIZ TIME

May 23 is **Lucky Penny Day**. I know, I know, here in the United States we have cents and not pennies. Most likely we borrowed the term from the British who really do have pennies. Like it or not, the great majority of Americans call our one cent denomination pennies and so while the word may grate in our numismatic ears, we are fighting a losing battle.

This quiz will test your knowledge of pennies, cents and several other single denominations. Have fun and remember that one is the loneliest number that you will ever know.



1. Large cents were an important part of the U.S. monetary system. What was the last year that the Large cent was minted?

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

2. A former British Colony issued a piece of paper currency with a denomination of 1 cent. Name the country that issued the note and the first year it was printed.

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

3. Abraham Lincoln was the first President to appear on a regularly circulating coin. For what reason is he the subject of the cent?

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

4. The safety bicycle was developed in the 1800s as an improvement over what type of bicycle and why was the earlier bicycle given that name?

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

5. What is a pickle barrel cent?

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

6. What were Indian Head cents called before 1866 and why?

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

7. In what year did Canada mint a commemorative cent and what was the occasion?

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

8. Besides the composition, what is the other difference between copper alloy and copperplated zinc cents?

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

9. Fugio coppers were minted in 1787. What does the word "Fugio" mean and who was given credit for designing the coin?

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

10. We know that the 1909-S V.D.B. has the lowest mintage number for a regularly circulating Lincoln cent. Which cent has the second lowest mintage number?

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

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



1. This toothy animal first appeared on a five cent coin in 1937.

Animal: Beaver

Coin: 1937 Canada 5 cent piece. KM #33

2. James Berry executed the design of a reptile on this five cent coin from the land of Kiwis.

Animal: Tuatara

Coin: 1967 New Zealand 5 cent piece. KM #34



3. A mythical type of lion appears on this square shaped coin from 1949.

Animal: Chinze

Coin: 1949 Myanmar pe. KM #28





4. The 1984 coin from this archipelago located south of India features a slow-moving sea creature on the reverse.

Animal: Loggerhead Sea Turtle

Coin: 1984 Maldive Islands 50 laari. KM #72



5. This coin from the “Green Mountain State” features an extinct animal on the reverse.

Animal: Catamount

Coin: 1927 Vermont Sesquicentennial half dollar

6. This 25 kuna bi-metallic coin minted in 2002 features an animal from which this county’s monetary unit was named.

Animal: Marten

Coin: 2002 Croatia 25 kuna. KM #66



7. Two “big and bad” animals appear on the back of this 500 talonu note printed in 1993.

Animal: Wolves

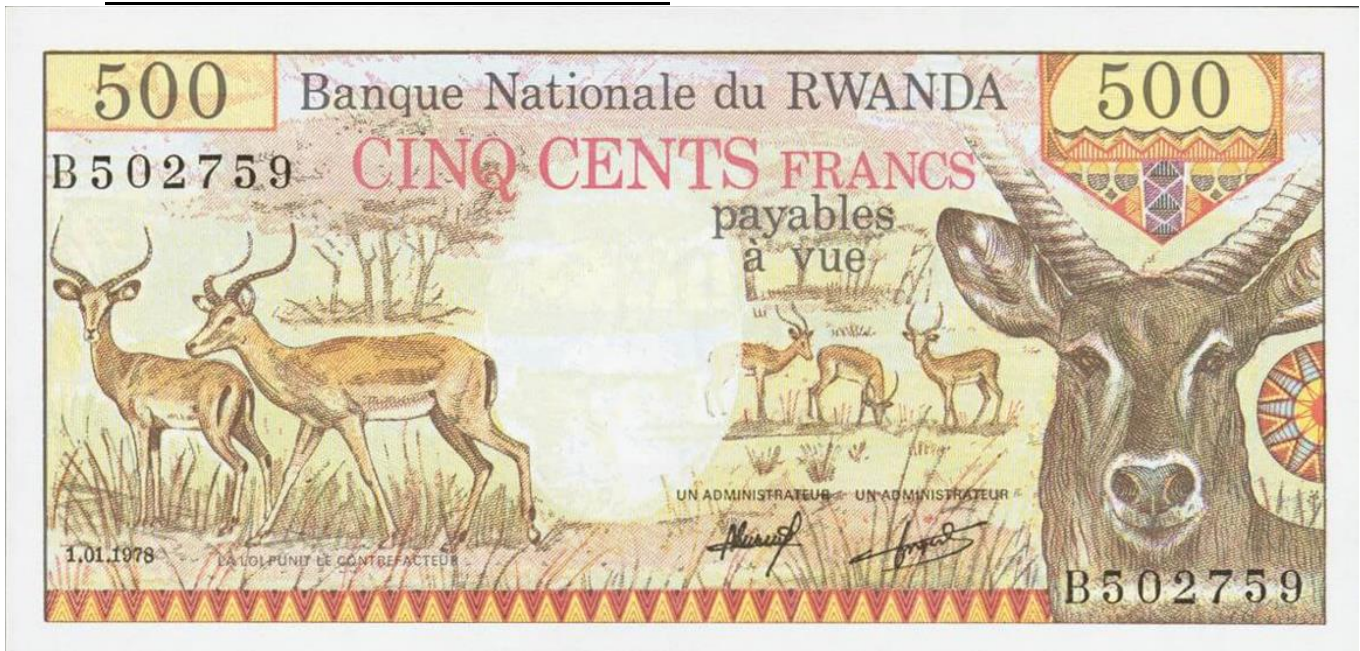
Note: 1993 Lithuania 500 talonu. KM #46



8. A Chevrolet car was named after this animal that appears on a 1978 500 francs note from an African country.

Animal: Impala

Note: 1978 Rwanda 500 francs. KM #13



9. Many people have mistakenly thought the design on the reverse of this commemorative portrays a shark with its mouth open.

Animal: Eagle

Coin: 1936 Bridgeport Connecticut half dollar



10. The reverse of this United States coin has a very busy design that includes Neptune, a mermaid and this large mammal.

Animal: Whale

Coin: 1935 Hudson New York Sesquicentennial half dollar.



## 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 Hutto at:  
[vanhut32@gmail.com](mailto:vanhut32@gmail.com)



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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  
[taegu\\_steve@hotmail.com](mailto:taegu_steve@hotmail.com) .

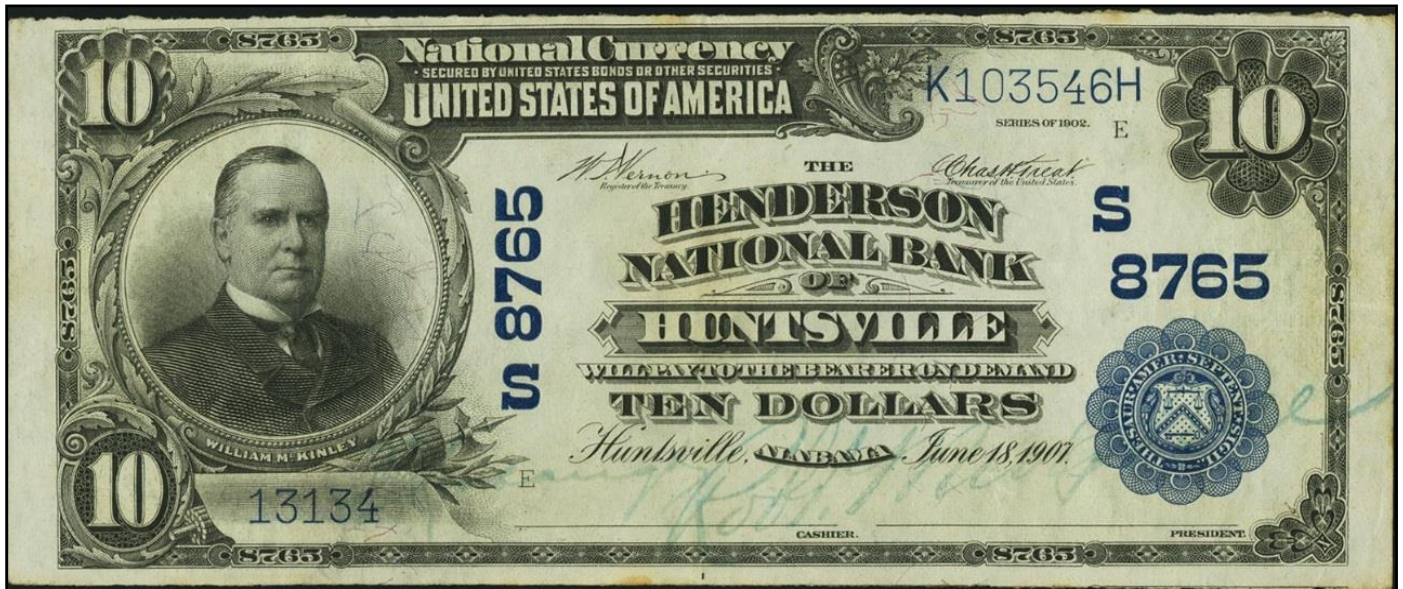
## Looking for Alaskan Medals and Tokens



Contact: Richard @ [ANALMRJ@gmail.com](mailto:ANALMRJ@gmail.com) .

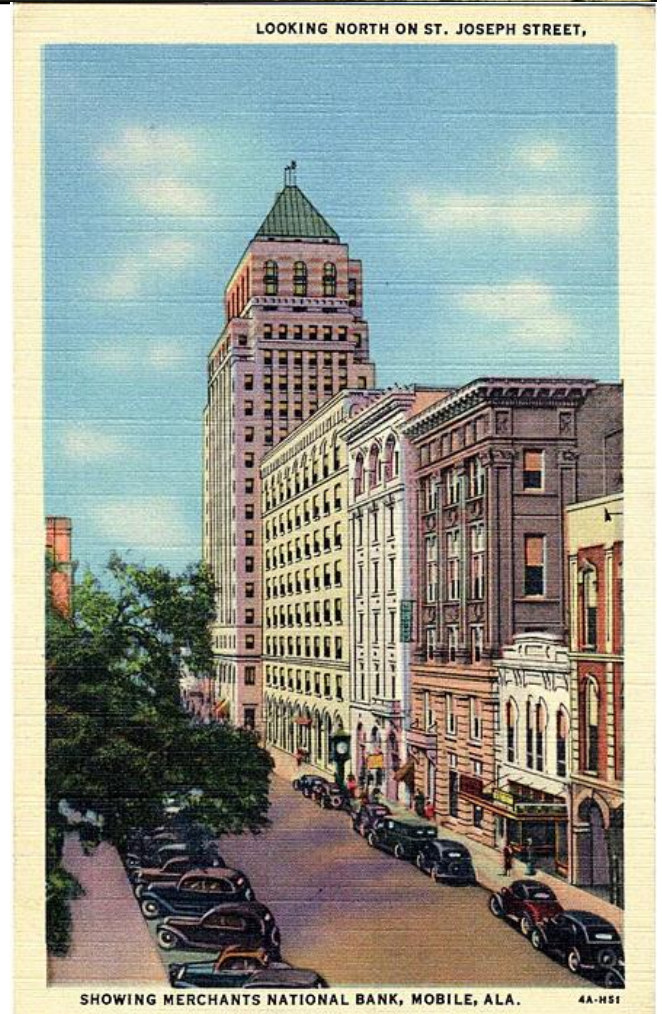


## Wanted Alabama Large Size National Banknotes and better Alabama Obsolete Banknotes



Also, postcards portraying Alabama Banks.

Call David at 256-468-5891.



## Interested in Alabama Innovation \$1 Coins?



If you are interested in acquiring the 2024 Alabama Innovation \$1 coin, please contact me. I am looking forward to *sharing* the cost of the postage along with the savings of having a *bulk* order. I will be acquiring uncirculated examples along with the proof coins. When they become available, the US mint will be selling a roll of 25 coins for \$34.50 and a bag of 100 for \$117.50 plus postage. If you just want one coin or more, let's talk.

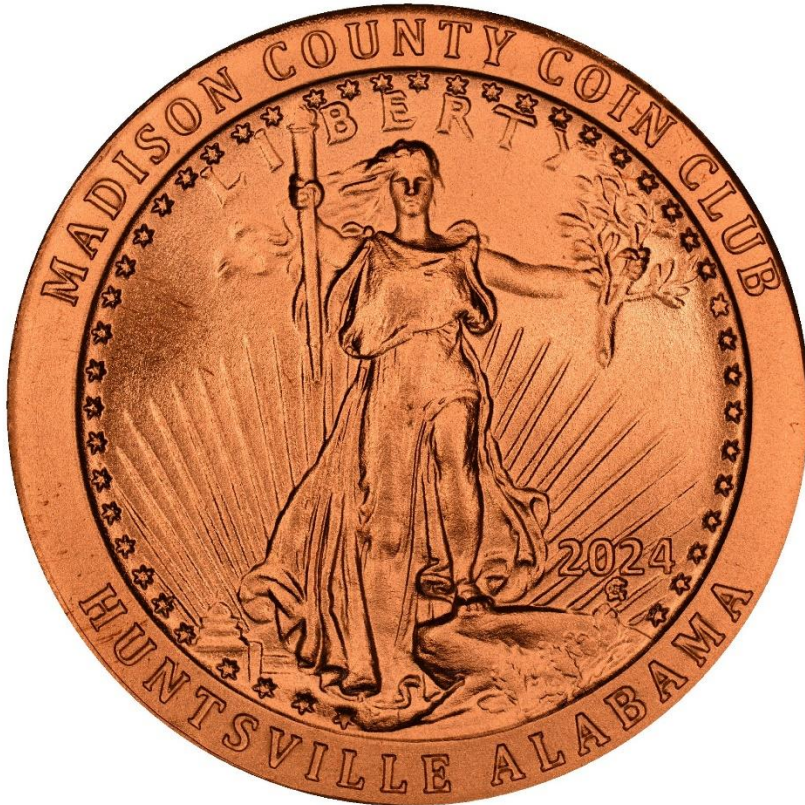
Please contact Harold at: [hkfears@gmail.com](mailto:hkfears@gmail.com).



**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) .



**Just a few MCCC  
Copper Medals are left.**

If you are interested in  
purchasing a club medal for  
\$15, contact Mike at:  
[madisoncountycoinclub2020@  
gmail.com](mailto:madisoncountycoinclub2020@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		Chad Thrasher <i>TBD</i>
June 17	<b>4th of July Potluck, Bourse Night, and Auction</b>	
July 15	Aaron Wales	Aaron Wales <i>TBD</i>
August 19	Ann Fulmer	
September 16	Doug Glandon	David Hollander <i>Alabama Banknotes</i>
October 21		Steve Young <i>TBD</i>
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***

<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Show &amp; Location</b>	<b>Contact Info</b>	<b>Richard's Rating</b>
<b>June 1-2</b>	Huntsville, AL	<b>HUNTSPEX 2024 Stamp, Postcard &amp; Coin Show</b> Jaycee Community Building 2180 Airport Road, SW Huntsville, AL 35802 Sat 10 am – 5 pm Sun 10 am – 3 pm	Mike O'Reilly 256-527-4601 <a href="mailto:mcoreilly@yahoo.com">mcoreilly@yahoo.com</a> <a href="http://www.sefsc.org/huntspex.html">http://www.sefsc.org/huntspex.html</a>	<b>+</b>
<b>July 19-21</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>July 30-Aug 3</b>	Dalton, GA	<b>65th 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	Ronda Leeper 678-232-6982 ronda@leeper.biz www.brna.org	<b>+++</b>
<b>Nov 8-10</b>	Chattanooga, TN	<b>Tennessee State Numismatic Society Camp Jordan Arena I-75, Exit 1 Chattanooga, TN</b> Fri & Sat 10 am – 6 pm Sun 10 am – 3 pm	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- +++

***Mark Your Calendar!***  
**Stamp, Postcard & Coin Show**  
**HUNTSPEX 2024**  
**June 1-2, 2024**  
**Jaycee Community Building**  
**John Hunt Park**  
**2180 Airport Road**  
**Huntsville, Alabama 35802**

**More information can be found at: <http://www.sefsc.org/huntspex.html>**

## 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: [H.K. 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.

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