

Cumberland Coins

The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

April, 2016

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will on Tuesday March 8th starting at 6:30. The meeting is will be held at the 127 Senior Center on Highway 127 (Main Street) South of town. Doors open at 6:00.

April is the beginning of our membership year. Please get your dues to Mike Swanson if you haven't paid them yet.

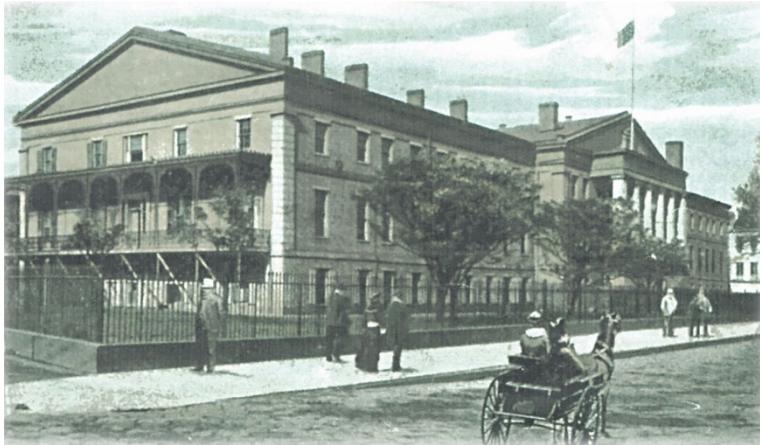
We will have the usual business meeting, show and tell, raffle, member prize drawing and auction.

Coin Lore

Confederate Coins (Part 1)

By Dave Meisky

Most people are aware of Confederate paper money but did the Confederacy mint coins? This is a difficult question as there are two possible answers: "Yes, but..." or "No, however..." In 1861 there were five United States mints. Two of them, the main mint in Philadelphia and the newest mint in San Francisco, were in states that remained in the Union while the mints in Charlotte NC, Dahlonega Ga., and New Orleans were in what became the Confederate States. Of these three New Orleans was the largest while the other two were smaller operations that had been established in the early 1840s to take advantage of gold strikes in these areas. Pictured here is the New Orleans mint.



In January of 1861 the Federal government produced about 330,000 silver (actually 90% silver and 10% copper) half dollars at New Orleans. When Louisiana seceded the state took over the mint and continued production, turning out about 124,000 of the coins. They used the original die (the die is what actually creates the image on the blank coin) so their coins still said "United States of America". The Confederate Treasury Department then took over and minted another 963,000 United States half dollars. Coins of this period contained approximately the amount of metal equal to the face value of the coin and these Louisiana and Confederate produced coins had the same amount of silver as the US produced coins and were thus just as valuable. There is no way to determine if an individual coin was minted by the US, Louisiana, or the CS as the same workers used the same die and machines and the coins had the same amount of silver.

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Louisiana and the Confederacy also minted United States double eagle (\$20) gold coins in New Orleans. The product runs for these coins was about 5000 by the US, 9750 by Louisiana, and 2991 by the CS. The South also minted a total of approximately 10,000 United States gold \$1 and \$5 coins at Charlotte and Dahlonega before running out of stock and closing down these two operations.

The Confederate States, as an independent nation, wanted to produce their own coins, not just copy US coins, so it was decided to mint Confederate silver half dollars. The first thing everyone recognized was that Miss Liberty was a southern belle, not a Yankee, so her image as it appeared on the US half dollar could also appear on the Confederate coin, meaning that a new die would not have to be created. Manufacturing the die was the hardest and most technical challenging aspect of coining. A new die was created for the reverse side of the coin and four of the coins were struck and given to four individuals. The idea was that the coins would be examined and a decision made as to whether production would continue with that design. The fall of New Orleans in the spring of 1862 ended Confederate control of the New Orleans mint so no more of these coins were produced.



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Mint Event

The United States Mint invites you to attend the ceremonial launch of the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park quarter on April 11, 2016. The 32nd coin in our America the Beautiful Quarters® Program is the second quarter to be released this year. For more information about this popular program, click here. The reverse (tails side) design of this new coin features a frontiersman gazing across the mountains to the West. Many pioneers used Cumberland Gap on their journey into the western frontiers of Kentucky and Tennessee. The inscriptions are “CUMBERLAND GAP,” “KENTUCKY,” “2016,” “E PLURIBUS UNUM” and “FIRST DOORWAY TO THE WEST.

The launch ceremony will take place at 11 a.m. (ET) on April 11, at the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park Visitor Center (Pinnacle View Road, Middlesboro, KY). This event is free and open to the public. All children who attend the event will receive a brand new Cumberland Gap National Historical Park quarter from the United States Mint. There will be a coin exchange immediately following the ceremony where coins can be obtained for face value (1-roll minimum / 10-roll maximum, cash only).

The United States Mint will also host a coin forum the afternoon before the event at the C.V. Whitney Conventions Center, Pine Mountain State Resort Park (1050 State Park Road, Pineville, KY) on Sunday, April 10, from 3-4 p.m. This is a unique opportunity to have access to a U.S. Mint representative who will give you an inside look at the Mint and answer any questions you may have about our programs or products.

Area Coin Shows

- April 9 **Knoxville;** Coin Show, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378).
- April 15-17 **Dalton, GA;** 52nd Anniversary Georgia Numismatic Association, Northwest Georgia Trade & Convention Center, I-75, Exit 333.
- May 21 **Cookeville;** First annual Upper Cumberland Coin Show, Hyder-Burkes Pavilion, 2390 Gainesboro Grade, Cookeville.
- May 20-21 **Gallatin;** Coin & Currency Show. Gallatin Civic Center, 210 Albert Gallatin Ave.
- June 4 **Knoxville;** Coin Show, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378).

For more information on some of these shows see <http://www.tsns.org/Tennessee Club Shows.html>
Many other east coast shows from Florida to North Carolina are at the BRNA site - [BRNA Show Calendar](#)

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This Month's Raffle Prizes

		Est. Grade
1847	Large Cent	FINE+
1930	Standing Liberty Quarter	VF+
1883 NC	Liberty Nickel (one year type coin)	AU+
1913	V-1 Buffalo Nickel	XF+
1916-D	Barber Quarter	Fine

The door prize is a group of 1960-70's Canada Proof-Like Nickels (22 coins) - AU-BU.