

Cumberland Coins

The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter February, 2015

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will on Tuesday February 9th 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.

The current officers agreed to continue in the same roles for another year at the last meeting. If you would interested in becoming an officer and helping us run the group please let us know at this meeting. We can also use backups for the officers when they cannot attend. It would give you a chance to learn more about what we do and possibly become an officer in the future.

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

Coin Lore

In God We Trust (Part 2) *by Bill Groom*

Many of the first thirteen states authorized the issue of coins to facilitate trade. The independent state of Vermont issued its own coins from 1785-88. Below is pictured a copper cent, dated 1786. The “Eye of God” appears on the reverse. The phrase “*Stella Quarta Decima*” is Latin, meaning the fourteenth star. The so-called Vermont Republic or *Vermontensium Republica*, a then independent state, became the fourteenth state to join the Union in 1791. Peeking above the obverse landscape on this Vermont cent are the eyes of God, as He emits rays of light.



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Another state to utilize the “Eye of God” motif was New York. This Nova Constellatio (Latin, meaning new constellation) issue was privately struck in England between 1783-85. These were placed into circulation in New York. The obverse of the below cent, dated 1785, reads *Libertas et Justitia* which is Latin for Liberty & Justice, and the fancy, central script is US.



Among the earliest coins issued for use in the colonies were those used in Massachusetts. The silver coins were issued in denominations of two pence, three pence, six pence and one shilling. Pictured below is a copy of a Pine Tree Shilling. Other varieties utilized a Willow and an Oak tree. These coins were struck in the 1600's but thought to have been back-dated to 1652 so as to avoid running afoul of British law.



Like the aforementioned coins and tokens in this article, the Massachusetts coins acknowledge God. The Latin words “An Dom” literally translate to 1652 ... “year of our Lord.”

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There are citizens today who seek to remove “In God We Trust” from our currency. Typically, these naysayers argue the separation of church and state. They view the motto as an intrusion upon their non-belief or alternative beliefs. Yet, as the above coins and token issues attest, the history of this country is demonstrably rooted in Christianity. Religious beliefs aside, our coinage illustrates historic precedence for the motto, “In God We Trust.” For over three hundred years now, our founders have approved of coins that acknowledge God. To suddenly deny this motto would be akin to denying historical truth as believed and lived by our founders. What would then be next, the Declaration of Independence which begins with the acknowledgment of God, our Creator?

Area Coin Shows

February 5-6 **Knoxville;** 52nd Annual Coin Show, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378).

March 4-6 **Chattanooga;** Tennessee State Numismatic Society (TSNS). Spring Coin Show. Camp Jordan Arena, I-75, Exit 1.

March 12 **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.

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](#)

This Month's Raffle Prizes

		Est. Grade
1919-D	Walking Liberty Half Dollar	Good
1867	Two Cent Piece	VG/F
1934, '35, '36 & '37	Buffalo Nickels (Full Horns)	VF-XF
1894	Barber Quarter	Good
1918	Mercury Dime	Fine

The door prize is 1910 Barber Dime (Fine).