

Cumberland Coins

The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

July, 2015

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will on Tuesday July 14th 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.

We will discuss the final preparations for our August picnic. There will be an opportunity to sign up to attend and for what you will bring. We will also have the usual business meeting, show and tell, raffle, member prize drawing and the auction at the meeting.

Coin Lore

A Beautifully Encased Cent

by Bill Groom

Encased cents are a form of exnumia or coin-related collectibles that literally flowed into the pockets of attendees at the 1901 Pan-American Exposition, held in Buffalo, NY. Dozens of varieties, cents that were encased in aluminum holders, were taken home as mementos by visitors who would afterwards share personal stories about the colossal event while displaying their pocket keepsake.



Newly minted coins were typically machine-impressed into aluminum frames to be carried as pocket pieces or attached to key chains, watch fobs and the like. The 1901 dated piece above was likely sold at the Pan-American Expo, and the 1904 dated piece was likely sold at the 1904 St. Louis Fair.

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Business enterprises were quick to notice the advertising advantages of these encased cents, and their issue then extended beyond fairs and expositions. Indeed, for many decades thereafter, not only were cents encased, but nickels, dollars and all sorts of coins were similarly encased. One of the more recently encased coins to come my way is a Buffalo Nickel that was presented as a welcoming gift at the FUN Coin Show, held in Orlando in 2014, sponsored by the Florida United Numismatists organization.

Today, these encased coins are highly collected, yet not often noticed by mainstream coin enthusiasts. My favorite find in the encased coin category of exonomia is pictured below. Collectors of western exonomia in general can well appreciate this specimen ...



The advertising speaks for itself. The reverse side encloses a handy mirror. Fortunately for us collectors, this piece was apparently not much carried or handled. The lettering is strong, and the 1905 cent has been well preserved within its clear plastic enclosure. In order to view a wide variety of “encased coins”, one can simply Google those two words and look at all the images. Encased coins can be found at most coin shows. Many folks collect these by location, city or state, as well as by date, denomination or occupation. Happy hunting!

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Area Coin Shows

August 1 **Knoxville;** Coin Show, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378).

September 5 **Knoxville;** Coin Show, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378).

November 13 -15 **Chattanooga;** Tennessee State Numismatic Society (TSNS). Fall Coin Show.
Camp Jordan Arena, I-75, Exit 1.

For more information on some of these shows see <http://www.tsns.org/Tennessee Club Shows.html>

This Month's Raffle Prizes

		Est. Grade
1870	Shield Nickel	G-VG
1877-S	Seated Quarter	G/Fr
1863	Civil War Token (NY City Pie Baker)	VF
1953	British 5 Shillings (Coronation Coin)	Unc
1913	V-1 Buffalo 5c (rotated die error)	VF+

The Door Prize is an 1860 Indian Cent (Fine details).