

Cumberland Coins

The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

June, 2011

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is Tuesday, the 14th at 6:30 pm. We meet at the 127 Senior Center on Highway 127 (Main Street) South of town. Doors open at 6:00.

Our annual club picnic will be in August so we will begin planning for that at this meeting. Remember to bring any new or unusual items for show and tell. We will also have our business meeting, raffle and auction as usual.

Note: Besides being our club secretary for the past year, Brandon Fehr is also a letterman in Tennis at CCHS. See the article here: <http://crossville-chronicle.com/localsports/x655835886/CCHS-tennis-players-receive-awards-for-successful-2011>

Coin Lore

A Mercury Cent

by Bill Groom

Most coin collectors are familiar with the so-called “Mercury” dime. This design is more properly called a “Liberty Head” dime. The bust is that of Liberty, wearing a Phrygian cap, which has long symbolized freedom from slavery; this basic design having been used on many, early U.S. coins. The dime’s designer, Adolph A. Weinman, created the winged head to emphasize freedom of thought. When the new dime first appeared in 1916, many folks began confusing the representation of Liberty with the Roman god, Mercury, a mythical messenger who had wings attached to his feet.



Mercury Dime



Mercury Cent (token)

The above Civil War token die, dated 1863, was designed and signed (*LUTZ*) by Frederick W. Lutz, an engraver employed by a diesinking firm owned by Lanphear of Cincinnati. Lutz, born in 1836 in Baden, Germany, first appears in Cincinnati city directories in 1860. He was one of many skilled artisans who emigrated to the United States in the nineteenth century. Lutz issued a rare, personal Civil War token, upon which he described himself as an artist. The firm of William K. Lanphear was located at various addresses on West Fourth Street in Cincinnati. Lanphear was a prolific maker of tokens and employed other engravers as well.

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A skilled engraver like Weinman was likely familiar with many of the designs used on Civil War tokens. Might his rendition of Liberty been influenced by the Lutz design? The similarity is striking ... pun intended! Both figures face in the same direction and are underscored by a date. Both artists signed their work, too. The overall Lutz design was used on many varieties of Civil War tokens; and, mostly on storecards that advertised products and services in various states. Such widespread circulation increases the likelihood that Weinman saw one or more of these in his travels, his studies. What say you?

COINfucious says: *"Collector who find S-VDB in wheaties roll may consider it Heaven cent."*

Area Coin Shows

July 2, 2011

Knoxville Coin Show, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike
(I-40 exit #378)

July 30, 2011

Crossville, La Quinta Inn, Highway 127 North at I-40 exit 317.

This Month's Raffle Prizes

		Est. Grade
1866	Shield Nickel (first year)	G-VG
1845/5	Liberty Seated Quarter	Good
1837	Large Cent	G-VG
1928-S, 1930-S & 1937-S	Buffalo Nickels	F-VF
1894	Indian Cent	Good

The Door Prize will be a 1967 Special Mint Set (the half is 40% silver)