

Cumberland Coins

The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

June, 2016

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will on Tuesday June 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.

This month we will have the usual business meeting, show and tell, raffle, member prize drawing and auction. With the new members and larger attendance we are seeing more items and more unusual items in the auction. Come out and see if you can find a new treasure for your collection.

Coin Lore

Confederate Coins (Part 3)

By Dave Meisky

There was a period of about two months from February to April of 1861 when the Confederate States was an established nation but there was as yet no war. In late February the Confederate Treasury Department contracted with a company in Philadelphia to produce pennies (one cent coins) for the Confederacy. The job was assigned to Mr. Robert Lovett who designed the coin, created the die, and produced 12 samples, in nickel, to be sent to Richmond for approval. However a slight snag developed, the war had started and producing Confederate coins in Philly didn't seem like the greatest of ideas to Mr. Lovett. Not wanting to get in trouble with Federal authorities he buried the twelve coins and the two die in his basement and kept his mouth shut. The Confederate Treasury never heard from him, and given the conditions never expected to hear from him, and so assumed that nothing had been produced. Following the war Lovett did two things: he dug up and started carrying one of the coins as a good luck piece and he became somewhat of a drunk. One evening in 1871 he was engaged in his favorite activity and when he settled his bar tab he wasn't paying attention, or was beyond paying attention, and gave the bartender the Confederate penny. Barkeeps are notably sharp eyed when it comes to customer payments and he spotted the unusual coin. The cat, or in this case the coin, was out of the bag and Mr. Lovett ended up selling the twelve coins and the two die to a collector named John Haseltine.



Cumberland Coins

The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

June, 2016

Haseltine sold the twelve coins (one of them fetched \$141,000 at a recent auction) and decided to produce a limited number of restrikes in various metals. The originals were made of nickel so he produced 7 coins in gold, 12 in silver, and 55 in copper. He then defaced both die. These defaced die were obtained some years later by Robert Bashlow who in 1961 did restrikes with the damaged die: 2500 in silver, 5000 in gold, and 10,000 copper. The die were then donated to the Smithsonian Institute.



This brings us back to the original question: Did the Confederacy mint coins? YES, BUT they were all US coins except for four half dollar coins plus twelve one cent coins someone else minted that the Confederate government never actually owned. NO, HOWEVER there are a very limited number of samples which were minted by, or for, the Confederacy in addition to a number of non-Confederate coins that they produced. If you go to the gift shop at any battlefield or historical site you will probably be able to buy reproductions of the penny and half dollar and perhaps some reproductions of Confederate coins that never existed such as \$5 and \$20 imaginary gold coins. The pennies and half dollars are sometimes labeled "restrikes" but they are not. A restrike is made with the original die while these are reproductions. There was discussion during the war about producing Confederate gold coins but no design or samples were ever created.

An interesting side note is that although the image of Robert E. Lee never appeared on any Confederate bill or coin it has appeared on at least two United States coins: the 1925 Stone Mountain commemorative half dollar and the 1937 Battle of Antietam half dollar. Also on the Stone Mountain half dollar next to Lee is Stonewall Jackson. Stonewall also appears on a Confederate \$500 bill making him one of three people whose image has appeared on both Confederate and US money, The other two are Andrew Jackson and George Washington.



Cumberland Coins

The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

June, 2016

Area Coin Shows

August 6 **Knoxville;** Coin Show, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378).

August 26-28 **Dolton, GA;** Blue Ridge Numismatic Association (BRNA) 57th Anniversary Annual Convention. Northwest Georgia Trade and Convention Center, 2211 Dug Gap Battle Rd. I-75, Exit 333.

September 3 **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](#)

This Month's Raffle Prizes

		Est. Grade
1840	Large Cent	VG (details)
1920	Standing Liberty Quarter weak date)	FINE
1866	Shield Nickel (first year - with rays)	GOOD
300 B.C.	Mauryan Empire (India) silver ancient	FINE
1859	Liberty Seated Quarter	G-VG

The door prize is a U.S. Mint Medal - Washington / Lincoln - Brz - Paquet (AU).