

Cumberland Coins

The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

March, 2012

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13th at 6:30 pm. We meet at the 127 Senior Center on Highway 127 (Main Street) South of town. Doors open at 6:00.

Last meeting we voted to delay the election of officers until April so that the nominating committee could have time to contact potential candidates. The committee will announce the people who have agreed to run for office and we will accept nominations from the floor. (See next item for updated information.)

A suggestion was made at the February meeting that we should possibly consider a different meeting place. This generated quite a bit of discussion. The person making the suggestion had done some preliminary research and agreed to look into the possibilities in more depth. It was also suggested that anybody who wanted to make more thoughtful comments could submit them for publication in this newsletter. I received three comments and I added a couple of thoughts of my own. These are being sent separately to the members only along with the newsletter.

A Note from the President

Recently I received a note from Bill and Loretta Groom about their efforts acting as the nominating committee. They report that they were unable to find anyone willing to run for office. I don't know how many members they contacted or whether they asked the existing officers. In any case, I'm very disappointed.

Having been a member of two other coin clubs for many years as well as a number of other organizations, I know it is difficult to find anyone to step up and help run the club. I have seen the same leadership in place for many years and even a case where one person was the president and treasurer because they couldn't find enough people willing to help. I don't think this is healthy for the club. If members aren't willing to step up and help the club, I don't think it will survive for long. Either there will be no leadership or the permanent leadership will do things some people don't like and those people will leave.

I have been the president for two years and started this newsletter almost three years ago. (I do want to acknowledge the contributors to the newsletter whom I very much appreciate.) I'm happy that people seem to like the job I'm doing, but it is time to step aside, at least partially. There is really not a lot of work if it is spread among all the offices. Please think about it and consider being a nominee for an office. Contact Bill (787-8978) or Loretta (865-804-9669) or volunteer at the meeting Tuesday if you are willing to help. Thank you.

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Coin Lore

The Knights of Malta (and the Movies)

by Bill Snyder

It's all about History

This crown-size silver coin was issued by The Knights of Malta.



Who? The Knights of Malta? (And the movies)?

Let's start at the beginning

Formed in the 12th Century by many sons of European nobility, the Knights, originally called "The Knights of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem" went off to the Crusades in the Holy Land. Also called "The Hospitalers", they set up hospitals for the injured. Additionally, they did their share of fighting.

When the fighting were over, the Knights settled on the Mediterranean island of Rhodes. Over the years, they became rich and powerful, in part because of their influence and connections the Courts of Europe.

Hundreds of years later, (in 1522), as the Turks of the Ottoman Empire were invading Europe and the Mediterranean from the East, the Knights on Rhodes were attacked. The forces of Suleiman the Magnificent surrounded the island and moved in, 200,000 strong.. The defending Knights of Malta had only 7,000 fighting men. The invaders were held off for 3 months. When the island fell, the survivors were given safe conduct because of their bravery.

In 1530, Charles V, the Holy Roman Emperor, gave the Knights the island of Malta in exchange for an annual fee of one bird of prey per year.

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And now the movie connection -

Remember that 'bird of prey'. A Maltese Falcon, of course!



COINfucious Says: *"Coin graders, like judges, should be benched for making incorrect rulings."*

Area Coin Shows

- March 10, 2011 **Knoxville Coin Show**, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378)
- March 31, 2011 **Crossville**, La Quinta Inn, Highway 127 North at I-40 exit 317.
- April 7, 2011 **Knoxville Coin Show**, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378)
- May 5, 2011 **Knoxville Coin Show**, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378)
- May 18-19, 2011 **Gallatin Coin & Currency Show**, Civic Center, 210 Albert Gallatin Ave.

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

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This Month's Raffle Prizes

		Est. Grade
1910	Lincoln Cent	AU
1883 (NC)	Liberty Nickel	EF
1927-D	Standing Liberty Quarter	G
1943	Walking Liberty Half	AU
1955-S	Roll of Lincoln Cents	"Nice Circulated"

The Door Prize will be a 1950-D Jefferson Nickel (VF-EF).