

# Cumberland Coins

## The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

March, 2017

### Next Meeting

Our next meeting will on Tuesday March 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

March is when the 2017 dues are actually due. Please pay the treasurer the next time you attend.

It is about time to elect officers again. If anyone is interested in becoming an officer or wants to serve in some other way, please tell one of the current officers. Otherwise you may be stuck with us again.

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

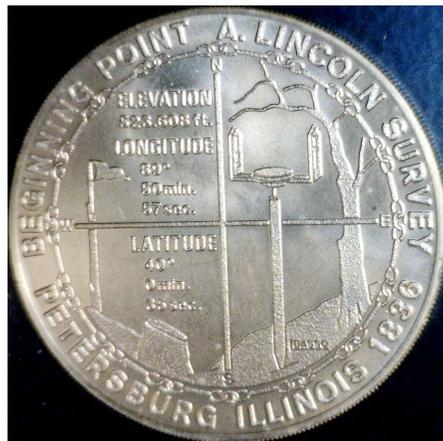
### Coin Lore

#### Collecting Historic Medals

*by Bill Groom*

Looking around, many coin collectors today seem obsessed with the big dollar coins, key dates, high grades, completing sets, investment coins, rare varieties, gold ... you name it. Granted, there are many coins that can be collected on a shoe-string budget, being what I fondly call “generic” coins. A generic set of twentieth century U.S. type coins in good condition can today be pieced together for under \$100. Putting together such a modest set is a great way to inspire a young collector. There's even a good bit of history to be attached to such a set.

When it comes to collecting history, piecing together a unique collection on a modest budget, modern medals are quite worthy of consideration. The latter half of the twentieth century witnessed a flood of medals, touting events in American history. Many beautiful, largely dollar-sized medals, were struck at private mints. The U.S. Mint also issued a good many medals, some of which are restrikes of earlier products. Of course, there were many medals struck in precious metals like gold and platinum, but all manner of other metals were utilized. As modern medals didn't circulate like coins, they tend to be high grade, eye-pleasing. These historic medals can be great conversation pieces, as many a young collector will appreciate.



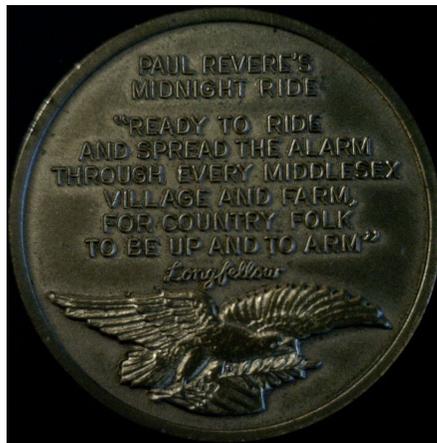
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I'd be willing to bet that, if the above, dollar-sized Lincoln medal was placed alongside a Lincoln Cent, most young and probably old collectors would opt to pick up the medal, first. This bright, brass medal portrays an attractive and well-appointed bust of Lincoln. Note the absence of a beard on this youthful image. Check out the legend on the medal's reverse side, right picture. How many folks know that Abe had a background in surveying? Note the high grade of this medal, bought for a mere five dollars. If one looks closely at the reverse, the artist-designer's name, Basso, can be seen. This medal was likely struck to celebrate Abe's connection to Petersburg, Illinois; this, back in the pioneering days, the 1830's, when the state, admitted in 1818, was virtually a frontier territory.

Stepping back even further into American history, the below, bronze medal celebrates the historic ride of Paul Revere. The obverse is beautifully designed in ultra high relief. The reverse cites the words of poet Longfellow who immortalized Revere.



In all likelihood, few readers of this article have ever laid eyes upon the above two medals. Thinking about the history surrounding Lincoln and Revere, one can't help but wonder how much more there is to learn about them. These medals could form the nucleus of a "Great Americans" collection. What better way to ignite the love of history and numismatics in a young mind .... or, an old one!

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### Area Coin Shows

March 11 **Knoxville;** 53rd Annual Coin Show, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378).

April 1 **Knoxville;** 53rd Annual Coin Show, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378).

April 21-23 Dalton, GA; 53rd Anniversary Georgia Numismatic Association, Northwest Georgia Trade & Convention Center, Dalton, GA, I-75, Exit 333.

May 19-20 **Gallatin;** Coin & Currency Show. Gallatin Civic Center, 210 Albert Gallatin Ave.

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

### This Month's Raffle Prizes

		Est. Grade
1852	Three Cent Silver (Trime)	Fine
1950-D	Jefferson Nickel (Key Date)	BU
1900	Barber Half	Good
1916, 1917-S & 1924-D	Mercury Dimes	G-F
1944	Washington Quarter (Beautiful Type Coin)	BU+
1946	Booker T. Washington Comm. Half (1st Year)	Unc
1988	Lincoln Cent (Error - 20% off- center strike)	Unc

### **Door Prize**

Lincoln & Paul Revere  
Medals  
(Historic - circa 1970's)  
(UNC)