

Cumberland Coins

The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

May, 2011

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, the 10th at 6:30 pm. We meet at the 127 Senior Center on Highway 127 (Main Street) South of town. Doors open at 6:00.

This month we will have the report of the audit committee. We are still collecting membership dues (\$10.00) for the coming year for the few that haven't paid yet. Of course the normal business meeting, show and tell, raffle and auction will take place as well.

Congratulations to our own Bill Sheffer for winning the door prize of a set of gold plated state quarters at the TSNS spring show in Chattanooga.

Coin Lore

Indian Head Cents & Non-Cents of the Civil War - by Bill Groom

In April the sesquicentennial, or 150th anniversary, of the Civil War commenced. It was April 12, 1861 that the Confederates opened fire on Fort Sumter. The war brought particularly hard, economic times to much of the population, north and south. Hard money or specie (money was then worth its' weight in silver and gold) was hoarded, and merchants were hard-pressed to conduct business. Whereas the South had to resort to the use of less trustworthy paper money, the industrialized North was able to compensate for this monetary deficit by producing tokens.

The great majority of the Yankee Civil War tokens were the size of a small cent. They were mostly struck in copper, but other metals were also utilized; this, creating many varieties for budding collectors. There are generally two categories of Civil War tokens, storecards and patriotics. Storecards advertised a wide variety of businesses while patriotics espoused political sentiment.

As the Indian Head cents which first entered circulation in 1859 were already familiar to the public, similar designs were commonly used on the tokens. Indeed, there are dozens of Indian Head varieties within the series. The diesinker or engraver would match these stock dies with an advertising or patriotic reverse. Among the many Indian Head varieties are tokens dated 1861, 1862, 1863 and 1864; as well as some that are undated. Can you tell which of the following is a Civil War token?



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Actually, both of the pictures are those of Civil War tokens. The token on the left is brass while the other has a copper planchet. If one looks carefully, a few, subtle design differences do become apparent. Notice the position of the last star (4 o'clock) in relation to the last feather. Also, there's a noticeable difference in the positioning of the date in relation to the ribbon and hair curl. There are slanted dentils around the perimeter of the token on the left. The dentils on the right token appear shorter and point more on center.

As the war was drawing toward closure in 1864, the government then passed an act which ended issuance of the token substitutes for money. Then too, the composition of Indian Cents changed that year. The copper nickel Indians were succeeded by bronze cents, containing more copper. In 1865, the tokens became relics of the past ... utterances of bygone days.

For those who want to explore these further, the Civil War Token Society and other worthwhile websites can be found by Googling. The "Guide Book of U.S. Coins" or "Red Book" illustrates some Civil War tokens, and those pages can be found in the book's index. Dare to know ...

COINfucious says: *"If mint reissue Buffalo Nickel in 2013, it be rightly called Bison-teniel coin."*

Want Lists

You could help out a member and make a sale if you have the following items for sale.

Bill Sheffer is looking for a Bust Half-1836-1839 and a Half Cent- 1850's for his type set.

Mike Puhl needs a 1942-P and a 1945-P uncirculated war nickel.

Area Coin Shows

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| May 7, 2011 | Knoxville Coin Show , Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378) |
| May 20-21 | Coin & Currency Show , Civic Center, 210 Albert Gallatin Ave, Gallatin, TN. |
| May 28 | Coin & Currency Show , Rhea City, Welcome Center, E. Main at US Hwy 27, Dayton, TN. |
| June 4, 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. |

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This Month's Raffle Prizes

		Est. Grade
1960	Roosevelt Dime	Proof
1939	Lincoln Cent	BU
1960	Franklin Half	Proof
1909	Lincoln Cent	BU
1944	Lincoln Cent	BU

The Door Prize will be a 1950-D BU Roosevelt Dime.