

Cumberland Coins

The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

May, 2013

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be Tuesday May 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.

The new (returning) President has kept me in the dark about plans for the meeting. We will have the usual business meeting, show and tell the raffle, and the auction. You'll have to attend to see what else will be happening.

Coin Lore

One Way to Form a Giant Coin Collection

by Bill Groom

Some are worth their weight in gold, yet others can be had for peanuts! I'm talking about coins that depict none other than elephants. While studying some tokens in my collection, I got to wondering just how many "elephant" currency items there might be out there. Out of curiosity, I ran an eBay search in the coin category for "elephant." Can you guess how many items I found listed? (answer at end of this article)

In addition to coins, there are banknotes, tokens and a variety of coin-related items that portray elephants as the central theme. Collecting world coins that depict various animals is but one great way for a young, penny-pinching collector to start out. Don't like elephants? How about horses, tigers, snakes, turtles, fish, birds ... the list goes on! What collector, young or old, wouldn't like fishin' through boxes of coins at a show, looking for different animals? Now that's what I'd call a virtual, big game hunt! While there are a great many modern coins and tokens that illustrate elephants, there are ancient coins which do likewise.

Here are two of my favorite elephant tokens:



This British halfpenny token, dated 1792, is about the size of our half dollar. The obverse portrays Lady Godiva, riding horseback through Coventry. The elephant represents the labor of the people, carrying the burden of royalty. This is a satirical, political token that was issued during the heart of the Industrial Revolution.



This Civil War token is a storecard from a shoe store in Albany, NY. Note that the elephant is wearing boots which, by implication, must be quite sturdy to bear the burden of its weight. Whether used for political purposes or advertising, the use of an elephant is a powerful image.

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One caution to bear in mind is that coin collecting can be a very addictive hobby. Should your collection of elephant coins grow too large, do consider buying adequate storage in the form of a trunk ... What else !?

+++ ANSWER: 1,355 eBay listings for currency, depicting elephants !! +++

COINfucious Says: "No lawyer in his right mind would take but a penny for his torts."

Area Coin Shows

- May 17-18 **Gallatin Coin Show**, Civic Center, 210 Albert Gallatin Rd., Gallatin, TN 37066
- June 1 **Knoxville Coin Show**, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378).
- June 15 **Cookeville**, Hyder Burks Pavilion, 2390 Gainesboro Grade, Cookeville, TN
- August 3 **Knoxville Coin Show**, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378).
- August 23-25 **Blue Ridge Numismatic Association Annual Convention**, NW GA Trade & Convention Center, 2211 Dug Gap Battle Rd., Dalton, Georgia

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

This Month's Raffle Prizes

		Est. Grade
1883	NC & Racketeer Nickels	VF & Fine
1919-36	Buffalo Nickel Herd	VG-VF
1896 + 1902-S	Barber Dimes	Good
1938	Washington Quarter - silver	XF
1968-D	Kennedy Half - silver	BU

The Door Prize will be 1983-S, '84-S & '87-S Kennedy Halves (Proof).