

Cumberland Coins

The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

May, 2018

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will on Tuesday May 8th 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.

If you haven't paid your 2018 dues yet please bring them to the meeting.

As usual there will be our business meeting, show and tell, raffle, member prize drawing, and auction.

Coin Lore

"CONFEDERATE" FANTASY TOKENS

by Bill Groom

Fantasy tokens are modern creations that have the appearance of being old, looking like they might have been made in the 1800's. These alluring fakes can typically be found at flea markets, wherein exorbitant prices are sought for these seeming bits of American history. One group that's commonly seen are large, brass pieces that bespeak of the old west – saloons, brothels, Wells Fargo, the Pony Express, etc. These are produced by a California company and sold in bulk to marketers.

There's a more deceptive group that, at first glance, appear to be either Liberty Seated Half or Silver Dollars. These pieces appear to be well worn and engraved; this, which they are not. The recessed "engraving" was stamped into these silver-looking reproductions of nineteenth century coins. The unknown creator of these fantasy pieces used the names of actual Civil War soldiers in specific Confederate regiments in order to make these seeming "dog tags" look authentic. Here's an example ...



The above "coin" is fake, and the stamping was machine-made. These began to surface in the 1990's. Here's another, relatively modern fantasy token, that has also fooled collectors and dealers, alike ...

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For collectors who have a personal computer, here's an exercise that you can try. In your browsing window, type as shown: **token**, "The Victorious Confederacy" Be sure to use the quotation marks as that will greatly narrow your search for these key words, pertaining to the above token. The first of more than a hundred results should take you to a website called "Token Catalog." Clicking on this option will reveal confirming information about this particular fantasy token. Token Catalog is an amazing website that's constantly expanding, thanks to diligent token collectors. There are presently more than a half million listings! It's well worth exploring, and you can see what tokens, if any, have been posted from your home town. Just click on the **HOME** button, top left, to begin exploring.

Reputable coin dealers don't knowingly sell fakes or misrepresent what they are selling. Sadly, there are a great many fakes and misrepresented tokens, coins and other items to be found in flea markets, shops and more so in online marketing venues. Collectors who seek expensive pieces are wise to invest in knowledge beforehand. Buy books, establish relationships with knowledgeable collectors and dealers, join online forums (*Coin Community Forum* or *CoinTalk*), attend shows and join local clubs to expand your collecting resources. By practicing safe collecting, you're far less likely to be cheated and will more than likely avoid being discouraged with the hobby you enjoy. Then too, the more knowledge and resources you have, the more likely you are to make and acquire great pieces for your collection!

Area Coin Shows

June 2 **Knoxville**; Coin Show, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378).

July 9 **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>

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This Month's Raffle Prizes

		Est. Grade
1878	Morgan Dollar	AU
1864-74	Ten Cent Fractional Currency Note	A/C
1913 V-1	Buffalo Nickel (Rotated Die)	Fine+
1926-S	Standing Liberty Quarter	Fine
1878	Liberty Seated Dime (Better Date)	Good

Door Prize

1955-S Dime (BU) &
2005-S Calif. Quarter
(Proof)
(Both Silver)