

Cumberland Coins

The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

October, 2011

Next Meeting

Our October meeting will be held next Tuesday, the 11th at 6:30 pm. We meet at the 127 Senior Center on Highway 127 (Main Street) South of town. Doors open at 6:00.

We do not have an educational segment this month. If you enjoyed the two we had recently and you think you can present something for the group, please see Franc Connor or me at the meeting or drop me an email.

We will be having our normal business meeting, show and tell, the raffle, and the auction. If you have any new or unusual items bring them to share with the group.

Coin Lore

An Ancient Roman Coin with a Christian Connection

by Bill Groom

Among this month's raffle prizes is a Roman bronze coin, issued by Constantius II who reigned from 337-361 A.D. The coin's obverse bears his likeness, and the reverse displays "Two Victories" or warriors facing one another. The detail on this tiny coin appears quite strong after over 1,650 years. It was possibly stored in a clay pot for many centuries before some archaeologist found it. One can only speculate about such things.



According to Wikipedia, Constantius was born in 317 at Sirmium, Pannonia (modern day Serbia). He was the third son of Constantine the Great. He was made Caesar, imperial ruler, by his father on November 13, 324. When his father died at Constantinople in 337, Constantius II was the nearest of his sons to that city. Family feuding in the form of a massacre followed. Constantius II and two of his brothers, Constantine II and Constans, divided the empire. Constantius II commanded the eastern provinces, including Egypt, Syria, Thrace and Asia Minor.

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Constantius II took a particular interest in the religious state of the Roman Empire. He promoted Christianity over paganism, the worship of many gods. While he did not force Christianity upon his subjects, Constantius II issued many edicts that helped Christianity take root in the empire. He banned sacrifices, closed pagan temples and issued edicts against soothsayers and magicians who pursued mystical worship. Christian clergy were exempted from performing public service and paying taxes. Overall, Constantius II seems to have taken a position of compromise in tolerating paganism while promoting Christianity and moderation within the church at large.

Constantius II enjoyed a relatively long rule of twenty-four years. There were many conflicts throughout his tenure. He was married three times, having been twice widowed. His only child was a daughter, Flavia, born in 360 A.D. to his third wife, Faustina. Flavia later married Emperor Gratian.

In 361 A.D., Constantius was engaged in military conflict with a relative, Julian, whom he had previously promoted to the rank of Caesar. On November 3 of that year, Constantius died of a fever. He decreed that Julian would succeed him.

Obviously, there's a great deal of history behind this tiny coin; evident, if one takes the time and makes the effort to turn some pages ... Wonder who will take this one home?

COINfucious Says: *"DMPL coins like seeing old friend ... cause one to reflect."*

Area Coin Shows

October 29, 2011 **Crossville**, La Quinta Inn, Highway 127 North at I-40 exit 317.

November 4-6, 2011 **Chattanooga**, [Tennessee State Numismatic Society \(TSNS\)](#). Fall Coin Show.
Camp Jordan Arena, I-75, Exit 1

November 12, 2011 **Knoxville Coin Show**, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike
(I-40 exit #378)

December 3, 2011 **Knoxville Coin Show**, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike
(I-40 exit #378)

December 9-10, 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
Ca 337 AD	Constantius II Bronze Coin	AVG
	Indian Cent Quartet	Fine
1803	Large Cent	Fr-AG
1853	Liberty Seated Dime	G-VG
1927	Liberty Standing Quarter	Fine +
1939-D	Jefferson Nickel	VF

The Door Prize will be 1941 P+S BU Jefferson Nickels.