

Cumberland Coins

The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

September, 2017

Next Meeting

We are back to our regular meetings this month after a great picnic in August. It was a beautiful cool day and we had a good turnout of the members and their families.

This month's meeting will on Tuesday September 12th 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.

This month we will have our usual business meeting, show and tell, raffle, member prize drawing, and auction.

Coin Lore

Concerning Barber Dimes

by Bill Groom

The so-called "Barber" coins, dimes, quarters and half dollars, issued between 1892-1916, ushered in the twentieth century. These "Liberty Head" coins, designed by Charles Barber, succeeded the "Liberty Seated" design and proved to be the true workhorses of U.S. commerce during the early 1900's. This is certainly evidenced by the large numbers of heavily worn specimens that survive in coin collections today. Of the three denominations, a half dollar collection, including all known dates and mintmarks, is the most easily assembled by collectors. The quarters are far more challenging, given the expense of three, rare San Francisco coins, issued in 1896, 1901 and 1913. A complete set of dimes, however, is virtually impossible to assemble, since but nine or ten of the exceedingly rare 1894-S dimes exist. Fortunately, collector albums for the dimes omit a hole for that storied coin!



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The Barber dime set includes a number of key and semi-key dates, making it somewhat challenging for a collector to assemble. The most expensive key date is the 1895-O. The mintage for that year, lowest in the series, was 440,000, being 24,000 fewer in number than the key date 1916-D Mercury dime. The Mercury series, or *winged-head* Liberty dimes tend to be a far more popular design among collectors. Consequently, demand for the more plentiful 1916-D dimes drives the prices higher than those of the 1895-O dimes in comparable grades. Whereas today's price for a 1916-D in good condition will exceed \$600, an 1895-O dime in good condition can be purchased for under \$400. Checking Ebay offerings, there are today well over two hundred of the more costly 1916-D dimes listed, whereas there are but forty-four 1895-O dimes; this, being a ratio of five-to-one! In terms of availability, this key date Barber coin surely seems under-valued. Try and find a full rim 1895-O dime at a show, scarce as these are.

The Barber dime with the second lowest mintage, 510,000, is the 1913-S. Presently, there are ninety- four of these coins listed on Ebay, suggesting they are perhaps twice as plentiful as the 1895-O.



In this writer's estimation, these 1913-S dimes appear to be an under-valued *sleeper* in today's coin market. In good condition, they can today be purchased in the \$30-\$35 price range. Yet, the 1916-D dimes, being well over twice as plentiful in the marketplace, command twenty times the price of this lowly, semi-key, Barber dime! Demand, more so than availability, surely drives prices skyward.

Many other dates in the Barber dime series are worthy of similar, mintage-versus-price comparisons. Should coin collectors someday take more interest in this series, expect values to rise accordingly.

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Area Coin Shows

October 7 **Knoxville;** Coin Show, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike
(I-40 exit #378).

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

November 11 **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>

This Month's Raffle Prizes

		Est. Grade
1924	Peace Dollar	AU-BU
1976-S	Ike Dollar (Type II - Cameo)	Proof
1905	Columbian Comm. Half (1st Year Type)	XF
1862	cn Indian Cent	VG
1834	Bust Dime	G/AG+

Door Prize

2006-S
Susan B. Anthony \$1
(Cameo) Proof