

Cumberland Coins

The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

October, 2018

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will on Tuesday October 9th 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.

It looks like a routine meeting this month. We can probably talk about the Tennessee State Coin Show coming up in less than a month. If you bring an unusual item for show and tell it will make the meeting more interesting. I plan to bring an unusual silver round with a story about how I received it.

We will also have our business meeting, show and tell, raffle, member prize drawing, and auction.

Coin Lore

Liberty Nickels – The Titanic Year

by Bill Groom

Historians well remember the year, 1912, for the sinking of the “unsinkable” ship, *Titanic*. For coin collectors, 1912 marks the final, official year of the production of Liberty Nickels. Note that those few, unofficial 1913 Liberty Nickels were produced by a rogue employee at the Philadelphia Mint. Liberty Nickels were produced from 1883-1911, exclusively at the Philadelphia Mint. In 1912, production was extended to include the branch mints in Denver and San Francisco; this, to accommodate westward expansion and economic growth. So, just as 1912 saw the sinking of the series, that year witnessed the onset of nickel production at the branch mints; this, with tiny D and S mintmarks being added to the reverse, just below the dot to the left of the word “CENTS.”.



During the contemporary years of its circulation, many things were commonly priced at a nickel. A cigar or a beer could be had for a mere five cents, as well as five pieces of penny candy. A tune could be heard on a nickelodeon or mechanical musical device. During their days, these durable nickels were backbones of everyday commerce in America.

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This classic, Liberty Head design was followed by a truly American design, depicting on the obverse a Native American and a bison on the reverse. This artful successor coin, the so-called *Buffalo Nickel* or *Indian Head Nickel*, acknowledged the significance of westward expansion in America.

Fortunately, for today's coin collectors, these long ago, obsolete Liberty Nickels are relatively plentiful in today's marketplace. A complete set of low grade Liberty Nickels can be assembled for under \$700. The 1885 nickel is the most costly date, followed by the 1886 and 1912-S. These three coins will cost about three-quarters of the entire set in low grades. Typically, this nickel's reverse design exhibits far more circulation wear than the obverse; generally, making for a more presentable looking set.

Forming a starter collection of Liberty Nickels, now over a hundred years old, could inspire a young collector. They could slowly assemble a short set of the later years, learning to discern what constitutes a grade of *GOOD*. They could do some reading and relate what was happening in America and the world, during those years. How about it, Grandpa, pass along that collector spirit to a young'un!

Area Coin Shows

October 6 **Knoxville;** Coin Show, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378).

November 2-4 **Chattanooga;** Tennessee State Numismatic Society (TSNS). Fall Coin Show. Camp Jordan Arena, I-75, Exit 1.

November 10 **Knoxville;** Coin Show, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378).

December 1 **Knoxville;** Coin Show, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378).

December 7-8 **Gallatin** Coin And Currency Show, 210 Albert Gallatin Ave, Gallatin, TN 37066

For more information on some of these shows see <http://tsns.org/tennessee-coin-shows/>
Traveling? For a good list of shows in any state see <http://www.coinzip.com/index.php?state=TN>

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This Month's Raffle Prizes

		Est. Grade
1921	Peace Dollar (Luster!)	BU
1829	Large Cent	Good
1876	Liberty Seated Quarter (Centennial)	Good
1866	Shield Nickel (with Rays) 1st year type	Good
1902, '04, '06, '07 & '08-S	Barber Dimes (5 silver coins)	Good

Door Prize

2009 \$2 Fed. Reserve Note
& 1988 Error Cent.
CU&BU