

Cumberland Coins

The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

February, 2010

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 9 at 6:30 pm. We will be meeting on the first floor of Building #1 at Tennessee Technical Center on Miller Avenue near 10th Street. This will be our last meeting at this location, at least for a while. The school is getting very busy because of the economy and will be needing the room. Arrangements for another location have been made.

Last month our president, Bill Snyder, appointed a nominating committee composed of Dick Deweese, Pete Fourniers, and Mike Puhl to help find people to run for office in the election in March. Some candidates have been identified, but the nominations are still open. If you are interested in helping run the club, please let one of the committee members know or tell us at the meeting. Our phone numbers are 456-8002 (Dick), 484-1127 (Pete), and 456-0397 (Mike).

Our program this month will consist of reports from people that attended the FUN show in Orlando, Florida in January. At least three of our members were at the show and if there is anyone else that attended they are welcome to tell us about it as well. This is one of the largest shows in the country and it attracts dealers and collectors from a large part of the United States. Having multiple perspectives on the show should be interesting.

Coin Lore

Navajo Jewelry from Coins submitted by Bill Snyder (From the 1947 book *Navajo and Pueblo Silversmiths* by John Adair)

Until approximately 1890, American silver dollars, fifty-cent pieces, and quarters were melted by the silversmiths for making jewelry. During those years some Mexican pesos were melted for the same purpose, but they were a minor source of silver. About 1890, when the government authorities began to enforce the laws which prohibit the defacing of currency, the traders began to import Mexican pesos for the use of the Navajo smiths. The silversmiths preferred this silver to that of the American coins, as it had less alloy; being purer in silver content, the metal was softer and more easily worked.

The jewelry made from the old American coins, because of the great percentage of copper, tends to have a slightly more yellowish cast than that made from the Mexican silver. Some authorities have attempted to date Navajo silver by its color, claiming that those pieces which have a yellow cast are older than the others. While it is true that the American coins were used before the Mexican, it is certain that during the early period some Mexican coins were used, and it is equally certain that silversmiths in remote parts of the reservation continued to use American coins after 1890.

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Progression of a silver spoon



Navajos display their jewelry

COINfucious says: *"When money belt is stolen, man may be caught with pants down."*

Area Coin Shows

March 5-7, 2010

Chattanooga Tennessee State Numismatics Association Coin and Currency Show.
See http://www.tsns.org/tsns_show/events.htm for more information.

March 13, 2010

Knoxville Coin Show, Rothchild Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378)
NOTE NEW LOCATION!

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This Month's Raffle Prizes

		Est. Grade
1864	Indian Cent	Good
1931-D	Mercury Dime	Good
1883 NC & 1912	Nickels	F-VF
1849	Half Dime	Good
1911 D to 1954	Pack-o-Wheaties	G - Unc

The door prize this month is an "Indian Cent Trio".

Look for These in this Month's Auction

		Est. Grade	Min. Bid
	19 Indian Cents in a Folder	look	???
1921S	Morgan Dollar	XF	\$16.00
1936S	Buffalo Nickel	VF	\$4.00
1943P	Jefferson War Nickel	XF	
1930	Standing Liberty Quarter	XF-AU	\$30.00
1986S	Prestige Proof Set (7 piece)	Proof	\$20.00

Note: If you have coins for the auction that you want to have listed in the Newsletter, email the information to mike.vcc@frontier.com no later than ten days before the meeting.