

# Cumberland Coins

## The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

January, 2016

### Next Meeting

Happy New Year! Our next meeting will on Tuesday January 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

We are back to our regular meetings this month. With the start of the new year it is time to start thinking about our election of officers in March. Think about becoming an officer and helping us run the group. As always we will have the business meeting, show and tell, raffle, member prize drawing and auction.

### Coin Lore

(Our fine contributor to this section wrote a rather long article on an interesting subject. In order to present it within our usual space it has been serialized into two parts. Part two will be in next month's newsletter. -

Editor

### In God We Trust

*by Bill Groom*

The first appearance of our motto "In God We Trust" was displayed on the two cent pieces of 1864. Following the outset of the Civil War, a pastor petitioned Salmon P. Chase, then Secretary of the Treasury, to acknowledge God on our coins. Two years later, in 1863, Chase authorized the motto as we now know it. It has since appeared on many but not all issues of U.S. coins and paper money.



Those who seriously collect and study U.S. coins and alternative forms of currency are fully aware that the adoption of the motto "In God We Trust" was not without precedent. There were many coins and tokens that acknowledged God, prior to 1864. This article will discuss some of the better known examples.

During the Civil War, folks tended to hoard coins, and merchants took to using tokens to facilitate trade and realize a profit. These predominantly cent-sized, copper and brass tokens could be purchased for a fraction of their face value and given out in change as a cent. The great majority of these tokens were produced and circulated in the more industrialized Union states. They typically displayed patriotic themes and/or advertised a business. The below Civil War token asks that "God Protect the Union."

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The above Civil War token, dated 1863, appeared in circulation just prior to the two cent pieces that expressed the official motto. Liberty appears on the obverse, wearing the historic Phrygian cap of freedom. In ancient Rome, the Phrygian cap was worn by emancipated slaves, being symbolic of their freedom.

The below two Civil War tokens, circa 1863, illustrate the Eye of God. The piece on the left also shows symbols (the three links are not a chain) that were related to the Order of Odd Fellows. While not a religious institution, the Order was built with the teachings of the Holy Bible in mind. It was and today remains a benevolent organization that helps folks who are in need. The token pictured on the right invokes the sentiment once spoken by Andrew Jackson, "The Union must and shall be preserved."



The Eye of God was previously portrayed on a number of eighteenth century colonial coins, including the first official cent of the United States. Dated 1787, the so-called "Fugio Cent" was designed by Benjamin Franklin. The Latin word *fugio* (I fly), used in conjunction with the sun dial represented time flying. Note God's face in the sun, emitting rays of light. Doubtless, the phrase "Mind Your Business" was intended for the British. Each of the thirteen, conjoined rings on the reverse represented a state.

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---To be continued...

### Area Coin Shows

February 5-6 **Knoxville;** 52nd Annual Coin Show, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378).

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

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

April 15-17 **Dalton, GA;** 52nd Anniversary Georgia Numismatic Association, Northwest Georgia Trade & Convention Center, I-75, Exit 333.

For more information on some of these shows see <http://www.tsns.org/Tennessee Club Shows.html>

Many other east coast shows from Florida to North Carolina are at the BRNA site - [BRNA Show Calendar](#)

### This Month's Raffle Prizes

		Est. Grade
1843	Large Cent	VG
1863	Civil War Tokens (a Patriotic & a Storecard)	Fine-VF
1916	Mercury Dime	VF
1913	V-1 Buffalo Nickel	VF+
1943-D	Mercury Dime	BU

The door prize is 1951 & 1977 Canada Proof-Like Medals - BU.