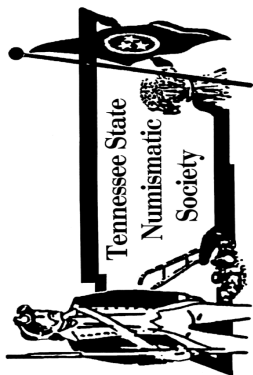


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Pizza being delivered for the dealers. Pizza is sponsored by Larry Briggs (LBRC) and Orv Detrick (ROMA Coins)

Dealers in line for pizza.



Collectors signing in at the opening of the bourse area.

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with the start of
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Message From The President

I hope everybody had a nice Thanksgiving. Here in Chattanooga it has been warm but the cold weather is coming soon. It will be a good time to stay warm and work on your coin collection.

At our recent show there were several problems. The road coming into Camp Jordan was closed due to construction. We had to detour around Frawley Road to enter into Camp Jordan. Another issue was the Christmas lights took up a good deal of parking. We will still have to detour next show (in the spring) but the parking will be back to normal. Thanks to the arena crew we did have two golf carts to bring people from remote parking lots. Next show we will have signs that will help get people thru the detour. The situation will eventually be much better because there will be a better road right into Camp Jordan. There will also be new hotels and restaurants.

We had around 1400 people attend the show and that was good for a fall show and the fact that all coin shows seem to be down a little. I was happy to see several new dealers that seemed to be satisfied with our show. I again want to thank all that helped put the show together.

Gail Pike works so hard all year to put it all together and the coin clubs members pitched in and made it go smoothly. This year we got more done on Wednesday that made it a lot easier on dealer set up Thursday.

Have a great winter and see you in the spring.

Jim Ford

Bill Groom was awarded this compote glass ware for 1st place in the exhibits. Bill's exhibit was "US Merchant Counterstamps on Spanish Coins".



From the Editor's Desk

From the TSNS Officers and Board of Governors, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I asked Bill Groom to provide a narrative about his Counterstamp Coins Exhibit which is located on page 10. Bill Orne Exhibit was the 19th Century Commemoratives (Columbian Half Dollar, Isabella Quarter the Lafayette Dollar. Image on page 10)

As you can see the format of the TSNS Newsletter has changed over to a booklet format. The change to this format happened due to some issues that we had with the quality of printing on the oversize paper that was used. The quality of some of the images that I have used over the years was not the best quality to begin with. This caused the printing to look like it was just copied on a Xerox machine.

I have had good luck with using this format where the quality has been decent without too much concerned with the photos.

I submitted this change of format to the TSNS Board of Governors with a sample copy that was generated with some fine tuning that was needed. They agreed to use this booklet style to improve the Newsletter and make it a little easier to read.

By the time that you receive this Newsletter the year will probably be over with and we can start recovery from the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year time. This year has been full of different items that has surface in our lives and I for one would like to put this year behind. Maybe the new year will be better or we might be better prepared for the new year.

Of course I am always looking for ARTICLES to be used in the Newsletter so if you have any that you would like to share just let me know.

If you have any suggestions or recommendation for the Newsletter just let me know either call (321-258-0325) or email rblackman@cfl.rr.com.

If you can attend any local coin shows in your area please do. They will be worth while and by getting to know the dealers that would be a great benefit.

As always be safe and aware of your surroundings when you are traveling to and from a show.

Take care. Ron Blackman

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Proof Dimes – Big Fun With Little Silver

We now have more than six decades of proof Roosevelts to collect, with 1965 – 1967 being the only break in this long string of glittering gems. A person can obviously try to assemble a full set of one per year. But one can also break this long span of years into shorter, perhaps more manageable, pieces. The 1950 – 1964 grouping would be all the proof Roosevelts made when any and all of the dimes were silver. The 1968 – 1992 grouping are the proofs that have no silver in them. Those from 1992 – the present are the modern proofs that can be acquired as base metal pieces, or as silver proofs. And now we have a 2015 “reverse proof” as well.

This large number of proof Roosevelt dimes may appear to be quite a collecting challenge, and indeed, maybe this is why folks aren't looking at them too much or too often. But the man who still graces their obverse once said, “Happiness lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort.” Putting together a set of these proofs can certainly qualify as “the joy of achievement.” Good luck assembling one.



Skip Fazzari from ICG
Grading Service gives a
talk about “What to Look
for When Buying Coins.”

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Proof Dimes – Big Fun With Little Silver Proof Roosevelts

The dimes we want to focus on saw proof mint- for every of their sue, with exception the first four. First



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sued in 1946 as a tribute to the late 32nd president who had led us through the biggest war the nation had ever had to fight, the Roosevelt dime design saw its first proofs in 1950.

Curiously, the Roosevelt dimes have never had a year which collectors consider to be the key. The just-mentioned Mercury dimes have the well-known 1916-D as a key coin. The Barbers have the insanely rare 1894-S (with only 24 supposedly minted) as their key. Yet every year and every mint mark within the Roosevelts has been made in large enough numbers that it is considered common. Yes, there are a couple of errors, such as proofs without a mint mark, but these are a technical problem, and not a low annual mintage. The 1950 proofs – again, issued originally as part of a set – saw 51,386 produced. Once again we can say that's tiny by today's standard. But it was the largest ever to that point. Perhaps because of that, even today an example of this proof in a grade such as PF-67 costs only \$100. That's a very good price tag, all things considered.

If you still think of all the prices we have mentioned as too high, if you want to spend no more than \$20 per proof, if you proudly call yourself a true cheapskate collector – well, join the crowd! None of us likes to pay big if we don't have to. And in a wonderful dollop of good news, the \$20 price tag for a proof Roosevelt first appears stuck to those of 1956. That is the year prior to the first in which proof mintages went over a million coins, which pretty much makes it the first of a delightfully long string of years where \$20 can land a person a proof Roosevelt

Continued on page 19

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What's Happening

Feb 5-6, 2016 52nd Annual Coin Show,
Rothchild Catering at Baron Place, 8807 Kingston Pike.
(PH: 1-865-806-9320). Email: dlrrhodes@att.net Knoxville, TN

February 19-21, 2016 46th Upstate SC Coin Show. Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium, 385 N. Church St., Spartanburg, SC 29303. Call David at 864-293-8416 or email: bmwdave1964@yahoo.com. Web site: upstatesccoinshow.com.

February 26-28, 2016 Memphis Coin Club Show,
Landers Civic Center, 4560 Venture Dr. I-55, Exit 287, Southaven, MS
(4 miles south of Memphis) (PH: 901-321-3408). Email: rwbrown@cbu.edu

March 4-6 , 2016 Tennessee State Numismatic Society (TSNS). Spring Coin Show. Camp Jordan Arena, I-75, Exit 1. Chattanooga, TN
(PH: 901-327-1703). Email: pikegk@aol.com.

April 15-17, 2016 Georgia Numismatic Association (GNA) 52nd Annual Coin Show. NW Georgia Trade and Convention Center, 2211 Dug Gap Battle Road. Dalton, GA PH: 770-639-0190 Web Site: www.gamoney.org

If you are aware of local shows that are not listed contact Ron Blackman Email: rblackman@cfl.rr.com and provide information needed.

Visit website: www.TSNS.org for a more up to date list of shows.

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Proof Dimes – Big Fun With Little Silver Next, A Proof Mercury Dime

The Mercury or Winged Liberty design for the ten-cent piece, first unveiled in 1916, disappointingly did not see any proofs minted for two decades.



As mentioned, in 1936 what collectors now consider the modern proof program saw its first release of annual sets. That year 4,130 proof sets were made, meaning there were also that many proof Lincoln cents, Buffalo nickels, Washington quarters, and Walking Liberty halves, as well as Mercury dimes. Because the number was quite low – and also because of the continuing love affair collectors have with this design – that first year of proof issue is costly. Today a proof version of the 1936 Mercury dime starts a bit over \$1K. If the price tag of a proof Barber qualified as sticker shock, well this has to take it to the next level.

There is some good news in the area of proof Mercury dimes, though. From 1936 to 1942, the last year in which there are any proof Mercury dimes, the mintages rise annually, with the 1942's seeing a total of 22,329. That's tiny by today's numbers, yet huge by the numbers of the day. And these steadily rising numbers mean steadily decreasing prices. Today a proof 1942 Mercury dime costs about \$200. This is still not what might get called "chump change," but it is certainly a move in the right direction. A single one of these could be another great addition to a collection of proof Roosevelt dimes. **Continued on page 18**



Bill Orne won 2nd place in the Exhibits and receives an "Imperial Coin Plate" from Jim Ford, President of TSNS.

Proof Dimes – Big Fun With Little Silver

by Mark Benvenuto

With all the changes that have occurred in quarters, golden dollars, and even nickels and one-cent pieces in the recent past, the humble Roosevelt dime sometimes seems to get overlooked. When it comes to collecting, that may not be a bad thing, since good prices can often be found when a person takes some time to examine what everyone else is furiously trying to ignore. Let's take a look at our dimes then in a bit more detail, and see what sort of deals might be lurking where few are watching.

First, A Proof Barber Dime

What often gets called the modern proofs or the modern proof series gets its start in 1936. Yet the Mint had been in the business of producing some proofs for years prior to



that, often at the request of various collectors. Thus it is that the Barber dimes, issued from 1892 – 1916, have proofs listed for almost every year of the series. The total number is never very high, especially when compared to the number of proofs issued annually throughout all the years of the Roosevelt series. According to the Red Book – more properly, Mr. Yeoman's, "A Guide Book of United States Coins" – only the year 1892 saw a total proof mintage of over one thousand Barbers. But precisely because so few people collect them, the price for any year is about \$600 in a lower PF grade.

Now right away, we'll admit that \$600 is a lot to hand over for a single dime. Yet we started by talking about Roosevelt dimes, and we mention the Barbers because adding a single proof Barber dime to any collection of proof Roosevelts can be an excellent means by which to accent the collection, and give it that something extra.

Continued on page 17

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U.S. Merchant Counterstamps on Spanish Coins (the image on the left)

Counterstamped coins tell us much about life and times in the United States in the years preceding the Civil War (1861-65). Circulating coins were then stamped by many merchants, primarily to promote word-of-mouth advertising. U.S. coins, primarily large cents, were the principal host coins of choice, given their size and low denomination. Yet, as this exhibit demonstrates, Spanish coins comprised a significant portion of the coins then circulating in the 1850's. Among circulating Spanish coins, the two reale piece or two-bit coin was the most commonly encountered silver coin.

What collector hasn't once thought to himself, "If this coin could only talk?" These counterstamped coins actually do talk! They often tell us when and where they've been. They tell us something of their use, too. One served as the price of admission to Kunkel's minstrel show and another for the cost of a goblet of Flanagan's punch. Others were given out in change by a gunsmith, a silversmith or any one of many businesses in a given community. For those who love to delve into history, researching a specific issuing merchant can provide hours of interesting study; a pursuit that's now made more simplified by the internet upon which can be found countless early texts and newspaper archives.

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