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# *TennCoin News*

## *Jul- Sep 2017*



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### TSNS President's Message for Fall 2017

Well where in the heck did summer go? Labor Day has come and gone, however, the hurricanes are still churning in the Atlantic. I hope that everyone who was affected by hurricane Irma made it through safe and sound. I know that many lost power for a week or more. Both of my daughters were without power for a week plus. As I am writing, hurricane Maria is churning and has just been upgraded to a Cat 4. Enough of the weather report. Everyone who might be affected by future storms please be safe.

The November show approaching quickly and is starting to fill up nicely. I am getting applications one right after another. We have also gotten back some of the dealers who have not been at the show in a few years. The important thing is that we have a very successful show and get the word out to our potential customers to come and enjoy the show. There is something for everyone at the show. For the coin collectors, there more than enough dealers who have U.S. coinage and some who will have foreign and ancient coins. For the non-collector many of our dealers also sell top of the line and also vintage jewelry. For our junior members, as always we have a Young Numismatists (YN) program on Saturday at 1PM. Please check our web site at: [www.tsns.org](http://www.tsns.org) for information about all aspects of the show.

Also, as President of TSNS, I am obligated to make a call for nominations for the upcoming terms. We need nominations for the following positions.

President

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
and three (3) board positions.

Think of someone who you think would be a positive board member and who is there to help improve the organization. As with many clubs around the country – TSNS needs new blood on the board, with fresh ideas to help guide the organization through the coming years. Those who are elected will be sworn in at the March 2018 show.

I appreciate any feedback or suggestions for improvement of our organization. You can contact me at: [forvm@comcast.net](mailto:forvm@comcast.net). I am looking forward to a great show in November and I hope to see each and every one of you there.

Kindest Regards, Bob Hurst

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## NOMINATIONS

It is time to call nominations for President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Historian/Curator, and three board members. If you nominate someone be sure to contact that person and ask them if they are willing to serve. Nominations will close December 4, 2017. Please mail your nomination to our Secretary Amy Kubicek at P.O. Box 2066 Douglasville, Georgia 30133. The ballots will be mailed and returned by February 20, 2018 to be tabulated at the March show.

## TSNS OFFICERS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

**President:** Bob Hurst (2018) Email: forvm@comcast.net

**1st VP:** Gayle Pike (2018) Email: pikegk@aol.com

**2nd VP:** Glenda Weaver (2018) Email: Glenda\_scb@bellsouth.net

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Amy Kubicek Email: TSNSdues@gmail.com

**Historian Curator:**

Sharon Blackman Email: sharonb4291@gmail.com

**Parliamentarian:** Wayne Weaver Email: Glenda\_scb@bellsouth.net

### Governors 2018

Jeffrey Clark Email: janetnjeff.clark@gmail.com

Jim Lusk Email: govlsusk@tsns.org

Ben Gaddy 423-463-4278

### Governors 2020

Ron Blackman Email: rblackman@cfl.rr.com

Charles Cataldo Email: alcoinsil@bellsouth.net

Wayne Weaver Glenda\_scb@bellsouth.net

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**Exhibit Chairman:**

Wayne Weaver Email: Glenda\_scb@bellsouth.net

**Bourse Security:**

Glenda & Wayne Weaver Email: Glenda\_scb@bellsouth.net

**TennCoin News Editor & Webmaster:**

Ron Blackman Email: rblackman@cfl.rr.com

**Past President:** Jim Ford Ph: 423-902-3164

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### From the Editor's Desk

Bob mention in his message that we need to increase our attendance at both of TSNS shows. You can help by bringing a friend or another collector to the shows. You never know that you might find that missing coin that you have been looking to complete your collection.

Bill Groom will have an exhibit on Abolitionist Tokens at the upcoming TSNS Fall Show, November 3-5, 2017. Stop by and review these tokens.

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](mailto:rblackman@cfl.rr.com).

If you can attend any local coin shows in your area please do. This will be worthwhile and by getting to know the dealers that would be a greater benefit.

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

Take care. Ron Blackman

Your advertisement in the TSNS Newsletter would look great here!!!!Our Advertising Rates:

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Contact Ron Blackman Email: [Rblackman@cfl.rr.com](mailto:Rblackman@cfl.rr.com) PH: 321-258-0325

## SIX STARTING POINTS FOR HALF DOLLAR COLLECTING (Continued)

Curiously, there are a couple of years within the Seated Liberty halves when the coins of the Carson City and the San Francisco branch Mints are actually quite common. They are not so inexpensive as to be considered chump change, but a 'CC' marked half dollar, or an 'S' marked one, would be a wonderful addition to any growing collection.

### Finally, the Capped Bust halves

The Capped Bust half dollar series is one with some surprisingly common coins in it –

something absent from virtually all the series earlier than this. The reason for this is generally that since 1803 the production of silver dollars had been halted, making the fifty-cent piece the



largest silver coin of the nation. The price tags for mint state specimens will be costly, but a sharp-looking example in a grade like VF-20 won't flatten one's wallet. And should one fall madly and deeply in love with these classic halves, well, there is a slew of varieties salted in throughout the years to keep even the most avid of collectors occupied.

### All things considered?

This sextet of half dollars is just the tip of what can be a very large iceberg, depending on how one wishes to expand it. We haven't mentioned any of the legion of commemorative half dollars, and we haven't done any exploration of the expensive, but wonderful, earliest half dollars. Our quick run through the main half dollar designs may however be enough to start you on a new collecting direction. Enjoy the hunt!

## SIX STARTING POINTS FOR HALF DOLLAR COLLECTING (Continued)

### Fourth, the Barber halves

The classic Barber half dollars are the largest of three platforms on which the traditional, classic image of Lady Liberty appeared from 1892 – 1915. The quarter and dime are the other two, with only the dime having a reverse design different from the others. For several years in this series, official Mint totals went over the one-million coin marks, including a handful of years where mintages climbed to over 4 million. That makes for some common dates today – although we should point out right away that the mint state versions of even these common pieces are still going to be rather expensive. We noted as we began that we don't use our fifty-cent pieces much today. That does not seem to have been the case a century ago. Thus, if we want to stick to a price like \$100, we'll have to move down to a common date half in a grade such as VF-20. That grade doesn't mean a piece will be ugly, but it will undoubtedly show some wear.



### Fifth, the Seated Liberty design

The artistry of Mr. Christian Gobrecht graced an enormous number of U.S. coins in the nineteenth century, from the tiny half dime all the way up to the silver dollar, and was on the half dollar from 1839 all the way to 1891 (with a few design changes in those years). In this wide expanse of time there are some amazingly rare dates, yet there are definitely some half dollars that qualify as common. Once again, these are great coins to add to any growing type set collection of halves.



## What's Happening

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October 7, 2017	Coin Show. Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike. Knoxville, TN (PH: 865-660-8692) Email: <a href="mailto:beavercreekcoins@bellsouth.net">beavercreekcoins@bellsouth.net</a>
October 8, 2017	Greater Atlanta Coin Show, 500 Powder Springs St, Marietta, GA. PH: 770-772-4359. Email: <a href="mailto:atlcoin@hotmail.com">atlcoin@hotmail.com</a> . Web site: <a href="http://www.atlcoin.com">www.atlcoin.com</a> .
October 27-29, 2017	South Carolina Numismatic Association 45th Annual Coin Show and Convention. Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium, 385 North Church St., Spartanburg, SC. Web site: <a href="http://www.sc.na.org">www.sc.na.org</a> or <a href="https://www.facebook.com/scnumismatics">www.facebook.com/scnumismatics</a>
November 11, 2017	Coin Show. Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike. Knoxville, TN (PH: 865-660-8692) Email: <a href="mailto:beavercreekcoins@bellsouth.net">beavercreekcoins@bellsouth.net</a>
November 12, 2017	Greater Atlanta Coin Show, 500 Powder Springs St, Marietta, GA. PH: 770-772-4359. Email: <a href="mailto:atlcoin@hotmail.com">atlcoin@hotmail.com</a> . Web site: <a href="http://www.atlcoin.com">www.atlcoin.com</a> .
December 2, 2017	Coin Show. Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike. Knoxville, TN (PH: 865-660-8692) Email: <a href="mailto:beavercreekcoins@bellsouth.net">beavercreekcoins@bellsouth.net</a>

**If you are aware of local shows that are not listed contact Ron Blackman Email: [rblackman@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rblackman@cfl.rr.com) and provide information needed. Visit website: [www.TSNS.org](http://www.TSNS.org) for a more up to date list of shows.**



## NOTES ON FULL BANDS MERCURY DIMES

BY BILL FIVAZ

In the market, the terms “Full Bands” (FB) and “Full Split Bands” (FSB) are used interchangeably.

The bands that we are concerned with are the TWO CENTER BANDS on the fasces on the reverse. In virtually every case, if those are full, the three at the top and the two at the bottom will also be full.

The general market consensus is that if the two center bands are clearly separated by an UNBROKEN incused line AND they are RAISED AND ROUNDED, like McDonalds’s arches, they may be described as “Full Bands..



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## SIX STARTING POINTS FOR HALF DOLLAR COLLECTING (Continued)

Franklins out there with that date. That date and several others are common enough that \$50 will probably land just about any of these proof beauties.

### Third, the Walking Liberty design

Mr. Adolph A. Weinman is the designer of the now famous and much loved Walking Liberty half dollar. The long-standing love affair collectors have with this coin means that even though there are several dates for which mintages went into the tens of millions, the price tags for handsome specimens are always going to be more than that for the Franklins or Kennedys. Still, the dates from 1941 – 1947 are common enough that the \$50 we mentioned will be sufficient to ante up for some MS-60 coin (or perhaps a slightly better one).



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## SIX STARTING POINTS FOR HALF DOLLAR COLLECTING

By Mark Benvenuto

The United States Mint has certainly put our seldom-used half dollar back into the public eye of late. A gold version of the Kennedy half marking fifty years of the design, and the more recent gold version of the classic Walking Liberty half dollar have pushed all the fifty-cent pieces somewhat more to center stage in the past couple of years. And while there is still a lack of vending machines and other coin operated devices at which to use half dollars, the simple fact that these big coins have gotten a bit of press may indicate that now is a great time to start some form of half dollar collection. Let's look at six possibilities.

### First, the Kennedy halves

This modern, yet almost forgotten series actually has a lot to offer. There is what might be called the lone silver half of 1964, a few years of reduced silver, the many years of copper-nickel clad proofs, and the more recent silver proofs. All have one rather delightful thing in common: they're extremely affordable. For nothing more than \$20, a collector can get his or her hands on a very high end proof. That's a good point from which to start any collection.



### Next, the Franklins

While there is now plenty of silver in the Kennedy half dollar series, the Franklins remain the last series of fifty-cent pieces for which all the coins are silver. The entire series spans only the years 1848 – 1963, and none of the coins can be considered rare, so this gives us plenty of possibilities when it comes to adding a Franklin half to any growing list. We mentioned \$20 going a long way among the Kennedy halves. It goes almost as far here, and that's great news.

Another bit of good news that might be useful when looking at Franklin half dollars is that there are plenty of common coins in the series that are available as proofs. The year 1957 was the first for which more than a million proof sets were produced, which means there probably still that many proof



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## The 1838 Abolitionist Token

*by Bill Groom*

The presidential election of 1836 witnessed Democratic Party candidate, Martin Van Buren, defeat a field of Whig Party candidates. Van Buren had served under Andrew Jackson who, in his later years, owned over a hundred slaves. The newly elected President Van Buren chose Richard M. Johnson, a Kentucky politician to serve with him; this, despite a highly controversial slave issue. Vice President Johnson had long maintained a common law marriage with his slave, Julia Chinn. She and Johnson publicly acknowledged having two daughters.

Between 1793 and 1857, so-called “large cents” were produced at the Philadelphia Mint. There were various design changes made during those years. The size of these copper cents was larger in diameter than present day quarters but smaller than half dollars. In 1857, production of “small cents” that were comparable in size to present day coins commenced. Pictured to the right is a typical large cent that entered circulation when Jackson was president and the slavery issue was coming to the fore in politics ....

(continued page 11)



## The 1838 Abolitionist Token (continued)



### FAMOUS HOARDS

#### **Castine Hoard of Early Silver Coins (discovered in the 1840s).**

From November 1840 through April 1841, Captain Stephen Grindle and his son, Samuel unearthed many silver coins on their farm on the Bagaduce River about six miles from the harbor of Castine, Maine. The number of pieces found was not recorded, but is believed to have been between 500 to 2,000, buried in 1690 (the latest date observed) or soon afterward. Most pieces were foreign silver coins, but dozens of Massachusetts Pine Tree shillings and related silver coins were found. This hoard stands today as one of the most famous in American history. Source Redbook.



## The 1838 Abolitionist Token (continued)

These tokens circulated alongside large cents of the era; and, for many decades thereafter. The great majority of these, seen in the hands of today's collectors, typically display much circulation wear. At the time these tokens were made, the purchase of sufficient copper to produce a hundred pieces would have amounted to thirty-nine cents. It's been estimated that the A.A.S.S. likely paid the maker fifty cents per hundred. Considering distribution costs, the abolitionist society likely realized some profit from this venture. Current collector value of these tokens in average condition, amounts to \$150.

This American token was inspired by a British abolitionist token, produced some four decades prior. Pictured below and at right, these featured a kneeling male slave in chains, inscribed "**AM I NOT A MAN & A BROTHER**"; reverse with central image of

clasped hands (image on next page) and "**MAY SLAVERY & OPPRESSION CEASE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD**" around perimeter; edge marked "**PAYABLE AT LONDON LIVERPOOL OR BRISTOL.**"



(continued page 15)

## The 1838 Abolitionist Token (continued)

In late 1837, the American Anti-Slavery Society, located in New York City, commissioned the New Jersey firm, Gibbs Gardner & Co., to produce copper tokens. These featured a kneeling female slave with the legend "**AM I NOT A WOMAN & A SISTER**"; and, a reverse patterned after the American large cent. In November of 1837, the A.A.S.S. published an advertisement in their weekly newspaper, *The Emancipator*, advertising female slave tokens at \$1 per hundred. The U.S. Mint Director moved to quickly suppress the circulation of the female slave token. By late December, no further ads appeared.

It's likely that middlemen continued to distribute the tokens into early 1838 and beyond. Ironically, there were then no laws that prohibited the use of *specie* tokens in commerce. Indeed, in 1837, there were already millions of cent-sized, political and advertising tokens in general circulation. Collectors today refer to these as so-called "Hard Times" tokens, dated between 1832-44.



(continued page 14)

If you attend the upcoming TSNS Show, plan on attending the General Membership Meeting that is scheduled for 3:00 PM on Saturday

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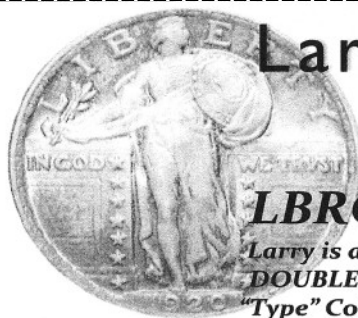
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