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TSNS President's Message for Fall 2017

This is the first president's message for 2018. I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season. The two shows that we had in 2017 were great shows even with attendance down a little for the November show. It sometimes is difficult to have a great show when a larger show drops their show on top of yours. This happens with regularity throughout the industry. We just have to live with this and press on and have a great show.

Coming up this month, members will be receiving a package with bio's and ballots for the upcoming election. Please read the bio's carefully. There are some great people running for the board of directors with strong backgrounds in numismatics. The board needs experienced numismatists that know what is best for the TSNS shows and who will volunteer their time and not expect payment or compensation of any kind.

With that said, TSNS is now showing a strong positive bank account. Our bank accounts are open to anyone who wants to review them. If anyone feels it necessary to view our check books, we invite you to do so. The check books from past and present will be at the shows for anyone to review. This money is **your** money, not money to be spent carelessly by TSNS. You will be able to see how our accounts are now being kept up to date and to the penny.

Please look at our current financial report in this issue. Mind you - no one has ever published a financial report in TennCoin News. We want you to know where every dollar is now and in the future.

If you would like to express any thoughts about TSNS, positive or negative, send me an email at: forvm@comcast.net. I will take any suggestion or opinion to the board of directors. This is the best way for TSNS to make your show better.

Bob Hurst

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BOURSE FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2017		
	March 2017	November 2017
INCOME (Bourse Fees and early birds)	\$16,806.20*	\$28,375.00
EXPENSES ** (i.e., Arena, Security, Advertising, Post Cards, Local Paper, Numismatic News, Coin World, Bourse Applications, YN Program, Registration, etc.)	\$15,750.77	\$16,080.44
Profit	\$1,055.68	\$12,294.86

^{*}Total income available for the March 2017 Show.

From the Editor's Desk

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. 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

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Coins Sales-Tax Exemption Update: Third Time is the Charm?

By David Crenshaw, Industry Council for Tangible Assets

Representative Bud Hulsey and Senator Frank Nicely introduced companion bills (HB 342 and SB 350, on February 1, 2017 and February 2, 2017, respectively) exempting certain sales of paper money and gold, silver, platinum, and palladium coins and bullion from the sales-and-use tax. HB 342 was assigned to the House Subcommittee on Finance, Ways and Means and SB 350 was referred to the Senate Subcommittee on Finance, Ways and Means.

The Senate subcommittee considered the bill on March 15, 2017, and Sen. Nicely did a very good job explaining it. Mike Mouret (Nashville Coin & Currency) also testified at the hearing explaining the reasons how such an exemption makes sense for coin businesses, the citizens, and the state. Afterwards, the Senate subcommittee voted to refer the bill to the Senate Finance, Ways and Means Committee with recommendation.

The House Subcommittee on Finance, Ways and Means considered HB 342 on March 29, 2017. The bill was placed behind the budget, which means they will revisit the bill if any money is left after the state's budget plan is set. Thanks to hundreds of millions in extra tax revenue, Tennessee has nearly a \$2 billion budget surplus.

"The issue is how we return that to folks," said Senate majority leader Mark Norris (R-Collierville) in the *Tennessean*. With that said, one could argue that any bills such as ours with a fiscal impact should not automatically be cast aside.

In short, HB 342 did not pass out of the House Finance, Ways and Means Subcommittee before the 2017 session's adjournment. The bill will carry over to the 2018 session, which convenes on Tuesday, January 9, 2018.

A coalition of Tennessee dealers, led by Mike Mouret (Nashville Coin & Currency), is considering hiring a lobbyist to assist in overcoming the remaining obstacles to our bill's passage. For more information, please call Mike at (615) 377-4949 or email mike@nashvillecoin.com.

The last two sessions' initiative has cost ICTA \$7,035 to date. We have received \$3,005 in monies designated for the Tennessee campaign. Thank you to all who have contributed. Any additional contributions to help cover the \$4,030 in remaining expenses are greatly appreciated.

To donate, visit ictaonline.org/donate-to-icta and designate your donation for the ""Tennessee Campaign." Or, mail your check, payable to ICTA, to David Crenshaw, P.O. Box 237, Dacula, GA 30019. Write "Tennessee Campaign" on the check.

^{**}Bourse Chairman fees and other items not paid during 2017.

How Much Does It Cost To Re-Assemble Proof Sets? (continued)

would be the final year of proof sets for several years, the total output of proofs had risen to 21,120. That's hardly large by today's standard, but it's closer to the 1950 production level than most of us might admit. A Walking Liberty half in a grade such as PF-65will run about \$500 (expensive, but not absurdly so). The Washington quarter in the same grade is a much more palatable \$100. The Mercury dime at that grade is only about \$40, if you don't care about full, split bands. The Jefferson nickel is a surprisingly high \$150, which might lead us to think the Lincoln cent will also be high. But depending on minor differences in red or brown toning, a 1942 proof cent can be as low as \$40. Once again, we have a proof set that will not be wallet-flatteningly expensive, if that is a proper term.

This is just a quick look, and so the dates we have focused on here are certainly not the only ones a person might consider when re-assembling proof sets. We've chosen ones that are placed along the timeline in such a way that some could be pretty expensive, yet most are quite affordable. But with luck we've also seen that this can be a fun aspect of collecting. We've definitely seen that this can net a person some fabulous coins.

COLONIAL ISSUES—MARYLAND Lord Baltimore Coinage

The second Lord Baltimore, Cecil Calvert, inherited from his father nearly absolute control over Maryland. Cecil believed he had the right to coin money for the colony, and in 1659 he ordered shillings, sixpences, and groats (four-penny pieces) from the Royal Mint in London and shipped samples to Maryland, to his brother Philip, who was then his secretary for the colony. Cecil's right to strike coins was challenged but upheld by Cromwell's government. The whole issue was small, and while his coins did circulate in Maryland at first, by 1700 they had largely disappeared.

Calvert's coins bear his portrait on the obverse, with a Latin legend calling him "Lord of Mary's Land". The reverses bear his family coat of arms and the denomination in Roman numerals (Sixpence image).

Source: Redbook





What's Happening		
January 13, 2018	Coin Show. Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike. Knoxville, TN (PH: 865-660-8692) Email: beaver-creekcoins@bellsouth.net	
February 2-3, 2018	54th Annual Coin Show. Rothchild Catering and Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike. Knoxville, TN (PH: 865-806-9320) Email: dlrrhodes@att.net	
February 17, 2018	Upper Cumberland Coin Show, host club Cookeville Coin Club. Hyder-Burkes Pavilion, 2390 Gainesboro Grade Rd., Cookeville, TN Contact Dennis at 931-657-2247 or Burt at 931-526-6477 Hrs: 9AM to 4PM	
February 23- 25, 2018	Memphis Coin Club Show, Landers Civic Center, 4560 Venture Dr, I-55, Exit 287 Southaven, MS. contact Ray Brown at 901-321-3408/Email: rwbrown@cbu.edu	
March 2-4, 2018	Tennessee State Numismatic Society (TSNS). Spring Coin Show. Camp Jordan Arena, I-75, Exit 1. East Ridge, TN (PH: 321-427-6474). Email: forvm@comcast.net	
March 10, 2018	Coin Show. Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike. Knoxville, TN (PH: 865-660-8692) Email: beaver-creekcoins@bellsouth.net	
April 7, 2018	Coin Show. Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike. Knoxville, TN (PH: 865-660-8692) Email: beaver-creekcoins@bellsouth.net	
April 19-21, 2018	NEW SHOW 1st Annual Coin, Stamp & Collectible Show & Convention, Williamson County Agricultural Expo Park, 4215 Long Lane (Peytonsville Rd, Exit I-65) Franklin, TN 37064. (PH: 703-932-6331. Email: ellsworth@money.org.	
May 5, 2018	Coin Show. Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike. Knoxville, TN (PH: 865-660-8692) Email: beaver-creekcoins@bellsouth.net	

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Opening day of the Annual Fall Show.



Bob Hurst, President of TSNS presents an Certificate of Appreciation to Darrell Beeson for his exhibit. A plaque will be presented to Darrell at the March show. Darrell's exhibit was "Odd Strange Curious Money"





Bob Hurst, President of TSNS presents an Certificate of Appreciation to Bill Groom for his exhibit. A plaque will be presented to Bill at the March show. Bill's exhibit was "The Abolition of Slavery"



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How Much Does It Cost To Re-Assemble Proof Sets? (continued)

The 1950

The 1950 proof set is comprised of the same quintet of coins as the 1961 – 1963 sets; it's just that there are far less of any of these coins from which to choose. The official Mint total was 51,386 sets produced. Over the course of the last sixty seven years, quite a few of these have probably been broken out of sets, and may have suffered some form of benign neglect from improper storage. Indeed, the Franklin half is about \$550 in PF-65, although the price drops significantly if we are willing to step down to something like PF-64 or even PF-63. A similar grade Washington quarter only rings in at about \$60, while the dime is probably closer to \$50. The nickel has the apparently strange price of \$70 in PF-65; and the cent too can be this expensive.

A word or two is probably in order about why the two base metal coins in an older proof set are as valuable as they seem to be. Those words are: reactive, and oxidation. Both copper and copper-nickel alloys tend to be more reactive than silver, or silver alloys. Many collectors are aware of the intensity with which some folks look at high-end Lincoln and Indian Head cents. Brown coins versus red or red-brown coins have different values. What makes a Lincoln cent start to go red is that the metal is reactive enough that the surface begins to undergo oxidation. Yes, we call it toning, coloring, or sometimes patina. But it's all the same thing, chemical oxidation. To a lesser extent our nickels undergo the same process, because they are 75% copper, after all. The end result for proof coins is a price or prices that might seem a bit high for our taste. If that's the case, simply hunt for a piece in a slightly lower grade. It will still most likely be beautiful.

The 1942

What is often called the modern proof coin program started rather modestly in 1936. At the time, the landscape in Europe was going from bad to worse, the United States and other nations were still in the midst of a deep economic depression, and the idea of collecting money was not all that important for the vast majority of people – the ones who just wanted some to spend. That first proof set was issued in a very small quantity and will be pretty expensive to re-assemble today. But by 1942, what

Continued on page 20

How Much Does It Cost To Re-Assemble Proof Sets? by Mark Benvenuto

For many of us, buying a proof set or two is something of an annual event among our collecting interests. Some of us only buy one for our collections, while others purchase a handful or so each year, trying to figure if any friends or relatives have significant birthdays or other events for which a proof set might make an excellent gift. For decades, proof sets have been well and securely packaged, and have included all the circulating coins, even those that don't circulate all that much (such as half dollars and golden dollars). But proof sets were not always such a well packaged, well cared for commodity. Those from the early 1960s and before were sold in less secure containers than currently, and were often broken up. That gives us an opportunity today: to re-assemble some proof sets. Here's a quick look at which years might see some form of low cost re-unification.

1961 - 1963

For each of these years a proof set was composed of a Lincoln cent, a Jefferson nickel, a Roosevelt dime, a Washington quarter, and a Franklin half dollar. For each of these years, over 3 million proof sets were made, making them pretty common even today. Gut instinct might lead us to believe the Franklin will be the most costly. We'll find out.

Using a few different price lists, and averaging the numbers, we find that for each of these years, a Franklin half in PF-66 costs about \$100, the quarter costs \$25, the dime \$15, the nickel only \$2.50 and the humble cent no more than \$40 (the latter cost is for the best, untoned cents). Okay, so the Franklin half is the heavy hitter of the set. But \$100 is hardly a price tag that will halt most collectors in their tracks. It appears that for less than \$200, a person can put together a set from one of these three years. It suddenly looks rather tempting to try for all three of them.

The 1950

The year 1950 oftentimes gets to be considered the first among modern proofs, even though there are plenty of years prior to it in which proof coins were made – which we'll get to in a moment. But 1950 can be called the first of what has become a long string of proof sets, although that string was broken from 1965 to 1967.

Continued on page 17



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Forgotten Gold Is Cheaper, the Peruvian Libra

by Mark Benvenuto

Collecting gold is an exciting prospect, but one that many of us shy away from simply because of the prices involved. For example, the \$5 half eagles issued from 1839 all the way up to 1908 each have 0.24187 ounces of the precious metal in them, which would be about \$315 when gold trades at \$1,300 per ounce. Yet the prices of our half eagles are always significantly higher than that. And the Indian Head version, minted from 1908 – 1929, costs about the same, despite being a younger, less historic coin.

But just because collecting United States gold might seem like an expensive proposition – or perhaps precisely because of it – we might want to look elsewhere. Coins like the British sovereign and the French rooster have a certain appeal to them, as they were made in large quantities, and trade at prices closer to the price of gold metal on world markets. Even though there are some possibilities here, let's look a bit farther afield. Let's look at gold that is almost forgotten among the collecting community in the U.S. today. Let's look at the Libra series of Peru.

The "big" coins, at 1/4 ounce

Peru has a very long history of producing gold, silver, and several other valuable metals from its mountains. The first platinum in the world was isolated from Peruvian gold ores, and the name itself comes from the Spanish word for little silver – platina. Even as the nineteenth century turned to the twentieth, Peru was producing enough gold that it could coin some into trade coins, namely, the Libras.

The one Libra coins are the biggest in the series, and weigh in at 0.2354 ounces of gold per coin. While this may seem like an odd weight to us today, in a day and age when we and other nations produce bullion coins in even ounce or fractions thereof, back in the 1890's it was a very logical weight to use. It was the same as the British gold sovereign, a gold piece that was accepted virtually all over the world. It could trade on par with it.

The 1 Libra was first minted in 1898, and continued all the way up to 1930. The mintage totals vary widely, but virtually all of them can be bought at about the same price today, especially if there is some small

Continued on page 11

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Forgotten Gold Is Cheaper, the Peruvian Libra (Continued)

The 1/5 Libra only got its start in 1906, but like the other two was produced all the way up to 1930, and like the other two had a second run in the 1950's and 1960's. We can wonder today just how much anyone used a trade coin that was this small, but it's worth remembering how much a dollar could buy in 1900, or even in 1959. What appears so tiny to us today probably found more than one use in its time.

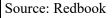
Collecting Libras, or the smaller versions of them, is undoubtedly less popular today than collecting gold or silver series from the United States. Yet this almost forgotten set of gold trade coins has wonderful potential. A person could have a great deal of fun assembling a set of gold from our southern neighbor. That fun can easily be doubled simply by knowing how close the price of each coin is to the gold that is in it.

CAROLINA ELEPHANT TOKENS

Although there is no known law authorizing coinage for Carolina, two very interesting pieces known as Elephant Tokens were made with the date 1694. These copper tokens were of halfpenny denomination. The reverse reads "GOD PRESERVE CAROLINA AND THE LORDS PROPRIETERS 1694".

The second and more common variety has the last word spelled "PROPRIETORS. The correction was made on the original die, for the "E" shows plainly beneath the "O". The elephant's tusks nearly touch the milling on the second variety.

The Carolina pieces were probably struck in England and perhaps intended only as tokens, or possible as advertising to heighten interest in the Carolina Plantation.





Forgotten Gold Is Cheaper, the Peruvian Libra (Continued)

amount of wear on them. It's always worth checking before buying, but when the price of gold is \$1,300 per ounce, there is just over \$306 in gold in each of these coins.

The coin was reprised from 1959 to 1969, and once again, the prices are relatively close to that of the gold in them.

The ½ Libras

If you are the proverbial thrifty collector (don't worry, join the club!), maybe the ½ Libra is a coin more to your taste, since it has only 0.1177 ounces of the precious metal in each coin. That's \$153 per coin, if we again compare them to an ounce of gold at \$1,300. The ½ Libras got out of the gate a bit later than their bigger sibling, starting in 1902. Perhaps they weren't as needed or as popular, since they faded out in 1908.

It's worth noting though that there may be some fakes out there, ones that have never been caught. Several years back no less a reference than the Krause *Standard Catalog of World Coins* listed plenty of years as "reported, not confirmed." These notes have disappeared in more recent versions of the catalog, because there appear to be none in that particular span of years. But it's always worth keeping an eye out in case some spurious pieces are abroad.

Like it's bigger version, there was what might be called a second set of these coins, issued in the 1950's and 1960's. None are particularly common, yet once again, none are all that expensive. Apparently the collector base for them remains thin.

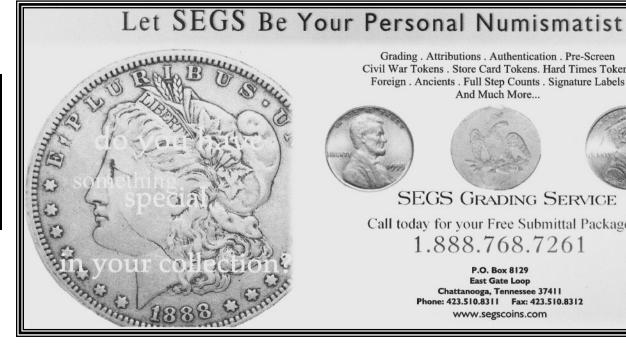
The little guys, the 1/5 Libras

Okay, if both of these denominations are too rich for your blood, well, there is actually a tiny little 1/5 Libra coin. Weighing in with only 0.0471 ounces of gold, each has a metal value of only \$61.25. That's got to be a price even the most tight-fisted of us can afford.



Continued on page 14

If you attend the **upcoming TSNS** Show, plan on attending the General **Membership Meet**ing that is schedule for 3:00 PM on Saturday



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