

TennCoin News

May-June 2021



VISIT US AT OUR NEXT SHOW
November 12th-14th , 2021

Hours Fri & Sat 10AM-6PM
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TSNS President's Message, Winter 2021

With 2021 closing and everyone looking forward to a less COVID 2022. Most of shows are now up and running normal schedules and the collectors and dealers are all very pleased. Our show in November was a resounding success. The bourse was a sellout and with that, we had a recording breaking attendance. You just can't ask for more.

TSNS would not run as smoothly without the help of the Chattanooga and Chief John Ross coin clubs. They are responsible for registration of the public and the door prizes. A big THANK YOU to all the volunteers from these clubs.

We had a great Young Numismatists (YN) program which was given by Joe Messervy. The YN's were given new Red Books, a goodie bag of numismatic items and \$10 worth of YN Money to spend with the dealers on the bourse floor.

I have been working hard to get our website up and running properly and getting information on it that is useful for everyone. It has been a long and tedious process, but it is starting to come to fruition. The home page now reflects the information needed for everyone who want to attend the March 2022 show and a new dealer application can be found under the EVENTS tab. Effective March 2022, the dues will go from \$7 per year to \$10. You may join for three years at a cost of \$25. You may join now for the lesser cost, just mark your application and send in your payment.

Please contact me at: forvm@comcast.net and let me know what you would like to see on our website. I will do my best to keep the site up to date and with usable information for everyone.

With Kindest Regards,

Bob Hurst
President, TSNS

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From the desk of Bruce Paulhamus, New Editor and Web Site

Thank you for your patience in producing the TennCoin News. We will be changing the format soon to be an online publication. We have added several new links. Look under the Numismatic and Education Link to find those. The dealers Bourse application is now a fillable pdf for your convenience. Soon, you will see a tab to ask questions and have general discussions concerning coins. We will be using a very friendly platform called Discord. Also, there will be a link to Teespring so that you can purchase TSNS items. We will continue to modify and improve as we go.

Please feel free to contact me at

bruce@southenpmx.com

Thank you,

Bruce Paulhamus

The Love Coin
by Perry Siegel (The Ancient Guy)

There are many intriguing coins from the ancient world. One of the most mysterious are the coins from Kyrene. A Greek city-state founded in the seventh century B.C. in North Africa (modern day Libya),

Kyrene was one of the more interesting outposts of the Greek world. They were widely known for the silphium plant, a rare relative of celery and fennel, which grew wild in a narrow strip of land on the coast. The Greeks believed the plant was a gift from the healing god, Apollo who, according to tradition, carried the nymph Kyrene to Africa and there founded the city bearing her name. Because of its great importance, the silphium plant is prominent on many of the coins from Kyrene.



Silver didrachm from Kyrene, depicting Zeus and silphium plant. 4th Century B.C.

The Love Coin (Continued)

Many medical uses were ascribed to the silphium plant. It was valued as a spice and a wonder drug. It was said that it could cure cough, sore throat, fever, indigestion, aches and pains, warts, promote wound healing, and even prevent conception. It may have been an effective antibacterial and antiviral, and was also regarded as an aphrodisiac! Romans considered the dried resin from the plant to be worth its weight in silver denarii. Hippocrates wrote: “When the gut protrudes and will not remain in its place, scrape the finest and most compact silphium into small pieces and apply as a cataplasma.”

The silphium plant, however, was most prized for its pregnancy preventing properties, and was for centuries a popular contraceptive throughout the ancient world. As it could only be cultivated on the desert uplands of the small coastal region of Kyrene, the plant was a mainstay of the economy and brought the city-state tremendous wealth and prosperity. Silphium could only be gathered in the wild; all attempts to cultivate it failed. For that reason, and due to overharvesting to meet the tremendous demand, the silphium plant ultimately became extinct in the first century A.D., a loss which was greatly lamented in Rome. Reportedly, the last known stalk was presented to the **Emperor Nero**.

The Love Coin (Continued)

For centuries there was a close association between the silphium plant and human love. When viewing early silver coins from Kyrene during the 6th - 5th centuries B.C., one is immediately struck by the resemblance between the silphium seed or seed pod and that ubiquitous symbol of romantic love – the “heart!” The heart-shaped seed is thought by some to be the source of the modern symbol of love. Could this represent the origin of that symbol? No one knows for sure, but the heart-shaped seed lends itself to interesting discussion.



Silver hemidrachm from Kyrene, depicting silphium seed pod. 5th Century B.C.

The Love Coin (Continued)

Kyrene is now an archaeological site near the village of Shahhat in Lybia. One of its more significant features is the temple of Apollo which was originally constructed as early as the 7th century B.C. Other ancient structures include a temple to Demeter and a partially unexcavated temple to Zeus.

In 2005, Italian archaeologists from the University of Urbino discovered 76 intact Roman statues at Kyrene from the 2nd century A.D. The statues remained undiscovered for so long because during an earthquake in 375 A.D., a supporting wall of the temple fell on its side, burying all the statues. They remained hidden under stone, rubble and earth for 1,630 years. The other walls sheltered the statues, so the archaeologists were able to recover all the pieces, including works that had been broken.

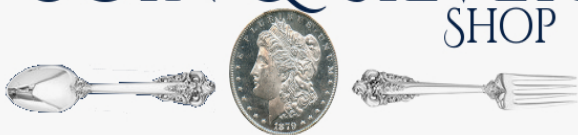
The Love Coin (Continued)



Present-day view of Kyrene

The ancient city lives on. Unfortunately, the silphium plant does not. But of course with Valentine's Day having recently occurred, one is reminded of that seemingly eternal symbol of love, and wonders where it may have been begun.

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At a recent board meeting, Mr. Steve Ellsworth, the president of the American Numismatic Association, presented two board members with The President's Service Award to Phil Darby and Bob Hurst. Mr. Darby was awarded the Service award for his efforts and service in several State Numismatic Associations, including to repeal sales tax on coins and bullion in Alabama. His contributions to these organizations and to the numismatic world is an inspiration.

Congratulations, Phil Darby and Bob Hurst



Phil Darby and Steve Ellsworth



Bob Hurst and Steve Ellsworth

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As stated by Bob Hurst COVID Pandemic, masks, vaccines versus coin shows. Many shows have had to cancel over the past year. Major shows had to disappoint dealers, GNA, CSNS, PAN, Raleigh, Summer FUN, ANA, Whitman, FUN, and so on, however, some of the smaller

shows followed their state or county guidelines and their shows went off without a hitch. Tennessee State Numismatic Society held the Fall 2020 show and we just completed the Spring show. The American Numismatic Association's National Money Show is in Tennessee this weekend, drawing many of the country's most serious dealers. There is no question that the internet has transformed numismatics over the past two decades. It has

changed the way most people buy and sell coins by opening up a huge, new online market. Most dealers, however, would tell you the Internet is only as good as the image you can put out there. Being back to normal shows is a welcome surprise compared to the four bleak walls that

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

we are

all used to. This show was a wonderful user-friendly environment filled with helpful and polite people. There were tons of other fun activities and learning opportunities, such as the Young Numismatist program.

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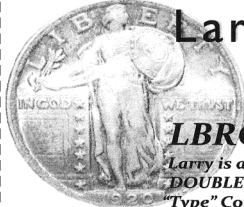
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The Coin Show is a major opportunity to buy and sell coins and provides a source of great enjoyment in our hobby. If you are here to buy or sell coins, you can feel secure about doing business with any

dealer who has a table at the show. Coin shows are very important, and attending major shows can be one of the most richly rewarding experiences in numismatics. Another benefit is with so many coins offered for sale in one location, you may have better luck finding a particular scarce or unique item you need for your collection. For those



thinking about selling some of their coins, coin shows present an incredible opportunity to do so as well. Seeing so many coins of different types at once is also critical to learning how to grade. At most shows today, a majority of the coins you see will be graded examples, which enables you to note the differences among coins of the same grade that look quite different.



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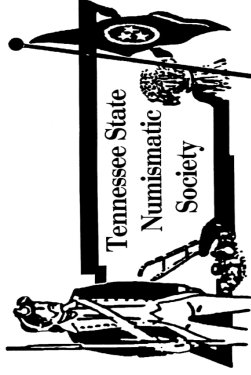
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