

# The PLANCHET

Issue 478

January, 2007



The Meetings of the Indianapolis Coin Club are held the fourth Monday of each month at the Nora Library at 8625 Guilford Avenue in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Meetings consist of a business session, an intermission, educational program, and a numismatic auction. Doors open at 6:00pm, meeting will begin at 7:00pm.

The next meeting will be  
Monday,  
January 29, 2007!



## ICC Elects 2007 Officers and Board

The results are in and the Indianapolis Coin Club has its new Officers and Board for 2007. After the elections, because no one ran for the offices of Secretary and Editor, President Mark Eberhardt quickly made appointments to fill those positions. If anyone would like either position or the open board position, please contact an officer of the club and the board will vote on it. Here are your leaders for 2007:

<b>President</b>	<b>Mark Eberhardt</b>	<b>Sgt-at-Arms</b>	<b>Jim Warden</b>
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Jim Roehrdanz</b>	<b>Board Member 2007-2008</b>	<b>Dave Reid</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Vinton Dove</b>	<b>Board Member 2007-2008</b>	<b>Bob Bettcher</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Karl Kreck</b>	<b>Board Member 2007-2008</b>	<b>James Held</b>
<b>Editor</b>	<b>Mark Eberhardt</b>	<b>Board Member 2006-2007</b>	<b>Jim Fuson</b>
<b>(fubacoin@aol.com)</b>	<b>ph. (317) 837-5682</b>	<b>Board Member 2006-2007</b>	<b>Charles Alber</b>
<b>Past President</b>	<b>Vinton Dove</b>	<b>Board Member 2006-2007</b>	<b>Open</b>

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Advertise in the Indianapolis Coin Club Newsletter! The cost is only \$35.00 for a business card size ad for 12 issues!

### The 2007 Indianapolis Coin Club Officers and Board Members

<b>President</b>	<b>Mark Eberhardt</b>
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Jim Roehrdanz</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Vinton Dove</b>
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# Barber Half Dollars 1892 to 1915

By....

**Michael Schmidt**

As part of the Coinage Act of September 1890, all coin designs that had been in use for at least 25 years were eligible for redesign at the pleasure of the Secretary of the Treasury. Since the Seated designs for the dime, quarter, and half dollar had been in use for over 50 years they became an obvious target for a fresh new design.

The first attempt to change the design was to attempt a limited competition between invited sculptors. But the sculptors complained that the rules of the competition were too strict, they did not allow enough time to prepare designs, we don't like the judges, the compensation for the winner is not enough, and even worse you aren't compensating all the contestants for their work, just the winner. So many of the selected sculptors formed an informal "union" and boycotted the competition "striking" for more money.

Well the Secretary was not going to stand for that and he decided to hire "scabs". The competition was thrown open to all as a general contest and 300 entries were received. Unfortunately on at least on point the sculptors were right. The three men chosen as judges were a disaster. Henry Mitchell, a Boston engraver of gems and seals, was probably the least controversial of the three. The second judge was Augustus Saint-Gaudens, one of the foremost sculptors of the times and a man who had declared that there were only three people qualified to design a new coin. Two of them were in France, and of course he was the third. Not exactly an open mind. The choice of the third judge was even worse, Chief Engraver Charles Barber. Barber believed that as the Chief Engraver it was HIS job and no one else's to design any new coins. With judges like that the competition was dead in the water before it even began. Of the 300 designs only two of them even got honorable mention. After the second competition failed, the Secretary threw in the towel and just turned the job of designing the new coins over to Charles Barber.

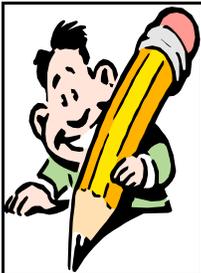
Barber created for the obverse of his coins a right facing, very masculine looking Liberty with a Phrygian cap very similar to that found on a Morgan dollar, but with agricultural garden in her hair replaced with a simple laurel crown. LIBERTY can be found on a small headband above Liberty's brow. The motto IN GOD WE TRUST is placed above Liberty's head and the date below the neck. Thirteen six pointed stars are placed in arcs to the left and right of the bust arranged 6 and 7. On the reverse is a thin, almost scrawny, heraldic eagle with a US shield on its breast, holding the olive branch in its right talon and thirteen arrows in the left. The eagle holds a ribbon in its beak inscribed with the other official motto E PLURIBUS UNUM. In the area above the eagles head and below the name of the country are 13 five pointed stars, and the denomination is at the bottom.

Unlike the dime and quarter the Barber half dollar does not really have any super rare date/mint combinations. All of the coins are available, but usually only in either low grade or high grade. Middle grades in Fine to Extra Fine are extremely difficult to find. The half dollar circulated widely and about the time when they would normally have been retired from circulation as an "old, obsolete design", the Depression began and fifty cents was just too much money for most anyone to be able to put aside. So the coins continued to circulate ten or twelve years longer than they would ordinarily have done, and those middle grade coins that would normally have survived continued to wear out.

There are some tougher pieces in the Barber half series, mainly the Philadelphia pieces of 1914 (124,000 minted) and 1915 (138,000) but being the last years of issue they tended to survive at a higher rate than the earlier years and so they more available than their mintages would indicate.

The big rarities in this series come from some of the varieties, and there are not many major varieties either. The two micro O varieties make up for it. The first is the 1892-O micro O. Known for quite some time this variety is quite rare with only a dozen or so pieces known. But even this pales to the second one the 1898-O micro O. The 98 micro O was reported by Beistle in his book on half dollar varieties in 1929, but was considered to be unconfirmed and an error as no specimen was known in any collection. Then about three years ago one was discovered unattributed by a collector buying a 1898-O out of a dealers stock box for his Barber Half collection. It has since been slabbed by PCGS and is still the only specimen known. Can you find the next one?





## November 27, 2006 Minutes of the ICC Meeting

The November meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Mark Eberhardt. Visitors Don King and Bill Connell were introduced. It was announced that Bill Connell was our newest member. Bill applied for membership at the ISNA show.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

It was announced that dues cards and receipts were available from the Secretary for those members who had sent their dues to the club's Post Office Box.

The President announced that there were no nominations for the offices of Secretary and Newsletter Editor for the year 2007.

President Eberhardt thanked the companies which had donated items which were included in the give-a-way bags at the ISNA show. He also thanked that volunteers who had manned the ICC table at the show, and announced that two members signed up at the show. One was Bill Connell and the other was a dues renewal.

Jim Held reported that a large theft of coins in Danville had been reported at the ISNA show, and cautioned members to be careful with their collections.

Mail to the Club was read by Vinton Dove, including announcements of the Central States Numismatic Society's show in St. Louis on May 10-12 and the ANA's show in Charlotte, NC on March 16-18.

Mark then announced that the Christmas banquet had been cancelled due to lack of interest. Also, he reminded the members that the Club does not meet in December. Since

there was no banquet planned, he said there would be no December newsletter, since there would be virtually no news to report. The Board of Directors would meet in early December for their annual budget and planning meeting. He said that the January newsletter would be published in January, prior to the January 29<sup>th</sup> Club meeting.

ICC Life Member Doc Gerth announced that he would be giving a program at the May 9-12 Central States Show, speaking on Exhibiting at shows. He also reminded the members of the June 16, 2007 Luncheon and program being presented by four of the nations outstanding numismatists at the Adams Mark Hotel in Indianapolis. The cost of the program is \$20.00 for CSNS members and \$30.00 for non-members, and includes lunch.

Elections were then held by the President, with the Nominating Committee's slate being elected on a unanimous vote. Sgt.-at-Arms Jim Warden swore-in the new officers. President Eberhardt then appointed himself to fill the vacant office of Editor and Vinton Dove to fill the Secretary's position.

Mark announced that since Coz Raimondi was President of ISNA he was resigning his position as ICC Director to avoid any possible conflict of interest. His position on the ICC Board remains open.

After the break, Jim Fuson and Bob Betcher presented the Educational program, titled "advantages of circulated collections vs. uncirculated collections." The presentation was very interesting and included a MOST impressive display of circulated and uncirculated collections of US coins.

Another excellent auction was then run by President Eberhardt and the club adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Vinton Dove, Secretary



**Treasurer's Report  
November 2006**

**Income:**

50/50	\$ 40.00
Donation	\$ 4.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 44.00</b>

**Expenses:**

Newsletter Printing & Postage	\$ 46.54
ISNA Table	\$ 88.88
Refreshments	\$ 36.08
Insurance	\$100.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$271.50</b>

October Checkbook Balance:	\$2,530.55
November Checkbook Balance:	\$2,303.05

ICC CD's Balance \$17,255.27

Respectfully Submitted,  
Karl Kreck—Treasurer

**January's Program**

**Coins Circulating  
in the U.S. from  
1792 to 1857**

**By  
Vinton Dove**

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