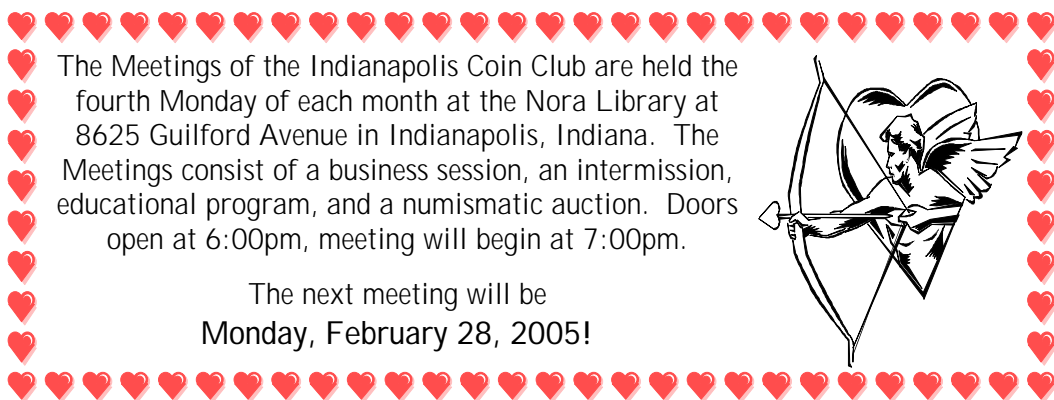
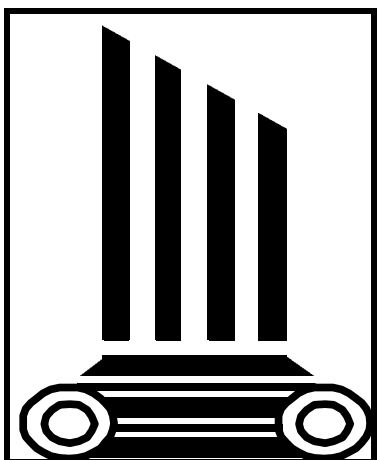
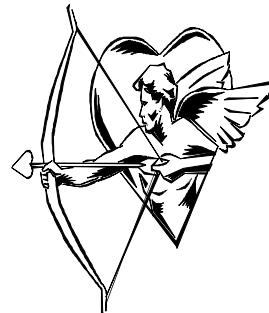


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The Meetings of the Indianapolis Coin Club are held the fourth Monday of each month at the Nora Library at 8625 Guilford Avenue in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Meetings consist of a business session, an intermission, educational program, and a numismatic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



The next meeting will be
Monday, February 28, 2005!

ICC member Now writing for *Coin World*

ICC Member Wendell Wolka will now be writing a monthly column for *Coin World* on U.S. Notes. This announcement was published in the January 24, 2005 issue. I recently had a few questions for Wendell to put in an article for all of you:

Q. How long have you been a member of the ICC?

A. ummmm...two or three years I think

Q. How long have you been collecting numismatics?

A. Have been collecting something since I was about eight years old, so (gasp!) the better part of nearly fifty years.

Q. What was the first thing you collected?

A. Just like probably everyone else of the era, coins out of circulation and dad's pants pocket. In the late 50's there were still all sorts of things in circulation...Mercury Dimes, Buffalo Nickels, Walker Halves in addition to all of the current designs. I was probably able to get to 80% completion on sets just from circulation. Never found any of the really key dates though. I started to get bored with coins in high school and switched to paper money which seemed to be a lot more varied and historic. Since then, I've collected obsolete paper money from the Midwest, Indiana Nationals, French and French colonial notes, World Notes, Canadian chartered bank notes, and Confederate Notes. Since I retired in 2000, I have sold off some collections to focus today on Ohio Obsolete paper money, Canadian chartered bank notes, and Confederate notes (1864 \$5s by signatures...a challenging thing to attempt), plus some modern World Notes.

Q. How long have you been writing articles about numismatics?

A. Once I switched to paper money, I wrote for SPMC's *Paper Money* magazine in the early 1970s. Then I co-authored a book on Indiana obsolete paper money for SPMC in 1978 and did a second book on Ohio obsolete paper money in 2004. In between, I've written for *Bank Note Reporter* and occasionally for *Numismatic News* and *Coin World*.

Q. How did you get the opportunity to write for *Coin World*?

A. Gene Hessler decided to pull back writing his monthly column in *Coin World* and suggested to them that I might be someone to consider as a replacement. I talked with Beth Deisher, and the rest is history! It should be fun.

Thank you Wendell for taking the time to share a little about yourself and Good Luck!!!

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The Monthly Planchet is the official publication of the Indianapolis Coin Club. It is published monthly in Indianapolis, Indiana. All inquiries should be sent to ICC, P.O. Box 2897, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46206.

Three Cent Pieces 1865-1889

By Michael Schmidt

During the Civil War much of the coinage of the United States disappeared into private hoards. The commerce of the country was largely taken over by fractional currency notes and private tokens made of "French Bronze". Seeing that the public accepted these token pieces, that did not contain an intrinsic value equal to the full face value, the government passed legislation outlawing the token production while adopting the same alloy for its own use. In 1864 they stopped using the 88% copper 12% nickel alloy in the one cent piece. The mint was rather happy about this, since the nickel alloy had been hard on the dies and had always given them problems in getting the design to strike up. But Joseph Wharton, rather than losing his lucrative customer, applied pressure in high places and got a bill passed to authorize a new three cent piece to be struck in an alloy of 75% copper and 25% nickel. After all if you own a Senator you might as well use him.



The obverse of the new coin bore James Longacre's standard Liberty portrait that had long wavy hair which curled above the shoulder. Liberty wears a coronet above her forehead inscribed with LIBERTY in small incuse letters. The bust is within the

country name UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and the date appears below the truncation of the bust. The reverse is a simple Roman numeral III, within a wreath of laurel, tied by a ribbon at the bottom. The ribbon ends extend below the wreath but do not reach the denticals. This design remained unchanged throughout the run of the series.

Care should be taken when examining 1865 dated three cent pieces. One 1865 pattern for this series is almost identical to the approved design. (The 1865 in the Eliasberg collection was actually one of these patterns.) The easiest way to identify the pattern is that on the reverse the ribbon ends overlap the denticals and almost reach the rim. Another pattern issue that looks very similar to the approved design has the proper reverse, but Liberty's coronet has a star on its peak.

The new copper nickel alloy was much harder on the

dies than the older alloy used for the cent coins had ever been. Dies started breaking down almost immediately after being put into production. (It is almost impossible to find a nickel three cent piece that doesn't have at least one die crack.) Trying to keep up with the tremendous number of dies required, naturally meant that quality control suffered. The three cent nickel series is filled with doubled dies, repunched dates and misplaced dates. Add to these the die cracks, breaks (cuds), and clashes and the three cents series becomes a rich source of material for the error/variety collector. Surprisingly though, the series has never been thoroughly studied. Until recently no true reference book had been published for the series. Sometime in the last two years, Ed Fletcher published a book on the varieties of the nickel three cent piece. The book has never been widely advertised though and I have not managed to get my hands on a copy. If it is like his Shield nickel book though, it will be concentrated on doubled dies and repunched dates and will contain only a portion of them with very little on all of the other die varieties.

The date/series collector also has a real challenge trying to complete the three cent pieces. As with most new coins or designs the first few years saw very large mintages. By 1870 the channels of commerce were well supplied with this odd denominated coin and demand began to slack off. Also about this time, much of the silver coinage that had been



hoarded, or gone overseas during the war, began returning home. This caused a glut of coins piling up in the Treasury vaults. If coins were piling up, there was little reason to coin more. Mintages began dropping. While still priced as common coins, the 1870 to 1876 coins are much tougher to find than the earlier dates. An additional tough piece during this era is the first variety of

1873, the 1873 closed date. As with every new year, a new set of logotype date punches were created to date the various coinage dies for 1873. Almost immediately criticisms reached the mint that the new choice of date style with a "closed" 3 was not satisfactory. The rounded shape of the 3 combined with a very small separation between the knobs on the ends of the 3 and the central spike, gave the coins coming from the mint a decidedly futuristic appearance. Specifically they appeared to

be dated 1878! A new logotype was created with a greater spacing on the 3 and production of the coins continued. Only about three hundred thousand of the closed three coins were produced before the change, but even this small mintage is still fairly large in the post 1869 era. By 1876 the annual mintage had dropped down to 162,000 coins.

With essentially no minor coinage needed now due to the flood of returning coins, the mint chose not to strike any three cent pieces in 1877 or 1878 other than proof coins for collectors. These two years are looked upon as the keys to the set but are actually much easier to find than some of the later issues. Although the 1877 has an "official" mintage of 510, the number produced was actually much greater, probably fairly close to the 2350 pieces recorded for the 1878. The uncertainty stems from poor record keeping due to a lack of accountability in the base metal coinage. The 510 figure quoted is that of the number of silver proof sets sold. The silver sets also included the base metal coinage as well. However, the base metal coins could also be ordered as sets by themselves, or as individual pieces. Since the metal did not have the same stringent accounting requirements as the silver, no record was kept of the number of pieces sold.

In 1879 production began again, if you can call it that. Eighteen eighty one was the only year for the rest of the series that had any significant mintage with just over one million coins being struck. No other year saw more than 38,000 business strikes coined and that was in 1879. Mintages dropped to the low twenty thousands in 1880 and 1882. In 1883 they fell further to the "Why bother?" level with just 4,000 struck that year, seventeen hundred for 1884, and a single nice round thousand for 1885. Proof coins for these years are much more common than the business strikes with between three and four thousand being struck for collectors each year. In 1886 they finally gave up and produced the third proof only year for the series. For some reason proof production then crashed the next year with only twenty nine hundred being struck. To make up for it though regular issue production began again with five thousand coins being struck. Perhaps interest in the denomination was beginning to pick up again because in 1888 coinage was back up to the level of ten years earlier. Over 36,000 coins were struck for circulation. However, such was not the case. Only 18,000 were struck in 1889 and none in 1890. Not even proofs! Which was just as well, for the Coinage Act of September 1890 finally did away with this coin as well as the gold dollar. The economy was booming and the postal rate had risen. There was no longer any justification for a three cent coin.



Secretary's Report January 24, 2005

President Vinton Dove opened the meeting at 7:04pm at the Nora Library meeting room to 41 persons in attendance.

Secretary and Treasurer Reports were presented and approved. Visitors Dave Anderson, Mary and Ivy Kitzmiller were welcomed and Charles Buck became ICC's newest member.

Charles Alber reported that the summer picnic will be held on Sunday June 26th at a location to be announced.

It was announced that the April meeting will be GOLD EXHIBIT NITE, May will feature a program by the Madison County Coin Club and July will consist of ICC's annual EXHIBIT NITE.

Jim Luckey, National Coin Week Chairman reported that one or more tables will be staffed during that week at the Childrens Museum by I.C.C. members. The dates are April 17-23 and members should contact Jim to volunteer.

Don Black, Juniors Committee Chairman announced he is seeking members to assist in making presentations to Boy and Girl Scouting groups about Numismatics.

Upcoming Coin Shows in the area include Bloomington Coin Club Show on April 2, 2005 and the Logansport Coin Show on April 17th in Kokomo.

Donn Wray, I.C.C. member and currency collector provided the evenings educational program about assembling an affordable collection of U.S. large sized currency of the various types. His presentation was well received as being educational and practical.

The meeting closed at 8:55pm following an auction of many lots, with all but a couple purchased by the bidders. It was called by Lou Coppinger assisted by Allen Dove, Vinton Dove, and Karl Kreck.

The February meeting will be on Monday evening, February 28, 2005 at 7:00pm at the Nora Library. The dealer bourse opens at 6:00pm preceding the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

J.W. Goaziou, Secretary

Coin Trivia Question

Q: What 1851 Silver Coin is made of 75% silver alloy rather than the usual 90%?

(Answer at the bottom of page)

UPCOMING COIN SHOWS

March

6th - "Wat-Cha-Kee Coin Club Annual Spring Show" - Watseka, IL Celebrations Banquet Center 209 W. Oak Street.
Hours: 9am- 4pm

13th - "71st Street Coin Show" - Indianapolis, IN K of C Hall off Keystone Ave.
Hours: 9am - 3:45pm

18th-20th - "11th Annual Paper Money Expo" - Rosemont, IL Holiday Inn O'Hare 5440 N. River Road. Hours: Fri. 10am - 6pm, Sat. 10am - 6pm, Sun. 10am - 1pm

20th - "Old Fort Coin Club" - Fort Wayne, IN Allen County 4H Fairgrounds. Hours: 9am-4pm

26th - "Marion Coin Club's 47th Annual Show" - Marion, IN Grant County 4H Fairgrounds Community Building on St. Rd. 18 (One mile East of the Court house on the West Bound Side).
Hours: 9am- 4pm



Treasurer's Report December 2004

Income:
Membership (6 SR) \$72.00

Expenses: N/A

November Checkbook Balance \$4,912.96
December Checkbook Balance \$4,984.96

I.C.C - CD's

235153	\$5,085.44
241115	\$5,070.39 (est for November Report)
248114	\$5,068.55
	\$15,224.38

CD# 241115 Balance as of 12/18/04 was corrected to read \$5,070.40

Total CD Balance corrected to read \$15,224.39

Respectfully Submitted,
Karl Kreck - Treasurer



A: The Three Cent Piece.

ICC notes passing of Board Member

It is with great sadness and shock to note the passing of our long-time member, Lawrence Wistoff. Lawrence died on January 21, 2005 of cancer. He was 58.

He was a veteran of the Desert Storm War and had served as a member of the ICC Board of Directors from January 2000 until his death. Lawrence was always available when the Club needed help, and we will miss him dearly.

Please keep his wife, Donna and the rest of the family in your thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time.

Thanks Donn!

- The educational meeting for the January Meeting was given by ICC member Donn Wray.
- The topic was Large Notes.
- Donn came prepared with several different scans of Large Notes so that everyone in attendance could get a "hands-on" education of some very incredible looking Notes!
- This educational program was very informative and interactive!
- Thanks Donn for all of your hard work and preparation in sharing this topic with the ICC.

February Educational Program:

"Double Die Nickels"

by

Mark Eberhardt

2005 Scheduled Release dates from the U.S. Mint

- Feb. 28 - American Bison Nickel bags & Two roll sets
- Mar. 3 - California Official First day coin cover
- Mar. 9 - Mint Proof Set
- Mar. 15 - American Eagle Silver Proof Coin

February Auction Items

Here is just a short list of what will be in the upcoming February ICC auction:

ICC shirt - white pull-over shirt with collar, has ICC name and logo. Size XL, min. bid \$10.00 (proceeds will go to the club)

ICC shirt - white pull-over shirt with collar, has ICC name and logo. Size XXL, min. bid \$10.00 (proceeds will go to the club)

ICC hats (3 hats, one white & 2 tan) each with ICC logo patch, adjustable size (sold in separate lots), min. bid for each lot \$1.00 (proceeds will go to the club)

1908-O U.S. Quarter Good - min. bid \$3.00
1909 U.S. Quarter Good - min. bid \$3.00
1909-D U.S. Quarter Good - min. bid \$3.00
1909-S U.S. Quarter Good - min. bid \$3.00
1911-D U.S. Quarter Good - min. bid \$5.00
1912 U.S. Quarter Good - min. bid \$3.00
1913-D U.S. Quarter Good - min. bid \$5.00
1914 U.S. Quarter Good - min. bid \$3.00
1914-D U.S. Quarter Good - min. bid \$3.00
1915 U.S. Quarter Good - min. bid \$3.00



Receive the ICC newsletter by email

If anyone would like to receive the newsletter by email instead of through the post office, please email me at: fubacoin@aol.com.

It will be sent in an Adobe format so that it is easily readable

Also, if anyone has any articles that you have written on Numismatics, please send it to me and I will be happy to include it in the newsletter for everyone to see.

IMPORTANT NEWS

Buy your Numismatic Resources from Amazon.com and help support the ICC! Here is how:

- go to our website:
www.indianapoliscoinclub.org
- Click the title "Resources"
- Click on the Resources that you would like to purchase.

This will take you directly to Amazon.com to finish your order. The club will then receive a proceed from this order.

Last year the ICC benefited \$50.00 from this. So if you are going to add to your Numismatic Library, please keep the ICC in mind!

Thanks!!

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