

# The Planchet

A Publication of the  
Indianapolis Coin Club

May 2011 Issue 523

## **THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE MONDAY, MAY 23RD 2011**

The Meetings of the Indianapolis Coin Club are held  
the fourth Monday of each month at the  
**Northside Knights of Columbus**  
**2100 E. 71st Street 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.

Topic:  
**Double Eagles**

## 2011 Meeting Dates:

May 23rd  
June 27th  
July 25th  
Aug. 22rd  
Sept. 26th  
Oct. 24th  
Nov. 24th  
December Banquet

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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.

**The 2011 Indianapolis Coin Club Officers and Board Members**

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<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Donn Wray</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Vinton Dove</b>
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<b>Board Member 2010-2011</b>	<b>Jim Fuson</b>
<b>Board Member 2010-2011</b>	<b>Marty Moore</b>
<b>Board Member 2010-2011</b>	<b>Michael White</b>

## James B. Longacre, Fourth Chief Engraver of the US Mint



If you have ever seen an Indian head cent, you are looking at the work of the engraver James B. Longacre. He was the fourth person to hold the position of Chief Engraver of the United States Mint. He started out as a portrait artist and eventually became an engraver of portraits. During that time, before photography and modern printing developed, a portrait engraver would take a painting and make an engraving of it. Printers then used that engraving to print the portrait in books and other publications. One noted engraved portrait of Longacre's was a famous rendition of Daniel Boone, sold widely during the 1830s.

In 1844, James B. Longacre became the Chief Engraver of the US Mint, after the death of the former engraver, Christian Gobrecht. He remained in that post until he died in 1869. Many of the historical coins of the United States came from his work such as the [Liberty Double Eagle](#) pictured below.



One of his most famous pieces was the Indian head cent. This penny was the standard design from 1859 through 1909. The face of the penny shows a Native American wearing a feathered headdress. Many of these pennies survive through today. Some years are rarer than others are. The 1877 is one of the most valuable. And the two years of minting in San Francisco, 1908-1909, are prizes to coin collectors.

Another famous design of James B. Longacre was the Liberty Head gold dollar coins. After the California gold rush, there was an emerging need for a gold dollar in American coinage. Longacre made a coin with the head of a stylized Liberty surrounded by 13 stars. The coin was extremely small however. It was just over ½ inch in diameter. Because of its small size, many people ended up losing them. In response, Longacre made the coin slightly bigger with a different Liberty head. Another redesign in 1856 was the final one. It remained in production until 1889.

James B. Longacre also designed the Flying Eagle penny, the 20-dollar gold piece, the 3-dollar gold piece, the [Shield nickel](#), the 2-cent piece, and the 3-cent piece. The US Mint continued using Longacre's designs until the last one ceased production in 1909, a full forty years after his death. His legacy continues in the world of coin collecting.

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## **April 25, 2011 - Minutes of the Indianapolis Coin Club Meeting.**

**Open** – The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by the Club President, Jim Roehrdanz. 39 of the 42 people present signed the attendance book. As usual we met at the Northside Knights of Columbus Hall, 2100 East 71<sup>st</sup> Street.

**Visitors** – The President welcomed the visitors: Joe and his son, Jason, from Greenwood; David White; Larry Smith, from Muncie, who is a member of both the Anderson and the Marion clubs, and his wife, Diane; Lee Sanzo, the President of the Muncie Club; and Shirley Fields.

The **Secretary's report** and the **Treasurer's report** were read and accepted.

**Old Business** – President Roehrdanz reported that he had traveled to the San Diego Baseball stadium, and found an assembly of artifacts at the stadium's entrance. It consisted of children's toys, which had been dug up during the construction of the stadium.

Jim also reported on an article in Coin World, which claimed that it is increasingly difficult for children to enter our hobby. It claimed that the increasing costs of collectible coins make it too expensive for children. A short discussion followed.

**New Business** – Board Member, Mark Eberhardt, announced that the next 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Show would be on May 1<sup>st</sup>, which is the first Sunday. It was moved forward one week due to the fact that Mother's Day is on the second Sunday. The show is held at the Northside K of C, the same place as the Club meets, from 9 AM to 3 PM.

Treasurer, Don King, announced that three of the Club's CD's were about to mature, and would be reinvested at an interest rate of 1.1%.

The President then asked Sergeant-at-Arms, Jim Warden, and Secretary, Vinton Dove, to give a short talk about the Club, including when they joined and what the Club was like in the "Early Days." After they finished, he announced that the Board had met (without Jim and Vinton) and had elected each of them to Life Membership in the Club.

**Note: ICC member, Wendell Wolka is seeking re-election to the Board of the ANA.**

**The Educational Program** – The program was Titled "Scottish Coinage" and was presented by Paul Vaughn. Paul had a large display of 30 Scottish coins, and gave handouts consisting of color copies of the coins in the display, which dated from about 1200 to 1708. In discussing the coins, Paul included a great deal of the history of Scotland and explained the different minting processes used in making the coins. It was a very well organized and extremely interesting program, and one that Paul had undoubtedly put much time into preparing.

After the **Break**, the **50/50 Drawing** was run by Club Treasurer, Don King.

**Auction** – Club member, Joe Boling, ran the auction. There were 14 auction sheets, which included some donated items. Bob Bettcher Jim Roehrdanz, Dave Reid and Vinton Dove assisted. The club adjourned at 9:06 PM. Respectfully submitted, Vinton Dove, Secretary