



Indianapolis Coin Club

September
2003

A.N.A. C-131170 - C.S.N.S.L-600 - I.S.N.A. LM 243
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2897, Indianapolis, IN 46206

THE BATTLE OF ANTIETAM COMMEMORATIVE HALF DOLLAR

THE MONTHLY PLANCHET

The Indianapolis Coin Club is a non-profit, educational organization founded in 1939 for the purpose of educating people of all ages in the greater Indianapolis community about the coins they presently own or may wish to collect. We hold eleven monthly meetings each year (presently at the Firemen's Union Hall, 748 Massachusetts Ave.) during which various programs of an educational nature are held for the benefit of our membership and the general public. All meetings are open to the public and there is no charge for attendance unless a person wishes to become a member of the club. Adult annual dues are \$12.00 per year, junior membership dues are \$5.00 per year.

- By Bill Jones

Yesterday, September 17th, marked the anniversary of the bloodiest day in American History, the Battle of Antietam.

In September of 1862, Confederate general Robert E. Lee launched an offensive that he hoped would give the South a decisive victory. Lee planned to march his army into Pennsylvania. There, he would attack a railroad center that supplied the Union forces opposing him. Lee hoped to cripple the Union army and strike a psychological blow. By attacking the Union in its own territory, Lee wanted to terrorize Northern citizens and convince European governments that the South could win the war.

Through an unusual turn of events, Union general George McClellan knew of Lee's plans. But McClellan--always the procrastinator--delayed his attack for several days. Finally the Union forces made a stand in an area just outside Sharpsburg, Maryland, along the Antietam Creek. The battle was one of the Civil War's turning points. There were over twenty-three thousand casualties on both sides--making Antietam the bloodiest single day in all of American history.

Although the battle ended in a tactical draw, President Lincoln used the occasion to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. This executive order legally freed all

slaves living in the states that were still in rebellion. Although Lincoln's order did not actually free any slaves at the time, it isolated the South diplomatically and precluded European aid to the Southern cause.

The heroism of the soldiers at Antietam was celebrated 75 years later, on the Antietam commemorative half dollar. Collectors have long admired the coin for its beauty, remarkable clarity and depth of field.

This article was written by Bill Jones for the September 18, 2000 broadcast of "Money Talks". "Money Talks" is produced and underwritten by the American Numismatic Association, in Colorado Springs, America's coin club for over a century. Take a tour of ANA's virtual Money Museum on the web at <http://www.money.org>.

Our next meetings are scheduled for Monday, September 22, and Monday, October 27, at 7:00 PM at the Fireman's Union Hall Building, 748 Massachusetts Ave. at College Ave., Indianapolis. Parking is available in the lot west of the building and on the streets north and south of the building.

Officers: President: Jim Luckey, Vice President: Vacant,
Secretary/Editor/Webmaster: Gail Phillips,
Treasurer: Tom Ferverda, Sergeant-at-Arms: Jim Warden,
Past President: Vinton Dove

Directors: Karl Kreck, Lawrence Wisthoff, Donald Black,
Coz Raimondi, Charles Alber, Allen Dove

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From Our President

The August meeting turned out quite well, considering the lack of a tv/vcr to show our video on coin grading. Rick Jones did a great job and his presentation was enjoyed by all. I was happy to see some members step up to help on 2004 Coin Show. I know Karl appreciates the offer of help. We still need people to step up for the forthcoming election and chair the Christmas party. The coin auctions each month appear to be a success. Does anyone have a suggestion to increase our attendance? Call and bring a friend and or family member to our next meeting. I was happy to see Jim Goaziou back to our meeting. The 50/50 winner was Lyle Pelkin and the puzzle contest winner was Mrs. Pelkin.

Pres. Jim



Treasurer's Report September 2003

INCOME

Club Shirt Sales	\$40.00
Statehood Quarter Display Sales	5.00
50/50 Drawing	14.50
Total Income:	\$59.50

EXPENDITURES

Room Deposit for 2004 Show	\$150.00
Newsletter Printing	14.44
Hall Rental	25.00
Total Expenses	\$189.00

Net Expenses **\$129.94**

Balance in Checking as of September 1, 2003 - \$5060.33



This is the ISNA Commemorative medal that will be available at their November Show. See Coz for details.



Secretary's Report

The August meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM. There were 23 members and one guest present. The Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports were read. It was announced that Karl Kreck, who chaired the ICC Spring Show last year needs volunteers to assist with the show next year. A sign-up sheet was passed around. Vinton Dove volunteered to be on the committee. The location was secured by Jim Luckey and Karl Kreck, and is changing to Valle Vista, which is located in Greenwood, exit 99 off of I-65. The show will be March 16, 2004. There will be room for 30-35 dealers, and our rental cost will be \$700, which will include tables and coffee.

The scheduled showing of the coin grading video for the educational program was pre-empted, due to the lack of a TV/VCR. Rick Jones stepped up to the plate to do a presentation on the topic with very short notice, and did a commendable job. After break, Lyle Pelkin spoke to the membership about WWI and Depression-era Reichsmark, Mark coins and currency, and how by WWII, they were devalued.

The auction followed, and Jim Goaziou asked if any members would like to accompany him to the Columbus, Ohio show that he would be attending. Lyle Pelkin won the 50/50, and his wife's entry won the puzzle contest. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Puzzle Page

1913 "V" Nickel

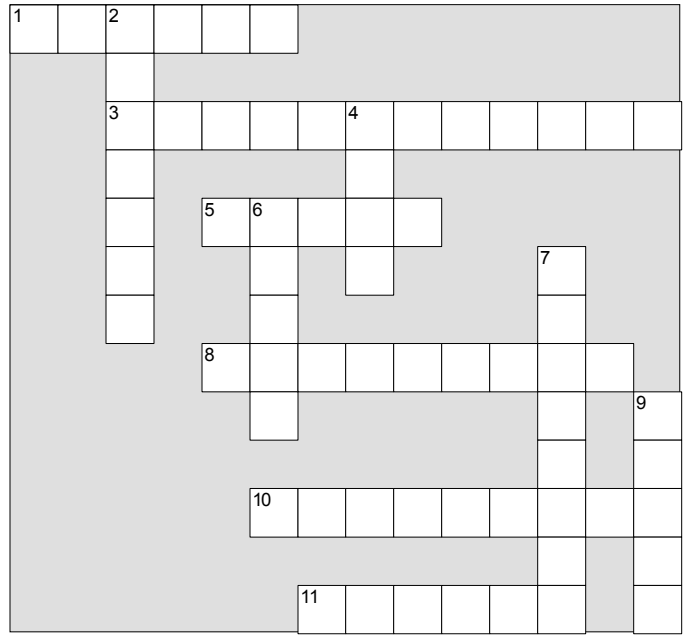
A I H P L E D A L I H P R T
 L H E M X A M B C G R O P C
 U P M J V B B N F P M Y G K
 N X N J P Z Y G J A E E T N
 O N I C K E L L N V O K R W
 F L T L Z Y K N I R J X K O
 F D X K P C U F G Y R L N R
 I N E F T M X E L T X A K B
 C M D T E D W T X R M T R L
 I C R R I A H J L E Y J L E
 A M A R L N K R T B N V L U
 L L Y T F L U N T I M D N M
 K N O P H F P E N L W N Q A
 M N M B M R E B R A B R D S

BARBER
 B MAX MEHL
 FIVE
 GEORGE WALTON
 LIBERTY
 NICKEL

PHILADELPHIA
 RARE
 REUNITED
 ROMAN NUMERAL
 SAMUEL BROWN
 UNOFFICIAL

August Puzzle Solution

I've been rich and I've been poor.
 Rich is better.
 - Sophie Tucker



Constructed using Crossword Weaver

ACROSS

- 1 Canoe type
- 3 MO is the _____ state to be admitted to the union
- 5 Explorer William
- 8 Corps of _____
- 10 Event where MO quarter was released
- 11 MO state motto

DOWN

- 2 _____ Arch
- 4 Third person in canoe, Clark's slave
- 6 Explorer Meriweather
- 7 MO is part of the Louisiana _____
- 9 Number of men in canoe on quarter

There will be a prize for this month's crossword. Good Luck!

Congratulations to Mrs. Pelkin, who won last month's puzzle contest!

Transcript No. 2079 of "Money Talks",
the ANA radio program.

September 21, 2000

FIRST COINAGE OF QUARTER EAGLES

- By Bill Jones

On this day in 1796, the United States Mint produced the first 2-1/2 dollar gold coins. A 2 1/2 dollar gold piece may seem like an odd denomination by today's standards . . . but to our founding fathers, it fit right in.

The Coinage Act of 1792 stated the value of our money in terms of gold and silver. The basic silver unit was the \$1, which was divided into smaller coins, including the half dollar and the quarter dollar. The basic gold unit was the \$10 gold piece, which everyone called an "eagle." It too, was divided into the half eagle, a \$5 gold piece, and the quarter eagle, a 2 1/2 dollar gold piece.



The quarter eagle was about the same size as the dime. In fact, in 1804, the mint used the same reverse die to produce dimes and 2-1/2 dollar gold pieces. Early quar-



ter eagles are highly prized collector's items because so few of them exist. Only a small number

of quarter eagles were issued before 1834, and most of them were melted because they contained too much gold.



In 1834, President Andrew Jackson signed a law that reduced the weight of all U.S. gold coins to a more reasonable level. Thanks to that law, far more quarter eagles were minted . . . and today, most quarter eagles dated after 1833 are priced within the range of many collectors.

In 1848, the first shipment of gold from the California gold rush was converted into 1,440 quarter eagles, which were stamped on the back with the abbreviation C.A.L. for California. These historic coins are now worth as much as a luxury car . . . if you can find one.

This article was written by Bill Jones. "Money Talks" is produced and underwritten by the American Numismatic Association, in Colorado Springs, America's coin club for over a century. To hear more "Money Talks" scripts, or to obtain a transcript, log on to the ANA's web site at <http://www.money.org>.

Transcript No. 2066

September 4, 2000

COMPANY SCRIP

- By Gerald Tebben

Today is Labor Day, and you may remember the old song that Tennessee Ernie Ford sang . . . "Sixteen tons and what do you get? Another day older and deeper in debt."

And the miner's debt in that famous song was figured in tokens

that coalmine owners in Kentucky and West Virginia claimed were money. Until miners took the law into their own hands, during what became known as the "Red Neck Rebellion" of 1922, mine-owners held their workers in virtual bondage.

Work had to be done to company order and workers were often paid in company scrip. Miners used the money to pay rent on their company-owned shanties, or buy food at inflated prices from the company store. The United States Coal Commission was appointed by President Harding in 1922, to investigate conditions, after 600,000 miners walked off the job.

The commission found that company stores charged anywhere from 4 percent to 12 percent more for food, than privately owned stores. There were some reports of company stores charging as much as 200 percent more on individual items.

Miners were paid in the mine owners' funny money, only after "cuts" had been made for such things as fuel for the lights the laborers used in the mines, and the services of the company doctor, whom they rarely had the opportunity to see.

Congress restricted the use of scrip after the rebellion, declaring that free laborers in America are entitled to be paid in U.S. money. More than 20,000 different varieties of coal mine tokens have been cataloged. They range from a quarter cent to \$20, and are often found in coin dealers' junk boxes. They can be bought for as little as a dollar.

This article was written by Gerald Tebben. "Money Talks" is produced and underwritten by the American Numismatic Association, in Colorado Springs, America's coin club for over a century.

STUDENTS PAY THE PRICE

- By Barbara Gregory

Susan DeGrasse, a teacher at Summit Elementary School in Divide, Colorado, has found the perfect antidote for her students' start-of-school blues . . . a healthy dose of capitalism and free enterprise.

For five months every year, DeGrasse's class operates like a mini-community, with students acting as bankers, mayor, retail merchants and police. Safe within the confines of the classroom, the kids learn to deal with the complexities of the adult world . . . including the headaches of budgeting on a fixed income, choosing a job and accepting its responsibilities, balancing a checkbook, and investing in the stock market.

Realizing that no capitalistic society can function without money, the students design and print their own paper currency. Before they can spend it, however, they must earn it. Community "jobs" are available on a first-come-first-served basis; salaries reflect the responsibility and difficulty of each position.

To supplement their incomes, many of the young entrepreneurs launch their own businesses. But, before they can open their doors, they must purchase a business license from the mayor of the community. In the spirit of the West, some of the affluent students put up "grubstakes" . . . floating loans or purchasing business licenses for those who can't get enough working capital together.

Just like Wall Street, the stock market trading going on in the classroom is not without risk. Students can purchase stocks with

their surplus earnings. The ups and downs of the market are simulated by rolling a pair of dice . . . which is not too far from reality.

DeGrasse says, "I hope the experience of having been a part of this community will better prepare my young spenders for the real world they have yet to discover. How they apply this acquired knowledge is difficult to measure, but I'm hoping to produce some responsible and respectable citizens of the future."

This article was written by Barbara Gregory. "Money Talks" is produced and underwritten by the American Numismatic Association, in Colorado Springs, America's coin club for over a century. For information about educational seminars on coin collecting and grading, call 1-800-367-9723 and request a brochure.

KIDS AND COINS

- By James Taylor

Well, you made it! It was a great summer--a little hot, and maybe a bit too hectic, but that's summer! And now the kids are back in school.

You got them ready--with new school supplies and clothes, maybe even a new alarm clock! But I'll bet it never occurred to you to get them really ready for school--or maybe even for life--by encouraging them to start a collection of a few, inexpensive coins.

Educators and doctors agree that one of the most important tasks of parenting is teaching children to be patient. Doctors tell us that children who learn to be patient will be better able to cope with life's many stresses and crises, once they grow up. The eminent

psychiatrist, Theodore Rubin, says children should be encouraged to take part in activities in which patience leads to a personal reward. Rubin specifically suggests fishing, working on jigsaw puzzles, and coin collecting.

But how do you get a child interested in coin collecting, especially if you're not a collector yourself? Nearly everyone is saving the 50-state quarters, and here are some other suggestions. With small kids, get some shiny coins--maybe they could all have dates from the year the child was born--and look at them together. Besides the date, look for the mintmark. This tells where the coins were made: "P" for Philadelphia, "D" for Denver, "S" for San Francisco.

Tell your child a story about the president whose portrait appears on the coin. Perhaps your child will want to collect a coin for each year in a coin's series. For example, Lincoln cents have been made each year since 1909, and the Kennedy half-dollar since 1964.

You might have your child collect coins from the countries of your family's ancestors. World coins, both old ones and those in circulation, are inexpensive. They can serve as a springboard for learning more about other countries. Think about mounting the coins on a world map. With over 250 countries today, that's quite a challenge.

This article was written by James Taylor. "Money Talks" is produced and underwritten by the American Numismatic Association in Colorado Springs, America's coin club for over a century. You are invited to attend ANA's National Money Show™ in Portland, Oregon, USA, March 26-28, 2004.

Information about this and many other ANA events can be found on ANA's website at <http://www.money.org>.

KID'S CORNER



History of the Nickel, Part Four

- by John Maag

The famous "Buffalo" or "Indian Head" nickel continued the nickel series with two different 1913 types - the buffalo on raised ground on the reverse, and the buffalo on a line. The "raised ground" type didn't stack well, or work in early vending machines. James Earle Fraser used



three different Indians as the model - Chief John Bigtree, Chief Iron Tail, and Chief Two Moons. He combined their features, for a "composite" portrait on the obverse. The reverse featured the New York Zoological Garden's buffalo, Black Diamond.



Black Diamond didn't fare as well as

the nickel - he was served as buffalo steak at a New York restaurant in 1915. The Buffalo nickel was one of the US coins that was inspired by President Theodore Roosevelt's wish to have all American coins be as beautiful as legendary ancient coins, and he found famous artists to design them. Before that, most of the coinage had been designed by employees of the Mint. Although President Roosevelt was out of office by the time it happened, ALL the circulating coinage of this era would be designed by artists whose designs were considered classic and beautiful. When the Mint started issuing bullion coins in the 1980's, they went back and re-used Augustus St. Gaudens' design that was originally on the twenty-dollar gold piece, and Adolph A. Weinman's 'Walking Liberty' design originally used on the 1916-1947 half dollar. In 2001, Fraser's Buffalo design made it's comeback on a commemorative dollar, and the coin was quickly sold out.

The Buffalo nickel did have one drawback that earlier designs didn't have - the dates wore off easily, because they were placed in a raised area under the Indian's portrait. There are many "dateless" nickels of this type still around. They could even be found in circulation as late as the 1970's, but many of them were converted into jewelry, and they soon disappeared, too.

There are two favorites in this series - the 1918 over 1917 D, which was the result of a 1917 die being repunched with an "8" over the "7", and the 1937-D "three-legged buffalo", where the right front leg of the buffalo is missing, because of a filled die. These two types of coins are valued highly. Because the dates wore off of this type of nickel so easily, there are other rarities, especially in the higher grades (fine or better).

Despite the beauty of the Buffalo nickel, it was replaced by the Jefferson Nickel in 1938. The Mint held a design contest, and Felix Schlag was the winner. His design was changed somewhat for the coinage, and this nickel is the design we have today. Schlag's original design had a three-quarter view of Monticello for the reverse, instead of the straight-on

front view of President Jefferson's home. Felix Schlag didn't get any credit for the design of the coin until 1960, when his initials were placed under Jefferson's portrait. There are some plans being discussed now to temporarily change the design of our nickel, to honor the Lewis & Clark Expedition.

There are some interesting varieties



ies in this series, including the last "rare" nickel - the 1950-D which was considered rare enough during the 1960's that it was counterfeited or altered, along with the 1939-D, which was also rare. The first change in the nickel came during World War II, when the metal, nickel, was in short supply. The mint created the so-called "war nickel", which was made from a combination of copper,



silver and manganese. It was minted from 1942-1945. To make it easier to tell the difference between this type and other years, a larger mint mark was placed above the dome of Monticello. This is the first time that Philadelphia ever placed a mint mark on one of the coins they minted. A large "P", "D", or "S" can be found over the dome. Other issues have a small mint mark to the right of Monticello. The regular metal composition was restored in 1946. In 1968, the mint mark was moved to the right of Jefferson's head, and the "S" mint mark returned to the first circulating coin since 1955. The last "S" nickels had been issued in 1954.

ROSH HA-SHANAH, THE JEWISH NEW YEAR

- By Bill Rosenblum

Today at sundown (*this Saturday, the 27th -ed.*), Jews around the world began the celebration of Rosh Ha-Shanah, the Jewish New Year. Unlike the secular New Year . . . which most of us celebrate with food, drink and football . . . Rosh Ha-Shanah begins the start of a ten-day period of spiritual self-examination and repentance.

Rosh Ha-Shanah is marked each year by the blowing of the shofar, which is traditionally made from a ram's horn. It's the religious duty of all Jews to listen to the sound of the shofar. Three distinct sounds are made by the shofar player . . . "TEKIAH" is a long, drawn-out sound . . . "SHEVARIM" is a broken, plaintive sound . . . "TERUAH" is a series of sharp, staccato-like sounds.

There have been numerous explanations and theories as to why the shofar is blown at Rosh Ha-Shanah services. There's no single explanation of the exact meanings of the three sounds, or

why a total of 100 notes are heard throughout the synagogue service.

The blowing of the shofar is an event of great solemnity, as well as a joyous occasion for Jews. The prophet Josiah wrote, "Happy is the people that know the sound of the trumpet."

It's not surprising, then, that trumpets appear on a number of coins made during the "Bar Kochba R e v o l t " against the Roman Emperor Hadrian, during the years 132 to 135 A.D. The Jews rose up against Hadrian because of his plans to build a pagan temple over the ruins of their sacred temple built by Solomon.

The coins of this revolt are among the most symbolic of any coins ever produced. One of the more popular and symbolic coins has a bunch of

grapes on the front side--while the reverse side shows two trumpets, surrounded by an ancient Hebrew inscription which reads, "For the Freedom of Jerusalem."

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ANA's virtual Money Museum on the web at <http://www.money.org>.

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Collecting U.S. Coins Since 1952

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Upcoming Coin Shows:

September 27, 2003 - Greencastle - Saturday, 9 AM until 4 PM, Putnam County 4-H Fairgrounds on HWY 231, just north of Greencastle. Raffle drawing and door prizes. Free admission, everyone welcome. Presented by the Putnam County Coin Club.

October 3, 2003 - Logansport - Sunday, 10 AM until 4 PM, Holiday Inn, Logansport, 3550 U.S. 24 East. Admission Free, Public Welcome. Come and view: Paper money issued by Logansport Banks, Logansport Merchant tokens, Coins of the Bible, 50-State Quarters. Sponsored by the Logansport Coin Club.

October 18, 2003 - Green County 4-H Fairgrounds - Saturday, 9 AM until 4 PM, Green County 4-H Fairgrounds on HWY 54, just west of the intersection of HWYS 57 and 54. Raffle drawing and door prizes. Free admission, everyone welcome. Presented by the Bloomfield Coin Club.

October 25-26, 2003 - South Bend - Saturday & Sunday, South Bend Coin and Currency Show, Comfort Suites, 52939 SR 933 N., South Bend. Free Admission. Tables: 10-15. Table Fee: \$50. For more info, call David Brody, 574-272-9198.

October 31 - November 1, 2003 - Indianapolis - Saturday & Sunday, ISNA Show, Indianapolis Marriott East. Free Admission. Tables: 100. Table Fee: \$295-\$395. For more info, call Joyce Fischer at 765-649-0253.

**This month's educational program will be a surprise.
Or maybe not.
Don't miss it!**