

The Planchet

November 2013



Issue #539

**INDIANAPOLIS
COIN CLUB**
Est. 1939

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH, 2013

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.

Indianapolis Coin Club Educational Program

This months Educational Program will be:

“Small Size Type Currency” by Donn Wray

Next Month:

Monday December 3rd, 2013, at 6 pm.

Annual ICC Holiday Banquet at Broadripple MCL Cafeteria

For a complete list of 2013 Meeting Dates & Educational Programs see the last page of this newsletter.

More information can be found on the Indianapolis Coin Club's website at:

<http://www.indianapoliscoinclub.org/>

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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 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 2013 Indianapolis Coin Club Officers and Board Members:**
- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| President | Donn Wray |
| Vice-President | Michael White |
| Secretary | Vinton Dove |
| Treasurer | Mark Eberhardt |
| Newsletter Editor | Andy Nahrwold |
| Past President | Jim Roehrdanz |
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| Board Member 2012-2013 | Jim Fuson |
| Board Member 2012-2013 | Ron Jackson |
| Board Member 2012-2013 | Paul Vaughn |
| Board Member 2013-2014 | Dave Reid |
| Board Member 2013-2014 | Bob Bettcher |
| Board Member 2013-2014 | Gary Conner |

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October 28, 2013 - Minutes of the Indianapolis Coin Club Meeting.

Open – The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Club Past President, Jim Roehrdanz. 35 people signed the attendance book. We met at the Northside Knights of Columbus Hall, 2100 East 71st St.

Visitors – Alison Brown and Joe Dankowski introduced themselves.

The **Treasurer's report** and the **Secretary's report** were accepted as published in the Planchet.

Old Business – A report on the 75th Anniversary Medals was given by Vinton Dove, the chairman of the Committee. It is the Board's goal to sell the Silver Medals for \$41.00 each, and the Bronze Medals for \$6.00 each. Presentation Boxes will cost extra. A Single coin box is \$4.00 and the two coin box is \$8.00. Both coins in a box will cost \$55.00. **The Club will accept more orders through the November meeting. Please send an email or call the Secretary before the November meeting if you will not be able to attend.** The Board will decide how many medals to make based on the number of people ordering medals through the end of November. Orders will be accepted after that date as long as supplies last.

New Business – Jim reminded the Members that the ISNA's annual coin show will be November 1 & 2, (Friday and Saturday) at the Marriott Hotel, 21st Street and Shadeland Avenue. He also reminded everyone to bring their Young Numismatists on Saturday for the Y.N. Coin auction. Jeff Sutton said he would bring plenty of Boy Scouts.

The **Attendance Drawing (Door Prize)** was awarded to Alison Brown.

The Educational Program – The State of the Hobby program was given by Mark Eberhardt, owner of FUBA Coin. He titled his presentation "What's Hot and What's Not." Gold and Silver are not as hot as last year, since Gold's price is about \$500.00 per ounce less than last year and Silver is \$20.00 less. Currency is up; Green Seal Notes are HOT. Mercury Dimes are HOT; Kennedy Halves, 1996 to 1998, are hard to find and have some very high Unc. roll prices. All denominations of 1983 Unc. rolls are HOT! 1969 dimes are \$2.00 each in AU; late date Mint and Proof sets (2010 – 2012) are DEAD!! Mark closed with this caution – when buying over the internet, be **cautious**, and as always, buy the coin, not the slab. Another excellent program.

After the **Break**, the **50/50 Drawing** was run by Bob Bettcher and won by Andy Nahrwold

Auction – Joe Boling ran the auction. Assisting were Bob Bettcher, Vinton Dove and Jim Roehrdanz.

The meeting was **Adjourned** at 8:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Vinton Dove, Secretary

Indianapolis Coin Club, Inc.
General Ledger for October, 2013

Receipts:

Dues – Regular @ \$12.00 each:
Dues – Junior @ \$5.00 each:
Advertising – Planchet @ \$35.00 each:
Fifty/Fifty Drawing: \$30.00
Interest – CD's – 1st Merchant Bank:
Donations – Auction & Others: \$13.00
ICC Library Books Sold:
Auction Lots Sheets @ \$1.00 per Sheet: \$ 9.00
Amazon.com:

Total Receipts: \$52.00

Disbursements:

Dues – ANA:
Insurance – Liability:
Insurance – Treasurer's Bond:
Computer Website Mainance:
Mail Box Rental:
Office Supplies:
 Envelopes:
 Postage:
 Supplies (Paper, ect.):
K of C Meeting Room Rental: \$50.00
Exhibitors Night Prizes:
 Printing:
 Postage:
 Paper/Ink Cartridges:
 Software:
 Envelopes:
Club Functions / Promotions:
 Christmas Banquet:
 Coin Week – April:
 Youth Educational Projects:
 ISNA Table Setup:
2014 ICC Medal (75th Anniv.):

Total Disbursements: \$50.00

Net Gain or Loss for Month: \$ 2.00

Check Book:

Starting Balance: \$5,244.34
Cash/Check In: \$ 52.00
Checks Out: \$ 50.00
Ending Balance: \$5,246.34

From the Editor

As noted on page 1, the annual Banquet will be held on Tuesday, December 3, at 6:00 PM, at MCL Cafeteria in Broadripple, (2121 E. 62nd Street). Please come! There will be a gift exchange for those desiring to participate. Bring a gift valued up to \$20.00 (wrapped) to participate. Feel free to bring a friend if you wish.

Don't forget, 2014 club dues are due. You should receive a reminder in the mail this week.

Also don't forget to order your ICC 75th Anniversary Medals! \$10 for a bronze medal, and \$40 for a silver medal, each in its own presentation box. \$50 will get you a bronze and a silver medal in a two coin presentation box. Reserve your medals now!

I attended the ISNA's annual coin show earlier this month. It had a great turnout, and was very enjoyable. Among my purchases were a couple of ancient coins, from 3rd Century Rome.

I did some research (quite a lot, actually), and was intrigued to find that as precious metal supplies went down, currency debasement occurred, and the Romans started to basically silver-plate their coins. I found the following article on the Raleigh Coin Club's website, which is reprinted by permission.

Now How Did They do That?

By Paul J Landsberg

Wasn't there a TV show by that name? Every once in a while you run across a scholarly article on numismatics that piques your interest in areas that you never really spent any thought on. I found the following article:

Experimental investigation of silvering in late Roman coinage by C. Vlachou, J.G. McDonnell, R.C. Janaway that can be found at: <http://www.forumancientcoins.com/historia/Silvering%20on%20Roman%20coins.pdf>. The really surprising thing is that the silver wash on coins that were destructively tested was only a few microns thick and many of them contained mercury and the layer was only a few microns thick. A micron is one millionth of a meter and used to be the measure of unit in semiconductor manufacturing. A human hair is 50 to 100 microns thick...

Now this article appears in a Materials Research Society publication so you can imagine this won't be like reading a USA Today article. The article was looking deeper into the silvering on late Roman coinage. Rome faced incredible economic pressures and they rapidly debased their silver coinage with bronze starting around 250 AD. However, in an attempt to maintain the image of sound coinage, the Romans used what we normally term "silver wash" to give their coins. I think we are all familiar with debasement so there are no surprises here.

Imagine yourself to be Mintus Maximus, the newly appointed Roman mint master who is a time traveler from the 21st century who has just been mandated to lower the silver content but keep up appearances. The first step of simply mixing more copper into the silver during the smelting process might be easy enough. The second step, of applying a silver wash once the silver content of the blanks is a real head scratcher. Oh, I'm sure it can be done but how could you, as poor Mintus, do this in the context of what had to be mass manufacturing requirements? The Romans minted hundreds of thousands, if not millions of coins per year, how do you apply a silver coating, some millionths of a meter thick, to hundreds of thousands of coins. Remember, your life depends on it!!!

As a final note, do ignore the scientific jargon in the article and take a read. It is an interesting window into capabilities of the ancient mint that we definitely do not understand!!

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I read the technological article linked above, and still had trouble grasping the science behind it. What it seemed to boil down to was that the modern methods used were able to duplicate the ancient silvering of coins, but no explanation was given as to how hundreds of thousands of coins were mass produced.

A bit more research indicated that a copper alloy coin containing 5% silver could be dipped in a solution of corrosive salts and acids, which would dissolve out the copper and leave a microscopically thin layer of silver on the surface. The coin could then be struck with dies, which would flatten and spread the silver across the face of the coin. While the coin would have a silvery finish, it would soon wear off in circulation.



Thanks for reading, and I hope to see you all at the banquet!

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Indianapolis Coin Club

2013 Meeting Dates & Educational Programs

January 28, 2013 - 'The "Next Gen" \$100 Federal Reserve Note' - by Joseph Boling

**Prize sponsor: Mark Eberhardt*

February 25, 2013 - 'Coin Knowledge Quiz' - by Mark Eberhardt

**Prize sponsor: Vinton Dove*

March 25, 2013 - 'MPC Fest Recap' - by Joseph Boling

**Prize sponsor: Ron Jackson*

April 22, 2013 - 'Early U.S. Mint Sets' - by James Warden

**Prize sponsor: David Reid*

May 20, 2013 - 'Canada & Newfoundland Coinage' - by Dave Reid & Paul Vaughn

**Prize sponsor: Michael White*

June 24, 2013 - 'Franklin Half Dollars-The Rodney Dangerfield of Coins' - by Jim Roehrdanz

**Prize sponsor: Donn Wray*

July 22, 2013 - 'From Crowns to Cartwheels; 1800's-1900's Silver' - by Michael White

**Prize sponsor: Jim Roehrdanz*

August 26, 2013 - 'Numismatic Quiz' - by Logansport Coin Club

**Prize sponsor: Shannon Spears*

September 23, 2013 - I.C.C. Exhibit Night

**Prize sponsor: 'Hoosier Gold Buyers' (Joe Gardner)*

October 28, 2013 - 'State of the Hobby' - by Mark Eberhardt

**Prize sponsor: OPEN - 'Hoosier Gold Buyers' (Joe Gardner)*

November 25, 2013 - "Small Size Type Currency" by Donn Wray

**Prize sponsor: 'Hoosier Gold Buyers' (Joe Gardner)*

December 3, 2013 – NO MEETING - I.C.C. Holiday Banquet – Broadripple MCL Cafeteria

*For 2013 we are introducing an 'Attendance Prize' drawing at each monthly meeting as an added incentive for all I.C.C. members to attend as many meetings as possible and to encourage new membership. Everyone attending each regular monthly meeting will receive a prize ticket when they arrive at the meeting and sign in at the greeting table. The prize each month will be a 90% silver U.S. Half Dollar (or equivalent 90% silver content coin) The I.C.C. Board members and officers as well as several I.C.C. members chose to act as sponsors and donate the monthly prizes rather than funding them from our budget. You'll find the monthly prize sponsor listed below each monthly meeting date above.

You'll just have to show up to see what you may win!

*Please keep this in mind each month; regardless of who is giving the monthly program and/or the topic, we owe it to that person and the membership to **remain quiet and pay attention** during the program. It's important that we respect the knowledge that is being shared with us as well as the time and effort the speaker is donating to our club.*

*The same rules should apply to our monthly auctions; **please remain quiet and pay attention.***

Thank you.