

Greater Houston Coin Club
Member
TNA, ANA

Sponsor: Houston Money Show

Founded 1955

**DOUBLE
SHIFT**



**JULY 4th
Celebration**



P.O. Box 79686 ~ Houston, Texas 77279-9686
Incorporated under the laws of the state of Texas, 1971

July 2015 Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the GHCC will be held on Thursday, July 16th, at Houston Community College Spring Branch (BW-8 and I-10 West). There will be a normal business meeting, show & tell, committee reports, and door prize drawings. The official meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. An auction of numismatic items will begin ten minutes after the meeting is adjourned. This time there can be EIGHT lots maximum. There will be an opportunity to set up a mini-bourse before the meeting. We are aiming to leave the building by 9:30.

Program this Month

" What I Learned at Summer Seminar "

by The Participants

Gathering Begins About 5:45 p.m.

Calendar Snapshot

- Aug. 1 - 2 Bellaire Club Show, 7008 South Rice Ave.
- August 11 Directors meeting at IHOP 5:00 p.m. Money Show Coordinators 6:30 p.m.
- August 20 GHCC monthly meeting at HCC, The Eagle Room

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The DOUBLE SHIFT is sent to GHCC members monthly, giving those unable to attend meetings information on the activities of the club. It is also sent to clubs across the nation on an exchange basis. Information and articles may be taken from this publication and used in other publications, giving credit to the DOUBLE SHIFT. Further information about the GHCC or the Houston Money Show may be obtained from the club's web site at <http://www.houstoncoinclub.org>.

Announcements:

All meetings except December will be in the Eagle Room. Sodas and water will be available at the GHCC meeting. Snacks are also welcome, as long as we leave the place clean.

Please consider volunteering to do a program at an upcoming GHCC meeting. Tell Bill Watson you will be able to help with a program for September or later.

If you are not familiar with the ANA's revitalized website, go have a look at www.money.org where several GHCC members have contributed content. You do not have to be an ANA member to view the site.

A valued member of GHCC has suggested that the Double Shift could add a new section which "introduces" a member with a brief personal biography and statement of collecting interests. This would help all members, old and new, to know the resources that are available in the club to help further their own collecting interests. If any reader wants to be the subject of the first "monthly spotlight", send a few paragraphs (pictures optional) to your editor.

Future Educational Presentations

July -- "What I learned at Summer Seminar" by our scholarship recipients

August -- "Ancients" by Gene McPherson

New Applications for Membership

The following applications for membership have been approved by the EC and need approval by the membership at the next meeting:

All for Regular Membership:

Gerard Linton (regular) John Baird (YN)

Minutes from the June Meeting

Called to Order – by Jack D. – President at 6:30 PM, June 18, 2015
Presidential remarks regarding meeting,

Question (From 1873) – Who is fined \$100 for voting in the presidential election (Susan B. Anthony)

Call for recognition of all visitors and guests of members. Former president Edwin J. (after a long absence) Gerard L., John B, also has Applied for membership., Charlie, great grandson of a member,

Show and Tell – **Tom S.** Chairman

Tom S. – coin on website coin shaped like a butterfly with enamel insert.

Lisa S. – Panda coin from Fiji – 1 oz silver with onyx eye inserts.

Richard H. - 200 fake Chinese Morgan dollars from a parents who bought them knowing they were fake

Gene M - Ancient Roman coin – cast coin - told of import restrictions

Mike G. – 1861-O half obtained from a Fargo Coin Show – with etching of name- E. W. Bryan -of a person from Houston -

Jeff H. – Coins from Marshall Islands – depicting naval ships –

Carl S. – Catalogs from legends – Feb 2015, June 25, 2015 Las Vegas auction (legends) – both for Morgan Dollars – 1879-O MORGAN – PCGS DMPL – Texas ½ Dollar – High grade example

Edwin J. - 67 mm pewter – online coin collector's panel – Dark Knight issue – broad struck – (struck by Daniel Carr)

Bruce B. – Book on illustrated coin grading guide – 1984 issue -

Gail B. – picture showing 18,000 plus pennies glued to a car. A medal from Italy mounted in a frame issued as a tribute to WWI –

Sebastian F. – two entombed coins (in slabs) – Pattern and 1883 Nickels that show differences in care of issues. A Very Rare Piece.

Andrew C.(YN) – ½ dime – with a hole – historically during the Civil War coins were sewn onto the uniform to cover the price of burial.

SNT - #7 – winner Carl S.

Bill W. – Gave a recap of the TNA magazine and pointing out how many GHCC Members are mentioned and pointed out names on various pages of a single issue.

How To Do Digital Coin Photography _ John B. – Basic Techniques – results without fancy equipment

Business Portion of Meeting:

140 tables for coin show as of tonight –

Gail B – Money show meeting time moved up an hour.

July 7th EC and Money Show Meeting Next date

New member Election – John M, , Albert S. , Oded P., Don W.,

Members were reminded to pick up their 60th medals if they have not been picked up.

Coins For A's – Report from Eve B. – down below 1000 participants and we need to do some work to get more respondents.

Awards from TNA were recognized – John B and Rick E. –
Lisa S. Won attendance prize.

Adjourned.

Club auction to follow, called by Sebastian, over 100 lots.

Guest Article

Gail B. found this 1995 Money Show program in the club archives and thought the comments on the 1957 Money Show were interesting...

I REMEMBER--37 YEARS AGO

SUBMITTED BY CHRIS JOHNS GHCC #18 (HLM #4)

This 37th edition of GREATER HOUSTON COIN CLUB's Money Show has stirred many 'I REMEMBER's'.

I Remember, in 1957, when GHCC was almost 2 years old, having to search the dictionary for a definition of "Bourse", as the club was wanting to have coin show. At the time, GHCC, Galveston County Coin Club and the Beaumont Coin Club were the only clubs along the middle Texas Gulf Coast, and we were all desirous of enlarging our friendship among the collectors of this area.

I REMEMBER the one-day (August 10) affair which resulted, featured 9 dealers: Frank Villagi, Norman and Laurine Brock of San Antonio; Hank Biccuk of Kilgore; Claude Ressler of Texas City; Ed Mills and Verna Flynt of Freeport, Walter and Mrs. Clark of Corpus Christi; Ray Womack, Bill Powell and Bill Johns, all of Houston.

The Club had reserved the City Auditorium in Liberty, Texas, at the exorbitant price of \$10.00 for the day, which included tables, chairs, a public address system, and use of the kitchen facilities!

I Remember stopping by Sonny Look's Catering Service for large urns of coffee, and picking up dozens of doughnuts on the way. Coffee and sweets, an on-going tradition for our dealers!

I Remember one of the public attending the show was Price Daniel, Jr., son of the at-that-time Governor of Texas.

I Remember the exhibits offered which included a beautiful display of U.S. Commemorative Half-Dollars owned by R.J. McMillan of Beaumont. I Remember a very special guest was Lewis M. Reagan of the American Numismatic Association. Mr. Reagan was Secretary of the ANA and had his outstanding collection of Mint-error coins on display.

I Remember the auction began at 4 p.m. and featured 64 lots. One of the lots was an 1828 half-cent with the most beautiful toning I've seen on a copper coin. The coin made a lasting impression on me, since at the time I was collecting my birth-year coins, and this was a specimen 100 years older than I. I couldn't believe that the dealer who was successful bidder on it turned it back after the auction because he didn't like the toning.

I Remember that Arthur V. Montgomery, GHCC's President, was unable to attend this first club show--he'd broken his foot the week prior! So hosting this event was the club's vice-president, Sid Gross. It was Mr. Gross who, in his address to the attendees, made the first mention of what was to eventually result in the TEXAS NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION.

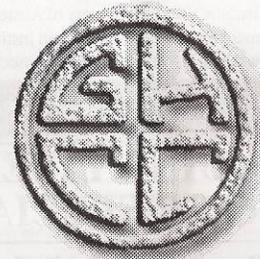
I Remember one of our dealers, Norman Brock of San Antonio, who was always referred to as "Poor Ole Broke Brock"! As the afternoon was drawing to a close, Mr. Brock was offering to sell rolls of new pennies at 49 cents a roll, citing the need for gas for his cadillac! I don't remember if he had any takers!

I Remember how tired we were of the way home after the show was over, and how pleased we were with the 84 registered in attendance, and how final figures showed that the who cost the club the a grand total of \$41.37!

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Greater Houston Coin Club's

38th Annual Money Show



January 13, 14 & 15, 1995

J.W. Marriott Hotel - Galleria

5150 Westheimer Road, Houston, Texas 77056

Money Show Hours

Friday, January 13th	10:am - 7:pm
Saturday, January 14th	10:am - 6:pm
Sunday, January 15th	10:am - 3:pm

A Perspective on Collecting . . . Thoughts From the Former President

Reprinted from the current issue of the Tyler Coin Club Newsletter

A Visit to Your Editor's "Coin Cabinet"



(Result of your editor's visit to the "Palmito Ranch" area in nearly extreme South Texas. Not much left today except cactus, salt grass and an official State of Texas historical marker. Palmito Ranch, also known as Palmito Hill, had its prolonged "fifteen minutes of fame" on May 12 and 13, 1865.)

Even though the American Civil War was officially over on April 9, 1865, it took a few weeks for word of the signing of the Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia accord to percolate through the ranks down to the troops in the field, especially those situated in obscure locations such as very far south Texas where the last recognized battle of the Civil War occurred in Cameron County on May 12 and 13. Even though the exact details of the conflict are sketchy history does recognize the last casualty of the war as a Union soldier by the name of John J. Williams, one of four who perished at what is now known as the Battle of Palmito Hill or Palmito Ranch.

Those who survived the rigors of four years of war welcomed an official muster out which led them homeward. It goes without saying that these war-weary veterans were ready to get on with their lives and had no particular interest in seeing either musket or cannon. For these folks there was no interest in any sort of military action, including "martial" activity.

A decade or more passed and a new crop of young men came of age. Many of these, not having had the experience of war in an up close and personal way, sought the thrill of combat. These same looked to a tradition of old in order to satisfy their hunger; formation of "Light Guard" units. Members of these local protection and defense organizations had involved themselves in the 1850's and before in defending the frontier, and serving much as a State National Guard does today by being ready for on call when needed.

The Light Guard of post – Civil War times, in the 1870's and 1880's, were at first more for show. Members drilled and practiced for their own entertainment and sport more than with the thought of being involved in any sort of conflict. The author from whom your editor gleaned much of his material referred to these as "play soldiers." There is one thing to affirm before we move forward; it is important to note that many of these "play soldiers" were so effectively drilled and efficiently prepared that when the call came to arms in what we know as the "Spanish American War," they were fully disciplined, equipped, and ready to go.

Starting in the late 1870's a practice of Inter-State Military Drills was born. The procedure was simple; a town, city, or region, would raise funds for hosting a gathering

of as many guard units as would choose to come. The largest drill participation your editor was able to read about was in 1888 when seventy five teams gathered in Philadelphia.

One of the more prolific and successful of teams was the Houston Light Guard, founded in the city of the same name back in 1873. Their first appearance was a fourth place finish, out of five teams, at an Inter-State Drill competition in 1881 in New Orleans. In the next few years Houston and Houstonians came to embrace their team. With enthusiasm city business leaders offered the “city where railroads meet the sea” as host for the event in 1884.

According to my major firsthand source, Dr. S. O. Young, author of *The Thumb – Nail History of the City of Houston* (self published in 1912) . . . “*The business men of Houston raised a large sum of money to be used as prizes and to pay other expenses and issued invitations to all the military companies in the United States to come to Houston for a great interstate drill. A number of crack companies promptly accepted the invitation. The War Department at Washington appointed three army officers to attend the drill, act as judges and make a report of results to the Department . . . (the drill) took place at the Fair Grounds Addition and lasted a week. The first prize was \$5,000. From that sum the prizes were reduced so that the last prize was only about one-quarter of that amount.*”

And the winner; The Houston Light Guard, naturally!!



(The Houston Light Guard saw to the construction of this building in near downtown Houston as office, dormitory and armory. The structure, completed in 1925, was later used by the Texas National Guard. Sadly in more recent times this significant building was left deserted to face the ravages of time. Within the last decade it was acquired, and renovated, as the home of the *Buffalo Soldier National Museum*. Your editor, a fifth generation Houstonian by birth, suggests a visit to this location which once again stands proudly in the city its original occupants pledged themselves to protect. The Buffalo Museum is amazing history in itself.)

By the 1890's Inter-State Drill enthusiasm had about passed on. The Spanish-American War saw to its final demise with many of those trained so ably in light guard units heading off to service in the Gulf and Caribbean in order to send the Spanish occupier of places such as Cuba and Puerto Rico packing.

Your editor started his research some time ago when first locating a large bronze commemorative medal from the event hosted in Austin in 1888, a piece the reader will see in a subsequent *Your Two Cents Worth*. Another medal, which I pictured in this article several months ago, recognized a like event championed by Galvestonians. The medal pictured below is therefore the third such item acquired by your editor, which means at three this must be another “collection.” (In my wife's opinion)

I'm assuming that marketing was well in place even in the 1880's. I don't know how many of these commemorative medals are out in the collector world. I was only able to locate one other pictured on line, and it had been holed, and converted into a watch fob.



(Medal presented or sold as a souvenir at the 1884 Inter-State Drill competition held in the City of Houston, Texas for a week starting on May 6. The Houston Light Guard won the contest with a “near perfect score” of 2.66 out of 3.00 and therefore won the first prize of \$5,000.

It is interesting to note that one of the participants in the Houston Light Guard was a young man named Samuel Oliver Young who in 1912 compiled and published the first major history of early Houston; *A Thumb-Nail History of the City of Houston*. S. O. Young was one of the premier and earliest surgeons in the city.)

References:

Olson, Bruce A., *The Houston Light Guard: A Case Study of the Texas Militia, 1873 – 1903*. (M.A. thesis, University of Houston, 1975) (Available on line)

Young, Dr. S.O., *A Thumb-Nail History of the City of Houston*. Rein and Sons, Houston, 1912 (First edition from your editor's Texana book collection)

Regards and God Bless . . . Richard

UPCOMING SHOWS



**59th ANNUAL
HOUSTON MONEY SHOW**

Thursday December 3, 2015 1 pm – 6:00 pm

Friday December 4 10 am – 6:00 pm

Saturday December 5 10 am - 5:00 pm

GEORGE R. BROWN CONVENTION CENTER

1001 Avenida de Las Americas

Houston, Texas

Gail Brichford, Show Chairman

Claude Mathes, Dealer Relations Chairman

Questions for Dr. Coyne:

- 1) What is a “remainder” note in currency collecting?
- 2) Did the U.S. Mint ever do any work for Peru?
- 3) When did the United Kingdom transition to a non-silver circulating coinage?
- 4) What is a “Registry Set”?
- 5) What is the most recent issue of blue seal Silver Certificates for our currency?
- 6) What is special about a 1959 “Black Beauty” Jefferson Nickel?
- 7) Is this piece a U.S. commemorative half dollar?



[If you feel Dr. Coyne has slipped up on any of the responses, please tell Bill Watson.]



A worthy type coin?
Indeed. A Bank of England “Dollar”.

Dr. Coyne responds:

- 1) A “remainder note” is an unissued, incomplete piece of currency. They are often lacking signatures and may come as complete or partial uncut sheets. The Continental Currency note below has its full complement of signatures along with a serial number and is not a “remainder”, though it may not have circulated.



- 2) The first U.S. Mint work for Peru came in 1855 and was an obscure set of pattern coins, according to William Bischoff in the 1988 COAC proceedings, published by ANS. James B. Longacre did the engraving. This was likely the first official foreign coinage struck at the U.S. Mint. Our Mint went on to do contract coinage for dozens of foreign powers, but this work largely ended by 1965.
- 3) The United Kingdom transitioned to a nonsilver circulating coinage in two major stages..... Their pre-1920 3 pence, 6 pence, shillings, florins, half crowns and crowns were all .925 or "sterling" silver. In response to adopting the gold standard and recognizing the financial cost of World War I, the lower denominations were reduced to .500 fine from 1921-1947. World War II brought copper-nickel coinage to the former reduced-silver denominations. All the post-1970 coinage (except issues for collectors) has been base metal.
- 4) A "Registry Set" is a set of related coins composed of the dates/mints as dictated by PCGS or NGC to fit their prescribed definition of the set, for example, Mercury Dimes or CC Morgan Dollars. The collector acquires coins which fit his registry set and lists their certification numbers and optional photos on the PCGS or NGC website, and the Third Party Grader's computer "ranks" the listed sets according to grade and completion percentage. The program has been a marketing success for the TPG services, and some collectors enjoy the fame that accompanies a high ranking. There are hundreds of "set definitions" available.
- 5) The most recent issues of a Blue Seal Silver Certificate Note came with the Series 1957. There were also \$5 Silver Certificates in the Series 1953 and \$10 Silver Certificate in the Series 1953. The last of these was actually distributed in 1964. Redemption in metallic silver ended June 24, 1968.



- 6) The “Black Beauty” Jefferson nickels of 1958-59 are an unusual issue of the Philadelphia Mint in which the blanks were improperly annealed before striking, causing them to take on a dark toning before they were released for circulation. By far the majority of the 1958-59 issue had ordinary bright surfaces at the time of issue.



- 7) The illustrated piece is not a U.S. commemorative half dollar. It is a privately issued medal from 1935 honoring the pony express. The die work, especially on the “changing ponies” side is not up to Mint standards. See, for example, the horse’s legs. The piece was issued by Whitehead & Hoag of New York City.

Coins-For-A’s Program Progress Report

The CFA Program was partially on holiday in June as the mail brought CFA applications from fewer individual students and teachers acting on behalf of whole classes. In May, the program reached 185 students, including groups in three schools. The administrator is now in her eighth year with this program. The CFA inventory is being continuously restocked. It is now adequate in most areas, but donations are always appreciated! The administrator continues to receive a

stream of “thank you” notes to GHCC for this program. Students apply for awards individually and through their teacher at schools.

Publisher’s Editorial Page

(Views here may not reflect the views of the GHCC or its officers)

Your editor has been away for the best week of the year to Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs. Since preparation time is short, the publisher’s editorial this month needs to be a carefully selected reprint from the archives – April 2009.

The Best Part of Nevada

This non-embellished tale is brought to light on these pages to show that the opportunity to enjoy numismatics can come at the most unexpected times and places. This one came on a far-flung trip, but there is opportunity close to home, too.

It was summer 2007 when the program at Summer Seminar called for a talk by Mr. Ken Hopple, identified as “coiner of the Carson City Mint” to be presented at a late-afternoon session. The intriguing title included something about “digging up dies in the back yard of the CC Mint”. I was one of perhaps 60 folks who anxiously awaited the entrance of Mr. Hopple. Kim Kiick of ANA had earlier circulated word that Ken was delayed on his flight in from the West, but that he would appear shortly. It was a presentation that did not disappoint! Ken had nice photos and an engaging speaking style along with new spade work (literally!) to report. It seems that back in the active coining days (1870-1893), the coiner responsible for defacing and then returning worn-out or obsolete dies to Philadelphia did not do the whole job. He doubtless reasoned that it would serve little purpose to ship a chunk of useless steel clear across the country (on the then-new railroad). So it seems that he defaced them with a hot chisel, but then just dropped them into a hole in the backyard of the mint. They lay there undisturbed for over a century. But just a few years ago, some of the long-buried dies came to light (it might have been when the old mint was turned into the Nevada State Museum and building modifications were being made). The lumps did not at first look much like coinage dies, but Ken and others undertook to clean up a few samples to see what was there. Meanwhile others ran metal detectors over the ground and prepared a map of the mint property showing “hot-spots”. Hundreds of dies came to light. Ken developed a process to carefully clean the rust and residue off the dies without damaging what was left of the

coinage face.



Your editor was most excited by the discovery of 1876 obverse dies for the twenty cent piece (along with CC reverse dies for the twenty cent close by). Ken must have been excited, too, as he carefully cleaned them, then struck uniface “splashers” in soft metal on a small press at his home. The story of his discoveries and preservation of the dies formed the main story he presented in Colorado Springs. But he brought along the actual dies as well, and he consigned the twenty cent splashers to the Youth Auction. Your editor decided then and there that THIS was to be his best opportunity to make a “contribution” to the Youth Auction and bid accordingly. The hope is that one day the 1876-CC splashers will be placeholders in an otherwise complete set of twenty cent



pieces 1875-1878.

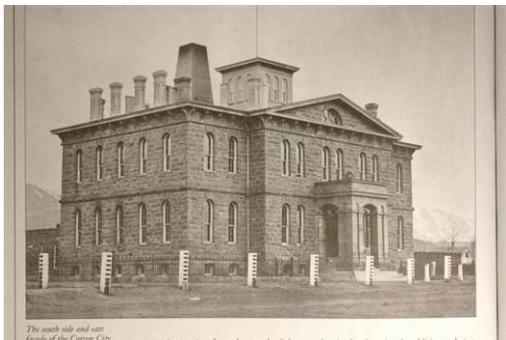
At the talk, Ken urged anyone in the audience to come visit him at the mint in Carson City on the last Friday of any month. On that day, he runs the old #1 press (which he had an important hand in restoring to coin-making capability). Eve and I got a final shot at learning about all that he does by giving him a ride to the C. Springs airport after Summer Seminar. As we parted then, we speculated about whether we could include Carson City as a side trip on our way back from the Portland ANA meet in March 2009. It did come to pass. Imagine our delight when the docent said “Ken and Karen Hopple will be here at 10:00 to start up the press and run demonstration pieces”.

Ken and Karen were a true treat at the mint; they prepared coin-sized medals in a variety of metals on demand for visitors as they came through the room which now features the press. Ken would white-glove a still-warm piece directly to any visitor. There was a nice display giving more of the story about digging up the old dies in the yard.

The capstone of the day came when Ken, Karen, and Bob (director of the

museum) were our guests for lunch down the street at a nice Italian restaurant. After seeing all this in Carson City (almost on the border with California), Eve commented how little there was to see on U.S. 50 on the drive clear across the state to Utah.

We need to see if we can find a way to get Ken Hopple to come to Houston and visit the GHCC or the Money Show with his fascinating story!



Carson City Mint about 1880

John Barber

Meeting Reminders

- Arrive early to socialize with other members.
- Bring an item and a MAXIMUM 3-minute story for Show and Tell.
- Consider volunteering to bring snacks for a meeting.
- Bring a guest to the next meeting.

GHCC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2015-2016

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These terms end April, 2016

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The **HOUSTON MONEY SHOW**