

Newsletter

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RCC Members Win Exhibit Awards at ANA Anniversary Convention

Two RCC members, David Boitnott and Dave Provost, each won awards for their educational exhibits at the just completed 112th Anniversary Convention of the American Numismatic Association (ANA).

David Boitnott won First Place in *Class 17 – Numismatic Errors and Error Varieties* for his exhibit “Wanted: A Few Oddball North Carolinians — North Carolina Statehood Quarter Errors.” He bested four other exhibits, including two very good Buffalo nickel exhibits, for the top honor. The exhibit also was honored with the Derek Pobjoy Award for the best exhibit of modern commemorative coins.

Provost took home a First Place award in *Class 15 – Private Mint Issues Since 1960* for his “Silver Commemorative Medals of the Heraldic Art Company” exhibit. He also garnered a Third Place award for “Right Date, Wrong Ship: The 1972 National Commemorative Medals for the *USF Constellation*,” his exhibit in *Class 19 — Local Interest Numismatic Material*.



Club Business Page

The Raleigh Coin Club

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Club Officers

President	Paul Landsberg
Vice President	Bob Schreiner
Secretary	David Provost
Treasurer	Kent Woodson
Sergeant-at-Arms	Thomas Powell

Directors (Term Expiration)

Halbert Carmichael (2003)
Dot Hendrick (2004)
David Boitnott (2005)

Club Affiliations

American Numismatic Association
Member #C-79478
Blue Ridge Numismatic Association
BRNA Member #C-3383
Eastern States Numismatic Association
ESNA Member #0026 (Life)
North Carolina Numismatic Association
NCNA Member #C-14 (Life)

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July Meeting Notes

RCC president Paul Landsberg called the July meeting to order at 7:35pm; 23 members were in attendance.

The Treasurer's Report was given and it was reported that the club made a profit of approximately \$2,500 from our annual show. It was noted that a few show expenses were yet to be paid and that a final accounting would be provided at the September meeting. The club treasury currently stands at about \$13,000.

Paul L. thanked everyone who helped out at the show and made it the success that it was. Dave Provost reported that between 80 and 100 young collectors took part in the club's "coin grab" and that he had to scour the bourse floor for additional prizes late Saturday afternoon. Dave P also reported that five new membership applications were completed at the show.

Mike Lynch asked about the possibility of expanding the RCC show to three days. A brief discussion was held, with the added costs for rental of the Kerr Scott Building and security being mentioned as two major issues; no action was taken.

Paul reminded everyone that the RCC would be holding its annual Ice Cream Social at the August meeting. **All members were encouraged to bring some ice cream or other dessert item.** The club will be providing the beverages for the evening as well as the paper goods. **Members were also asked to bring an ice cream scoop!**

The annual ANA Convention was discussed with several members speaking out and encouraging as many members as possible to attend. A handful of members indicated that they had plans to make the trip to Baltimore for at least part of the show. It was mentioned that David Boitnott and Dave Provost would be setting up competitive exhibits at the convention.

See [Meeting Notes](#) on Page 3

President's Message

Hello and welcome to August! Have you ever heard the expression, "Do as I say, not as I do?" Well, in that regard I sincerely hope that many Raleigh Coin Club members took advantage of the relatively near proximity of Baltimore and attended the annual ANA Convention. The "discovery" of the 5th 1913 V nickel was big enough news to make it to Yahoo front-page news. The excitement behind "rediscovering" a million dollar coin at the Baltimore ANA was a huge publicity generator and I hope this was reflected in attendance figures and new members.

As I alluded to earlier, I was unable to attend the ANA. An unfortunate set of circumstances (vehicle repairs, work and family matters) gave me enough excuse to not go. But maybe it was for the best. I seem to suffer from the "potato chip syndrome" whenever I go to a coin show — I just can't seem to stop at one. I believe that many of you probably have a similar affliction!

August is our Ice Cream Social, so please bring along a quantity of your favorite ice cream (hold the salmon sorbet please), bring an extra scooper along if you have one, and, most importantly, bring along your ice cream appetite and have some fun!

Although we do not have a formal meeting at the Social and hence no formal "show and tell," do bring some recent acquisitions to share with others.

Enjoy!



ANA Convention display case with all five 1913 V Nickels

Meeting Notes

Continued from Page 2

The club's annual meeting at the North Carolina Gallery on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus was discussed and tentatively set for October. Dave P. will check with Neil Fulghum, Keeper of the Gallery, to confirm.

Dave P. promoted the American Numismatic Association (ANA) and discussed the benefits of ANA membership. Dave mentioned that he is the ANA District Delegate for Central North Carolina and that he could offer a membership discount to new ANA members. Dave also encouraged anyone who had questions about the ANA to see him during the meeting.

The RCC web site was discussed, with Gary Werner inquiring about links to other numismatic organizations and the possibility of adding reports of stolen numismatic items to the site. Dave P. stated that the site was being updated to include a link to the Blue Ridge Numismatic Association's listings of stolen items.

Show-and-tell items included a Kennedy half dollar set and a roll of 2003 Kennedy halves (Kent Goddard), a 2000 Japanese Mint Set and a Five Yen note (Alex Lawson), a tripled die 1964-D Kennedy half (Roger Beckner), an Alexandria drachma and a provincial tridrachma (Paul Landsberg), an MS-66 1946 Booker T. Washington commemorative half dollar and a complete set of bronze State Capitol medals from Capitol Medals of High Point, NC (Dave Provost) and five North Carolina colonial notes and a piece of Continental currency (Bob Schreiner).

The evening's program was given by Alex Lawson and presented a survey of polymer banknotes.

The meeting concluded with the monthly raffle and door prize drawings.

Don't forget to bring ice cream or a dessert item to the August meeting!

It's ICE CREAM SOCIAL time!!!

Impaired Strikes

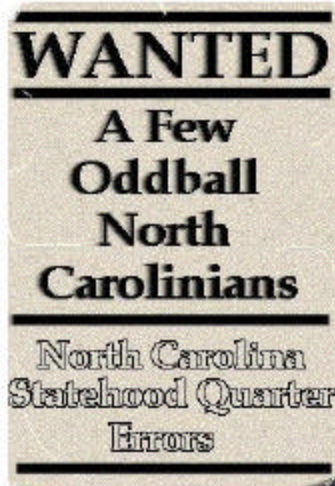
By David W. Boitnott

Last month we discussed the striking process in order to better understand what could go wrong as we delve deeper into the category of striking errors. We also divided the striking errors category into three smaller ones — weakly struck, out of collar, and multi-struck — of which weakly struck or impaired strikes is this month's subject.

From our discussion of the process, remember that the die alignment is adjusted by the technician at the hammer or reverse die. Alignment is important in that the tolerances between the feeder fingers and the collar to the dies is quite small such that much initial offset could result in damage to any of the above. To avoid this, the technician runs trial strikes at reduced pressure to test his adjustments. The resultant coins are very weakly struck and are gathered up afterwards to be destroyed. Although intentionally made, any that escape the mint are considered errors and called a "Die Adjustment Strike." Shown here are two different examples — one showing approximately 40% detail and the second showing about 70% detail. The key diagnostic in identifying these is that there is equal weakness on all three sides — the reverse, the obverse and the reeded edge. The Mint technicians are very careful to prevent these from escaping the Mint; however, occasionally one will find its way out. To date I have noted six of these in my unofficial census.



Figure 1. Die Adjustment Strikes



A minor error related to the alignment process is known as a MAD or Misaligned Die. It is the result of a small misalignment of the hammer die where the centering of the reverse is off a small percentage (usually less than 2%) when compared to the obverse. These carry little if any premium over face value and I didn't even bother to look for one on a North Carolina quarter. I only mention it here so that as you sort through your bags of quarters looking for those die cracks you'll have something else for which to hunt.

The next major error of interest looks, at first glance, to be very much like the Die Adjustment Strike and is called a "Struck Through" error. Struck through errors can be due to any number of foreign objects entering the striking chamber, but are most commonly caused by grease. The diagnostics of this error, when contrasted with the Die Adjustment Strike diagnostics above, differs in that the weakness is uneven and many times effects only one side of the coin. Furthermore, the reeding on these coins tends to be extremely sharp and well defined due to the increased pressure resulting from the hydraulic nature of grease. The surface of the coin where the grease was also has a kind of hazy look which hopefully shows in the Figure 2. These are more common than Die Adjustment Strike errors; my unofficial census count has noted fifteen of these pieces.



Figure 2. Struck Through Error - Grease

As mentioned earlier there are many types of struck through errors. Although I have not found any on North Carolina quarters yet, be on the lookout for any that appear to have been struck through cloth, struck through thread or struck through a bristle from a cleaning brush. I did have one fortuitous find on a North Carolina quarter I purchased as an example of another error that will be discussed in a later installment. As I was examining the coin I noticed a small piece of what appears to be aluminum struck into the surface of the coin and is shown circled in Figure 3. I theorize that this is most likely a piece of an aluminum feeder finger that came in contact with the dies at some point and was broken off. This event most likely jammed or damaged the feed mechanism leading to more problems. If it was not the root cause of the other error on the coin it is at least a hint at what might have happened.



Figure 3. Struck Through Error - Metal

Well, that concludes our brief look at impaired strike North Carolina quarter errors. Now, as you waste away the hours faithfully searching through your bags of statehood quarters, you have some more "oddballs" to keep an eye out for!

Next time we will look at some "out-of-this-world" out of collar experience North Carolina quarters. So, until we meet again next month, keep searching out those elusive "oddballs" that make this facet of coin collecting so much fun.

On the Other Side of the Table

By Paul Landsberg

I took the plunge and decided to set up a table at our June RCC show. Like too many collectors, I have bought far too much material in the past that now no longer interests me. I started collecting coins back in 1977 and figured that having seen thousands (if not tens of thousands!) of dealer tables since, I wouldn't be a total dolt if I set up as a dealer.

Well, let me tell you, sitting on the other side of the table gives you a whole new perspective on coin collectors, being a dealer and coins. First, although we probably each realize on some intellectual level that we each have a unique approach to collecting, the cold hard reality of this is brought home when you are trying to sell coins and currency.

I took to ancient coin collecting by meeting a gregarious dealer who sold me a rich in history VF-XF silver coin at a decent price. Yes, I know that many people get hooked on ancient coins these days by going through "uncleaned" bronze coins, but to me there are so many downsides to uncleaned bronzes. There is a lot of hard work to find if you even have a recognizable coin, it is a long, tedious process and is usually a crapshoot in terms of what you find.

It is stunningly obvious to me that \$10 spent on a nice bronze is so much more rewarding than buying five or six uncleaned coins. And do you know what the punch line of my story is? The uncleaned late Roman bronzes I had out sold higher condition, rarer, more historical coins at a rate of 100 to 1. The cold water reality of "the customer is always right" is harsh!

**Come for the ice cream.
Stay for the interesting conversation!
It's ICE CREAM SOCIAL time!!!**

Small Change – Part 24: East Indies

By Halbert Carmichael

1945 saw the region which was nominally a series of colonies of Britain, the Netherlands, and the United States being liberated from Japanese occupation. 1969 saw the region as a series of independent nations.

We start with Malaya, which had a British colonial coinage of 100 cents to the dollar. The coins had the crowned portrait of the British monarch and his titles on the obverse and the name of the country, the denomination, and the date on the obverse. All were in Latin letters. The 1 cent was a square bronze coin. The 5, 10, and 20 cent coins were first 0.750 fine silver, then 0.500 fine silver and finally cupro-nickel. With the new monarch, Elizabeth II, a new portrait and a new denomination, 50 cents, were added, and the region was called Malaya and British Borneo. Sadly, the Brookes of Sarawak struck no coins after they returned following the end of Japanese occupation.

In 1963, independence came and the new country of Malaysia issued coinage in its own name. The new coins (all round) had the denomination on the obverse and a picture of the national parliament building on the reverse. The reverse also carried the national symbol, a crescent and multi-pointed star, but no text. The dollar was now called the ringgit.

Tensions between the Malay majority and the predominantly Chinese population of Singapore led to the latter separating as a city-state in 1965. Singapore's coinage from one cent to one dollar had a common obverse of the denomination, the date and "Singapore" on the obverse with a wide variety of animals without text on the reverse. One of my early coups on the identification of birds was recognizing that the one bird design in the series was taken from a photograph that I had seen of an Asian darter, and was not the heron as one source identified it. An indication of the size and vitality of the Singapore economy is the fact that these coins were made in large numbers every year for almost twenty years.

Brunei chose not to join the federation of Malaysia and issued its own coinage starting in 1967. The coins show the sultan's portrait on the obverse and a common decorative design on the reverse.

Indonesia is a different story. A rich country with a rich, diverse and restive population which had been a Dutch colony before the Japanese occupation had several coins struck in Dutch denominations (100 cents to the guilder) after the Dutch returned in 1945. However, the Indonesians had declared independence after the Japanese were defeated and before the Dutch returned in force. After four years of fighting, the Dutch granted independence in 1949. In 1952, a new coinage of 100 sen to the rupiah appeared. The coins had "Indonesia," the AD date and the denomination on the obverse and Indonesian text with a heraldic bird on the reverse. Slightly modified designs appeared in 1954 and then nothing else until 1970.

Timor was a Portuguese colony occupying one half of a large island. The Portuguese struck coins similar to those of the home country, in various years from 1946. After a period of Indonesian occupation, Timor is now an independent state.

The Philippines were a self-governing commonwealth of the United State for which a distinctive coinage had been struck to the American standard. One set of these was struck in 1945, before the country became independent in 1946. The Philippines did not strike their own coins until 1958. These coins used some of the same designs that had been used for the commonwealth coinage.

How many American generals have appeared on coins? One you might not think of is Douglas MacArthur, who appeared on a 50 cent and a 1 peso coin in 1947.

See [Small Change](#) on Page 7

North Carolina Numismatic Showcase

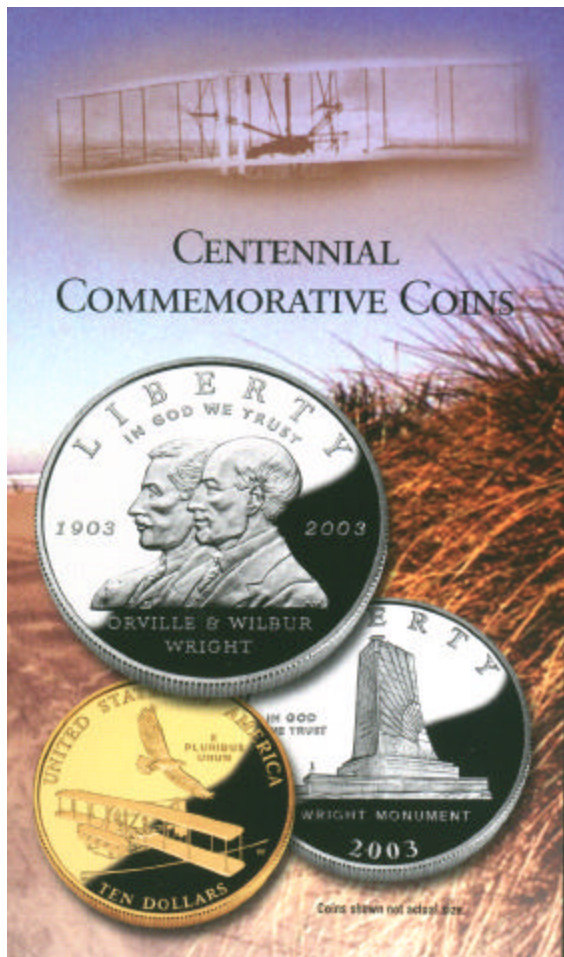
By Dave Provost

First Flight Centennial Commemorative Coins

The long-awaited First Flight Centennial commemorative coins were "released" on August 1st; the US Mint is now accepting orders for the coins. The US Mint web site indicates that the coins will be delivered in September.

The program consists of a copper-nickel half-dollar, a silver dollar and a \$10 gold eagle; all of the coins are available in proof and uncirculated.

To order, call 1-800-USA-MINT or visit www.usmint.gov.



Show Calendar

August 15 – 17 Raleigh, NC
Coin Collectors Showcase
Kerr Scott Building
NC State Fairgrounds

August 15 – 17 Dalton, GA
Blue Ridge Numismatic
Association Convention
NW GA Trade & Convention
Center
(I-75, Exit 333)

Small Change

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**Common obverse of the 1947 Philippine
commemoratives for Gen. MacArthur**

The eastern half of the island of New Guinea was a League of Nations mandate administered by Australia. Coinage was first struck to the pound/shilling/pence system for the area in 1929, but was not put in circulation. In 1943, while a large part of the island was still occupied by the Japanese, a new coinage was begun. The shilling of this set was struck in 1945, making it eligible for this series. Nothing further appeared for the region until independence in 1975.

August Meeting Notice

Thursday, August 14, 2003
7:30 PM

Program

Ice Cream Social

Remember to bring some ice cream or other dessert item
for everyone to share!

Presented by

Every RCC'er with a Sweet Tooth!

Dave Provost
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