

Raleigh Coin Club NEWSLETTER

Established in 1954

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Spot Prices as of
11 January 2010

Platinum: \$1585 (+\$146)

Gold: \$1148.10 (-\$13.30)

Silver: \$18.53 (+\$0.06)

A Visit to the Land of Chocolate, Fine Watches and Long-term Coin Designs

By Dave Provost

My business travels took me to Geneva, Switzerland in December and afforded me a chance to get “up close and personal” with the coins and paper money of the small, picturesque country. I was already familiar with the country’s coinage – having spent numerous sessions with the various Krause world coin catalogues -- but had essentially no knowledge regarding the designs of its paper money.

Upon my arrival in Geneva, I visited a currency exchange booth to convert a few US greenbacks into the local currency. As Switzerland is not part of the European Union and does not use the Euro as its monetary unit, I was handed a variety of colorful Swiss Franc notes. The first thing I noticed about the notes (after their color) was their orientation. Unlike the familiar horizontal orientation of our US notes, Swiss notes have a vertical orientation with a large portrait anchoring the note at the bottom.

There are six denominations of notes (10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 1000 Francs), and each features a portrait of a prominent Swiss citizen who made significant contributions to the arts as either an architect, composer, painter, sculptor, author or historian, respectively. It took a little time to get used to the notes, but I was soon “spending like a local!”

I’m not sure how much longer the current series of notes will be “current,” as a new series with more abstract designs is under development. The current notes were released into circulation between 1995 and 1998, and replaced the series that was released in 1976. It appears unlikely, however, that the current series will experience the 20-year run of the 1976 series thanks to the advances of modern counterfeiting techniques.

Chocolate, Watches, and Long-Term Coin Designs continued on Page 4

Raleigh Coin Club

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Established 1954

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David Boitnott

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Jim Jones

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Richard Brown

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Steve Pladna

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Paul Livingston (2011)
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American Numismatic Association
Member #C079478

Blue Ridge Numismatic Association
Member #C3383

Eastern States Numismatic Association
Member #0026 (Life)

North Carolina Numismatic Association
Member #C14 (Life)

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December Meeting Minutes

The annual December holiday party was once again a night of good food, good conversation and good-natured thievery for club members and their family members who attended. The party once again was held at the Golden Corral Restaurant on Glenwood Avenue and, from all accounts, the all-you-can-eat buffet tables provided abundant choices and abundant volume!

David B called to order a brief business meeting after folks had finished dinner. He announced the final dates for the club's 2010 show and noted that we would be going up against the large numismatics shows in Memphis and Baltimore. David noted that Dave P had attempted to negotiate a swapping of dates with the promoter of the Toy and Hobby Show that is scheduled in the Kerr Scott Building on our preferred dates, but that the promoter was eventually unwilling to make the switch.

Halbert C gave an update on the club's plan to donate a "Red Book" to each of the high schools in Wake County and the unexpected bureaucracy that we encountered. In the end, we will be moving forward with a donation of 22 volumes in Wake County and will explore the possibility of donating our remaining stock (we purchased 28 books) to schools in Johnston County.

David then reminded everyone that we will no longer be meeting on the second Thursday of each month – and noted that our new meeting date is the third Tuesday of each month. We will continue to meet at the Ridge Road Baptist Church and the meetings will continue to start at 7:30pm.

Next up was the annual gift exchange game. As always, the game proved to be the source of lots of fun and laughter as the "high demand" Meeting Minutes continued on Page gifts made their way from one attendee to another and the "less desirable" gifts had their owners begging for a no-questions-asked robbery! Every year seems to feature one or two unfortunate individuals who have the gift "stolen" more often than average. This year, club Treasurer Steve Pladna was the most popular victim. Steve eventually stole a book that he could retire from the game even though he claimed not to be interested in it – the stress of another potential loss proved too much for him!

President's Message

Happy New Year!

The year “twenty-ten” – it just doesn't seem possible. But we're here and ready to meet the challenges it may bring us. Last month, I reflected back on what we as an organization had gone through in 2009. This month let's look to the future and plan to capitalize on last year's accomplishments and momentum in 2010.

The paramount challenge we face this year is our annual show. Last year, table sales were terrific. In fact, we had to turn away dealers as we sold out all available tables. With our 2010 show dates conflicting with the International Paper Money Show in Memphis and the Whitman Expo in Baltimore – both large and popular shows -- we may not be able to duplicate our 2009 results. The show committee needs to finalize the show contract and start getting it out in front of the dealers. This is where the entire membership can help. How? Well, most of us travel to shows – volunteer to take contracts to the shows. Talk up the show with your favorite dealer – especially if he or she is considering one of those other shows or has never done the Raleigh Coin Club Show before. Paul Landsberg does a great job as bourse chairman, but I'm sure he would appreciate all the help we can give him. While we inevitably will lose some of our regular dealers to the major shows we can still fill the room and put on a show worthy of the Raleigh Coin Club.

We need to start thinking about National Coin Week, April 18 – 24. This year's theme is “Beautiful Places: Landmarks and Mintmarks.” The idea is to celebrate the many landmarks and scenic places that have inspired the designs on coins and paper money. Last year, we held two separate events for Coin Week one on each of the bookend weekends. This year let's build on and expand that.

January Meeting Notice

DATE

19 January 2010

TIME

7:30pm

WHERE

Ridge Road Baptist Church

PROGRAM

“Coins of Nova Scotia”

Don Fraser

There are other club activities under discussion that hopefully will also bare fruit. The club is always open to ideas! I only ask that you prepare your proposal and present it to the officers prior to the meeting. This way time can be allotted on the agenda.

See ya at the January meeting on the third Tuesday (January 19th) at the Ridge Road Baptist Church.

Remember, promote the hobby and the club – recruit a new member – there's points in it.

- David Boitnott

Dues for 2010 are now due!

**Please see Steve Pladna at the
January Meeting to renew your
membership!**

Chocolate, Watches and Long-Term Coin Designs (cont.)



Front of 200 Swiss Franc note featuring portrait of Charles Ferdinand Ramuz, a prominent Swiss author.

There are seven denominations of coins currently in circulation in Switzerland, they range from 5 Centimes (essentially five cents) to

5 Francs (essentially 5 dollars). Denominations include 5, 10 and 20 Centimes, plus ½, 1, 2 and 5 Francs.

The interesting -- or boring -- thing about Swiss coins, depending on your perspective, is that they have used the same basic obverse and reverse designs for over 125 years for all but the 5 Franc denomination. The “new” 5 Franc design dates back only to 1922!

The 5, 10 and 20 Centime coins feature a portrait of Libertas, the goddess of Liberty.



Reverse of 20 Centime coin.

The ½, 1 and 2 Franc coins all feature a standing Helvetia -- the allegorical female representation of Switzerland (Confœderatio Helvetica) -- dressed in a flowing gown, holding a spear in her right hand and supporting a shield featuring the Swiss flag in her left.

Continued on Page 5

Make Note of New Meeting Day

**Beginning January 2010, the RCC will meet on the
THIRD TUESDAY of each month.
(We no longer meet on Thursday.)**

Chocolate, Watches, and Long-Term Coin Designs (cont.)



Reverse of 1 Franc coin.

The design of the 5 Franc coin is unique to the denomination, it features a portrait of... Well, I'm not sure whose portrait is featured. A bit of internet searching turns up several sources that suggest it is the famous Wilhelm (William) Tell -- Swiss national Hero of Liberty. Other sources indicate the portrait is simply that of an unknown Alpine shepherd. In either case, it is a simple, striking design.



Reverse of 5 Franc coin.

The obverse of each coin has a numeric representation of the denomination surrounded by a wreath.

While in Geneva, I took some time to visit the downtown shopping district and do some sightseeing in the "Old Town" portion of the city. As I walked around the shopping district, I was struck by the large number of stores featuring \$10,000 and up wrist watches in their windows. All of the famous brands were represented – Rolex, Patek Philippe, Omega, TAG Heuer, Movada and many, many more! Unfortunately, as the number of Swiss Francs in my pocket was a bit limited, I was not able to advance beyond "window shopper."

I couldn't visit Geneva without visiting a Swiss chocolate shop (or three!) – there were plenty to choose from! I stocked up on "souvenir" treats for the family from a number of shops and made a purchase (or three!) for myself! Good thing I packed an empty duffel bag before I left home!

I hope to get back to Geneva in the future and to find the time to visit a coin shop (or three!) to check out the country's famous shooting talers and many commemorative medals.

Happy Collecting!

(All images courtesy of www.snb.ch.)

Dues for 2010 are now due!

Please see Steve Pladna at the January Meeting to renew your membership!

Krause Coin of the Year Winners

By Dave Provost

The annual nominations for Coin of the Year (COTY) were announced in December by Krause Publications, and the winners were recently unveiled in Berlin. Selecting the COTY is a three-step process: 1) Generate nominees for each of the 10 award categories (see below); 2) Select the COTY winner in each category; and 3) Select the overall COTY from the category winners.

The COTY categories are:

- Most Historic Coin
- Best Contemporary Event Coin
- Best Gold Coin
- Best Silver Coin
- Best Crown Coin
- Best Trade Coin
- Most Popular Coin
- Most Artistic Coin
- Most Innovative Coin
- Most Inspirational Coin

US coins received nominations in the following five categories:

- Best Gold: 2008 Louisa Adams \$10
- Best Trade: 2008 Hawaii Statehood Quarter
- Most Popular: 2008 Silver Eagle
- Most Artistic: 2008 \$100 Platinum Eagle (Judicial Branch of US Government)
- Most Inspirational: 2008 Bald Eagle Half-Dollar

All nominees for the 2010 COTY were released in 2008. This is the standard procedure for the COTY awards – nominees are announced late in the year following their release and the awards are presented early in the next year.

Canada led the way this year with eight nominations; Austria had the second most nominations with seven.

The US did not fare very well this year, as only one nominated coin won its category – the 2008

Silver Eagle in the “Most Popular Coin” category.

Following are the individual category winners:

Most Historically Significant

Kazakhstan, 100 Tenge, silver, Genghis Khan

Best Contemporary Event

Israel, 10 New Shequalim, silver,
Israel’s 60th anniversary

Best Gold

Latvia, 20 Lati, gold, Coin of Latvia

Best Silver

Germany, 10 Euro, silver, Franz Kafka

Best Crown

Austria, 10 Euro, silver, The Abbey of
Klosterneuberg

Most Popular

United States, 1 Dollar, silver, American Eagle

Best Trade

Cyprus, 2 Euro, bi-metallic, Ancient statue cross

Most Innovative

Austria, 25 Euro, silver, Fascination Light

Most Artistic

Poland, 200 Zlotych, gold, Warsaw ghetto uprising

Most Inspirational

Canada, 2,500 Dollars, gold, Towards
Confederation

The winners of the overall Coin of the Year award and the People’s Choice award had not been announced at the time the *Newsletter* was completed; the “top prize” winners will be listed in the February issue.

Canada Celebrates Navy Centennial

The Royal Canadian Mint has just released its 2010 commemorative silver dollar. This year the annual coin marks the centennial of the Canadian Navy.

Canada's Navy was created on 4 May 1910 when the Naval Service Act was adopted into law. It became the Royal Canadian Navy in 1911 when King George V of England granted permission to add the "Royal" prefix. In 1968, Canada merged its armed forces (i.e., Army, Air Force and Navy) under the title Canadian Armed Forces and the naval unit became known as the Maritime Command.

The first ship of Canada's Navy was the HMCS *Rainbow*; Canada acquired it in 1910. In the years that followed, Canada's Navy grew slowly. The first ships built specifically for the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) were a pair of destroyers – HMCS *Saguenay* and HMCS *Skeena* – they were commissioned in 1931. Thirty years after its launch, at the start of World War II, the Royal Canadian Navy had just 13 ships. By the end of the War, however, it had 434 ships and was the third largest Allied navy. Today, the RCN is greatly reduced, having just 33 warships.

The 2010 silver dollar features the bold image of HMCS *Sackville*; one of 122 Flower Class Corvettes in operation by the end of World War II. The ship is Canada's last surviving Corvette, and now serves as The Canadian Naval Memorial. It is berthed in Halifax Harbor and serves as a living museum.

Designed by Nova Scotia artist Yves Bérubé, a Quebec native and member of the Canadian Society of Marine Artists, the reverse of the doubled-dated sterling silver dollar features HMCS *Sackville* in action on the high seas. The ship's image is surrounded by the Canadian Navy's motto "Ready Aye

Ready/ Prêt Oui Prêt" engraved in Morse code. The obverse features the Susanna Blunt portrait of Queen Elizabeth II.

The coin is available in proof and uncirculated versions; the maximum mintage for the proof version is 50,000, for the uncirculated version the mintage is capped at 30,000. The coin can be ordered directly from the Royal Canadian Mint at www.mint.ca or by calling 1-800-268-6468.

Canada issued its first commemorative silver dollar in 1935 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of George V's accession to the throne. Since then, the Royal Canadian Mint has released 57 different silver commemorative dollars – they make for a very interesting, historical and attractive set.



Reverse of 2009 Canadian Commemorative Silver Dollar

2010 Numismatic Anniversaries

Assembled by Dave Provost

- 10th (2000)** Introduction of the Sacagawea Dollar, Eagle reverse (2000-2008); beginning in 2009, a new "Native American" themed design replaced the Eagle reverse (a new design is to be featured each year)
- 50th (1960)** Popular variety of Lincoln Cent created when mint struck coins with both "Large" and "Small" dates; the variety remains popular with today's collectors
- 75th (1935)** Last year of issue for the Peace Dollar (1921-1935); the last silver dollar coin struck for circulation
- Penultimate year for number of commemorative half-dollar issues; 5 new issues released plus 2 "1935" issues for ongoing (multi-year) series
- New Issues:
- Arkansas Centennial
 - Connecticut Tercentenary
 - Hudson, NY Sesquicentennial
 - San Diego/California-Pacific Exposition
 - Old Spanish Trail
- Ongoing Issues:
- Daniel Boone Bicentennial
 - Texas Independence Centennial
- 150th (1860)** First year of issue for Indian Head Cent, Oak Wreath with Shield reverse (1860-1864); second of three types of Indian Head Cents

Club Notes

1. Dave P compiled the most "Numismatist of the Year" points in 2009. He will be recognized at the January meeting.
2. **Noah C** has reserved the monthly exhibit case and will be presenting January's "Short Program."
3. **Noah C** will also be bringing the January meeting refreshments.
4. Please remember to bring a Show-and-Tell item (or two!) to share with your fellow RCC'ers.
5. Please see VP Jim J if you'd like to present a program at one of our 2010 meetings. Why not share your passion for your collection with the rest of the membership?! (And remember, you'll earn a silver Eagle for your efforts!)

Show Calendar

- Jan 16-17 Raleigh, NC**
Carolina Coin & Stamp Show
- Holshouser Building
 NC State Fairgrounds
- Hours: Sat 10:00am to 5:00pm
 Sun 10:00am to 3:00pm
- Tables: ~70. Free
- Jan 30-31 Greenville, NC**
Coin & Currency Show
- American Legion Post 39
 403 St. Andrews Drive
- Hours: Sat 10:00am to 6:00pm
 Sun 10:00am to 4:00pm
- Tables: TBD. Free

Additional local show information can be found at:
www.coinworld.com