

# Newsletter

Established in 1954

May 2003

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## Ancients on the Airwaves!

By Paul Landsberg

**At the recent ANA National Money Show in Charlotte I picked up an advertisement for an Internet based radio show that is devoted to coins. The advertisement stated that they were looking for guest speakers. On a lark I contacted the host of the show, James Hunt, via email, and outlined my interest in ancient coins, the activities of the Raleigh Coin Club, etc.**

I was soon contacted by Mr. Hunt and we had a good conversation. He indicated that he would indeed like me to be a guest on his show and to have me talk about ancient coins. Move over Geraldo, Paul is here! Part of our initial conversation was a rough outline of some of the things he would be asking. At the end of our conversation we nailed down April 14<sup>th</sup> as the date that I would be the guest.

I have to admit that as the day of my interview approached, I was filled with a certain amount of trepidation as this was a type of "public speaking" that I had never done before. However, I listened to some of the archived COIN TALK radio programs and I felt fairly certain I wouldn't make a total fool of myself.

At the scheduled time on Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup> I received a call from WSRADIO. Two things struck me during the call. First, since there was no script, Mr. Hunt was asking questions that ranged far and wide. This made it very challenging to reach for the right answers, especially as the answers had to be phrased without resorting to ultra-geeky coin-speak. Second, a radio interview is exactly like a phone conversation, except that it is being broadcast. This means there is no ongoing feedback. If you have ever done any sort of public speaking you know that the feedback you get from the audience (i.e., eye contact, posture, attentiveness, questions & answers) are enormously useful in performing

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## Club Business Page

### The Raleigh Coin Club

Editorial Address: PO Box 354  
Morrisville, NC 27560  
commems@aol.com

Business Address: PO Box 18801  
Raleigh, NC 27619

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### Club Officers

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

### Directors (Term Expiration)

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

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### 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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### April Meeting Notes

Notes for the April meeting will be published along with the May notes in the June issue of the newsletter.

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### RCC Members Suffer Losses

Two RCC members suffered deep personal losses since the April club meeting.

David Boitnott lost his mother, Lilli Boitnott, after a short illness on April 18th. Lilli was 75 years old at the time of her death. She was laid to rest in her long-time home of Fayetteville on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. In addition to David, she is also survived by her husband of 48 years, Donald.

Diana Langseth, RCC member and fiancé of RCC'er Vince Chicarelli died suddenly at her home on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Diana, a collector of US bicentennial pieces and, most recently, US platinum proof coinage, was 31.

The RCC extends its most heartfelt condolences to David and Vince at this most difficult time.

### A Note from David Boitnott

I wish to thank all the Raleigh Coin Club members for the beautiful flowers the club sent to my father and me with your kind thoughts at the passing of my mother, Lilli. A special thanks to all who called, e-mailed or made the trip to Hope Mills conferring their condolences and well wishes at our family's time of sorrow.

I now know, beyond doubt, it is not the quantity of members that makes an organization like ours great but the quality of the individuals that make up that organization. The Raleigh Coin Club is the GREATEST!

— David Boitnott

## President's Message

Welcome to May!! I hope that the IRS has left you with a few good nickels to rub together, although I'm sure at times it feels like they even want our nickels. I have to sheepishly admit that once again waited until the last minute to do my taxes even though, as usual, I had sworn to get them done early. Ah well, as the saying goes, "Render unto Caesar what is Caesar's."

On the numismatic front April was fairly slow in terms of attending shows but I do feel quite inundated with coin auction catalogs. This sort of inundation is quite enjoyable although it does hammer home the point that there are so many coins, so little money. Also during April I was a guest speaker on an Internet radio show. I wrote up a short article on this and if I have not totally irritated the club secretary beyond hope it should appear in this issue or the next.

Our club show is coming up in June and that means we have approximately 6 weeks before it happens. I hope that everyone will spare time to help Bob S in making the show a success. I believe that I foolishly volunteered to be the exhibits coordinator and so expect me to "put the arm" on you for an exhibit. I should note that I injured my left arm playing super-dad and rollerblading. That still leaves me with one good arm to cajole you into doing an exhibit. Have your excuses prepared (grin). Seriously, I do hope that some club members do step up to creating an exhibit, no matter how simple, as it does add a tremendous educational aspect to our coin show.

We have not run a bid board for a few months so let's try it again. If you have some items that you think would interest other club members, please bring them and we'll run the bid board during the refreshments break.

I will fall on my sword and admit that I did not attend the fifth annual numismatic program hosted by the North Carolina Collection Gallery. Other commitments kept me away. I hope that the Raleigh Coin Club was well represented at the event.

See you at the meeting!!

## Airwaves

*Continued from Page 1*

real-time tuning of a presentation. These two points made for an overall intense experience

I listened to the archived broadcast a few days after the show and I was pleased with the end result. I had a niggling worry that I might have been speaking too fast, inserting too many "uuummmmmms," slurring my words, or committing some other public speaking faux pas. To mangle a phrase from Julius Caesar, "I came, I saw, I survived!"

*Editor's Note: "Coin Talk" is broadcast every other Monday at 10:00am (PST) and runs for one hour in three segments. Shows are recorded and available for listening on the show's web site at <http://www.wsradio.com/cointalk>.*

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## Show Calendar

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>May 10</b>       | <i>Mooreville</i> Lake Norman Coin Show. National Guard Armory, N. Broad Street   |
| <b>May 10-11</b>    | <i>Morehead City</i> Carteret Numismatic Society Coin, Stamp & Collectible Show. Crystal Coast Civic Center, 3505 Arendell Street |
| <b>May 16-18</b>    | <i>Raleigh</i> Coin Collector's Showcase, Kerr Scott Building, NC State Fairgrounds   |
| <b>May 30-Jun 1</b> | <i>Charlotte</i> Carolina Coin & Currency Show. Charlotte Merchandise Mart, 2500 E. Independence Blvd.                            |

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## RCC Newsletter Goes Electronic

Members wishing to receive their newsletter electronically should send an email indicating such to Dave P at [commems@aol.com](mailto:commems@aol.com). Printed copies will continue to be sent to members via the mail unless an electronic copy is requested.

## Bright Shining Faces

By David W. Boitnott

In the last two installments we discussed various types of incomplete planchet errors known as "clips" caused by breakdowns in the coin blank punching process. This time we will explore the last type of incomplete planchet error represented in my quest for a few oddball North Carolinians - the missing clad layer. The missing clad layer results from a breakdown in the manufacture of the clad coinage material that is done outside of the Mint by a contractor.

Since 1965, our "silver" coinage has been made from metallic clad material consisting of a core of pure copper sandwiched between two outer layers of copper-nickel alloy. The alloy is 75% copper mixed with 25% nickel which is the same alloy used for our nickels. As shown the simplified drawing of the bonding process the outer layers are pressed into the copper core under tremendous pressure and heat. Although represented in the drawing as rollers the process actually uses a controlled explosive method to insure a complete molecular bond between the three layers. (See Figure 1.)

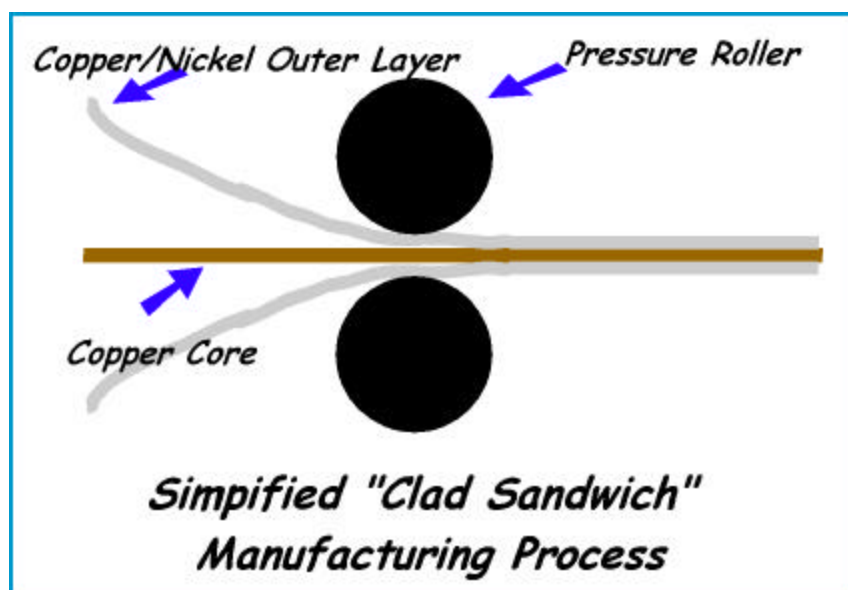
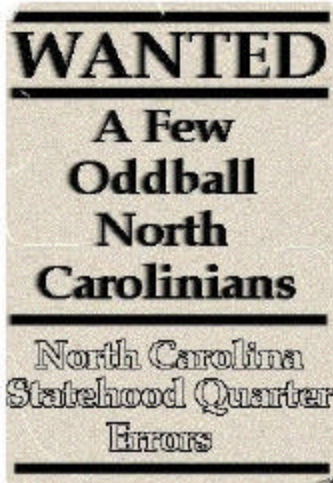


Figure 1. Clad strip manufacturing process

Again, we ask the rhetorical question — What could go wrong? Well, as anyone who has tried his or her hand at hanging wallpaper, pasting a newspaper clipping in a scrapbook, or applying window tint to a car window (or has just seen the results of a botched job) can attest to, air bubbles can wreak havoc. The same phenomena can happen in the clad bonding process that results in small areas of poor adhesion between one of the outer copper-nickel layers and the pure copper core. If this failure goes undetected by the contractor, the resulting planchets punched out at the Mint will separate into two pieces - one single outer layer and one two layer clad with an exposed pure copper face.

The Mint's quality control process seem to be better able to detect the single layer planchets better than the two layer ones as the previous is much scarcer than the later. Perhaps there is a problem with the very thin single layer blanks in the rim-upset machine that helps weed them out. Whatever the case, once past the planchet manufacturing stages these get struck just like any other coin.

The odds of which side will be struck on the pure copper side of a dual layer planchet are the same as flipping a coin — 50 / 50. However, this brings up a subject unique to collecting errors on statehood quarters. Dedicated collectors of statehood quarter errors have developed new terms for the obverse and reverse of their little oddballs. The reverse has become the "money side" and the obverse is simply the "other side." Although the odds are the same as my quest census shows (3 other and 2 money side) the money fetched when sold is nearly double if the statehood side (money / reverse) is struck in the exposed copper layer! This fact holds





true for any error on a statehood quarter where one side is effected and not the other.



Figure 2. Obverse clad-layer missing.



Figure 3. Reverse clad-layer missing.

Due to the thinner planchet, missing clad layer coins are typically weakly struck. This, however, does not detract from the eye appeal or popularity of this error. One of my favorite tricks is to show someone a grouping of my little North Carolina oddballs one at a time. I hand them to my quarry one at a time — a clip, a double clip, maybe an off-center — you get the picture. All get the expected reaction but then I hand them my money side (reverse) missing clad layer other side up. They look at it — ho-hum it looks normal but then they flip it over. Their reaction is hilarious and I now know first hand what is meant by eye-popping! My trick has only failed me once. When I tried it on my longtime friend and mentor — I got zero reaction! I had forgotten he was red-green colorblind.

Although not yet discovered on a North Carolina statehood quarter, there are a few variations on this error type that deserve mention. First, struck single clad layers have been seen on other statehood quarters. I even saw a cool single layer copper core New York quarter! Also, sometimes the planchet stays together through the striking process only to separate later. This really throws a monkey wrench in the whole money side theory. Finally, there are also partial detached clad

layer errors struck on planchets punched from the periphery of the poorly bonded area.

We are now through with our discussion of planchet errors. This has by no means been an exhaustive survey of all possible planchet errors. There are many great rarities in terms of possible errors not known on North Carolina statehood quarters, as well as many others possible only on coins of earlier alloys or types which are quite interesting. If you wish to learn more about these I suggest taking the ANA's correspondence course on the minting process and error coinage.

Keep an eye out for interesting errors for me until next time when we will look at a subject that you will "die" for or at least "crack" up over.

*Editor's Note: If you received this newsletter in the mail, you missed out on some great color images of "copper" NC statehood quarters. Isn't it time you signed up for the electronic edition? Contact me at [commems@aol.com](mailto:commems@aol.com) to get your subscription started!*

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## **ANS Forum: The Royal Mint and North Carolina, 1754**

Graham Dyer will be the featured speaker at this year's "Groves Forum in American Numismatics," an event sponsored by the American Numismatic Society (ANS).

Dyer will examine the response by the authorities in London, and particularly by the officers of the Royal Mint, to a proposal in 1754 by the Governor of North Carolina for a coinage of copper half pence, pence and two pences. Dyer will attempt, through contemporary documentation, to place the response in the context of Mint attitudes towards the coinage of copper at that time, both for Great Britain and for Ireland.

The forum will take place on Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Harvard Club, 27 West 44th Street, New York City. Reservation are required. For more information, contact Juliette Pelletier at 212/234-3130, ext. 230 or [pelletier@amnumsoc.org](mailto:pelletier@amnumsoc.org)

## An Augustus St. Gaudens Scrapbook

The special exhibition of Augustus St. Gauden's sculptures ends on May 11<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't yet made it over to the NC Museum of Art to see it, encourage you to do so before it's too late! To help entice you, I've included a few pictures of his work that are on display.



*Diana: Bronze, gilt; 1892-93*



*Cameo of George Washington: 1875*



*The Puritan: Bronze, 1886*

NORTH CAROLINA

Museum of Art

## North Carolina Numismatic Showcase

By Dave Provost

### Battle of Alamance Commemorative

May 16<sup>th</sup> will mark the 232<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Alamance, a battle that was the culmination of a growing discontent among some colonists over the way they were treated by the local representatives of the British Crown. An organized group of rebellious colonists banded together and formed, in the late 1760s, a resistance group that became known as the "Regulators."

After several acts of defiance against local authorities, William Tryon, the royal governor, assembled a local militia and led them against the Regulators.

*"He gave the Regulators a choice—to return peacefully to their homes or be fired upon. They had one hour to decide. After the hour was up Tryon sent an officer to receive their reply. 'Fire and be damned!' was their answer. The governor then gave the order, but his men hesitated. Rising in his stirrups, he shouted, 'Fire! Fire on them or on me!' The militia obeyed, the Regulators responded in kind, and the battle of Alamance was on."*

—from *The War of the Regulation and the Battle of Alamance* by William S. Powell

The battle was short and the resistance was quelled with a minimal loss by Tryon's militia.

A commemorative medal was produced in 1971 to mark the bicentennial of the Battle of Alamance. The medal measures 1-5/16" in diameter. The piece shown is struck in bronze with an antiqued finish. I'm unaware of the medal being available in other metals or finishes, but would not be surprised to find that a limited number of silver pieces were also struck.

Today, the Alamance Battlefield, in Burlington, NC, is maintained as a North Carolina Historic site. Visitors can tour the battlefield, watch a multimedia

presentation in the visitor's center and visit the Allen House, a log house typical of those found in the western portion of the colony at the time. The site is open Monday through Friday from 9:00am through 5:00pm.

Commemorative activities are planned for May 16<sup>th</sup> and will feature a wreath-laying ceremony, covered-dish picnic, and program between 6:00 and 9:00pm.



*Obverse of the Battle of Alamance medal depicting elements symbolizing the way of life in colonial western North Carolina.*



*Reverse of the medal showing simple bicentennial inscriptions.*

### RCC Dues Reminder

If you have not yet paid your club dues for 2003, this will be the last RCC Newsletter that you will receive. Please see Kent Woodson at the May meeting or mail your dues check to the club's Post Office box to ensure your membership stays current.

# **May Meeting Notice**

Thursday, May 8, 2003  
7:30 PM

## **Program**

*Famous Denominations*

Presented by

*Harry Corrigan*

Dave Provost  
RCC Newsletter  
PO Box 354  
Morrisville, NC 27560