

Raleigh Coin Club NEWSLETTER

Established in 1954

January 2011

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Spot Prices as of
12 January 2011

Platinum: \$1794 (+ \$108.00)

Gold: \$1385.00 (- \$1.00)

Silver: \$29.56 (+ \$1.08)

The 1961 John F. Kennedy Inaugural Medal

By Dave Provost

Fifty years ago this month, on January 20, 1961, John F. Kennedy stood upon a platform erected on the East Front of the Capitol and took the oath of office as our nation's 35th President. His inaugural address is considered one of the finest among all such addresses, and has taken its place alongside those of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, Roosevelt (Franklin D.) and Reagan. Kennedy's speech included one of the most famous lines in American history:

"And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country."

It also included the following, which I believe sums up the spirit of America and why we currently have our armed forces deployed in such far-off places as Afghanistan and Iraq, among others:

"Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and the success of liberty. This much we pledge — and more."

Very powerful words from the new President, and words that our nation continues to live out each and every day.

For numismatists, the Kennedy inauguration meant a new collectible was available – a copy of the official inaugural medal. Official inaugural medals were first struck for the second inauguration of William McKinley in 1901 (they replaced the badges that were struck previously). Since then, they have been struck for each presidential inauguration and have marked the presidencies of 20 different men.

1961 Kennedy Inaugural Medal continued on Page 4

Raleigh Coin Club

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Established 1954

Club Officers

President

David Boitnott

Vice President

Sanford Steelman

Secretary

Richard Brown

Treasurer

Steve Pladna

Sergeant-at-Arms

Benjie Harrell

Directors (Term Ending)

Paul Livingston (2011)

Roger Beckner (2012)

Ron Turner (2013)

Newsletter Editor

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Club Affiliations

American Numismatic Association
Member #C1079478

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

Between 35 and 40 members and guests made their way to the Golden Corral Restaurant on Glenwood Ave for the December RCC meeting and Holiday Party. Once again, the large and various offerings presented by the restaurant's buffet stations proved irresistible as many a member found themselves enjoying seconds – or thirds!

RCC President David B formally welcomed everyone to the meeting and covered just a few business topics (in keeping with the main purpose of the evening).

Jim J followed-up on the ANA numismatic DVD survey he launched at the November meeting and encouraged members to contact him with their interests. If the club and/or enough members have interest in purchasing the available numismatic DVDs, a discount of 40% off list price is possible. *(Members who haven't yet responded to Jim but have an interest should see him at the January meeting.)*

David B then asked each of the club's 2011 officers elected at the November meeting to come to the front of the room to be part of a formal induction ceremony. Halbert C conducted the ceremony and made "honest men" of David B (President), Sanford S (Vice President), Steve P (Treasurer), Ron T (Director) and Benji H (Sergeant-at-Arms); Richard B (Secretary) was not present and will be inducted at the January meeting.

With the business portion of the evening over, David B reviewed the rules for our annual Secret Santa give-and-take game. Twenty-five members participated this year. The quality of the gifts brought by members this year was high and caused much "stealing" of gifts once they were revealed. Gifts included:

- 2010 Disabled Veterans commemorative silver dollar
- 2010 National Parks Quarters proof and uncirculated sets
- Proof sets from multiple years
- Multiple Silver Eagles
- 2009 Abraham Lincoln commemorative silver dollar

Meeting Minutes continued on Page 8

President's Message

Happy New Year!

New Years is the time of year when most of us make resolutions to make changes and improvements in our lives. I hope your personal resolutions included your membership and participation in the Raleigh Coin Club. If not, it is not too late to make such a numismatic resolution.

May I suggest a resolution to enjoy the hobby through sharing your passion for collecting! Resolve to write an article about some aspect of the hobby for which you have a passion. Perhaps tell of why you started collecting or why you decided to specialize in what you do. Write about who or what inspired you. Maybe a story about a favorite coin, note, medal or token. Whatever topic you choose rest assured your fellow members will receive it with great interest. We will all grow as collectors through the sharing of the experience.

May I further suggest a resolution to exhibit at our annual show this year. While the king of procrastination myself, now really is the time to start thinking about and planning an exhibit. Resolve to develop a numismatic exhibit that complements that numismatic article you will be writing. The payback for sharing your interests with your fellow collectors will be well worth the effort. Make 2011 the year you mount that winning exhibit! I am personally working on a special exhibit that hopefully I will be able to share more details on by our next meeting.

The Club as a whole needs to make a resolution to expand our numismatic activities in a financially responsible way. We need to work hard this year to insure our July show is a success at all levels and that we rebound from last year's weak financial results. Give some thought to how we can build and improve our

January Meeting Notice

DATE

18 January 2011

TIME

7:30pm

WHERE

Ridge Road Baptist Church

PROGRAM

“Porcelain Coins, Medals and Tokens”

Paul Landsberg

show. Any ideas are welcome and please let me know your thoughts.

We have many opportunities to promote the hobby in the coming year. There is, of course, National Coin Week and I would like to see more club activities around that. Let's resolve to expand on what we have done in the past two years. This year and the next five is the sesquicentennial of the Civil War and there should be opportunities around that. Again your ideas are solicited!

Finally, the club needs to get a handle on our monthly meeting costs. The price of silver has risen drastically in the past year and many believe it will rise even more in the coming year. As such I will be bring some new ideas before the board before the next meeting as to how to reduce the club's exposure to these higher costs.

Again Happy New Year! And I look forward to see you all at the January meeting.

David W. Boitnott, President

1961 Kennedy Inaugural Medal (cont.)

Continued from Page 1



*Obverse of 1901 William McKinley
Inaugural medal*



*Reverse of 1901 William McKinley
Inaugural medal*

The official inaugural medal for JFK was designed by noted artist/sculptor Paul Manship and was produced by the Medallic Art Company in gold, silver and bronze. Only 1 gold medal was produced – it was presented to JFK – but 7,500 silver pieces were struck along with 53,331 bronze examples. While some of the silver and bronze pieces were reserved for

gifts to VIPs, the majority were sold to the general public. Manship had two meetings with JFK to work on the portrait that he would use to sculpt the obverse of the medal.

As noted, the obverse of the medal features a simple profile portrait of JFK encircled by his full name, while the reverse features the Presidential Seal and the date of inauguration. The JFK medal was the second inaugural medal designed by Manship, he was also responsible for the 1933 Franklin D. Roosevelt medal which was struck by the US Mint (from dies prepared by the Medallic Art Company). The Kennedy medal is 70mm in diameter (about 2-3/4 inches).



*Obverse of 1961 John F. Kennedy
Inaugural Medal (Silver)*

1961 Kennedy Inaugural Medal continued on Page 5

1961 Kennedy Inaugural Medal (cont.)



*Reverse of 1961 John F. Kennedy
Inaugural Medal (Bronze)*

Always popular, the JFK medals remain generally available in the marketplace today, with versions in each of the metals being regularly available through online auction sites

such as eBay®.

As I considered this month's *President's Message* and thought about how we can improve the RCC, I couldn't help but to paraphrase President Kennedy and respectfully suggest to my fellow RCC'ers: ask not what the club can do for you, but what you can do for the club!

Happy New Year everyone – may it be your best year ever!

Until next month, Happy Collecting!

[McKinley medal images courtesy of www.inauguralmedals.com; Kennedy medal images courtesy of David Boitnott.]

Visit www.inauguralmedals.com for a comprehensive look at US Presidential Inaugural medals. It's a great site, full of information! (It's also maintained by a RCC member!)

December Meeting Minutes (cont.)

Continued from Page 2

- 1982 George Washington Proof and Uncirculated commemorative half-dollar set
- 1958 Proof Franklin half-dollar
- 1934 Panama silver Balboa
- Set of Lincoln Cents from 1941-74 in an album
- Mini-collection of circulated Mercury Dimes
- 1999 Susan B Anthony Proof Dollar
- Large format album to store US Presidential Dollars

The various silver dollar commemoratives and silver Eagles proved very popular (the current price of silver no doubt driving the enthusiasm!) and changed hands multiple times before finding their ultimate owner. More than half the gifts exchanged hands at least once. All-in-all a fun exchange and good time for all!

With the evening's festivities over, members exchanged wishes for a "Merry Christmas," "Happy Holidays" and prosperous "New Year" before heading home.

RCM Releases Parks Canada Dollar

The Royal Canadian Mint has released its first collector coin of the year, the 2011 Silver Dollar; the coin is dedicated to celebrating the 100th anniversary of Parks Canada. This flagship of the Mint's annual collector coin program honors Canada's "grandparents of green" who, a century ago, made it their mission to preserve Canada's natural beauty for the enjoyment of future generations. By creating the world's first national parks system, Canada made nature conservation a prized Canadian value and inspired countries around the world to protect their unique wilderness regions. The new Silver Dollar is available in a Proof and Brilliant Uncirculated finish, as well as in a selectively gold-plated version found exclusively in the Mint's 2011 Proof Set.

"The Royal Canadian Mint is proud to celebrate Canada's heritage, culture and values through beautifully crafted collector coins and we are delighted that our 2011 Proof Silver Dollar honors Parks Canada's priceless role in preserving Canada's natural wonders over the last 100 years," said Ian E. Bennett, President and CEO of the Royal Canadian Mint. "Canada's flora and fauna have prominently figured on Royal Canadian Mint coinage since we struck our first coin in 1908 and we are proud to continue celebrating Canada's love of the great outdoors on this coin and many more to follow."

Canada became the first country in the world to create a service entirely dedicated to the protection of national parks when it created the Dominion Parks Branch on 19 May 1911. The US National Park Service, by way of comparison, followed a little more than five years later, being created by Act of Congress on 25 August 1916.

Designed by Quebec artist Luc Normandin, the rich imagery of this coin evokes Parks

Canada's role in conserving Canada's flora and fauna. Four endangered ecological treasures are cradled in the hands of a young Canadian: a Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*), the Southern Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum capillus-veneris*), a Western Fringed Prairie Orchid (*Platanthera praeclara*) and a Kentucky Coffee Tree (*Gymnocladus dioica*). The obverse of the coin features the Susanna Blunt portrait of Queen Elizabeth II. (Note: A video interview with Luc Normandin is available for viewing on the RCM website.)



Reverse of 2011 Parks Canada Dollar

The Dominion Parks Branch – known today as Parks Canada – was mandated to conserve Canada's wilderness for Canadians to explore, and enjoy through the world's first system of national parks. From these seeds of sustainable thinking, Canada has, through the innovation of Parks Canada, nurtured a legacy of conservation that has blossomed to include 300,000 square kilometers (~186,000 square miles) of land and places protected by an immense system of 42 National Parks, 167 National Historical Sites and four National Marine Conservation Areas.



Parks Canada Dollar (cont.)

Continued from page 6

Canada's first national park, Banff National Park, celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2010. The RCM released gold and silver commemorative coins to mark the anniversary. Each was 101mm (about 4 inches) in diameter and contained a kilogram (35.27 ounces!) of precious metal.

Limited to a mintage of 40,000, the 2011 Proof Silver Dollar is fashioned of sterling silver and is available for \$55.95 CDN (~\$56.33 US). The brilliant uncirculated version of this

coin also retails for \$49.95 CDN (~\$50.29 US) and is limited to a mintage of 25,000. The same design is reproduced on a selectively gold-plated proof dollar coin, which is exclusive to the Mint's 2011 Proof Set. Only 45,000 sets, with a retail price of \$114.95 CDN (~\$115.73 US), are available world-wide.

The 2011 Silver Dollar products are available directly from the Mint at 1-800-268-6468, or on the Internet at www.mint.ca.

[Coin image courtesy of www.mint.ca]

US Army Commemoratives Available in January

The three-coin program to commemorate the US Army that was passed into law in December 2008 will be launched by the US Mint in late January. The program consists of a copper-nickel clad half-dollar, a silver dollar and a gold \$5.00 (half eagle) coin.

Each of the denominations has a theme to its design. The design theme of the half-dollar is "Service in Peace," the dollar's theme is "Modern Service" and the gold half eagle's is "Service in War."

The coins are to be issued in "recognition and celebration of the founding of the US Army." The US Army was founded in 1775, so 2011 marks the 236th anniversary of its establishment – not exactly the anniversary milestone that is typically celebrated with a commemorative coin, but such "trivial" inconsistencies are not the concern of Congress or those who lobbied for the coins.

Following are the artist renderings for each coin in the program.



Obverse of Half-Dollar



Obverse of Half-Dollar

Continued on page 8

US Army Commemoratives (Cont.)

Continued from page 7



Obverse of Silver Dollar



Obverse of Silver Dollar



Obverse of Half Eagle

Reverse of Half Eagle



January Raleigh CoinHawks Meeting Information

The first meeting of the Raleigh *CoinHawks* for 2011 will begin at 6:45pm, just ahead of the regular January RCC meeting.

The January meeting will feature a treasure hunt game called **“World Coin Bingo.”** Each *CoinHawk* will be given a game board with a different coin type listed in each of 16 boxes and have the chance to search a pile of world coins to find the ones that fill their board. All coins found will go home with the *CoinHawk!*

All young collectors are encouraged to attend and to bring an item or two from their collection for Show-and-Tell. *CoinHawk Bucks* will be earned for attending the meeting and for bringing show-and-tell items.



The first America the Beautiful Quarter for 2011 is due out January 25th – Gettysburg National Military Park is to be honored

January S-and-T Theme

The Show-and-Tell Themes for January are “1911 and Before” and “Countries Beginning with the Letter N”

It’s time to bring in your numismatic collectibles that are at least 100 years old in January!

If you don’t have anything so old, an item from a country beginning with the letter “N” will do just as well!

Early 2011 US Mint Releases

The US Mint has a busy January and February numismatic product launch schedule. Here's the list of planned releases of 2011-dated coins during the first two months of the year:

- Proof Sets (11 January)
- Silver Proof Sets (25 January)
- Gettysburg Quarter Bags and Roll Sets (27 January)
- US Army Commemoratives (31 January)
- Uncirculated Sets (8 February)
- Kennedy Half Bags and Roll Sets (15 February)
- Presidential Proof Sets (22 February)
- Andrew Johnson Dollar Rolls (23 February)
- Medal of Honor Commemoratives (25 February)



Have an idea for an RCC Newsletter article?

Write it up and send it in!
Fresh material is always appreciated by your friendly RCC Newsletter editor!

Club Notes

1. The January Show-and-Tell themes are "1911 and Before" and "Coins from Countries Beginning with the Letter N." It's time to bring in your "old stuff," your coins, tokens, medals or paper money from 100 or more years ago! Or, dig out those treasures from Nepal, Norway, New Zealand or other "N" country! Bring your stuff to the January meeting and earn your Show-and-Tell bonus points!
2. As always, all Show-and-Tell items are welcome! If you don't have something that fits this month's themes, bring in something else! It's always fun to share your collection with fellow collectors!
3. **Halbert C** will be filling the "mini-program" exhibit case for January.
4. **Dave P** will be bringing the meeting refreshments.
5. The Raleigh *CoinHawks* will be meeting at 6:45pm ahead of the regular RCC meeting. Young collectors and their parents are welcome!

Show Calendar

Jan 15-16 Raleigh, NC Carolina Coin and Stamp Show

Holshouser Building, NC State Fairgrounds
Hillsborough Street & Blue Ridge Road

Hours: Sat 10:00am to 5:00pm
Sun 10:00am to 3:00pm

Tables: ~70. Free.

Feb 11-13 Charlotte, NC Charlotte Coin Club Annual Show

Metrolina Trade Show Expo
7100 Statesville Road

Hours: Fri & Sat 10:00am to 6:00pm
Sun 10:00am to 4:00pm

Tables: ~120. Free

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