

April 2024

Next Meeting (We meet the 4th Tuesday of the month at Denny's, 205 Nugget Ave)

April 23 National Coin Week-A Hobby for a Changing World—100 Years and Counting The 100th anniversary of National Coin Week will reflect how from early civilization to today coinage has changed. I will bring in my primitive money collection I take to the museum. Do you have some primitive money or the latest in coins and paper money technology?

April 26-27 National Coin Week at NV State Museum

May 25 TBD

May 28 New Coins at NV State Museum

After the Last Meeting

24 members attended a brief history of paper money focused on Russian Civil War, Weimar Republic, Greek currency with images of ancient coins, and WWI, WWII, and the liberation of Eastern Europe from the Soviet Union. I came down with a flu and missed the museum this month. Their new phone system is still not working. Got the Patsy Mink .25 and the Saturn V rocket \$1. Kennedy .50 out April 23, **gold eagles May 2, silver proof set May 15, May 16 Innovation \$1 Maine inventor of the defibrillator, May 23, gold buffalo.** Also in May is the 1 ounce silver version of the Army medal;



Please bring in the Harriet Tubman and Greatest Generation (WWII memorial) coins if you get them. **Have 200 of the 500 \$5 gold raffle tickets for the July 19th and 20th Coin Show at the J (old Sands) resort: 1st 1/10 oz gold eagle, 2nd 2.5 oz Peso, 3rd 2 peso gold, 4th Liberian \$25 gold, 5th Credit Suisse 1 gram gold ingot. Let me know if you want to buy or sell some of them. We got a 2023 1/10 ounce proof US eagle from Rusty King for the next raffle! We will sell 60 tickets at \$10 each for the \$300 prize (30 sold). Contact me: datbelliotts@prodigy.net 775 815-8625 www.renecoinclub.com**

2024 NA, Illinois and Alabama \$1 here. Famous women .25 Patsy Mink here.



Famous women quarters .50 PDS (most S, not all)
National Park Quarters, PD set \$60, P or D \$30
Innovation, Native American dollars PD \$1.25

Early Bird Prize: 1962P unc, .01 roll won by Jim Arden

Raffle prizes winners were:

Mark Kingman: 1888 Morgan \$1, RCC medal

Clayron Darnell: **mystery box** gold plated year set state quarters

Don Stamps: 1977 proof set

Rick De Avilla: bag of wheaties, candy coins, PD NA \$1

Rusty King: 1981 mint set

Jeff Allen: 1856 seat .10. Louisiana \$100 note 1861 copy

Andy Olsten: 1983 proof set, Innovation \$1 PD

Daniels: 2023.25 set

Joe Lamberson: 1999 painted .25 set, emerald

Faye Allen: bit coin

Mary Long: 2023 .25set

Quarter Pot

Art Bonnel (not present) won the quarter pot.

We meet at **Denny's**
205 Nugget Ave at
E. McCarran, Sparks



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Treasurer's report: At the end of February our available balance was \$5,941.31. Activity included: Income: New member Andy Olsten dues \$30; \$80 for July Coin Show coin raffle; \$50 for gold coin raffle; and net \$105 for monthly raffle. New expenses for the month included our newsletter/mailling expenses of \$74.49.

Upcoming Coin Shows

April 25-27 Sacramento Valley Coin Club Show,
 Four Points Sheraton, 4900 Duckhorn Drive, Admit: \$3,
 Tables: ?, Robert Shanks 916-204-5168

May 11 San Francisco International Numismatic Bourse,
 Double Tree Hotel, 275 S. Airport Blvd. South
 San Francisco Admit: \$8 Dealers: 15+, Scott Griffin
 415-601-8661 www.griffincoin.com

May 25-26 Las Vegas Coin & Collectibles Show,
 Tuscany Suites & Casino, 255 E. Flamingo Road.
 Admit: ? Dealers: 15+, Bob Holston 805-503-0922

July 19-20 Reno Coin Show, J (old Sands), 345 N.
 Arlington Ave., Admit: \$5, Tables: ? dealers, Bill
 Green 925-351-7605 info@norcalcoinshows.com

**The Other Coin: Primitive Money**

I got a second piece of 19th century African primitive money from Joel Anderson for the display case I take to the museum. I added a *manilla* or slave copper bracelet to my iron Kissi penny. The Kissi penny named for the



Kissi tribe in Western Africa is 9-15 inches long and is thought to have a soul trapped in it. Worth about penny, they were often bundled in groups of 200 to buy more expensive items. The *manilla* from Portuguese "bracelet" was made in copper or brass and also used in West Africa and in the Congo. The Katanga cross, which I do not have is a large cross of copper from the Congo. The province of Katanga broke from the Congo from 1960-1963 and minted their own coins including one with a Katanga on it (bananas on the other side). The cross goes for \$75-100+ and the coin for only \$4. Other African primitive money usually sells for under \$20. Like the Celts the primary universal currency was salt.

Small change in ancient times began with the cowry all through Asia, eastern Africa, India, and the southern Middle East. Larger purchases were made with jewelry or metal bits and bars. The Sumerians began this practice c. 6,000 BC although it was probably part of Indian and African economy at nearly the same time. The ancient Near East has written records and hoards of the shell, jewelry, silver bits and bars have been found.



Jewelry was the middle currency and bullion the high end currency. The Sumer shell money on the left was carved from conch shells and could be worn as a ring or necklace. The cowries were also usually made into necklaces and came in a variety of colors and sizes. The Chinese were just the same as today. They used cowries as small change, but went on to make knock offs in

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bone, clay and cast bronze. The last on the far right is also called ant nose or ghost face, but says “cowry.”



Cast bronze became currency in many shapes throughout Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and Asia. China wins in variety: bridge and two bells on top. Two hoes on left, an oval and round cash coin, a fish, a “key” (actually a knife coin), and a knife coin on the bottom right. Note all the coins have holes, so they can be strung together to make larger purchases. China had very little silver and the Spanish grew rich exchanging South American silver for Chinese gold at a premium. Chinese would need cartloads of brass cash coins to buy land or a silk suit. That’s why even very ancient Chinese coins are usually less than \$5 and found by the ton.



Greeks, Romans, and Celts also used token metal coins of bronze or copper. Greeks on the Black Sea had a variety of dolphin and arrowhead coins. The Romans had scallops, acorns, and knucklebones, a type of dice. Early cast bronze round coins had the scallop, acorn, and knucklebones imaged on them.



The Celts also have a variety of cast bronze primitive money: beads, bell, rings, and wheels in a variety of sizes that can be worn as necklaces, rings, and

torques. Unlike the Chinese, the Celts had lots of silver and made these designs in silver and gold. The Celts imitated Greek and Roman coins, making cast bronze coins called potins. The coin on the left has a warrior with torque and spear marching right and reverse with snake and beast (horse, boar, deer?). Potin on the right has a wild man head right with a horse reverse.



Cast bronze or copper won over shells and salt throughout the world. Mixed silver and gold in lumps and bars replaced jewelry, which in turn was replaced by silver and gold coins once the Lydians figured out how to separate gold from silver and make pure gold and silver coins in denominations.

Numismatically yours, David Elliott

Numismatic Potpourri

The Houthis who have been sending missiles at our ships and Israel from Yemen have issued their first coin. They took possession of the Yemen Central Bank some time ago when the official Yemen government fled to Aden in South Yemen in 2015. The 100 rial coin is said to be a new front in the war between

North (Houthi) and South Yemen.



A beautiful so-called dollar from the **1898 Omaha, Nebraska, Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition** graded MS65 with less than 200 known. The bust of an idealized Nebraska woman on the front and an Indian hunting a buffalo dated 1848 when Fort Kearney was moved to near where Omaha would be settled.



Before California's, there was Brazil's gold rush starting in 1690 and immediately after in 1852 there was a gold rush in Adelaide, Australia. Both gold rushes produced ingots and **Degussa Goldhandel in Germany is displaying The Industry Collection of gold ingots**. This collection was formed by N.M. Rothschild & Sons (Australia) Limited, which includes 1,084 gold bars from 35 different countries. Brazil gold rush bar from 1812:



And Adelaide gold bar from 1852:



In case you missed it, **one of the largest cash heists in Los Angeles history of as much as \$30 million happened on an Easter Sunday** burglary at a San Fernando Valley money storage facility. **Perth Mint 125th anniversary coin with Charles III and latest Bond coin with Elizabeth II.** A very cool V nickel



1897 cameo proof selling at Stack-Bowers for \$12,900. Nice, perfect one. 2nd finest known.



Arthur & Ira Friedberg's Gold Coins of the World, 10th edition is out. 852pp, 22,000 coin types, which are illustrated with more than 8,500 photos. \$95 or \$40 as e-book, kindle \$48. Covers 50 countries from 6th BC to present. Updated valuations in three grades are provided for the first time.

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Victoria gold Proof "Una and the Lion" 5 Pounds 1839
PR62 Ultra Cameo NGC



Another perfect coin offered by Heritage. **The Yehud Coinage** by Jean-Philippe Fontanille, Haim Gitler, and Catharine Lorber surveys and has a die study of the Persian coinage issued after the Babylonian Captivity ended in 539 BC. Judah became a Persian province and many of the coins bear the Aramaic or Hebrew inscription of Judah (Yehud) on the coins. The small silver coins have images of Jewish governor Hezekiah, Yahweh, Athena, the lily and falcon both symbols of Jerusalem. There are 44 types in all.



Yahweh is seated on a winged wheel, throne, chariot as depicted in Ezekiel and Daniel holding a falcon symbol of Jerusalem. Before is a mask, more likely a carved stone betyl or meteorite. On the obverse is the Persian satrap in a Corinthian helmet, so probably a Greek mercenary. Bagaos would be of the right date. Here is



another satrap named Hezekiah after the faithful Jewish king in the Old Testament with a falcon. The beardless face suggests Hellenization of the presumably Jewish satrap or governor. The standard international coinage of the Mediterranean in addition to the Persian silver

siglos and gold daric, was the Athenian owl coin imitated by the Jerusalem Jews as well as the Samaritan and Edomite Jews. The Yehud coin below



has Athena and her owl, but has replaced the olive branch with the lily of Jerusalem. A few of the coins have replaced the image of the enthroned Yahweh with just an ear, saying He listens or a shofur, the Jewish ram horn, which implies they were temple issues. The coins were mostly produced by the Persian governor and there were no Jewish prohibitions in their design.



On the left are sigloi, the gold daric and silver siglos with the most common images of a standing king with spear and bow running or a kneeling king with bow. The reverse is a simple punch. In the middle is the carved betyl of Aphrodite of Paphos, Cyprus. Note the eyes, nose, and mouth. To the right is the second most common Yehud coin with lily and falcon. The **Yehud Coinage** book has won the prestigious Shekel Prize from the America, Israel Numismatic Association.



Note the lily top right found on a modern Israeli coin copied from a Yehud coin.

Reno Cartwheel

Spring is here!



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