

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

November 26 Where in the World is Jesus Christ on the Coins of Constantine the Great?

November 30 New Coins at the Nevada Museum

December 10 Christmas Coins and Minibourse
Bring coins to sell or trade. I'll bring Star of Bethlehem, Byzantine Jesus, and Magi coins. Do you have Santa Claus or something cool?

December 28 New Coins at the Nevada Museum

After the Last Meeting

15 members got to see a silver round from Pegasus Gold Mine at Star Peak, Pershing County that Rusty brought in and a member snapped up. *We attributed poor attendance to those waiting for the last Tuesday of the month instead of the 4th Tuesday of the month. Some months have 5 Tuesdays.* AJ's donation of national parks map coin books were snapped up with the last few National Park coin sets at the museum. Some 780 people came to the museum on NV Day. I passed out Denver mint penny blanks to members and visitors at the museum and sold several sets of Innovation coins. Nov 14 gold 1794 flowing hair dollar, Nov 21 reverse proof Morgan and Peace dollar set, copper Army medal December 5, and reverse proof innovation set December 10 closes out the year. The US Mint website has been redone. Looks nicer. **We got a 2023 1/10 ounce proof US eagle from Rusty King for the club raffle!** We will sell 60 tickets at \$10 each for the \$300 prize (34 sold). Contact me: datbelliotts@prodigy.net 775 815-8625 Website: www.renocoinclub.com

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



THANKS TO BILL GREEN, FRED HOLABIRD, AJ and RUSTY KING who have donated a lot of raffle prizes. *I do need some more silver coins and will pay going rates for dimes, quarters, halves, commemoratives and dollars.* Always like to get or buy mint sets and medals too.

All 2024 coins: NA, Illinois, Alabama, Maine, Missouri Innovation \$1 here. Famous women .25 Zitkala-Sa here.



Famous women quarters .50 PDS (most S, not all)
~~National Park quarters, SOLD OUT~~
Innovation, Native American dollars PD \$1.25

Early Bird Prize: 2023 Maria Tallchief .25 and NA \$1, America's first prima ballerina won by Mary Long

Raffle prizes winners were:

Andy Olson: 1999 gold plated .25 set, 1964D .10
Rick DeAvila: filled penny album, Indian .01
Joe Lamberson: 2007 P mint set, 1962 unc. roll .01
Joe Wozniak: Encased 2006P BU NV .25
Mark Kingman: consecutive unc. \$1 bills
Rusty King proof Washington .50
Andre Assam: national park .25 set
Conn Davis: \$1 & .25 Maria Tallchief
Mary Long: 2022 .25 set, 1 gram silver, 4 medal set
Bart Daniels: 2023 famous women .25 set,
Faye Allen: 1940S .01
Loretta Kingman: copies of Confederate bills and 19th century broken bank bills

Quarter Pot

Gerry Breedlove (not present) won the .25 pot

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Treasurer's report: At the end of October our available balance was \$6,495.36. Activity included: Income included \$85 for our monthly club raffle. New expenses for the month included \$7.45 for coin supplies. This was a real low-volume month.

Upcoming Coin Shows

December 7 South San Francisco International Numismatic Bourse, Double Tree Hotel SSF, 275 South Airport Blvd., Admit ?, Scott Griffin
www.griffincoin.com 415 601-8661 Best ancient coin show of Northern California.

December 13-14 Visalia Coin Show, Veterans Memorial Hall, 600 W. Center Ave., Admit ?, John Ward 415 601-8661

December 15 Sacramento Coin Show, Lions Gate Hotel, 3410 Westover St., Admit ?, Peter McIntosh 916 317-9055

The Other Coin: Where in the World is Jesus Christ on the Coins of Constantine the Great?

Constantine the Great was the first Christian emperor, removing legal penalties against Christians and supporting the church by donations. He credited his victory over Maxentius in 312 on the Milvan Bridge in Rome to the Christian God's support. The sun shined with the chi-rho, the first two letters of Christ (XP) in Greek, made into a monogram ✠. His soldiers by in large worshipped Mithras or Sol (the sun god), whose symbol was a star or the sun much like our asterisk ✱. So, depending on how large you made the top of the P or rho, the symbol worked for both Christians and

Mithrans. The motto "By this sign conquer" is not the Crusader cross, but the chi-rho, the name of Christ.



Accepting Jesus the Christ as Lord and Savior did not abolish all the other gods of the Roman world. Constantine included Him in the pantheon, and He gradually became the One True God of Plato in Plato's Trinity of the Good, True, and Beautiful or Philo's Trinity of God, Wisdom, and Logos (the Word or Reason).

Like all educated Greeks and Romans, Constantine accepted Plato's idea of the One Good God ruling over any number of divinities, gods, and daemons or angels. The Romans believed that all gods should be honored including the new Jesus god. The Romans were upset with the Christians for not worshipping the god emperors and traditional Greek and Roman gods along with Jesus. Like any good politician or Roman, Constantine wanted to make room for the Christians, especially since he was going to found a new capitol of Constantinople in the East where Christians were an important constituency. He was not so much converting the Roman Empire to Christianity as including Christianity in the Roman pantheon.

As my book, **Two Souls and a Body: What Every Educated Person Knew to be True and How the Educated Christian Developed Christianity in Hellenistic Times Creating the Ideas of Free Will and Modern Psychology**, demonstrates, the ideas of Christianity were already in Greco-Roman culture. The religious and philosophical debate was over what school of thought or religion best embodied the ideas of the times. The Christians would win promoting energy physics, free will, equality, Mary, Mother of God as the new Isis, and Jesus as the new Apollo or Mithras, the Good Shepherd. Constantine and the Christians were not making a radical change in beliefs. As C.S. Lewis remarked, Christianity combined the best of Jewish and Greek teachings. Jesus said Christianity can be summed up as love of God and neighbor. Even the atheist Douglas Adams

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quipped that Christianity was basically the suggestion that everyone be nice for a change. The coins reflect this.



Constantine appears on this rare medallion with the chi-rho on this helmet (top left), horse, shield, and medallion of victory on a staff. Reverse shows him with the army holding a trophy of armor, being blessed by Nike or Victory, and Constantine blessing the troops with the inscription “health or salvation (salus) of the republic.” There are likely chi-rho banners behind him.

The Greeks, Jews, Platonists, and Stoics were united with the early Christians in seeing that there was one Good God ruling over a good world with sin existing only in the choices of individuals to do wrong knowing what was right. Constantine upheld the traditional gods that supported Rome and the Army as daemons or angels much like the choirs of saints and angels that filled the heavens of Jews and Christians. Here are Jupiter, Hercules, Mars, and Sol or Mithras as patron saints of emperors, caesars, and the army.



Jupiter holds Nike and his eagle holds a wreath with “Jupiter saves or preserves the emperor,” Hercules with club and lion skin “to Hercules the Victor,” Mars with spear and shield “Mars preserves or

saves,” and Sol (the Sun) with flail of rule and orb of the cosmos “my companion the unconquered sun.”

Nudity was a sign of the beauty of the body. Roman and Hellenistic tolerance and inclusion allowed one to consider all the gods of everyone under the One Good God as personifications, gods, ideas, or just traditional and patriotic symbols. The traditional gods had become ideas in the mind of God like angels or saints that could be venerated. This is made clear with other gods and goddesses such as the good genius of the emperor, the city Carthage, Victory, Fame, and Peace.



Note the XP with Nike (top right) and the star (lower left with fame represented by Sol or Mithras, who holds the orb of the universe. Peace has an olive branch and a military labarum representing “peace through strength.”

Emperor Constantine was a god as well complete with nimbus, depicted as pious and prayerful with eyes raised to heaven and like Elijah or Apollo ascending to



heaven in a chariot where the hand of God reaches down after his death. He pledges eternal piety with the orb of the world or cosmos surmounted by a chi-rho.

Within 13 years of his victory at the Milvan bridge, Constantine had the Nicene Creed declare Jesus the Christ as “very God of very God.” This did not eliminate the hosts of daemon or angel gods worshipped by all the nations. God was understood to reveal himself in “whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable” (Philippians 4:8) and to beyond all human understanding (4:7).

Due to the Latin Church following Augustine and Tertullian we lost a lot of the early church’s belief in the goodness of God and the world, tolerance for a variety of understandings of the unknowable One True Good God, the veneration of things less than God, the beauty of the world and mankind, the acceptance that everything natural is God made and good including sex, wine, food, and the pleasures of daily life. As John said, *For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him* (John 3:17)

Most of all Constantine praised the army and great cities of the empire, making them gods as well. Divinization was also taught by the early church. God became man, so that we might become gods proclaimed Irenaeus and Athanasius. Everything was divine and divinely wrought. *Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good* (Genesis 1:31). The glorious army with soldiers (exercitus) and the powerful army (militum) with campgate, urbs Roma (Rome) with Romulus and Remus, Constantinople with Nike on reverse:



So, Jesus the Christ is not just a monogram on Constantine coins, but in everything good, true, and beautiful made by God as taught by the Greeks, Jews, and early Christians. The new Roman capitol of Constantinople would preserve the Roman Empire until 1453 with Jesus the Christ becoming Christ Pantocrator, Christ Ruler of All, Everything,

holding the Bible, and proclaimed on the reverse to be Jesus the Christ, King of Kings. Original sin, predestin-



ation, a corrupt and evil world, an emphasis on the crucifixion rather than the resurrection, would await the Dark Ages and the medieval Latin church. For the Greeks, Romans, Jews, and early Church, God was everywhere and made everything. The love and joy of the original message would be eclipsed in the West to a great extent when the original message of Christ was *Joy to the world, the Lord has come...*

Numismatically yours, David Elliott

Numismatic Potpourri

The American Numismatic Society (ANS), The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, the Israel Antiquities Authority, and Tel Aviv University are pleased to announce that Levantine Coins Online (LCO) has now launched at numismatics.org/lco. LCO is a digital, **open-access database of Achaemenid and Hellenistic period coin typologies from the southern Levant. At the time of launch LCO focuses solely on the coinage of Judah**, but additional typologies for the coinages of Philistia and Samaria will be added in 2025. *A wonderful website revealing the early understanding of Yahweh after the return of Judah from Babylonian Captivity.*

The Origins of Value: The Financial Innovations that Created Modern Capital Markets by William N. Goetzmann and K. Geert Rouwenhorst (editors), 2005 416pp. From the invention of interest in Mesopotamia and the origin of paper money in China, to the creation of mutual funds, inflation indexed bonds, and global financial securities, here is a sweeping survey of financial innovations that have changed the world. Lavishly illustrated. \$65 on Amazon. **Pawnstars had an episode where they bought the only legal 1933 double eagle for \$30 million.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P39CJbUH37E>

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Stacks Bower is auctioning a 1934 \$10,000 Federal Reserve Note that was once part of the legendary assemblage of \$1,000,000 in cash that was displayed at Binion Horseshoe Casino in Las Vegas. Composed of approximately 100 \$10,000 Federal Reserve Notes. This and other rarities can be viewed on-line at StacksBowers.com.



Fred Holabird is auctioning one of the Carson City Mint scales that used to be at the John Ascuaga's Nugget casino in Sparks. In the year 2000, the US Mint



produced its first and only ringed bi-metallic coin, the 2000 Library of Congress Commemorative \$10 coin. It is composed of a gold outer ring and a quarter-ounce platinum center. The coin has one of the lowest mintages of just 27,445. A second gold coin of a Kent King Anarevito (fl. 10-20 AD) was found lending support to his role in the slave trade where Brits were traded as slaves for Gallic or French wine.



Along with Roman authors' descriptions of the slave trade, finds of slave manacles, and 7 gallon Roman amphorae fragments, the kings of Kent seem to have been dealing briskly in a profitable slave trade.



2,584 coins from 1066-1068AD with Edward the Confessor (top), William I the Conqueror (left), and Harold II (the last Saxon king, right) discovered by a group of metal detectorist was acquired by a consortium of British museum for 4.2 million pounds or 5.3 million dollars. Anyone is able to access the educational opportunities and expand their knowledge of numismatics in ANA's eLearning Academy at money.org/elearning Includes: Numisma Talks, presentations, and recordings, Aristotle's Vault courses, and the video archive. ANA is also offering \$10 digital membership and subscriptions to the *Numismatist*. I will bring the coupons. Nebraska will be the featured state in the Central States Numismatic Convention April 23-26, 2025 in Schaumburg, Illinois. Napoleon I and Marie-



Louise of Austria celebrate the birth of baby Francois Joseph in 1810. And the Germans of WWII celebrate the 1939 sinking of the HMS Courageous announcing bad news for Churchill



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