



# FRONT PAGE NEWS



## ~PAWCATUCK VALLEY COIN CLUB MONTHLY NEWS LETTER~

Celebrating 58 years in the numismatic hobby!

ANA-C1206438

### ~AUGUST 2020 EDITION~

The 681<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Pawcatuck Valley Coin Club will be held on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at The WESTERLY SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER 39 State Street Westerly Rhode Island. Doors open @ 6:00 PM, Bourse @ 6:30 PM and Meeting @ 7:00 PM.**

*There has been a change to the format of our newsletter. Please contact Larry Erhart for additions and contributions.*

By all means, if you are NOT comfortable attending the Coin Club meeting in August and want to wait until a later date, we understand and please stay at home.



The PVCC Club Auction will be Members Only lots for Senior and Junior coins this month.

There will be a Door Prize and tickets will be sold for Senior & Junior Raffle Prizes.

**THERE WILL BE NO FOOD, SODA OR CONCESSIONS FOLLOWING STATE REGULATIONS.**

The Senior Center Director says we can allow up to a **maximum 20 club members** in the small meeting room.

So we either need an advanced head count who is coming or we turn away people at the door if we get more than 20.

We are **required to wear masks** while we are there. The Senior Center has been professionally cleaned

The Senior Center has chairs and tables set up for social distancing that are NOT to be moved.

It is recommended each person brings hand sanitizer or their own Clorox wipes. We can supply a mask if you forget to bring one.

### PVCC Raffle and Door Prize List for August 19, 2020

#### Junior Raffle:

1958 Lincoln Cent EF40  
1937 Buffalo Nickel VF20  
1920 Canadian Cent F15  
Lincoln Wheat Cent Set P-D-S  
10 Assorted State Quarters BU

#### Senior Raffle:

1961 Putnam Coin Club Medal  
1912 Florida East Coast Railroad Medal  
2019 Voyageurs National Park Quarters Roll  
1988 Uncirculated U S Mint Set P & D  
1992 Uncirculated U S Mint Set P & D

#### Junior Door Prize:

2019-W West Point Special Edition Cent

#### Senior Door Prize:

1896 Morgan Dollar Certified NGC MS63

# August PCGS Show Set for Members Only in Las Vegas

By [Larry Jewett](#), Coin World



*Images courtesy of Professional Coin Grading Service*

After the suspension of the American Numismatic Association World's Fair of Money, PCGS added a "Members Only" show at the Bellagio in Las Vegas, Nevada, on Aug. 4 to 7. PCGS Members Only shows are opportunities for hobbyists to meet and trade in a smaller, more laid-back environment, according to the firm. Attendance is included as a free benefit to PCGS Collectors Club members and authorized dealers. Eligible participants will receive an RSVP link from PCGS. For those planning to attend, measures will be taken to follow safety procedures, according to PCGS. Temperatures will be taken at the door. Attendees, dealers and employees are required to wear a mask at all times (except when eating and drinking). Social distancing guidelines will be enforced, sanitizing stations will be readily available, and tables will be added at the front of each booth as a buffer between dealers and attendees.

## ~AUGUST 2020 AUCTION~

	Members Auction Description			Members Auction Description		
	Members Auction Description			Members Auction Description		

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO SIGN IN AND TAKE YOUR PADDLE AS BIDDING IS ONLY ALLOWED WITH A PADDLE!** You will be called by number to come retrieve and pay for your coins. Those who want to enter their items into an auction **MUST** have them e-mailed to me before the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month if you want them in the next month's newsletter. Please email us and instruct us to do this. I will get the list and e-mail you to let you know I have received it. **IMPORTANT:** If "TBA" appears in the price it means the volatile gold

ANY EXTRA AUCTION ITEMS BROUGHT IN TO THE MEETING FOR SALE IN THE AUCTION MUST BE ITEMIZED ON A FORM GIVING YOUR NAME, THE ITEMS AND THE PRICE YOU ASK FOR EACH ITEM. THE FORMS WILL BE ON THE AUCTION TABLE. PLACE THE ITEMS ON THE COMPLETED SHEET AND LEAVE ON THE AUCTION TABLE. THIS WILL ENSURE THAT YOUR CASH AND UNSOLD ITEMS WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU IN GOOD ORDER. AND UNSOLD ITEMS WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU IN GOOD ORDER. ITEMS LEFT ON THE TABLE WITHOUT THE COMPLETED SHEET WILL BE SET ASIDE AND NOT OFFERED FOR SALE. NO EXCEPTIONS

# My Thoughts as a Coin Collector

by Tom Omlor

I have to admit, I began my coin collecting experience at an older age. I wasn't a kid whose dad took him to coin shows, or had a coin collection. We were not what one would call a 'well to do' family. I have 4 brothers and a sister. My parents eked out a living. When dinner was served, that's what you ate, or you went hungry. Don't get me wrong, there was always food on the table. We weren't poor, but what money my parents had was used for the necessities, and providing different meals for different kids wasn't about to happen. But this little discourse isn't about my life. It's just how numismatics influenced me.

It wasn't until after I got out of the Navy that I took up the hobby. I have always been fascinated with older coins, but never looked into many of the different types and denominations. For me, it started with the Winged Liberty Head, or Mercury, Dimes. I found those coins interesting, not only from an artistic standpoint, but also from a historical (and yes, it's 'A HISTORICAL' and not 'AN (H)ISTORICAL'. We say – HISTORICAL, pronouncing the 'H', not 'ISTORICAL' and not pronounce the 'H' one. These were the dimes through World War II. Actually, World War I and World War II. But I never equated them to WWI. WWI ended in November of 1918. The Mercury Dime was first minted in 1916. So these dimes have seen some interesting, and difficult, times. They even made it through the Spanish Flu pandemic. I only mention this as we are currently going through the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are now in a coin shortage. I'm holding onto mine, coins that is. Who knows what'll be valuable after all is said and done. Is that selfish of me? Possibly. I'm still keeping what I have . But I digress...

For me, I find numismatics interesting from a historic perspective. What was going on in the US, and the world, when various coins were introduced to the economy. The possibilities of where those coins could have been, what they've seen. I find it fascinating. Did any of my relatives handle the money I'm collecting. It's a possibility. Again, my family not being one of the wealthiest, I go for the smaller denominations as those are the coins they more likely would have handled. It wasn't until I joined the Pawcatuck Valley Coin Club (PVCC) that I took on other interests, such as who designed the various coinage. The Mercury Dime, for example, was designed by Adolph Weinman. They run from 1916 to 1945, the end of WWII. I believe it is Elsie Kachel Stevens that was the model for the obverse of the dime. Anyway, that is a primary reason for my interest in numismatics. Another reason – hell, it's money. Who doesn't like money, old or new? From a more spiritual standpoint, money is neither a positive or a negative in ones' life. It is a neutral. I'm sure we've all heard the saying – 'money is the root of all evil'. Money isn't evil on its own. It's how one uses it that gives it the positive or negative spin. But, again, I digress. Maybe my reasons for a numismatic interest bore some of you, but others might find it interesting. And I am glad I found a club with which I can share my interest.

By the way, if anybody has a 1916D Mercury Dime they don't want, you can send it my way...



# Walking Liberty Half Dollars (credit wikipedia)



The **Walking Liberty half dollar** is a silver 50-cent piece or half dollar coin that was issued by the United States Mint from 1916 to 1947; it was designed by Adolph A. Weinman, a well-known sculptor and engraver.



In 1915, the new Mint Director, Robert W. Woolley, came to believe that he was not only allowed but required by law to replace coin designs that had been in use for 25 years. He therefore began the process of replacing the Barber coinage: dimes, quarters, and half dollars, all bearing similar designs by long-time Mint Engraver Charles E. Barber, and first struck in 1892. Woolley had the Commission of Fine Arts conduct a competition, as a result of which Weinman was selected to design the dime and half dollar.

Weinman's design of Liberty striding towards the Sun for the half dollar proved difficult to perfect, and Treasury Secretary William G. McAdoo, whose department included the Mint, considered having Barber create his own design. Mint officials were successful in getting Weinman's design into production,

although it never struck very well, which may have been a factor in its replacement by the Franklin half dollar beginning in 1948. Nevertheless, art historian Cornelius Vermeule considered the piece to be among the most beautiful US coins. Since 1986, a modification of Weinman's obverse design has been used for the American Silver Eagle, and the half dollar was issued in gold for its centennial in 2016.



The mint marks had initially been placed on the obverse, the first time that had been done for a regular issue US half dollar since 1839.<sup>1</sup> On February 14, 1917, von Engelken ordered that the mint mark be moved from the obverse to the reverse, stating that the obverse placement had the appearance of a die defect. At that time, Von Engelken had resigned pending appointment to the post of president of the Federal Land Bank for the Third District; once he left to take that position, he was succeeded by Raymond T. Baker. In April Joyce asked Baker for written confirmation of von Engelken's order, and after he obliged, the mint mark was duly moved. The majority of the 1917 half dollars struck at Denver (1917-D) and San Francisco (1917-S) bear the mint mark on the reverse.



Throughout the time in which the Mint struck the Walking Liberty half dollar, it had difficulty bringing out the design fully. According to Breen,

Although the dime's debut on October 30, 1916 had seen considerable publicity, the Mint had little comment on the release of the half dollar and Standing Liberty quarter the following January. There were few newspaper mentions of the new half dollar; the United States was moving towards war with Germany, and the dime release had exhausted much of the public interest in the novelty of new coins. The quarter dominated what public attention there was with an argument over whether the eagle on its reverse was portrayed accurately. Despite the minimal publicity, according to a January 1917 report from Mint Adjuster Chaffin, all three mints initially had trouble keeping up with public demand for the new half dollars.

*The New York Times* noted on January 3 that the new pieces had been received by the Sub-Treasury and would be released two to a customer, starting on January 9. It stated that the Mint was working as hard as possible to keep up with demand, but that initially, quantities would be limited. *Banking*, the journal of the American Bankers Association, stated that "The designs of the new coins have been highly praised by those having expert knowledge of such matters". Connecticut's *Meriden Daily Journal* predicted readers would like the new half dollar five times as much as the new dime.



Since 1986, Weinman's obverse design has been used as the obverse design for the American Silver Eagle bullion coin. In adapting the design, Mint Sculptor-Engraver John Mercanti and other members of the engraving staff strengthened many of the details. Mercanti noted that Weinman's original plaster was only 6 inches (150 mm) in diameter, and was softly modeled. Mercanti increased the detail so that the design, struck on a larger coin, would be bolder and would have a more even metal flow when struck than Weinman's original coin. Treasury Secretary James Baker chose a heraldic eagle design, by Mercanti, as the reverse of the American Silver Eagle.



In 1947, Mint Director Nellie Tayloe Ross asked Engraver Sinnock to produce a design for a half dollar featuring Founding Father Benjamin Franklin. Ross had long been an admirer of Franklin, and wanted to see him on a coin. Mint officials had considered putting Franklin on the dime in 1941, but the project was shelved owing to heavy demands on the Mint for coins as the United States entered World War II.<sup>1</sup> During the war, the Mint contemplated adding one or more new denominations of coinage; Sinnock prepared a Franklin design in anticipation of a new issue, which did not occur. In 1946, the Treasury replaced the Mercury dime with a piece depicting the recently deceased president, Franklin Roosevelt who had been closely associated with the March of Dimes.<sup>1</sup> With the Lincoln cent popular and politically inexpedient to replace, the half dollar was the only piece being struck which was available for redesign without congressional permission. The Treasury approved the new design. Although Sinnock died before the coin was issued, the Franklin half dollar went into production at the start of 1948, ending the Walking Liberty series.

**~2020 COIN SHOW DATES~**  
**CHECK UPDATES DUE TO COVID-19 CANCELLATIONS!**

AUBURN MA		WILLIMANTIC CT		NAUGATUCK CT	
		JAN	JUL	JAN 25	JUL
FEB 9	AUG 9	FEB	AUG	FEB 22	AUG
		MAR 29	SEPT	MAR 28	SEPT
MAR 8	OCT 11	APR	OCT	APR 25	OCT
		MAY	NOV	MAY	NOV
JUN 14	DEC 13	JUN	DEC	JUN	DEC
DEVENS MA		CROMWELL CT		ORANGE CT	
	JUL 26	FEB 16		JAN 12	JUL 12
FEB 23	AUG 23	APR 19		FEB 9	AUG 9
MAR 22	OCT 25	JULY 19		MAR 8	SEPT 13
JUN 28	NOV 29	SEPT 20		APR 5	OCT 11
	DEC 27	NOV 15		MAY 3	NOV 8
				JUN 14	DEC 13
MANCHESTER NH		NASHUA NH		PVCC NORWICH CT	
		JAN 15	JUL 19	JAN	JULY
		FEB 16	AUG 16	FEB	AUG
APR 10th & 11th		MAR 15	SEPT 20	MAR	SEPT
		APR 19	OCT 18	APR	OCT
OCT 2nd & 3rd		MAY 17	NOV 15	MAY 2, 2021	NOV
		JUN 21		JUN	DEC
BLACKSTONE VALLEY MA		MARLBOROUGH MA		ANA ANNUAL SHOW	
	JUL 15				
FEB 19	AUG 19	56th Annual Bay State Coin Show		Atlanta February 27-29, 2020	
MAR 18	SEPT 16	APR 17-18		Pittsburgh August 4-8, 2020	
APR 15					
MAY 20					
JUN 17					

**AUBURN MA:** Elks Lodge, 754 South Bridge Street (Route 12) 46 Tables. Free Admission. 978- 658-0160

**BLACKSTONE VALLEY:** VFW Post 1385, 16 Cross Street Route 16, Uxbridge MA Terrance O'Connor 508-400-7454

**DEDHAM MA:** Holiday Inn, I-95 exit 15A, Dedham MA. 29 tables, free admission. 603-978-3459

**DEVENS MA:** Devens Common Center, 31 Andrews Parkway, Devens MA \$1 Admission 978-658-0160

**HARTFORD CT:** Courtyard Marriott, 4 Sebethe Dr. Cromwell CT. 718-323-1930 or [stassinsJ98@aol.com](mailto:stassinsJ98@aol.com)

**MANCHESTER NH:** EBW Promotions, P O Box 3 Wilmington MA 01887-0003, 978-658-0160

[ernie@nhcoinexpo.com](mailto:ernie@nhcoinexpo.com)

**MANSFIELD CT:** Prospect Street School Gym, 233 Prospect Street, Willimantic CT 06226, C John Ferreri, 860-508-8620

**NASHUA NH:** Holiday Inn 9 Northeastern Blvd Nashua NH 03060 49 tables, free admission 978-658-0160

**PAWCATUCK VALLEY NORWICH SHOW:** Dave Barbone, 10 Bigelow Street, Pawcatuck CT 06379, 860-599-1571, [tyme48@yahoo.com](mailto:tyme48@yahoo.com)

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