

THE SAND DOLLAR

THE OFFICIAL OCEAN COUNTY
COIN CLUB INC. NEWSLETTER



Issue No. 11 | March 2023 | Volume 1

March 1, 1793: U.S. Mint delivers the first circulating coins



The Coinage Act of 1792 established a national mint located in Philadelphia. Congress chose decimal coinage in parts of 100, and set the U.S. dollar to the already familiar Spanish milled dollar and its fractional parts (half, quarter, eighth, sixteenth). This resulted in coins of the following metals and denominations:

Copper: half cent and cent

Silver: half dime, dime, quarter, half dollar, and dollar

Gold: quarter eagle (\$2.50), half eagle (\$5), and eagle (\$10)

In 1792, during construction of the new Mint, 1,500 silver half dimes were made in the cellar of a nearby building. These half dimes were probably given out to dignitaries and friends and not released into circulation. The Mint delivered the nation's first circulating coins on March 1, 1793: 11,178 copper cents.

These new cents caused a bit of a public outcry. They were larger than a modern quarter, a bulky size for small change. The image of Liberty on the obverse showed her hair steaming behind her and her expression "in a fright." The reverse featured a chain of 15 links, similar to the Fugio cent. However, some people felt that it symbolized slavery instead of unity of the states. The Mint quickly replaced the chain with a wreath, and a couple months later designed a new version of Liberty. Although individual states were no longer authorized to produce coins, legislation temporarily allowed certain foreign coins to continue to circulate until the Mint released enough coins to handle the country's needs.

Meeting Dates

Come join us at our monthly meetings. The Ocean County Coin Club meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month. The dates of upcoming meetings are on Page 2.

Upcoming Events

Stay in the know and check out the upcoming events on Page 2.

Coin Club Officers

President

Dennis Berube

President Emeritus

Jim Majoris

Vice President

Doug Ball

Treasurer

Dolly Harris

The History of U.S. Circulating Coins

The story of U.S. circulating coins began long before the opening of a national mint in 1792. Before national coinage, a mix of foreign and domestic coins circulated, both during the Colonial Period and in the years following the Revolutionary War. After Congress established the U.S. Mint in 1792, the Mint struggled for many years to produce enough coins. Finally, production numbers grew to meet the demands of a growing nation, providing some of the most beloved circulating coin designs.

During the Colonial Period, a variety of coins circulated, including British pounds, German thalers, Spanish milled dollars, and even some coins produced by the colonies. Spanish milled dollars became a favorite because of the consistency of the silver content throughout the years. To make change for a dollar, people sometimes cut the coin into halves, quarters, eighths, and sixteenths to match the fractional denominations that were in short supply.

After the Revolutionary War, the Articles of Confederation governed the country. The Articles allowed each state to make their own coins and set values for them, in addition to the foreign coins already circulating. This created a confusing situation, with the same coin worth different amounts from state to state.

In 1787, after much debate about national coinage, Congress authorized the production of copper cents. Called Fugio cents, the coins featured a sundial on the obverse and a chain of 13 links on the reverse. However, the following year, a majority of states ratified the Constitution, establishing a new government and creating a new debate over national coinage.



The design of the 2019 San Antonio Missions Quarter reverse resembles the colonial Spanish milled dollar.

Symbols on Our Coins

Our early and modern coins are full of symbolism. Many symbols have ancient Greek and Roman origins and were widely used in the 18th and 19th centuries



Liberty Cap
Liberty/freedom;
Cap given to freed
Roman slaves



Cap with Wings
Freedom of Thought



Wreath
Victory



Union Shield
From the Great Seal;
Represents Congress and
the original 13 colonies



Stars
States; Stars and Clouds
Together symbolize
America as a new nation



Oak Branch
Strength and
Independence



Olive Branch
Peace



Arrows
War



Fasces
Strength through Unity;
Roman Symbol of wood
Rods tied around an ax



Torch
Liberty



Bald Eagle
National Bird



E Pluribus Unum
National Motto:
Latin for,
"Out of Many, One"



Some of History's Lucky Coins!



Do coins have the power to bring GOOD LUCK? For centuries, many have believed this to be true. There are countless stories of how coins have ensured fortune and luck. While your choice of a personal good luck charm remains completely up to you, let's examine THREE of the most popular lucky coins around the world.

The Silver Sixpence (Great Britain)

In Great Britain, the Lucky Sixpence appears in the nursery rhyme Sing a Song of Sixpence as well as the tradition of hiding a Sixpence inside each British child's Christmas Pudding to bring good luck for the new year. Even better known is the mention of this coin in the famous wedding rhyme: "Something borrowed, something Blue, and a Sixpence for her shoe." For centuries, brides have been wearing a sixpence coin in their shoes in the hope that their marriage will be filled with prosperity and good luck. For that reason, British sixpence coins are among the most popular wedding gifts for brides.



The Lucky Irish Penny (Ireland)

The Lucky Irish Penny was minted in Ireland from 1928-1968. In 1926, as designs were being considered for this new coin, Irish poet William Butler Yeats was named the design committee's chairman. Ultimately, the committee selected a design of the Irish harp, which traced its origins to a coin first issued by Henry VIII in 1534.

The coin's reverse side, it was decided, would feature a hen and chicks design as a tribute to Ireland's tradition of agriculture.

These coins were first minted in 1928 and continued to be issued virtually unchanged until 1968. Struck in copper, each coin weighs approximately an ounce. The coin's inscription is in Gaelic, the native language of Ireland. Large and relatively inexpensive, the Lucky Irish Penny is a popular good luck piece carried in pockets throughout the world.

Leap Year Mercury Dimes (United States)

Many gamblers across the U.S. swear by the luck of the leap year Mercury Silver Dime. This widespread superstition likely stems from an overall belief in the power of silver coins coupled with Mercury being the god of "the crossroads" or fate, as well as chance.

The leap year dates that occurred during the run of the Mercury Dime series are 1916, 1920, 1924, 1928, 1932, 1936, 1940, 1944.

The belief in the Leap Year Mercury Dime is particularly ironic, however, since this silver dime has long been misidentified as depicting the Roman god Mercury, when it actually features Lady Liberty wearing a winged cap – symbolizing freedom of thought.



The U.S. Mint's 2023 New Releases for March

Congratulations Set 2023

The 2023 United States Mint Congratulations Set features an American Eagle Silver Proof Coin bearing the “W” mint mark of the West Point Mint. It’s the perfect way to say “congratulations” to special people in your life for milestone achievements and anniversaries—a meaningful and unique gift they will treasure for years to come.

The obverse (heads) design features the iconic depiction of Adolph A. Weinman’s full-length figure of Liberty in full stride, enveloped in folds of the flag, with her right hand extended and branches of laurel and oak in her left. Inscriptions are “LIBERTY,” “IN GOD WE TRUST,” and “2023.”

The coin’s reverse (tails) design features an eagle as it approaches a landing, carrying an oak branch, as if to add it to a nest. Inscriptions are “UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,” “E PLURIBUS UNUM,” “1 OZ. FINE SILVER,” and “ONE DOLLAR.”

The packaging includes a presentation folder and an outer sleeve. There is space inside the folder to write a personal message to the recipient. “Congratulations!” is brightly printed on both the front of the sleeve and the folder, along with “2023 United States Mint Congratulations Set” and “American Eagle One Ounce Silver Proof Coin.” The coin is encapsulated in the folder so both the obverse and reverse are visible.

A certificate of authenticity is printed on the back of the folder, and coin specifications are included on the back of the sleeve.



American Women's Quarters 2023 Proof Set

The 2023 American Women Quarters Proof Set™ includes **five proof quarters from the American Women Quarters™ Program** honoring:

- Bessie Coleman – pilot, advocate, and pioneer who flew to great heights as the First African American and first Native American woman pilot, and first African American to earn an international pilot’s license
- Edith Kanaka‘ole – indigenous Hawaiian composer, chanter, kumu hula, custodian of native culture, traditions, and natural land
- Eleanor Roosevelt – first lady, author, civil liberties and human rights advocate, Chairperson of the United Nations Human Rights Commission, instrumental in the passage of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Jovita Idar – Mexican American journalist, activist, teacher, community organizer, champion of bi-lingual education, and suffragist
- Maria Tallchief – America’s first major prima ballerina who broke barriers as a Native American ballerina

Struck at the U.S. Mint facility in San Francisco

Each set is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity

COIN QUOTE OF THE MONTH
"Collect what you like and like what you collect."

**UPCOMING OCEAN COUNTY
COIN CLUB MEETING DATES:**

**April 20, May 18, June 15,
July 20, August 17, September 21,
October 19, November 16,
December 21**

UPCOMING AREA COIN SHOWS:

**March 11th (9:00 am - 3pm) - Colts
Neck Firehouse #2**

**March 26th (10am - 3pm) - Trevoise
Coin Show**

**Key Ocean County Coin
Club Inc. Assignments**

Board of Directors

**Jim Majoros / Jeff Thompson/ Joe Testa/
Bob Holloway**

**YN (Young Numismatists) Program
Director**

Jim Majoros, Jeff Thompson

Historical Researcher

Richard Wolpin

Dealer Representative

Bob Holloway

Auctioneer

Mike Solimene

Exhibits

Jeff Thompson

Librarian & Chief Education Officer

Doug Ball

Sergeant-at Arms

John Deitz

**Monthly Club
Meetings**

- Monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of every month
- YN's (Young Numismatists) (ages 6 – 17) meeting begins at 6:30 where they earn CLUB DOLLARS for their participation in the program and use them to bid on coins during the YN Auction.
- The regular meeting begins at 7:30 pm and generally ends at 8:45 pm.
- Check out our website at: **www.occoinclub.org**
- Find us on Facebook at: Ocean County Coin Club
- Refreshments available at every meeting

**Key Ocean County Coin
Club Inc. Assignments**

ANA Representative
(Vacant)

GSNA Representative

Dennis Berube

Membership

Dolly Harris

Refreshments

Renee Berube

Coin Show Director

Joe Testa

Assistant Coin Show Director

Dennis Berube

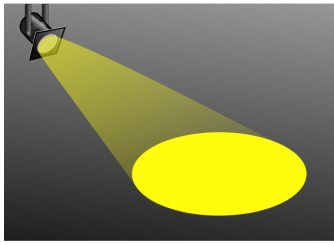
Website/Facebook Page Administrator

Dolly Harris

The Sand Dollar (Newsletter)

Editor-in-Chief

Charles Pazmiño



**Adult Members
Spotlight
Nominations
Needed!!**

Looking to highlight
someone from our coin
collecting community to
shine a spotlight on.
Send an email to the
editor with some words
about the nominee to
pazmino2@gmail.com

**Yearly Membership
Rates:**

Adults: \$15
Young Numismatists (aka
YNs - ages 6-17): **\$10**
Family: \$20

***Memberships must be
renewed yearly**

**Special Thank you
to:**

**Scott Yates from Yates
Coins and Precious
Metals in Ewing, NJ for
his generous donations
of coins and coin sets
to our YN program!**

From the Ocean County Coin Club YN Director

March YN Meeting. PLEASE RSVP

**March 16th, 2023 Meeting will start with our YN Cent and Nickel
Program, back to our regular meetings.**

**Please Wear something green (Hats, ties, scarfs, beads, green
shirt under YN shirt)
Most festive will get a prize. Please bring cookies or dessert if
possible.**

**YN'S who wear the YN Tee shirts that were provided by FARRO
TEES and the Farro family will get \$10.00 in YN Money to use at
the YN Auctions.**

We need a headcount of all YN's attending.

**6 pm to 6:30 pm will be the Cent and Nickel Program. Get up to
10 Cents and 5 Nickels.to fill the holes in your collection.**

6:30 YN Program begins.

Show and Tell

YN'S bring your Show and Tell items for \$10.00 YN Money.

YN Auction, we hope to have a few nice items for auction.

7:30 meeting ends

**Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions,
this club is for you and we want you to benefit from it.**

**Check online for the Sand Dollar, it is the OCCC monthly
newsletter.**

You will find it very informative. www.occcoinclub.org

**YN Director
Chief Jeff Thompson, retired**