

Newsletter of the  
**South Brevard Coin Club**

March 2021

Host of the Second Sunday Coin Show



**South Brevard Coin Club, P.O. Box 372418, Satellite Beach, FL 32937-3972**

**[www.southbrevardcoinclub.com](http://www.southbrevardcoinclub.com)**

*Member of the American Numismatic Association (ANA) and Florida United Numismatists (FUN)*

***Our next meeting is on  
Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 PM  
Satellite Beach Recreation Center,  
1089 South Patrick Drive  
(Doors open at 6:15 PM)***

***Meeting Program***

Presentation by Dr. Juan Riera  
“Shipwreck Treasures of Florida”

Show and Tells – If you have them, bring them in!

Raffle and Member Auction

***The recreation center requires that people wear  
face masks in the facility. So bring your mask and  
follow the protocols for social distancing.***

***Member News***

Membership renewal is due. The yearly cost for membership is \$15. You can renew by mail by sending a check to the club address listed above.

The Combined Organization of Numismatic Error Collectors of America (CONECA) has asked if the SBCC would like to share a table at the Summer FUN show. There will need to be a representative from either club at the table throughout the show. Four SBCC volunteers are needed. Contact a member of the board if interested.

Need a book from our library? Contact Jack Klein ([kleinjack@att.net](mailto:kleinjack@att.net)) for a listing.

Special thanks to Juan Montoya for getting our website up-and-running.

***Coin Show News***

Our next “Second Sunday” coin show is March 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 AM–3:00 PM at the Azan Shrine Center, 1591 West Eau Gallie Blvd, Melbourne FL 32935

***Coins at the British Museum***

***By Juan L. Riera***

Many large national museums and large old universities hold coin collections. Museums usually have a stand-alone collection as well as some pieces that are dispersed with other collections such as within an Asian Collection, Middle East Collection, or within an Archaeological Collection. Universities usually have coin collections held as part of a special collections library and possibly some pieces within certain collections, for example there may be pieces held with a Shakespeare collection if they are from the period or are mentioned in the works of Shakespeare, for example. Some states such as Florida also have coin collections somehow related to the state, usually held by the Department of State of each respective state.

The British Museum has a Coins and Medals Department with an extensive collection covering all periods and places from the 7th century B.C. to the present-day. Medals of all kinds are also found in this collection including awards, decorations, tokens and coin weights. I am sure this includes a large number of military awards and decorations due to the extensive history and geography the British military has covered and been involved with. This collection also includes paper money.

The Coins and Medals Department has one gallery on the second floor of the museum that was being reorganized in the mid-1980s and the gallery re-opened in 1987

presenting a complete numismatic history of Great Britain from the Anglo-Saxon period to the present day-meaning the 1980s. In addition to documenting the development of coinage in Great Britain, it documents and focuses on major personalities and events of British history.



Anglo-Saxon Era Coin  
Hiberno-Norse Sithric III AR Penny ca.1000-1100

The department also has a foyer in the entrance to the collections public study area where they present small topical displays and recent departmental acquisitions. There are also coins displayed as part of other exhibits in other galleries as part of, and supportive of other displays- as described at the beginning of this article.

In cases such as museums and universities, especially those of a high caliber, items in their collections are valuable not so much because of the metal content (platinum, gold, etc.), but instead because it is truly a unique item- a gold token that was buried with a Viking noblewoman in a remote corner of Wales, for this fictional example.

This article is written so as to think about unique numismatic items that may frequently and in many cases be held by a public institution, but may be rarely seen because of limited display space.

### ***A Primer for Collecting Ancient Coins*** ***By Greg Bessette***

Ancient coinage covers a vast period of time and range of cultures. The first coin is generally attributed to the Kingdom of Lydia located in western Asia Minor. It was minted somewhere around 600 BC. The period of ancient coinage spans from this first coin to 476 AD in the West, and 1453 AD in the East. These dates coincide with the fall of the Roman and Byzantine Empires, respectively. The cultures represented in ancient coinage are expansive, with many rising and falling over time. The sheer length of time covered and varied cultures can make collecting ancients a bit intimidating. The goal of this article is to provide a broad overview of ancient coinage, i.e., a short primer of sorts. Future articles will delve into individual periods and cultures.

Ancient coinage is typically categorized as Classical or Non-Classical. By definition, the classical era is associated with the Greeks and Romans; however, in the context of coinage, the Byzantines are often included in this category. The Byzantine (or Romaioi) Empire was essentially a continuation of the Roman Empire in the eastern provinces (present day Turkey and the Middle East). Non-Classical coinage refers to a much broader spectrum of cultures and civilizations. These include the Barbarian tribes of present day Europe (e.g., the Celts), cultures in present day Asia Minor and the Middle East (e.g., Persia, Parthia, Judea, and Arabia), present day Central Asia (e.g., the Indo-Scythians and Kushans), and the Far East (e.g., the Qin and Han dynasties of China).

The reasons for collecting ancients are varied. Investment is typically not a driver for collecting ancients. Rather, collector interests are more often driven by the historical significance, artistic quality, and/or cultural heritage associated with a coin. Many collectors just want to hold a piece of history in their hands. An example is the popular Widow's Mite (Lepton), a biblical coin from the time of Jesus. An NGC certified Widow's Mite can be found for under a \$100. Holding a piece of history can be quite affordable.



Widow's Mite, minted 103-76 BC, but still in circulation during the time of Jesus (Courtesy: Wikipedia)

The valuation of ancient coinage parallels many of the standards set forth for modern coins. Rarity and condition are key drivers of value. Other considerations include popularity, size, provenance, and eye appeal. Most ancient coins have been in the ground for a millennium or two. One should expect that a coin has been cleaned at some point in its life. The key is to assess the harshness of the cleaning. It will usually be apparent if a coin has been poorly cleaned by either mechanical or chemical means. The net result is a loss of eye appeal and value. Like modern coins, the cost of an ancient can run from a few dollars to six figures. It all depends on the coin.

The goal of this article is to serve as an introduction to ancient coinage. Future articles will focus on individual cultures and periods. The emphasis will largely be on classical coinage.

## ***Assembling a 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Type Set***

***By Bert Alm***

I recently went through my library of Coin Books and found a small paperback called ***Assembling the Ideal 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Type Set*** by David W. Lange. This is a reprint from *The Numismatist* and was published in 1998. Consequently, it is missing a few of the coins that were minted at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, specifically the 1999- and 2000-year Washington State Quarters and the Sacagawea Dollar.

I thought it would be fun to start a 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Type Set now that we are in the 21<sup>st</sup>-Century. In the back of the book is a checklist that includes all of the types of coins that Mr. Lange considers Ideal for this type set. The checklist (see Ideal 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Type Set PDF) includes a description of the coin, composition, issue dates and then two columns that include the coins by year and mint mark that would be ideal for this type set. In some cases, there is only one year-mint mark for a particular type coin and in other cases there are multiple years and mint marks to choose from.

The fun thing about doing a type set is you can make it your own. You do not have to follow someone else's format. The Ideal Type Set includes 43 different coins according to Mr. Lange's Checklist, 48 if you include the 1999-year Quarters and only 54 if you also include the 2000-year Quarters and Dollar. I have also included a Basic 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Type Set PDF that has 28 coins up through 1999 and 33 coins if you add in the 2000-year coins. It is your type set so you may also decide you want to include some of the varieties and errors such as the 1955 Double-Die Lincoln Cent or the 1937-D 3-Legged Buffalo Nickel.

After you have identified which coins will be in your type set you now have to determine what condition you desire for your coins. It is difficult to find most of these coins in circulation today, especially the earlier series, but you may already have most of these amongst your duplicates that you have been thinking of trading or selling to keep your costs low. I have also read where some collectors are trying to put together the best registry sets of slabbed coins which could easily run in the tens of thousands of dollars if you are looking for the finest known.

For my 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Type Set I am using Mr. Lange's Checklist with the addition of the 1999- and 2000-year coins. I am also trying to keep my costs to less than \$100 per coin which allows for mint state for most of the coins and lower grades for some of the rarer coins such as the Barber coins, Standing Liberty Quarters, and the 1921 Peace Dollar.

I will be doing a presentation on Type Coin Sets at the June 2021 South Brevard Coin Club Meeting. I will bring in my set and encourage you to bring in your Type Coin Sets also. A Type Coin Set can be anything you want such as birth year, copper coins, cents (including Large and Small), odd denomination, or any other variation that piques your interest.

<b>Basic 20th Century Type Set</b>
Indian Cent (1859 to 1909)
Lincoln Cent with Wheat Ears Reverse (1909 to 1958)
Lincoln Cent with Lincoln Memorial Reverse (1959 to 1999)
Liberty Head Nickel (1883 to 1912)
Buffalo Nickel (1913 to 1938)
Jefferson Nickel (1938 to 1999)
Liberty Head "Barber" Dime (1892 to 1916)
Winged Liberty Head "Mercury" Dime (1916 to 1945)
Roosevelt Dime (1946 to 1999)
Liberty Head "Barber" Quarter (1892 to 1916)
Standing Liberty Quarter (1916 to 1930)
Washington Quarter w/ Heraldic Eagle Reverse (1932 to 1998)
Washington Quarter w/ Bicentennial Reverse (1975 to 1976; such coins are dated "1776-1976")
Washington Quarter w/ Delaware Reverse (1999)
Washington Quarter w/ Pennsylvania Reverse (1999)
Washington Quarter w/ New Jersey Reverse (1999)
Washington Quarter w/ Georgia Reverse (1999)
Washington Quarter w/ Connecticut Reverse (1999)
Liberty Head "Barber" Half Dollar (1892 to 1915)
Walking Liberty Half Dollar (1916 to 1947)
Franklin Half Dollar (1948 to 1963)
Kennedy Half Dollar (1964 to 1999)
Kennedy Half Dollar w/ Bicentennial Reverse (1975 to 1976; such coins are dated "1776-1976")
Liberty Head "Morgan" Dollar (1878 to 1904, and 1921)
Peace Dollar (1921 to 1935)
Eisenhower Dollar (1971 to 1978)
Eisenhower Dollar w/ Bicentennial Reverse (1975 to 1976; such coins are dated "1776-1976")
Susan B. Anthony Dollar (1979 to 1981, and 1999)
Washington Quarter w/ Massachusetts Reverse (2000)
Washington Quarter w/ Maryland Reverse (2000)
Washington Quarter w/ South Carolina Reverse (2000)
Washington Quarter w/ New Hampshire Reverse (2000)
Washington Quarter w/ Virginia Reverse (2000)
Sacagawea Dollar (2000)

***We are looking for contributors to our monthly newsletter. Contact the SBCC Secretary for details.***

### ***Club Officers and Representatives***

President: Jim Nuara  
Vice President: Mike Smith  
Chairman of the Board: Bill Peters  
Treasurer: Tim Janecke  
Secretary: Greg Bessette  
ANA Representative: John Miller  
FUN Representative: Tim Janecke

### ***Past and Upcoming SBCC Meeting Programs***

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
January 2021	Norse-American Centennial Medal	Richard Ahlquist
February 2021	Treasures in your pocket! Finding modern error coins.	Juan Montoya
March 2021	Shipwreck Treasures of Florida	Dr. Juan Riera
April 2021	Annual ANA National Coin Week Trivia Night	John Miller
May 2021	Semi-Annual Educational Trivia Night	Bob Mellor
June 2021	Starting a Type Set Collection	Bert Alm
July 2021	Annual Pizza and Numismatic YouTube Videos Night	Bob Mellor
August 2021	Collecting Colonial Coins of Early America	Gene Yotka
September 2021	Semi-Annual Educational Trivia Night	Bob Mellor
October 2021	Annual Mini Bourse	No speaker
November 2021	Introduction to Collecting Tokens and Medals	Mark Lighterman
December 2021	Annual Holiday Dinner	No speaker