

Newsletter of the
South Brevard Coin Club

April 2021

Host of the Second Sunday Coin Show



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

www.southbrevardcoinclub.com

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

***Our next meeting is on
Wednesday, April 7th at 7 PM
Satellite Beach Recreation Center,
1089 South Patrick Drive
(Doors open at 6:15 PM)***

Meeting Program

Annual ANA National Coin Week Trivia Night
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

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) for a listing.

Special thanks to Juan Montoya for getting our website up-and-running. Check it out for the latest updates.

Club membership cards are now available. Be sure to pick your card up at the next meeting.

Coin Show News

Our next “Second Sunday” coin show is April 11th from 9:30 AM–3:00 PM at the Azan Shrine Center, 1591 West Eau Gallie Blvd, Melbourne FL 32935

***Piet Hein and the Capture
of a Spanish Treasure Fleet
By Juan L. Riera***

The Spanish treasure fleets would gather in Havana harbor, Cuba, and head northeasterly catching the Florida gulfstream heading towards Cadiz, Spain. The treasure on these ships consisted of silver and gold coins, bullion, precious stones such as emeralds, and pearls. These ships also carried spices, silks, and porcelains from the Far East which would come on the Manila Galleons to the west coast of Mexico and transported to Veracruz and placed on ships that would make up part of the treasure fleets. Some New World agricultural products also went on the ships of the treasure fleet- such as cacao beans (for the making of chocolate) and hides for the making of leather products, among other items.

While the fleets attempted to leave Havana in spring, they frequently left behind schedule and were headed to Spain during hurricane season. Three complete treasure fleets never made it back to Spain due to hurricanes: the 1622 fleet that sank near the Marquesas Islands (about 30 miles west of Key West), the 1715 fleet that sank near Sebastian Inlet (many survivors and nearly half the treasure salvaged at the time), and the 1733 fleet that sank spread out throughout a sizable part of the Florida Keys.

Only one Spanish treasure fleet was ever captured intact, even though many pirates and privateers eyed the

fortunes the Spanish would send back to Spain from its' colonies every year. The person in command of the fleet was Piet Pieterszoon Hein (November 25th, 1577- June 18th 1629). He was born in Delfshaven, now part of Rotterdam, in Holland. He was the son of a sea captain and he became a sailor as a teenager. He was captured by the Spanish and was sentenced to be a galley slave from 1598 to 1602 when he was exchanged for Spanish prisoners. During this period, he became fluid in Spanish.



Piet Pieterszoon Hein

In 1628 during the Dutch war of independence he had attained the rank of Vice-Admiral with the Dutch West India Company and hatched a plan to capture a treasure fleet. His fleet was joined by two other Dutch Squadrons and a pirate fleet led by Moses Cohen Henriques. Sixteen Spanish ships were intercepted and captured: one galleon was taken by surprise at night, nine smaller merchant ships were talked into surrender. Two small ships were taken at sea attempting to flee, and four galleons were trapped in the Bay of Matanzas. The Spanish were given ample supplies for a march to Havana with instructions in Spanish by Hein. The captured treasure was sufficient to pay the Dutch army for eight months and a 50-percent dividend that year to shareholders of the Dutch West Indies Company.

The First Coin ***By Greg Bessette***

It is generally accepted that the Lydian Lion was the first coin ever minted. This coin (depicted below) was issued by King Alyattes of the Kingdom of Lydia (located in present-day Western Turkey). The lion on the obverse was the symbol adopted by the Mermnad Dynasty. Alyattes was the fourth king of this dynasty. The coin is composed of electrum, a naturally occurring alloy of gold and silver with trace amounts of copper. The Pactolus River located within Lydia was a source of much of the naturally occurring electrum. Metallurgical studies indicate that the gold content within the Lydian coinage

was noticeably less than found in nature, suggesting the coinage was debased prior to minting.



Lydian Lion (ca. 610-560 B.C.)
(Courtesy: Wikipedia, "History of Coins")

There is evidence of other forms of medium used for trade prior to the emergence of the Lydian Lion. However, this coin falls within our conventional definition of coinage. When looking at the coin, we see that is composed of metal and is issued by a governing body. The Lion obverse ties it to the Mermnad rulers. The coin has a set value (or denomination) that is tied to a standard set by the governing body. The coin above is referred to as a trite, or one-third stater. It weighs about 4.7 grams. Other denominations are delineated by weight, the stater being the largest of all. The other denominations have some form of lion motif on the obverse.

The coin was hand struck. A die containing the obverse design was placed on an anvil. The metal blank (lump of metal) was placed on the die and held in place with a punch, which was then hammered to imprint the obverse image. This process left punch marks on the reverse side. It is conjectured that the punch design evolved over time, with the goal to inhibit slippage of the coin during striking. This is evidenced by coin variations exhibiting varied numbers of punch marks.

The Greek states neighboring Lydia began issuing their own coinage shortly after the initial release of the Lion coins. Their early issues were also composed of electrum. King Alyattes son, Croesus, is credited with issuing the first standardized gold coinage somewhere around 560 B.C. The trend for minting single metal coinage was soon followed by the Greeks. The Greeks considered Lydia a barbarian kingdom; however, it appears the Lydians had the leading edge in coinage technology for that age. It is also worth noting that the Chinese issued an early form of cast bronze currency in the 7th century B.C (Spade money). Thus, coinage in some form began to appear at roughly the same period in history, originating from separate cultures.

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: Bert Alm
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 | Bert Alm/Tim Janecke |
| 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 |

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