

Newsletter of the  
**South Brevard Coin Club**

July 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 July club meeting will be held at the Satellite Beach City Hall, 565 Cassia Blvd in the Scotty Culp Room. This temporary change is due to repairs ongoing at the Schechter Center. The date and time for the meeting has not changed (Meeting on Wednesday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM with doors open at 6 PM).**

**Meeting Program**

“Annual Pizza and Numismatic YouTube Videos Night”  
by Bob Mellor

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

Raffle and Member Auction

**Member News**

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. 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 July 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 AM–3:00 PM at the Azan Shrine Center, 1591 West Eau Gallie Blvd, Melbourne FL 32935

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer FUN Show will be held at the Orange County Convention Center, 9800 International Drive, Hall WE1 on July 8-10.

**Jefferson War Nickels**

**By Jack Klein**

The image of President Thomas Jefferson, primary author of the *Declaration of Independence*, has adorned the United States five cent piece since 1938. The original design included his left facing profile and mintage year on the obverse. The reverse depicted his Monticello estate, along with a mint mark, if any, on the right side of the building.

The nickel followed a long tradition, if minted in Philadelphia it bore no mint mark. However, if minted in Denver or San Francisco, a small “D” or “S” (respectively) could be found on the reverse.

Dimension-wise, the smooth-edged Jefferson coin copied its predecessor, the Indian-Head/Buffalo five cent piece: 5 grams in mass, 21.21 millimeters in diameter, and 1.95 millimeters thick. As did its metallic composition, 75% copper and 25% nickel, thus its name. In 1942, the first full year of America’s involvement in World War II, nickel was in high demand for strategic military purposes. It was a key ingredient in the protective armor of land-based tanks and heavily armed warships. It was decided to eliminate nickel from the five-cent piece to free up more for the war effort. Public Law 507, dated 27 March 1942, made the necessary provisions.

The United States Mint decided to add silver to the composition of its nickels. The Mint also had to devise a five-cent piece that would be accepted by certain coin-operated machines, which measured the electrical

resistance of its previous content: 75% copper/25% nickel. Otherwise, the new nickels would be rejected as counterfeit.

After several tests, the Mint found that an alloy of 56% copper, 35% silver, and 9% manganese fit the bill. Its mass and all other dimensions remained the same. Each new “nickel” contained 1.75 grams of silver. To further distinguish coins of the new alloy, the mint mark was greatly enlarged, and moved from the right side of the Monticello building, and placed over its dome.



Jefferson war nickel, dated 1942 with P mint mark  
(Photo: Author's personal collection)

And for the first time, a P mint mark was used to designate a Philadelphia mintage. The silver alloy nickels were minted from October 1942 to December 1945. A return to its previous alloy content followed in 1946.

Bowers, Q. David, *The Official Red Book Guide of Buffalo and Jefferson Nickels*. Whitman Publishing, Atlanta, Georgia, 2007.

### ***The Ptolemies of Ancient Egypt*** ***By Greg Bessette***

Ptolemy I Soter founded the Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt in 305 BC. He was a trusted military commander under Alexander the Great. Alexander's empire fragmented following his death, with many of his former commanders vying for control of vast regions of the empire. Ptolemy gained control of Egypt. He integrated the Hellenistic and Egyptian cultures. In doing so, he crowned himself as Pharaoh, adopted Egyptian dress, method of writing, and religious institutions while ensuring that the ruling class maintained its Hellenistic identity. Cleopatra VII was the last Ptolemaic ruler. She is well known for her marriage to Julius Caesar and later to Mark Anthony. Her reign ended in 30 BC following Anthony's loss at the Battle of Actium.



Bronze coin of Cleopatra VII, 55-20 BC, AE 40 Drachm

(Courtesy: Ptolemaic Coinage, Wikipedia, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cleopatra\\_Mint\\_Alexandria.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cleopatra_Mint_Alexandria.jpg))

The Ptolemies imposed a closed system of monetary exchange. Only Ptolemaic coinage could be used within the realm. All coinage, both incoming and outgoing, was exchanged at the border. Obviously, the exchange rate was designed to favor the Ptolemies. Another contributing reason for the closed system was that Egypt had limited access to precious metals, particularly silver. Thus, foreign coinage became a major source of these materials.

Coinage issued by the Ptolemaic rulers generally follows a standard theme. The ruler issuing the coin is portrayed on the obverse. Another common obverse is an image of Zeus with diadem (a jeweled crown or headband). The reverse typically depicts the dynastic symbol of the Ptolemies, which was an eagle on a thunderbolt. The ready access to large copper mines resulted in a prolific series of bronze coinage. Many fine specimens can be found today at a reasonable cost (under \$300). The bronze coinage ranged vastly in size. The smallest coin was about 10 millimeters in diameter and weighed just under a gram. The largest denomination, the octobol, had a diameter of about 45 millimeters and weighed nearly 100 grams.



Bronze coin of Ptolemy V Epiphanes

(Courtesy: Ptolemaic Coinage, Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ptolemaic\\_coinage#/media/File:Ptolemy\\_V\\_Bronze\\_1.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ptolemaic_coinage#/media/File:Ptolemy_V_Bronze_1.jpg))

Howgego, C. *Ancient History from Coins*, Routledge Publishers, 1995.

Ptolemaic Kingdom, Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ptolemaic\\_Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ptolemaic_Kingdom)

Ptolemaic Coinage, Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ptolemaic\\_coinage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ptolemaic_coinage)

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

President: Jim Nuara  
Vice President: Mike Smith  
Chairman of the Board: Bill Peters  
Treasurer: Tim Janecke  
Secretary: Greg Besette  
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 want YOU to contribute to the newsletter.  
Contact the SBCC Secretary for details.***