

Newsletter of the
South Brevard Coin Club

August 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, August 4th at 7 PM***

***David R Schechter Community Center
(a.k.a. Satellite Beach Recreation Center)
1089 South Patrick Drive
(Doors open at 6:00 PM)***

Meeting Program

***“One Day Educational Class Opportunities Discussion”
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) for a listing.

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

We are looking for volunteers to present a numismatic topic of their interest in 2022. See openings.

Coin Show News

Our next “Second Sunday” coin show is August 8th from 9:30 AM–3:00 PM at the Azan Shrine Center, 1591 West Eau Gallie Blvd, Melbourne FL 32935.

Not Your Typical Olympic Sports

By Juan Riera

In the November 2020 issue of the *Palm Beach Coin News* Tony Swicer mentioned that the U.S. House of Representatives had just passed bill H.R. 1923 authorizing a number of changes to U.S. coinage as well as authorizing award medals for the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. This coincides with a recent discovery that a relative, my grandmothers first cousin, Armando Mencia, was an Olympian at the 1932 Los Angeles Summer Olympics. While wondering what sport he might have excelled at and more curiously if he had won a medal, I began looking into the matter.

The founder of the modern Olympic Movement that led to the Modern Olympiad was Pierre de Fredy, Baron de Coubertin. He believed in an ideal that men being educated in both mind and body should compete in sport rather than war. Another of his desires was to combine both art and sport and these ideals led to the Olympic Games to include artistic competition. Although he encountered resistance, between 1912 and 1948 the Olympics had art competitions with medals awarded in five categories- Architecture, Literature, Music, Painting, and Sculpture. The catch was that they had to be inspired by sports- imagine the theme music from the movie *Chariots of Fire*. Because of this clause the architecture competition frequently involved the design of a stadium, an arena, or a similar type of structure.

Similarly, with each Olympic competition the categories changed or were altered slightly. For example, the music category occasionally included a choral competition, most of the time not. In the case of my grandmother's cousin, he competed in the music category, but since it was during the Great Depression and travel was quite expensive, apparently there did not have to be a musical performance- he just had to send in his musical composition. From what I understand from family members, he was an excellent piano player and had a desire to be a professional musician.

Those plans were squashed by his mother who urged another profession. He studied law at the University of Havana, where he was the recipient of a prestigious award as well as taking international law courses in The Hague, gaining a doctoral degree in International Law and becoming a lawyer at the League of Nations settling international disputes such as the Leticia Incident between Peru and Colombia. Because of his diplomatic work and credentials at some point before 1932 he gained Swiss citizenship- he competed in the 1932 summer Olympics for Switzerland.

After the 1948 Olympics the arts category was eliminated as those who competed in these categories were considered professionals and the athletes were viewed as amateurs. Starting with the 1956 Olympics an Olympic cultural program has taken their place.

Interestingly, all three medals (gold, silver, bronze) were not necessarily awarded at each of the Olympics that these categories were present for competition. These competitions took place at seven Olympics, 23 nations won medals in these categories- the U.S., Canada, Japan, and the other 20 were all European nations. Of the 147 total medals issued in these "Arts" categories, 45 were gold, 53 were silver, and 49 were bronze.

Initially, starting in 1896 at the Athens games winners were crowned with an olive wreath and awarded a silver medal attached to a colored ribbon with a pin to fix it to the athlete's chest. Starting in 1903 at the St. Louis games gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded for first, second, and third place. Starting at the 1960 Rome games medals were designed to be placed around the recipient's necks- a laurel leaf chain design on that occasion and subsequently a colored ribbon has been

used. Since the start of the modern Olympics medals for summer and winter games have had a different design appearance within some guidelines and certain standards that are altered or modernized periodically.

World War II Ration Tokens

By Jack Klein

When the United States was dragged into World War II after the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941, the resulting need for armaments put pressure on the availability of raw materials. Conservation of metals became necessary. Producers of all kinds of tokens switched from metal to fiber, vulcanite, cardboard, wood, and plastic.

Additionally, commodities such as coffee, meat, and gasoline were also in short supply. To ensure the availability of sufficient supplies for our troops at home and abroad, the U.S. Office of Price Administration (OPA) instituted a nationwide rationing program in May 1942. Families were allotted books of ration tickets, each worth a specified number of ration points for all types of household goods.

Until February 1944, families paid for their goods with a combination of U.S. currency, coin, and ration stamps. They received U.S. coinage in change. After that date, they received OPA ration tokens as change, instead.

The vulcanized-fiber OPA tokens were slightly smaller than a dime. Tokens came in two colors: red for meat, fish, dairy products, and cooking oils; and blue for canned and processed foods.



Red and Blue Ration Tokens

(Courtesy: Wikipedia)

By 1945, 1.75 billion red tokens, and 1 billion blue tokens had been struck at Ohio's Osborne Register Company. Each token was worth one ration point and had a pair of letters stamped on its face.

These letter-pairs, in 54 different combinations (30 on red and 24 on blue) helped identify and track shipments for security purposes. The extremely rare variety of the series on a red token had the letter pair MV.

For their significant role during a dramatic time in America history, OPA ration tokens, as a class, were voted Number 81, in *100 Greatest American Medals and Tokens* (Jaeger and Bowers 2007).

Jaeger, K. *The Official Red Book Guide to United States Tokens and Medals*. Whitman Publishing (2008).

Jaeger, K. and Bowers. Q.D. *100 Greatest American Medals and Tokens*. Whitman Publishing (2007).

Von Klinger, E. *Coin World; Readers Ask*. 24 October 2005.

Coinage of the Seleucid Empire ***By Greg Bessette***

Seleucus I Nicator founded the Seleucid Empire in 312 BC. He was a military commander under Alexander the Great. Following Alexander's death, Seleucus I ended up controlling a vast region encompassing most of the Middle East as well as portions of Central Asia. The empire steadily declined over the next two centuries, losing ground to outside invaders. By the late first century BC, the empire was reduced to a small state residing within present day Syria. The empire eventually fell to Pompey the Great in 63 BC.

Seleucid coinage followed the Athenian Attic standard of weights. Circulating currency was comprised primarily of base metal and silver. The denominations were based on units of the obol. The obol was a bronze or copper coin. Six obols equated to one silver drachma, and four drachma equaled one silver tetradrachm. The obverse on Seleucid coinage typically depicts an image of the current ruler or a deity. Early coinage often displayed a posthumous image of Alexander the Great. A common theme for the reverse is a deity (standing or seated) with vertically oriented Greek text on both sides of the deity. Some of the more unique images on Seleucid coins include a horned horse, an elephant, and an anchor. The anchor on Seleucid coins is inverted from how it is typically portrayed in Western media. The Seleucids also produced an unusual serrated (or "bottle cap") coin. There are only a few examples of this minting technique used in the ancient world. The reason for creating serrated coinage is unknown. It has been proposed that the serrated edge served as an anti-counterfeiting device. The serrated coinage has also been described as purely decorative in nature. Unfortunately, the real answer is lost to time.

Seleucid Empire, Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seleucid_Empire

Seleucid Coinage, Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seleucid_coinage



Tetradrachm of Seleucus I (Horned horse on the obverse and an elephant on the reverse)

(Courtesy: Seleucid Empire, Wikipedia, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:201209071746a_Berlin_Pergamon_museum_Tetradrachme_Seleukos%27_I_Silber_Pergamon_281-280_v.u.Z.jpg)



Coin of Antiochos I Soter 281-261 BC (Anchor on the obverse, elephant on the reverse)

(Courtesy: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Antiochos_I_elephant.jpg)



Serrated Bronze Coin of Antiochos IV

(Courtesy: Seleucid Coinage, Wikipedia, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Apipanes_atzmon.JPG)

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	One Day Educational Class Opportunities Discussion	Bob Mellor
September 2021	Semi-Annual Educational Trivia Night	Bob Mellor
October 2021	Annual Mini Bourse	No speaker
November 2021	Collecting Colonial Coins of Early America	Gene Yotka
December 2021	Annual Holiday Dinner	No speaker

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
January 2022	Introduction to Collecting Casino Chips and Gaming Tokens	Mark Lighterman
February 2022	Looking for a volunteer	
March 2022	Looking for a volunteer	
April 2022	Annual ANA National Coin Week Trivia Night	Bert Alm
May 2022	Semi-Annual Educational Trivia Night	Bob Mellor
June 2022	Looking for a volunteer	
July 2022	Annual Pizza and Numismatic YouTube Videos Night	Bob Mellor
August 2022	Looking for a volunteer	
September 2022	Semi-Annual Educational Trivia Night	Bob Mellor
October 2022	Annual Mini Bourse	No speaker
November 2022	Looking for a volunteer	
December 2022	Annual Holiday Dinner	No speaker



***We want YOU to contribute to the newsletter.
Contact the SBCC Secretary for details.***