



# NASHUA NUMISMATIST

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Nashua Coin Club  
Minutes of the Meeting  
12 December 2018

The meeting was opened at 7:00 by President Bill Seldon at Nashua Coins and Collectibles for our annual White Elephant auction. Twenty members were present. No Minutes or treasurers reports were read. Correspondence consisted of The Numismatist, our letter and certificate from the ICTA, our membership card from the ONA and the usual bank statement.

No old business or new business was discussed as we moved directly into our annual fundraising sale.

Once again our senior member, Charlie Dube, volunteered his services as our illustrious auctioneer. He kept us fully entertained for the whole night as he coaxed every last penny he could out of the membership for the good of our club.

We had a fine selection of donated numismatic as well as non-numismatic items. The total collected from the sale was \$434.86 and 100% of those proceeds went into the clubs coffers.

We also collected \$123 in club dues and \$45.14 in small donations from various members.

FYI, we will be collecting 2019 dues at our January meeting if you haven't paid already and you are not a life member.

Special thanks go out to Gary G. for the use of his shop for the night and for providing us with drinks and snacks as well. Also give a big thank you to our Director, Bob Fritsch, for donating a bunch of large, tasty pizzas for the event and of course a huge note of thanks to Charlie for his auctioneering skills. And lastly to all the members who brought and donated items to support our club.

Our next meeting will be back at Nashua Public Library at 7 PM on Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. The coin of the month for January will be Colorized or tinted coins along with naturally toned coins.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kevin Winn  
Secretary/Treasurer



## SHOW/MINT CALENDAR 2019 Bob Fritsch

\* = Mint Release

\*3 Jan – 2019 Happy Birthday / Birth Sets

\*10 Jan – 2019 Proof ASE / 2019 Congratulations Set

**9 JAN – NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM**

10-13 Jan – FUN Ft Lauderdale

11-13 Jan – NY International

13 Jan – Auburn

\*15 Jan – 2019 ATB Quarters Proof Set

20 Jan - 3rd Sunday, Holiday Inn

\*24 Jan – 2019 Apollo 11 Coins & Sets

\*25 Jan – Jefferson Silver Presidential Medal (on ASE planchet)

\*31 Jan – 2019 Proof Platinum Coin

27 Jan – Devens

\*4 Feb – Lowell NHP (MA) ATB Quarter

\*7 Feb – Lowell NHP (MA) ATB 5-oz silver

10 Feb – Auburn

**13 FEB – NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM**

# Emergency Money: A Royalist Coin of Venezuela

F.A. Liberatore

Bob Moffitt, a long time and very knowledgeable and generous coin dealer, is often a provider of unusual coins that simply fascinate me.

A recent purchase is a good example of this—a 1/2 real copper piece about the size of a US nickel. It is very thin, weighing only 1.4 grams, cupped, and struck on a double chipped planchet, too small for the full design and inscription. One side has a mythical animal and an inscription ANO DE (date missing) and VII. The other side (obverse and reverse don't mean much with this coin) bears an outline of what is likely a crude fortified gate into a city and the inscription PROVINCIE DE GUAINA and a denomination 1/2. They were issued 1814-1817 to alleviate a shortage of small change in the eastern part of what is now Venezuela. Dates are seldom visible and in fact the coinage is about as crude as anything ever produced. It really was an emergency money.

All of the Spanish Colonies from 1810 to 1821 were having revolutions to throw off Spanish domination which had gone on for more than 3 centuries. There were strong Royalist forces that wanted to remain in the Spanish Empire. So it is not a surprise that it took more than 10 years of intermittent fighting to finally toss off the Spanish yoke. That these coins were made of copper speaks to really desperate times since copper was rarely used in the Spanish Empire in the New World since it had been awash in silver for centuries. We are talking about tens of THOUSANDS of tons of production EVERY year. Silver was used in coins as small as 1/4 real equal to 3 and 1/8 cents. For sure, this small, very crude coin led to some Happy Collecting.



## January Officer Elections

Randy Bullis

At January's meeting, we will be hosting our annual officer elections.

Please consider throwing your name into the ring to assist the club and meetings.

Perhaps you would consider a position as President or Vice Presidents (multiple)?

## Recent Acquisitions for December 2018

Bob F.....Test Notes from Banknote Printers

Todd S.....Mexican Type Set

Cliff L.....Block Island "hockey puck" (5 oz. silver)

# My Quest for Civil War Tokens

Richard A. Mullen

My quest, or better, my journey to find something that was as commonplace as pocket change cents are today, Civil War Tokens. In their time they were taken for granted as a coin of little value.

Let's tag along with the doctor in his time machine to 1863. The war that was only going to last six months was raging on with no end in sight. People had long since taken most if not all of the half cent and one cent coins out of circulation. This made tokens a good alternative. From 1863 Dr. Who gave me a ride to the Pru in Boston for the 1984 Bay State Coin Show. While I was looking for a 1921-S Buffalo nickel, out of the corner of my eye I caught the yellowy cent-sized coin depicting Washington draped by two flags. It looked cool so I bought it.

I left collecting for 14 years. Ernie Botte evaluated my coins and gave me a pass to the Third Sunday Coin show in Nashua. My quest began one more time; a token here and a token there. I found two in Manchester, one at a Small cents auction; two more from Heritage; three in Gettysburg PA. I've found 24 of the 94 needed to complete my collection of Broas Brothers tokens.

Along the way I've met some of the nicest and most interesting people. The late Charlie Browne, my mentor and friend, final grader at PCGS, showed me the importance of giving back; Sandy, his wife, dealer in metals from Maine; Ernie Botte, the best and Alexandra Ziemann, grader at NGC. Pierre Fricke, Confederate currency dealer, showed me how to keep my eye on the ball.

I won't mention names but I've learned so much from all my friends at the Nashua Coin Club....well one name, thank you Kevin for that little push in the right direction.

Who knows where my Journey will take me next?

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## Colorized Coins and other Unnatural Acts

Kevin Winn

There's an old saying that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. When it comes to "colorized" coins this writer is beholding anything but beauty!

The process for adding coloration to newly minted coins is a recent development. Some mints and private companies use a specially adapted process using four printing plates, base colored inks and silicon pads. The pads slowly deposit the highly concentrated ink in successive layers until the desired image is finished. The process is driven by computer programs and the results can be quite spectacular when created and programmed by talented artisans and technicians.



There are also programs which plate everyday coins with a microscopically thin coating of gold, silver or platinum and sell those to an unsuspecting public as well.

But the marketing of some of these coins is what leaves one to wonder about the veracity and intentions of their creators. They are mass produced and mass marketed to non-collectors with the implied claim that these doctored devices are somehow rare or valuable. In the case of plated coins the vendors are always sure to highlight the name of the precious coating in capital letters and standing out from the rest of their descriptions even though the amount of gold or other precious metal used is literally pennies worth of material.

Experienced collectors and numismatists are not fooled by any of these claims but I've come across many of this "fool's gold" coinage in the inventories of friends or acquaintances who've asked me to help them evaluate collections left to them by departed relatives.

It's too bad there are people out there always willing to take advantage of older or less knowledgeable people with their false claims and faulty merchandise. Once you own any of these colorized or plated pieces you'll be lucky to get back the face value of the coins even though the price paid was many multiples of that number.



That's not to say that the colorization process doesn't have a place in our hobby. Modern medals and challenge coins are frequently produced in multi-colored formats. But those items are created and marketed that way from their inception so that the people buying or collecting them know that they are all on an equal footing as far as their base value is concerned.

Even some legitimate mints like Canada and Australia have started to produce and market multi-colored commemoratives to their customer base. Some of those can be quite attractive and they may even add a level of beauty to the event or object that they are commemorating. In theory, those coins are legal tender, but it's not likely you'll ever get one in change!

Our hobby is always expanding and someday there may be a niche for people who collect only colorized coins. Hopefully, that will legitimize the process to real, mint issued artifacts and eliminate the second-party shysters who are preying on the uninformed with inferior and falsely labeled products.

# Paramagnetic Silver

Keith Potter

I want to share a lesson that I recently learned on YouTube, as another way to detect counterfeit silver coins.

- 1 - You may be aware of the acid test, but who carries around the chemicals?
- 2 - You may have heard about the ICE test, but melting ice on the subject coin is time consuming.
- 3 - And then there is the ring test, but do you really want to chance the rim damage?
- 4 – And the weight vs diameter and thickness takes a bit more knowledge of the coin in question.

Then there's the quick and easy magnet test that I will now be using.

We all know that silver is not magnetic like iron,,,,,, but it is Paramagnetic.

And what that means is it does have some magnetic properties, and it does react to a strong magnetic field. And we can use that subtle effect to easily detect counterfeits.

Here's how.

First, you will need to get an easily accessible Neodymium (rare earth) magnet. Just because they are referred to as rare, (like some coins) doesn't mean that they are actually rare. You can get them from some place like Home Depot, at a cost of around 3 dollars each.

These strong magnets are the type that you generally have to slide off of the refrigerator rather than being able to easily pick them up.

To use your magnet for testing a coin, simply tilt the coin in question so that the magnet will slide off, and if the suspect coin is indeed silver, the magnet will slide off as if it were traveling through maple syrup.

It will travel noticeably slower over a silver coin, than it would over a counterfeit, where it will more quickly slide off because of the lack of paramagnetic silver in the object.

I tried this test on the 1837 counterfeit Capped Bust half dollar that I spoke of in the last article, and it slid off freely. I tried it on a raw 1559 and a 1614 Taler, and ( thankfully ) it traveled slowly on both.

Keep in mind the level of silver that was the original mint may not be to the level of coin silver ( 90 % ) that is more common. I do not know how this works on debased silver coins, but if the 1837 "German Silver" counterfeit capped bust is any example!



Morgans, Peace Dollars, and world silver rounds can all be quickly and easily tested this way.



## **2018 OFFICERS**

President - Bill Seldon  
VP - Charlie Dube  
VP - Bill Roberts  
VP - Brian Maxfield  
Secretary - Kevin Winn  
Treasurer - Kevin Winn  
Director - Robert Fritsch  
Editor - Randy Bullis

This newsletter is published monthly by the Nashua (NH) Coin Club. Entire contents are copyright (C) 2018 by the Nashua Coin Club unless otherwise noted. Questions, comments and articles may be sent to randenator@aol.com on email or PO Box 3003; Nashua, NH 03061-3003 via USPS. Deadline is two weeks prior to the monthly meeting.

Phone queries may be made to 978-846-2036, or to email kevinrivier@comcast.net. The club meets on the second Wednesday of every month in the Nashua Library, 2 Court Street, Nashua.

Visit us at [www.nashuacoinclub.org](http://www.nashuacoinclub.org) on the web.

***NEXT MEETING***  
***9 January at***  
**Nashua Public Library**  
***Nashua, NH***

**JANUARY'S**  
**COIN OF THE MONTH**

**Colorized, Tinted, or Toned Coins**