



# Treasured Times

**Golden Triangle Explorers Society**

***In Quest of the Past***

**Volume 23 Number 8**

**August, 2023**

## **Next Monthly Meeting**

NEW WORLD UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH  
5134 NORTHWEST HIGHWAY  
GARLAND, TEXAS 75043

AUGUST 11, 2023 7:00 PM  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2023 7:00 PM  
OCTOBER 13, 2023 7:00 PM  
NOVEMBER 10, 2023 7:00 PM  
DECEMBER 8, 2023 7:00 PM

## **NOTE CHANGE IN START TIMES!**

## **REFRESHMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING:**

EACH MEMBER IS  
ENCOURAGED TO BRING  
REFRESHMENTS TO SHARE  
WITH OTHERS.

## **HELP WANTED!**

Come early to our meetings and  
help set up the tables and chairs.  
The pay is low but the rewards are  
many!

## **CLUB OFFICERS**

### **PRESIDENT:**

MARY P

### **VICE PRESIDENT:**

CODEY K

### **Treasurer:**

HAROLD R

### **SECRETARY:**

ANDRETTA L

## **MARY'S MESSAGE**

**by Mary P**

Greetings fellow Golden Triangle Members,

Our Fourth of July celebration dinner was perfect. Lots of great food, thanks to all that donated!! We missed those of you who could not make it. You missed a great meal. We had several guests from East Fork Treasure Hunters Association.

Marble game will start over at this meeting.

We will have our annual silent auction during our November 10th meeting. Please put this date on your calendar. The items donated do not have to be metal detector related.

East Fork cancelled the July fun hunt; Golden Triangle is cancelling the fun hunt this month. It is just too hot to be out in the sun!

Find of the Month is a super way to win silver coins and maybe become Treasure Hunter of the Year.

Take care, stay safe, stay hydrated and try to stay cool out there and we will see you on August 11th, 7:00.

Mary

## **Editorial**

**by Mike S**

HELP WANTED!

## OTHER CONTACTS

### **HUNT MASTER:**

FRANK M

HAROLD R (ASST.)

### **REFRESHMENTS CHAIR:**

TBD

### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR:**

MIKE S

### **WEBMASTER/MISTRESS:**

OPEN

### **FIND OF THE MONTH CHAIR:**

VELMA S

LLEWELLYN D (ASST.)

### **SEE YOUR MEMBER DIRECTORY FOR TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

## **NOTICE!**

**SELL YOUR SILVER COINS  
TO OUR CLUB RATHER  
THAN TO A STRANGER!  
CHECK OUR PRICE  
BEFORE YOU SELL! CALL  
TREASURER HAROLD R  
AT 214-274-5984**

## **NOTICE!**

**SUGGEST A PLACE FOR  
OUR MONTHLY FUN  
HUNTS OTHER THAN A  
CITY PARK AND RECEIVE  
A SILVER DOLLAR!**

## **MEMBER ADVERTISEMENTS**

### **DISPLAY CASES**

Do you need three display cases for your finds? They are in rough shape but can be easily "prettied up" with a little work. If interested, make me an offer (to be donated to the club).  
Mike S

It appears we are going to have to have a new president to replace Codey K when he moves his family to take advantage of a career opportunity. It is always hard to get people to step up to officer positions but I have never understood why. Several of us have served in the past and can tell you it is not a real chore. PLEASE think about how you might just fit into a "leadership role". I put that in quotes because this group doesn't really need a leader so much as a facilitator or moderator.

We also need a Webmaster/webmistress to manage our webpage. For some people, that is an easy job while for us old folks, it is a complete mystery. How about you? If you have the expertise, this is an opportunity to really help the club out.

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## **From The Vice President**

**by Codey K**

As VP I would like to start by apologizing for not having a guest speaker for our upcoming meeting as they have chosen to speak at a later time. This has left me ill prepared for a speaker this month. I am hoping we can have an open forum to speak about the clubs future and touch on individuals experiences at this meeting.

I personally have experienced an opportunity to change my location to North Carolina and am in the process of acting upon this. I know the election of officers is around the bend and sincerely hope that there are members in our club that would be excited about the chance to become the next President of Golden Triangle. I apologize for not being able to uphold the duties of being your upcoming President as I feel it would not be in my family's best interest at this time. I wish you all the best and please let us strive to build a bigger and better Explorers Society!

I appreciate everyone's support.

Codey

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## **From Our Treasurer**

**by Harold R**

July was a fun month for me. I got out hunting just about every day. It was hot but I dressed for it and stayed hydrated.

I will have another great fundraiser for this meeting so i hope everyone can help the club out by buying some tickets. It's what keeps the club going.

I want to start planning another club hunt for when it cools off. Please let me know when you think would be a good time. We can do another 3-club hunt like last time or go big with an open hunt.

This month I was able to snag up a roll of Peace Dollars for the fundraisers. I

*This space is reserved for free member ads. Do you have something you wish to sell or buy? Member ads, including pictures, will be printed as space allows.*

*We also have space for paid ads. If you have a business or service available and wish to advertise to club members (and those who visit our newsletter on the Webpage), reasonable rates apply.*

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- JULY MEETING: JULY 4  
HOT DOG DINNER AND  
APPOINT OFFICER  
NOMINATING COMMITTEE**
- AUGUST MEETING:  
WRITTEN AUDIT REPORT**
- SEPTEMBER MEETING:  
ELECT OFFICERS**
- NOVEMBER MEETING:  
SILENT AUCTION!**

### **MEMBER NOTICE:**

Jack L. reminds us all to save our foreign coins. These are used in hunts involving kids who often spend silver coins, especially in vending machines. Bring your foreign coins to any club meeting so we can have a reserve.

also wrote a check to the church for our meeting room.

See you at the meeting.

## **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

**by Andretta L**

Minutes for July 14, 2023 Meeting

Meeting was held at New World United Methodist Church, Garland. President Mary P called the meeting to order.

A brief Executive Committee meeting was held prior to the regular meeting.

Dues for 2023 are being collected; \$20 individual, \$25 family.

If you have damaged coins found while detecting you can add them to the jar at each meeting.

### **New Business**

Terry R will be Nominating Committee Chairperson along with members Dave T and Velma S. Thank you for volunteering.

Since this meeting was our holiday hot dog dinner, there was no FOM. You may enter two items on each board for the August meeting.

### **Break / Dinner**

Please buy fund raiser/marble game tickets.

Fun Hunt for July has been cancelled – TOO HOT.

Mike S publishes the newsletter the week before the meeting. If you have anything to contribute, email it to him.

### **Old Business**

Minutes were not considered.

Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit.

Door prize winners were:

Terry R	Ralph G
Kelene T	Bill A
Frank M,	Steve D
Greg W	Bryan C
Robert J	Mike S
Leticia R	Kathy P
Codey K	Charles L

**We don't need  
Metal Detectors  
in Congress, we  
need Lie  
Detectors.**

Have you done all you can to recruit new members? Invite inactive former members to become active again? Our club can only grow if we all work at it.

Catherine L  
Bob S

Logan P

Fund Raiser winners were:  
1921 Morgan dollar – Terry R;  
1921 Morgan dollar – Rheia D;  
1921 Morgan dollar – Gary S;  
1923 Peace dollar – Steve D;  
1923 Peace dollar – Frank M;  
1922 Peace dollar – Frank M;  
1941 Standing Liberty half – John G;  
1942 Standing Liberty half – John G;  
1943 Standing Liberty half – Bill A;  
1944 Standing Liberty half – Frank M.

No FOM and no Birthday/Anniversary/Name Tag winners.

Thanks to all who brought food for our Fourth of July celebration.

Meeting adjourned.

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## **Report of the Nominating Committee**

**by Terry R**

The nominating committee recommends the following list of members who indicated a willingness to serve as officers in these roles:

Cody Klee - President

Logan Puckett - Vice President

Harold Rosee - Treasurer

Andretta Lowry - Secretary

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## **Huntmaster's Report**

**by Frank M**

East Fork cancelled the July fun hunt and GTES is cancelling the August fun hunt due to the hot weather!

## **FINDS OF THE MONTH CONTEST**

No FOM was held in July because of the Hot Dog Dinner. For August, each member may enter finds from both months.

That is, you may enter two (2) finds in each category.

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## **PHOTOS**

No photos were received this month.

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## **INTERESTING ARTICLE SUBMITTED BY MEMBER**

### **Archaeology and XRF**

[Richard Freeland](#)

September 30, 2021



*Looking into the Past with “Elemental Vision”*

King Solomon's secrets may be hidden in a shard of copper slag.

How, you may ask, would we know anything about a biblical King from a blacksmith's slag—his metallurgical waste pile?

Going deeper than you or I might, down into the slag's elemental composition, archaeologists have discovered evidence in the last decade that King Solomon may have had smiths skilled enough to build the Kingdom of Judah described in the Bible. A baptismal basin that stood on twelve bronze bulls. A hall of cedar. A magnificent ivory throne. Who knows what could have been possible?

A vision of history illuminated by a simple tool: the XRF gun.

## **Meet the XRF Gun: An Archaeologist's Storytelling Device**

X-ray fluorescence (XRF) is a non-destructive measurement technique in which one fires x-rays at a sample with an XRF analyzer, a tool commonly known as an XRF gun. The sample responds by emitting x-ray fluorescence, with each element giving off its own 'fluorescent fingerprint.' The XRF gun then reads the fingerprints and gives the user a detailed profile of the sample's elemental composition. All of this happens in as few as 1-2 seconds—pretty good for laboratory-grade analysis.

Archaeologists use the "elemental vision" of XRF to discover historical secrets. The test method is simple: fire x-rays, study the chemical makeup, and consider what your findings reveal given the historical context.

King Solomon's secrets may not be so easy to discover, but expeditions to southern Jordan in the last decade by a joint team of archaeologists from Jordan and the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) have revealed that copper smelting in the neighboring kingdom of Edom, Judah's bitter rival, progressed to an industrial level.

Edomites lived in the highlands, according to sources dating back to the Book of Jeremiah. "Though you make your nests as high as eagles, I will bring you down from there," the author wrote. But according to the ELRAP team's findings, the people of Edom would swoop down into the dry river valleys below to mine precious copper.

Khirbat en-Nahas, or "ruins of copper," was the first site the archaeologist team excavated. What they unearthed was astonishing: a fortress formidable enough to rival those in Israel, Jordan, and Sinai, guarding 13 previously undiscovered copper mines, littered with more than 350 ancient mining tools.

According to Dr. Thomas E. Levy and Dr. Mohammad Najjar, co-directors of several expeditions and founders of the Edom Lowlands Regional Archaeology Project (ELRAP), copper smelting in Edom achieved a level of artisanry and a scale of operations large enough to make a biblical version of King's Solomon's kingdom viable.

"We have discovered a degree of social complexity in the land of Edom that demonstrates the weak reed on the basis of which a number of scholars have scoffed at the idea of a state or complex chiefdom in Edom at this early period—and, by extension, a state in Judah," Najjar and Levy wrote in their article "Edom and Copper" in *Biblical Archaeology Review Magazine*, 2006<sup>1</sup>.

How could Judah have survived centuries of war with Edom without achieving a mastery of copper smelting to rival their neighbors? Wouldn't Judah have to be "a kingdom with ambition and the means of fighting off the Edomites," as the archaeologists described it to *The New York Times*<sup>2</sup> in 2006? Or so the theory goes.

“Edom and Copper” sparked its own war upon publication, with archaeologists battling it out quite civilly in papers and lecture halls, at least in comparison to bronze age warfare, but with no less fierceness and passion.

“One ‘fortress’ does not make a Kingdom,” Eveline van der Steen, East Carolina University, and Piotr Bienkowski, University of Manchester, told *The New York Times*.

Another vision of 10<sup>th</sup> century Judah exists, one in which ancient Jews were more of a pastoral people. King Solomon? A chieftain, perhaps, rather than a king. Once, this view was blasphemous to biblical history. Then, thanks to contemporary archaeology, it became a compelling theory. Now, this “low chronology” view of Edom and Judah grapples with groundbreaking evidence expeditions have been gathering for the last 15 years, findings that indicate Levy and Najjar may be on to something.

Israel Finkelstein of Tel Aviv University, an advocate of the low-chronology movement, voiced his dissent as well, telling *The New York Times* that Levy & Najjar’s initial research did “not shed new light on the question of state formation in Edom.”

Was the King Solomon of the Bible a myth? Or, for once in contemporary archaeology, is the religious text more accurate than we know? To answer that question, we must journey to Faynan, Jordan, one of many historical sites across the world given new life by x-ray fluorescence.

## **Discovering King Solomon’s Mines—Or Rather, His Neighbors’ Copper Slag**

Jordan is a part of what is known as the Levant. The term “levant” means rising in French, inherited from the Italian *levante*, which conjures up images of the rising sun in the East. In German, the term is translated as “morgenland,” or morning land. Levant is the name given to a cultural region that encompasses parts of modern Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Palestine, and Jordan, defying geopolitical boundaries. Western religion dawned here. Depending on who you ask, Moses parted the Red Sea, Jesus thirsted for wine at a wedding, and Mohammed took one last look at Jerusalem before he ascended to the heavens, all on Levantine soil.

Archaeology in the Levant began as treasure hunting. Now it’s evolved into an endless quest for the historical treasures buried in the deserts and dry steppes where biblical kingdoms once flourished.

Here, archaeologists search for ceramics, which serve as veritable codices of historical data, as well as mud-brick homes and ruins of lost cities. And, as always, King Solomon’s mines, the legendary gold mines belonging to Solomon himself that writer H. Rider Haggard fantasized about.

However, the team of San Diegan and Jordanian archaeologists set out in 2014 to learn about the past from a different source of historical evidence: copper slag.

Forgoing the search for lost cities themselves, the ELRAP team instead returned to the copper beds of Faynan in southern Jordan, where smiths, as they do, left their slag. Copper slag is mounds of metallic waste, a by-product of copper extraction by smelting. Impurities are cast away into what becomes small mountains of discarded metals. You may be thinking, “How can a monumental discovery have been found here, in a metallic mound? These aren’t exactly Solomon’s Mines,” and you’d be right. But buried in the elemental composition of these humble mountains are gems of historical insight that rival the riches Haggard dreamed up over a century ago.

Brady Liss, an archaeologist from the UCSD Levantine and Cyber-Archaeology lab, was part of this expedition. He writes about the power of XRF’s “elemental vision,” as he calls it in his 2016 article: “Using X-Ray Fluorescence to Examine Ancient Extractive Metallurgy Practices: A Case Study from Iron Age Khirbat al-Jariya, Jordan.”<sup>3</sup>

A newer dig site, Khirbat al-Jariya, was his destination: once a copper ore district in Faynan around the 12 – 10<sup>th</sup> centuries BCE, the site may have forged copper for the biblical kingdom of Edom, similar to Khirbat en-Nahas. Now, it's home to 15,000 – 20,000 tons of slag. Khirbat al-Jariya is ideal for archaeometallurgy thanks to its “large copper smelting centers supported by networks of smaller, ephemeral mining camps.” Copper mines they may be, but to archaeologists, they are veritable gold mines of history, especially because Khirbat al-Jariya has been “primarily undisturbed since its Iron Age abandonment, leaving a relatively pristine record for archaeological research.”

Liss and his team used GIS, carbon dating, and lidar to study the smelting sites, but the key tool to their findings was XRF. Specifically, the Bruker TRACeR III-V+, a portable XRF gun.

“XRF has become a regular practice in investigating metallurgical remains and artifacts... both in the field and in the lab,” Liss writes.

## How Archaeologists Harness the Power of XRF

How, then, do you make historical discoveries with XRF? Well, it's quite simple really. Point and shoot. A piece of slag gives us an epic poem beginning in sparks, with the first copper smelted at the site, and ending in empires, or in this case small kingdoms like Judah.

Let's take a look at how the ELRAP team made their discoveries.

First, they excavated a 1 x 1-meter rod of slag from one of the mounds, taking samples both from specific parts of the rod and from surrounding mounds. Digging down to the bedrock, the team retrieved enough slag to give them samples from every phase of copper smelting throughout the site's history.

An XRF analyzer only fires at a single point and may miss key discoveries if the sample is not homogenous. For example, fire one at a rock and it will measure the stone effectively but may miss a vein of gold that runs through the other side. To capture stray copper shards in the “inherently heterogeneous” ancient slag, the team crushed each sample into a fine powder, grinding them with a mortar and pestle until they were representative of that piece of slag's elemental makeup. Specifically, they were looking for how much copper each sample had, which would serve as an indicator of how successful copper smelting processes were at the time.

Once powdered, the copper slag sample was analyzed with the Bruker TRACeR III-V, which has “a rhodium anode to produce x-rays, and a SI-Pin detector for collecting fluorescence from the targeted sample.” The x-ray beam is 3 x 4 millimeters. Users can “control voltage (up to 40 kV) and current (between 0 – 60  $\mu$ A) to enhance the detection of desired elements... the XRF system can be tailored to target specific elements of interest, maximizing their detection.”

Here are the test specifications the team used:

- Heavy elements: 40 kV, 13 $\mu$ A, with an acquisition time of 300 seconds
- Lighter elements: 15 kV, 35 $\mu$ A, with blue Titanium filter and a 300 second acquisition time

Once the testing was complete, they analyzed the results on a computer and found something remarkable: the smiths were getting better. Marked improvement in their copper smelting practices was evident.

A smith who has mastered the art of copper smelting will extract much more of the stuff in the process than a beginner. And their slag, their metallurgical waste, if you remember, will have much less precious copper. Looking at all the samples from throughout Khirbat al-Jariya, the archaeologists found a 70% decrease in copper waste in the slag over time.



Now, it is important to note that the team's findings do not definitively prove anything about Edom, Judah, or King Solomon, nor does Brady Liss make any such claims, beyond opening the doors to a palace of possibilities for metallurgically sophisticated Levantine societies in the 12<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> centuries BCE.

What we do know, though, is that XRF made the difference in this interpretation of historical truths. Only two phases of copper production were found, but XRF analysis revealed that there was a dramatic difference in how successful they were, hinting at an evolution of coppersmithing practices.

A small story to tell. But it may be the beginning of recreating the world in which King Solomon and his Edomite rivals lived, one piece of copper smith's slag at a time. And that is the power of XRF.

### **Illuminating the Past with the Technology of the Future**

Let us revisit our biblical mystery for a moment. We set out to discover who King Solomon was—a king? A myth? A Bedouin sheikh? Or something else.

“Only a complex society such as a paramount chiefdom or primitive kingdom would have the organizational know-how to produce copper metal on such an industrial scale,” Drs. Levy and Najjar told *The New York Times* in 2006.

To Levy and Najjar, “the biblical references to the Edomites, especially their conflicts with David and subsequent Judahite kings, garner a new plausibility.”

Since they spoke out in 2006, their international team of archaeologists has continued to research and write passionately on the subject, publishing additional findings in 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2020, and beyond, that all build the case for a reinterpretation of the minimalist, low-chronology vision for the Levant of biblical times. Recently, Erez Ben-Yosef, an ELRAP team member, discovered fresh evidence of Iron-Age Edomite sophistication in the nearby Timna valley, a revelation in harmony with Levy and Najjar's Faynan findings. “The scale of production tells us that there was something bigger than a few tribes here,” Ben-Yousef told *The New Yorker*.<sup>4</sup>

But not everyone is convinced.

“Is this early Edom?... Why not Midian; Amalek, Kedar, Paran, Teman?” low-chronology scholar Finkelstein wrote in a reply to Ben-Yosef's work in 2020,<sup>5</sup> once again casting shadows on the team's discoveries.

We have no answers. All we have are the strikes of the smiths' hammers. Each time, more accurate. Each age, more copper preserved. And in the days of King Solomon, perhaps just enough to armor the kingdoms of biblical legend.

“Archaeology is paradoxically rooted in the past but dependent on the future,” Brady Liss writes, the future being technologies like XRF that make these discoveries possible.

We live in an age where people want to reconnect with their origins—we trace our family trees on Ancestry.com, map out our lineages with 23 and Me, and cultivate long-lost cultural identities.

X-ray fluorescence and the technologies of the future can, as Liss so presciently wrote, connect us to that past, to our ancestors and our people.

To our stories—and everyone, from smiths toiling in desert mining camps under the night sky, to Kings asleep in their beds, is connected.

We just have to look closer, ask the right questions, and the artifacts will answer—the truth written in their very elements.

*To explore the Faynan dig site, its history, and the team's findings in a stunning interactive digital experience, [visit the UCSD team's website.](#)*

Richard Freeland is a San Diego writer most recently fascinated by how archaeologists use new technologies as storytelling tools—breathing new life into ancient civilizations. Freeland works as the Marketing Team Lead for Advanced Test Equipment Corp. (ATEC).

## \$2 bill to get its turn in the spotlight

By Brittany Shammas, Sun Sentinel  
May. 05, 2014



**Producer John Bennardo films artist Mister E in his Delray Beach, Fla., studio. Mister E makes art with \$2 bills and Bennardo filmed him on April 25, 2014, for a documentary. Photo: Carline Jean/Sun Sentinel/MCT**

It's the underdog of U.S. currency, the greenback more likely to be found tucked inside a dresser drawer or wallet than a cash register.

The \$2 bill makes up just 3 percent of all paper money circulating in the states.

Now, it's about to get its time in the limelight, thanks to a Delray Beach, Fla., man who has always loved it. John Bennardo is crisscrossing the country to film a documentary that'll tell the story of the two and its "magic."

"I think everyone's curious about it," he said. "When you spend one, there's always a reaction."

Turns out it also makes for quite a story.

The quirky bill with Thomas Jefferson on the front and the signing of the Declaration of Independence on the back is more than just a collector's item. It's a regular at some strip clubs, a piece of a longtime Clemson University tradition and a tool used to show a group's economic influence.

While many save \$2 bills, others make a point to spend them — just to see what happens next.

Bennardo was always one to save them. By last summer, the Immagine Productions owner and Lynn University professor of film and television editing had 11 of them in a desk drawer, sitting inside an old checkbook box, never to be spent. It got him thinking: What is it about the two?

And “The 2 Dollar Bill Documentary” was born.

Amy Byer Shainman, a Jupiter, Fla., resident and breast cancer advocate who is also passionate about the bill, joined on as executive producer. She said she has kept a two her high school crush gave her for more than 25 years without knowing why.

“There's a mystique surrounding the \$2 bill, a mystique that it's rare and anything that's rare is a matter of intrigue,” Byer Shainman said.

After raising about \$18,000 for the project on Kickstarter.com, Bennardo got to work last summer.

Some of his stops were in South Florida. There's Ettra Gallery in Delray Beach, where he talked to a man who turns \$2 bills into art. Then there's his Miami shoot with American Healthy Vending, who explained why most machines don't take twos. And, Bennardo only had to go to Miami to capture Clemson's tradition at work during the Orange Bowl.

Beyond that, he has traveled to several states — including Texas, New York, Michigan and Oregon — and interviewed about 50 people in all. Along the way, Bennardo has discovered a whole society of others who share his and Byer Shainman's enthusiasm for the offbeat bill.

Among them is Heather McCabe, a copywriter from Brooklyn, N.Y., who requests \$2 bills from her bank and spends them at local businesses in hopes of seeing the currency catch on. She chronicles the reactions she gets on her blog, Two Buckaroo.

McCabe, 39, started spending twos about 15 years ago because she liked the added interaction with people behind the counter.

“It became something a little more special,” she said. “And plus, it always felt like an experiment, like, ‘What's going to happen when I spend this \$2 bill?’ It never gets old.”

Most people smile at the sight of the unusual bill and share a story about their experiences with it, McCabe said. Some take two singles out of their own wallets so they can pocket the deuce. Others refuse it, though McCabe said that's the least common outcome.

Many people believe the bill, which the federal government began issuing in 1862, was taken out of circulation. Because of that, you can find regular old \$2 bills marked up to double their value on eBay, when they can easily be picked up at the bank for, well, \$2.

There was a 10-year period that the government stopped printing twos. But that ended in 1976, when they were brought back — with much fanfare — to commemorate the U.S. bicentennial.

If they had just disappeared, Bennardo said, “we wouldn’t have this great piece of Americana saved. And I wouldn’t have a movie.”

As of last year there were a billion \$2 bills in circulation, according to the Federal Reserve. Forty-five million more went into production in October at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Fort Worth, Texas. And Bennardo was there, filming.

Still, twos are rare.

“They’ve always been kind of an odd bill because the standard cash drawer is set up for \$1s, \$5s, \$10s or \$20s,” said Tony Swicer, a West Palm Beach resident and president of the Florida United Numismatists — a group for people who are passionate about currency.

“Some people think they’re good luck, some people think they’re bad luck. It’s really funny and there’s no reason for either one.”

There are theories that they can be rid of its “bad luck” by tearing off its corners — an idea Bennardo explored for his film.

At the same time, the two has been embraced by some groups and industries. Strip clubs hand them out because people see them as “funny money” or don’t want them, so they easily hand them out to dancers.

Several groups have used them to prove their economic clout. Bennardo interviewed members of one such group, supporters of legalizing medical marijuana in Michigan, who deliberately spent twos around the state to show their spending power.

Similar campaigns have been launched by other groups, from nudists in Pasco County, Fla., in 2007 to unemployed steel company workers in Utah in 2003, to members of the NAACP in the 1980s.

Clemson University students spend \$2 bills stamped with tiger paws in cities that host the school for football bowl games. It’s a tradition that began in 1977, when Georgia Tech decided to stop playing football against the school.

But to Matthew Zaklad, another \$2 bill enthusiast, the appeal of the currency is the way it brightens people's days and the connections it forges.

“They are one of those rare things that consistently triggers a memory of something good and often familial,” said Zaklad, 41, a business consultant who lives in Manhattan.

Bennardo, who has pursued stories including that of a World War II vet reunited with a \$2 bill he and other wartime buddies signed 70 years ago, agreed, saying that’s at the heart of his movie.

“I think that’s what the film is going to show us, is that this bill is more than we think it is,” he said.