

The Cincinnati Numismatist

Volume LXXXIX, Issue XII

December 2019



The next meeting of the Cincinnati Numismatic Association will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, December 13th, at Coins+, located at 225 East 6th Street in downtown Cincinnati. This meeting is our annual Christmas dinner and children's charity auction. This year we will enjoy a catered dinner. Bring a dessert to share. The building is closed in the evenings so members need to arrive between 7:00 and 7:30 p.m. or the doors will be locked. If you arrive later than 7:30, a phone number that you can call will be listed on the door.

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Christmas Charity Auction Preview

The Christmas Dinner Meeting is on Friday December 13th. This is our annual Christmas dinner and children's charity auction. We will also have a limited number of items up for auction for the club's benefit. Because their food was such a hit last December, we will work with Bridgetown Finer Meats to cater the dinner. Members are encouraged to bring desserts to share.

One item up for auction is a beautiful hand blown glass pumpkin from Jack Pine Studios in Hocking Hills. According to the studio, "Jack Pine was raised in Southern Ohio where he was drawn to nature and inspired by its organic forms. He studied glass at the Columbus College of Art and Design and refined his skills at the famous glass houses of Seattle and Denver. Jack is well known for his hand blown glass pumpkins because of their lustrous appearance and strong saturation of colors that he now uses in all of his work. There is no paint used in the process, only precious metals and colored glass."

Other items in the auctions include: a copy of *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*, A copy of *The early Coins of America*, *The Official Red Book-A Guide Book of Civil*

War Tokens, Bottles of wine, an Italian food and wine basket, and undoubtedly some coins! Bid often and bid high. Why not over bid? It all goes to a good cause. Come and enjoy the evening and a glass of Egg Nog topped with fresh nutmeg.



Hand blown glass pumpkin from Jack Pine Studios. This item will be auctioned for the benefit of the Cincinnati Ronald McDonald House. Minimum bid is \$20, a \$32 value.

2019 2020 Meetings

Date			Presenter	Date			Presenter
October	11th	Friday	Extended Show & Tell	January	17th	Friday	Open
November	8th	Friday	Brad Karoleff	February	21st	Friday	Open
December	13th	Friday	Annual Charity Auction & Christmas Dinner	March	13th	Friday	Open
				April	18th	Saturday	Annual Dinner
				May	8th	Friday	Open

The Centenionalis of Valentinian II

By Michael Rice

In this article, I write about an ancient Roman coin and the fascinating history surrounding it. The subject coin is a Centenionalis. Centenionales were a denomination of bronze currency that circulated throughout the Roman Empire in the 4th Century A.D. Specifically, the Centenionalis discussed in this article depicts Valentinian II, who was a Roman Emperor during the years 364 A.D. to 375 A.D.

Before turning to the coin, I want to point out something you may know already. It is possible for numismatists to collect ancient Roman coins at a reasonable cost. Obviously, depending on means and taste, you could spend a fortune on Roman coins. On the other hand, emperors of the Late Roman Empire period minted vast quantities of coins. Many of those coins survive for budget-minded collectors to purchase and enjoy.

For example, I purchased the Valentinian II Centenionalis coin for this article (shown below), for only four dollars.



Centenionalis

Granted, my Centenionalis is not in the best condition, but consider that the coin is at least 1,600 years old. A piece of Roman history from the 4th Century A.D., that I can hold in my hand, is well worth four dollars to me.

Furthermore, I've found that one of the most enjoyable aspects of purchasing Roman Coins in, shall we say less than ideal condition, is doing research and locating an image of the coin in better condition, with clearer details. I tend to be more traditional and prefer books, but the internet is the most effective resource for this purpose.

It can be exhilarating to closely examine the details on a coin and compare them to online images of similar coins to locate a match. It's then possible to really appreciate the details on the obverse and reverse of the coin. The photo on the next page shows the coin I

matched to my centenionalis. The image is from "The Online Coins Show" at www.vcoins.com where the coin was advertised for sale at \$60.

What most caught my eye on the coin's reverse is the depiction of Valentinian II standing on the deck of a galley. For all I know, he never actually set foot on a galley, but that's not the point. Images on Roman coins served as propaganda. In this coin, the image seems to serve as a reminder that the Roman Empire—despite being most renowned for its legions and battles fought on land—was just as much a naval power.

Romans referred to the Mediterranean Sea as Mare Nostrum, which translates as "Our Sea." Roman galleys patrolled Mare Nostrum, throughout the empire's history: keeping the seas open for trade, fighting piracy, and securing the cargo ships of grain that fed the Romans. In my limited research, I found that galleys were depicted on Roman coins at least as far back as 169 B.C.

What stands out to me on the coin's obverse is the youthful appearance of Valentinian II. What was the story of Valentinian II? This brings us to my favorite part of coin collecting, which is exploring the history surrounding a coin.

The House of Valentinian and a Divided Roman Empire

In order to understand Valentinian II's story, you need to start with his family. His father, Valentinian I (Flavius Valentinianus) was married twice. Valentinian I's first wife, Marina Severa, bore a son named Gratian; the second wife, Justina, bore Valentinian II and a daughter named Galla. Valentinian I was a successful career soldier who rose to the rank of general before becoming Roman Emperor in 364 A.D.

When Valentinian I became emperor in 364 A.D., he immediately decided to split the responsibilities of ruling the empire. The Roman Empire was vast, faced an increasing number of invasions, and was in decline. Thus, it was nearly impossible for one emperor alone to defend and govern. Valentinian I



Valentinian I

appointed his brother Valens as emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire. Meanwhile, Valentinian I retained control of the Western Roman Empire, which he perceived to be in greater peril.

The Roman Empire was no stranger to joint-emperor power sharing arrangements. In its past, there had been temporary administrative splits of the empire between East and West. The difference this time was that the split became permanent. As explained by Michael Grant... "although the Roman world remained, formally speaking, an indivisible unit, the domination of the Mediterranean by one single power, which had lasted for so many centuries, was in fact at an end."

The maps below illustrate the divided empire with the Western Roman Empire, centered out of Rome, and the Eastern Roman Empire, centered out of Constantinople.

Valentinian I, like many emperors before him,



attempted to plan his succession. In 367 A.D., he proclaimed his elder son Gratian, who was only eight years old, as co-emperor of the Western Roman Empire. Valentinian I staged a lavish military ceremony for the occasion and declared Gratian's promotion was by his will

and that of the Roman Army. Valentinian I was fearful of the future and intended to have a plan in place.

Indeed, Valentinian I's reign was consumed by grave military emergencies. The bulk of his time was spent leading Roman armies in defense of the Western Roman Empire, mostly from Germanic invasions along the Rhine and Danube Rivers. In this regard, Valentinian I was enormously successful. He is widely recognized

as one of Rome's last great warrior emperors. Some sources refer to him as "Valentinian the Great."

When I read about Valentinian, what comes to my mind is a man of great seriousness and intensity. Although I cannot attest to the accuracy of the below depiction of him, I think it conveys his intensity.

Perhaps not surprisingly, Valentinian I was well-known to have a great temper and was apparently given to fits of rage. In 375 A.D., he died from a stroke.



Attribution: RIC IX 52b Constantinople

Date: A.D. 375-378

Obverse: DN VALENTINIANVS P F AVG, helmeted, cuirassed bust right, holding spear and shield.

Reverse: GLORIA - ROMANORVM, Valentinian standing left on deck of galley, Victory at helm, wreath in left field, CONA in exergue signifying the coin was minted in Constantinople.

Size: 21.59mm

Weight: 4.83 grams

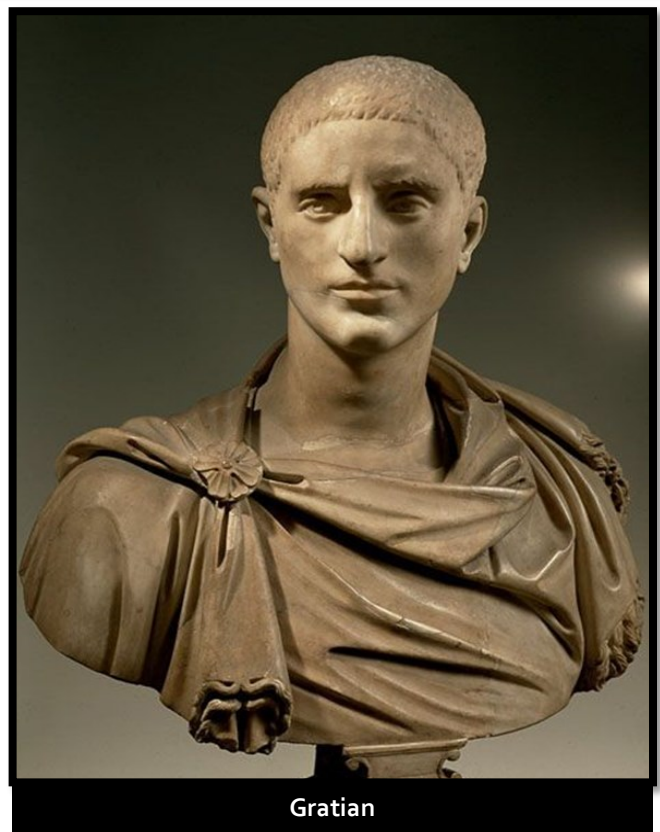




Valentinian I had become enraged during negotiations with disrespectful delegates of one of the Germanic tribes—so enraged, that he broke a blood vessel and died on the spot. Expectedly, co-emperor Gratian was proclaimed sole emperor. Although only 16 years old, Gratian had already been co-emperor for the past eight years.

Unexpectedly, five days later Gratian's half-brother Valentinian II was proclaimed co-emperor by a different faction of the Roman Army. This elevation was engineered by Valentinian II's mother, Justina, and some disaffected generals. It had everything to do with resentments and petty rivalries between different Roman Army factions and nothing to do with what was best for the empire. Valentinian II was only four years old when he became co-emperor and could have cared less. Of course, at this point, Valentinian II had no part in ruling the empire.

The story continues with Gratian, who to his credit, continued to regard his half-brother Valentinian II with affection. Reportedly, Gratian even took an interest in Valentinian II's upbringing and education. Such kindness is notable, as during this period of history it would have been little surprise if Gratian had arranged for Valentinian II's untimely demise.



Gratian

Gratian, being a teenage when he became emperor, was initially heavily influenced by advisors. Yet, Gratian soon came into his own—displaying talent and warlike qualities that portended a successful reign.

In the year 378 A.D., Gratian learned that the Eastern Roman Empire, ruled by his uncle Valens, was facing a serious invasion from the Goths. Gratian sent a message to his uncle and advised that he would lead reinforcements from the Western Roman Empire. It's not clear whether Emperor Valens was tired of waiting, or just decided he wanted all the glory for himself in defeating the Goths. Whichever, Valens launched a premature attack that became known as the Battle of Adrianople. The result was Emperor Valens's death on the battlefield, and one of the worst defeats of a Roman army in history. Sources write that Gratian and his Western army arrived at Adrianople only in time to witness the aftermath of the virtual annihilation of the Eastern army.

There is a bit of irony in that this seemingly cataclysmic defeat of an Eastern army—merely 150 miles from Constantinople—did not spell the end of the Eastern Roman Empire. In fact, the Eastern Empire recovered, eventually morphing into the Byzantine Empire, and survived for roughly another 1,000 years. On the other hand, the Western Roman Empire had less than 100 years left in existence. Of course, in 378 A.D., nobody could have known.

Shortly after the Battle of Adrianople, Gratian placed a man named Flavius Theodosius in charge of what was left of the Eastern army. Theodosius achieved battlefield victories and stabilized the Eastern Roman Empire. Within months, in order to replace the deceased Valens, Gratian elevated Flavius Theodosius—thereafter, known as Theodosius I—to rule as emperor in the East. Gratian seems to have made a wise choice, but also a peculiar one, and I can't resist the digression.

Only two years prior, in 376 A.D., Theodosius I

had been forced into early retirement from the Roman Army. The retirement was compelled after Theodosius I's father, known as Count Theodosius, was executed for high treason. Count Theodosius was a renowned general, who had particularly distinguished himself while serving under Valentinian I, who of course was Gratian's father. It appears that the real reason for Count Theodosius'



A Scene from the Battle of Adrianople

execution was not due to treason, but rather stemmed from power struggles that took place upon Valentinian I's sudden death.

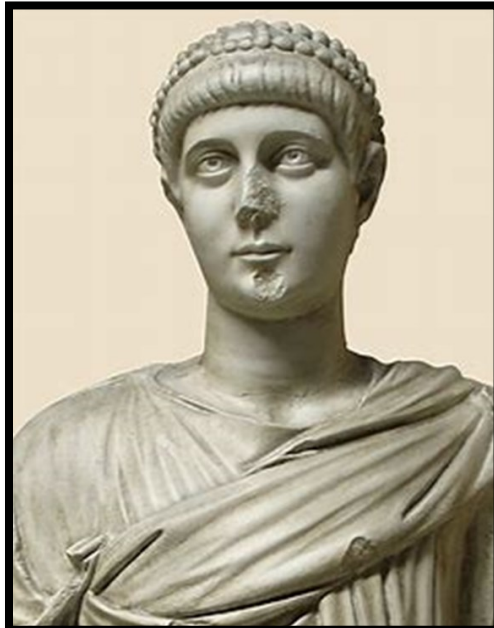
Count Theodosius was executed in 376 A.D. It's not clear what Gratian's personal involvement was in this matter, but, nonetheless, it was Gratian's government that executed Theodosius I's father! According to David L Vagi, "Though both men (Gratian and Theodosius I) carried on the affairs of state with general success, they did not see eye-to-eye and were often at odds." That does not surprise me.

As if Gratian did not have enough troubles, in 383 A.D. he was forced to confront a usurper. The Roman Army in Britain had proclaimed their general, Magnus Maximus, as emperor. Maximus and his army crossed what is now known as the English Channel and invaded Gaul. Gratian led an army to meet this threat, but alas, his army deserted him, and he was captured and assassinated at the age of 24.

That leaves us with Theodosius I, ruling the

Eastern Empire; the usurper Magnus Maximus, purporting to rule the Western Empire; and lest we forget, Valentinian II who would have been about 12 years old at the time. The image of Valentinian II below depicts him at an age I think would be close to that age.

Valentinian II was the rightful emperor of the Western Empire, but he was still too young to assert any real power. Theodosius I was tied up fighting the Persians in the East and was not able to address a usurper crisis in the West. Theodosius I had no choice but to recognize Maximus as de facto co-emperor in the West—while carving out the province of Italy for Valentinian II to “rule.” Somehow, this uneasy arrangement lasted four years



Valentinian II

In 387 A.D. Magnus Maximus decided he wanted more. He took his army through the undefended Alpine passes and invaded Italy. Valentinian II, now 16, and his mother Justina fled to Thessalonica in the East to be under Theodosius I's protection. Within a year, Theodosius I had made a temporary peace with the Persians and led an army towards Italy. Theodosius' army defeated Maximus' army, captured the usurper, and executed him in July or August 388 A.D.

Valentinian II had a nominal role in the campaign, but not enough for him to take part in the triumphal celebrations that followed the victory; however, he was able to remain emperor of the West, at least in name. Valentinian II's court was sent out of the way to Vienne, a town in Gaul near the Rhone River. Theodosius had invested too much in the campaign to let its success quickly fall apart. He personally remained in Italy for nearly four years and ruled both empires.

In 391 A.D. Theodosius I finally left Italy to return to Constantinople in the Eastern Empire. Before doing so, he appointed his trusted general Arbogast, to watch over Valentinian II and effectively rule the Western Empire. Arbogast acted in the name of, and answered only to, Theodosius. This became a problem as Valentinian II was maturing and began trying to assert real power.

Valentinian II and Arbogast clashed frequently, until finally, Valentinian II attempted to dismiss Arbogast. Reportedly, Arbogast simply threw the dismissal papers on the ground. Not long after, on May 15, 392 A.D., Valentinian II was found dead in his palace at the age of 21. Sources vary, some claim it was suicide, but most opine that Valentinian II was almost certainly

murdered on Arbogast's orders.

If you have made it this far, you might be thinking that this article about a Valentinian II coin really doesn't focus much on Valentinian II. You'd be right, and I think that is the best way to summarize his short life. Valentinian II was in the background for most of this article, because, sadly, he was in the background most of his life. He never exercised any real authority as emperor. Valentinian II was a hostage to fortune and a figurehead for the dominant interests of his mother, his co-emperors, and powerful generals.

Before closing, and yes, I'm going to close, I want to make clear that I have only scratched the surface for this article. I now under-

stand why Edward Gibbon's classic *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* ran to six volumes. Keeping in mind that Gibbons published that work in 1776, I wonder how many volumes he would require today?

My point is that the Roman Empire is complex and difficult to condense. This is particularly true when the emperor lived in the Late Roman Empire Period—when the empire was divided into the Eastern Roman Empire and the Western Roman Empire. It can get messy when, to get the full story, you must deal with two emperors, likely co-emperors as well, and possibly even a usurper or two during your research. Be warned, researching and writing about ancient Roman coins can become addictive!

SOURCES

<https://www.forumancientcoins.com>

FORVM ANCIENT COINS: To the glory that was Greece And the grandeur that was Rome.

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De Imperatoribus Romanis: An Online Encyclopedia of Roman Rulers and Their Families.

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VCoins: The Online Coin Show.

Grant, Michael. *THE ROMAN EMPERORS: A Biographical Guide to the Rulers of Imperial Rome 31 B.C.-A.D. 476*. Michael Grant Publications Ltd., 1985.

Vagi, David L. *COINAGE AND HISTORY OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE*. Sidney, Ohio: Amos Press, Inc., 1999.

Would You Like to Be More Involved?

By David G. Heinrich

2020 will mark the 90th anniversary for the Cincinnati Numismatic Association. There are ideas on the table to commemorate this milestone including a new version of the original club medal from 1930. Charter members had their silver medals engraved on the reverse with their name and membership number and the designation of Charter Member.

This idea and a few other such as the possibility of elongates, encased coins or wooden nickels for example could all be decided on by groups of members who would work out the details to present to the officers and members of the club for approval.

There are also some ideas for

new programs that could benefit from members coming forward to work together. One possibility is a "banknote of the month" where every member would have the oppor-

tunity to add a foreign banknote with a description in a currency holder page to their collection every month.

The August 2020 issue of the newsletter will be a greatly expanded magazine style version similar to the 75th and 85th anniversary versions. So there is the opportunity to write for that issue as well. Dave Heinrich will photograph any items for newsletter articles.

There are also opportunities to serve on the board or as an officer of the club.

If you are interested in participating in any of these endeavors please contact president Heinrich.



Club News

Many thanks to Brad Karelleff for his presentation with a look at the coinage of Potosi.

Dues notices for 2020 were sent with the newsletter a couple of months ago. This is earlier than when dues notices have been sent in the past. This will help in collecting dues in a more timely fashion and will be the standard going forward. Memberships not renewed by January 1st will lapse.

You can save time and postage by paying for multiple years of dues in advance or you can convert to a life membership for \$175 and never have to pay dues again!

The Christmas Dinner Meeting and children's charity auction is on Friday December 13th. Save the date! We will also have a limited number of items up for auction for the club's benefit. Any item is accepted for the auction, numismatic or not.



Bridgetown Finer Meats is located at 6135 Bridgetown Rd., Green Township, (513) 574 3100 bridgetownfinermeats.com

Because their food was such a hit last December, we will work with Bridgetown Finer Meats to cater the dinner. The menu includes your choice of chicken or beef with delicious sides, salad, rolls, etc. Members are encouraged to bring desserts to share.

If you accepted the challenge of writing an article for the newsletter by taking a challenge envelope and are having difficulty identifying the item or researching it, don't hesitate to ask for some help. Send an email to the editor, David Heinrich, and he will assist you.

Challenge envelopes are available at our meetings and by mail. Just ask for one.

We are looking for presenters for meetings for 2020. Share your passion with the club! Every numismatic subject can make a good presentation.

Redbook Fundraiser Order Form

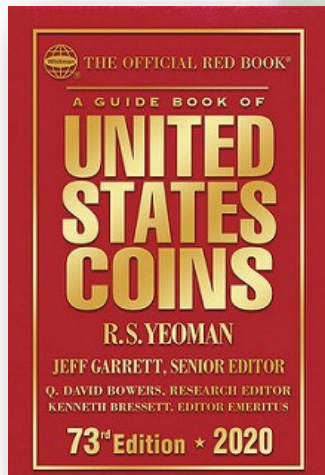
Your order will be available at club meetings or can be shipped to you

The newest edition of the coin hobby's annual *Guide Book of United States Coins* (popularly known as the "Red Book") was released on April 9, 2019. The 73rd edition (with a cover date of 2020) features extensively updated pricing and auction data reflecting the current market for collectible coins, which has seen dramatic ups and downs in the past year.

Purchase the new 2020 Redbook (and or Bluebook) through the Cincinnati Numismatic Association with a personalized bookplate and help support the club's educational programs. The cost is the same as last year, only \$15 and you can pick up your copy at a club meeting or have it delivered for just \$3 more.

If you would like to pick up your copy at a club meeting, send an email to dheinrich@fuse.net and give us the exact spelling of your name, as you want it to appear on the bookplate and bring your \$15 payment to the meeting. Or you can use the form below and mail it in.

Why not order copies as gifts for friends or relatives!



PERSONALIZED REDBOOK ORDER FORM

Please Print Clearly

Name as you want it to appear on the bookplate _____

Shipping Address if Applicable: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

☐ Picked up at meeting \$15

☐ Delivery by U.S. Mail \$18

Make checks payable to the Cincinnati Numismatic Association

Mail order form and payment to:

CNA
PO Box 446
Miamitown, OH 45041

Membership Application

Pass this Membership Application on to a friend!

Since 1930, the Cincinnati Numismatic Association has been the gathering organization for coin collectors and other numismatic related specialists in the Cincinnati area. Its purpose has remained the same, to foster knowledge of numismatics and a fraternal spirit among those who pursue the study of coins, currency, tokens, medals, and exnumia.

The organization meets once a month, on the second Friday at 7:30 pm. The meeting location is at Coins +, 225 East 6th Street, in downtown Cincinnati on an upper floor of the building.

Our meetings consist of numismatic presentations given by numismatists from among our membership and from other experts in their fields from around the country. Show and tell and light refreshments are also part of our meetings.

We have a group dinner held at a local restaurant every April. December marks our annual Christmas dinner meeting and charity auction benefiting local children's charities.

Club dues for adults are \$10 annually. Dues for Juniors are just \$3 a year. This is certainly one of

the best values in numismatics.

Membership in the Cincinnati Numismatic Association includes a subscription to its monthly publication, The Cincinnati Numismatist. In 2006, 2007, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 the publication received first place in the ANA's competition for Outstanding Local Numismatic Publication.

The Cincinnati Numismatic Association has its roots in its long history, but strives to serve the needs of the collectors of the future. Give us a try!

I hereby make application for membership in the CNA and agree to abide by the constitution and bylaws of the said association.

☐ 3 year membership (\$29)

☐ Life membership (\$175)

☐ 1 year membership (\$10)

☐ 1 year Junior member (\$3)

Print Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ (home)

_____ (work/cell)

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Sponsor (optional): _____

Signature: _____

(DO NOT FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING LINES)

Member Number: _____

Date Paid: _____

BOG Approval: _____

BOG Approval: _____

Make checks payable to the Cincinnati Numismatic Association.

Mail application and payment to: CNA, PO Box 446, Miamitown, OH 45041

CINCINNATI NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

President/Editor: David G. Heinrich
Vice President: Bill Bennett
Recording Secretary: Kirsten Lynch
Assistant Editor: Isaiah Hageman
Treasurer: David G. Heinrich
Webmaster: Tom Lanter



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The Cincinnati Numismatic Association was founded in August of 1930 and consisted of thirty-five members including numismatic notables such as B. Max Mehl and Farran Zerbe. The first CNA President was Herbert A. Brand. The CNA was founded for the purpose of hosting the 1931 American Numismatic Association convention. Since then, the CNA has hosted the ANA convention three times, in 1942, 1980, and 1988. The CNA also hosted the 1998 ANA Spring show.



The Cincinnati Numismatist

is an ANA award-winning publication

Numystery

By: Colonel Green

This month's Numystery:

What U.S. coin has appeared on a stamp ?

Numystery answer:

The 1877 Indian head cent appeared on a 13 cent stamp in 1978.

Coin Show Schedule

Monthly

Cincinnati Greenhills Show
American Legion Hall
Winton Rd, Cinti, OH
Last Sunday
10:00 am - 3:30 pm

Monthly

Columbus Coin, Stamp & Card
Show, Makoy Center, 5462 Center
St., Hilliard, OH 10 am - 4 pm
Third Sunday, over 18 \$2 admission
drich@columbus.rr.com

December 6th-7th

61st Annual I.S.N.A. Coin Show,
Indianapolis Marriott East Hotel &
Convention Center, Liberty Hall,
7202 East 21st Street, Indianapolis,
Indiana 46219 Free admission &
parking, Door prize & raffle prize
drawings. Thursday 1:00 pm to 6:00
pm (Early bird pass only) Fri-
day 10:00 am to 6:00 pm,
Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

January 9th-11th

The 65th annual FUN Convention
will be at the Orange County Conven-
tion Center. 9800 International Dr.,
Orlando FL 32819. More information
at www.funtopics.

January 19th

2020 Muncie Coin & Stamp Club
Show, Delaware County Fairgrounds
Heartland Hall Building
1210 N. Wheeling Ave.
Muncie, Indiana 47304
Contact: Tom Marsh (765) 212-7055
Free Admission
Hours: 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.
Free parking,
buying-selling-trading,
coins-currency-tokens,
gold-silver-postcards,
stamps-supplies,
refreshments

February 27th-29th

ANA National Money Show, Cobb
Galleria Centre, Hall D, 2 Galleria
Parkway SE, Atlanta, GA 30339.
Public hours: Thursday and Friday,
February 27 & 28, 2020, from 10 am
to 5:30 pm; Saturday, February 29,
from 10 am to 3:30 pm. Admission:
Thursday and Friday, February 27
& 28, 2020, \$8 for adults, children
12 and under admitted free. Free
admission for everyone Saturday,
February 29.
www.NationalMoneyShow.com
American Numismatic Association,
800-367-9723

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would like to have published in the
newsletter, **PLEASE** mail it to;
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OH, 45041 or email to
cincycoins@gmail.com