

# The Cincinnati Numismatist

Volume XC, Issue III

March 2020



*The next meeting of the Cincinnati Numismatic Association will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 13th, at Coins +, located at 225 East 6th Street in downtown Cincinnati. The building is closed in the evenings so members need to arrive between 7:00 and 7:30. If you arrive later than 7:30, a phone number that you can call will be listed on the door.*

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## Canadian 50 Cent Gold Sea Creatures

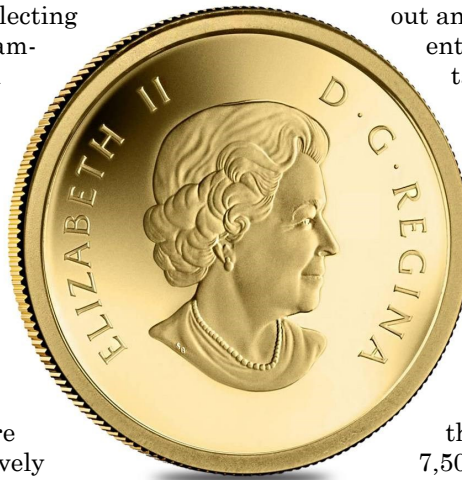
By Michael Folk

Admittedly, I am a completist. I suspect it grows from my early collecting days of filling Whitman Penny folders but, it is so ingrained now that it's almost an addiction. One of the most satisfying things of my coin collecting mania is pulling and examining a book or page of a complete set of matched by grade and eye appeal coins.

In the days of the dinosaurs it was very easy to keep current on modern circulation coin sets. Order a proof set and an uncirculated set for the year and you were good to go. It was relatively simple and something my budget could handle. The mints though have turned it into a marketing game. Special mint marks, special compositions and fineness, purposeful production of variety rarities and commemorating more events than are included in the Encyclopedia Britannica crowd the field. I just could not keep up from both a budget and a time perspective.

Yet every once in a while, something catches my eye and interest. Canada issued a three coin gold 50 cent series highlighting sea creatures, and it is a joy.

It is relatively affordable and without any pseudo-rarities, the entire set is easily obtained. Do not let the small size fool you, because the details of the die engraving are amazing. I recommend examination with 10x magnification to fully appreciate the work.



The 2013 mintage was 10,000 but that was reduced to 7,500 each year for the 2014 and 2015 coins. There are no known significant varieties that have attracted any collector interest. All were issued in frosted Proof from the mint and are encased in a plastic holder that itself is then placed in an attractive red leather-like case and then placed in a labeled cardboard container. Each also comes with the now obligatory serialized certificate of authenticity. They are each

## 2020 Meetings

Date		Presenter	Date		Presenter
February	21st Friday	Emmett Ey	July	17th Friday	John Roberts
March	13th Friday	Bob Evans	August	14th Friday	Open
April	18th Saturday	Annual Dinner	September	11th Friday	Open
May	8th Friday	Bruce Smith	October	9th Friday	Open
June	12th Friday	John Reusing	November	13th Friday	Open

composed of 99.99% pure gold and weigh 1.27 grams (0.04 Troy ounces or about 1/25th of an ounce). The obverse, common to all three, was designed by Canadian artist Susanna Blunt and features the portrait of Queen

Elizabeth II used on Canadian coinage since 2003. The coins feature a serrated edge and are 13.92 millimeters in diameter (0.548 inches or about 1/2 an inch).



Photos have been enlarged for detail

Elizabeth II used on Canadian coinage since 2003. The coins feature a serrated edge and are 13.92 millimeters in diameter (0.548 inches or about 1/2 an inch).

The reverses of all three were designed by artist Emily Damstra who is also credited with a number of designs for various United States commemorative coin issues. The first in the series, 2013, features a Pacific Ocean Starfish. The second, dated 2014, displays a lined

Even if you are not a completist, it may be worth it to track down one of these for your collection. As I stated before, the die work is amazing and the frosted proof finish perfectly catches the designs which are classic examples of the artist's work. I get a lot of pleasure from owning the set but equally, each individual coin itself is a treasure from the sea.

## Free Coins, Medals, Tokens, Banknotes...

You can add a free numismatic item to your collection. Sealed envelopes containing a coin, medal, token or banknote will be available for the taking. All you have to do is agree to write an article for the newsletter about the item you receive. All of the pieces have been photographed so you can include photos in your article.

Included with your mystery item will be an information sheet that includes the item's weight and diameter or in the case of a banknote the width and height and the item's photo identification numbers.

As an added incentive, one or two of the items will have some intrinsic value. That's right, there will be a little bit of treasure "buried" in among the plain brown envelopes.

Will you be brave enough to take the challenge? What will you learn? What will you add to your collection, a foreign coin, a medal commemorating a historical event, a banknote from a far away land or time?

There is no specific length required for your article, it just needs to be long enough to tell the story.

If you can't make it to a meeting and would still like to participate send an email to [cincycoins@gmail.com](mailto:cincycoins@gmail.com) and one will be mailed to you. All envelopes are unmarked and sealed ahead of time as a group so no one knows what's inside.

The program has resulted in multiple articles for our readers to enjoy,



Watch for articles to appear in future issues of the newsletter. Why not give it a try?



# The Oldest Quarter We Can Afford

By Mark Benvenuto

The United States Mint was authorized by a young Congress all the way back in 1792, and got to work making coins right away. As a general rule, they didn't have too much by way of output the first couple of years, and yet they kept at it. When the folks running the new Mint finally got around to quarters, it was 1796. Those quarters are today considered collector rarities, and when an impressive one goes up for sale, it's at some high end auction. But these high prices and low mintages beg the question: what is the earliest quarter we might find affordable? After all, a lot has happened, and a much time has passed since the minting of that first trickle of quarters in 1796 and the river of them that are produced annually in our modern time.

## Barber quarters

In the search for the first affordable United States quarter, we might be tempted to start with the Barbers. After all, they span the nineteenth and the twentieth centu-

indicates there are plenty of these which currently cost about \$200 in a grade like MS-60. That probably qualifies as affordable for most of us, although spending \$80 for the same coin in EF-40 might be more palatable. After all, that slightly lower grade costs a lot less, and the

## Seated Liberty quarters

The Seated Liberty design, the artwork of Christian Gobrecht, graced a lot of coins over a wide span of years. When it comes to quarters, it first came out in 1838, and stayed Seated all the way to 1891. In that



1857 Seated Liberty Quarter mined in San Francisco, (Regular Strike)

emphasis should be on "slightly." An extra fine coin – an EF-40 – is hardly going to be ugly. Okay, it's not fully uncirculated. But it is still a piece with very little wear.

time, it came out of four different Mint facilities, and underwent five different modifications, while still keeping the same design. Official mintage tallies saw some amazingly high years, and some outputs that are downright tiny. The first year which saw over one million produced from any one Mint was 1853, when the folks in Philadelphia spewed out a torrent of 15.2 million of them. Although, to be fair, the year 1845 almost made the seven-figure mark, with 922,000 coming out of the gate in Philly.

With these high numbers, it's not rocket science to realize we can start with these two dates and compare price tags. In what might be a bit of a surprise, the 1853 quarter is not the lowest price in its general area and time frame. That spot goes to the 1854 quarters, which



1897 Barber Quarter minted in Philadelphia, Mintage: 8,140,731

ry, and yet might include some years with big, beefy mintages. A look through just about any price guide

were only slightly behind in terms of production. Grabbing one of the 12 million or so 1854 quarters that were made, in a grade like EF-40, means parting with about \$100. In a mint state grade, the price jumps considerably. But of equal interest is that just-mentioned 1845. To spend \$100 and land one of these, we'll have to step down one rung, and go for a VF-20 example. That's not too bad really, as we will be adding a quarter to our collection that is 175 years old, and that still has plenty of detail left.

## The Capped Bust quarters

Alright, stepping back this far has to get most of us thinking that we have moved out of the zone of affordable quarters, and back in



**1825 Capped Bust Quarter: 5 Over 2 - Wide Date, Mined in Philadelphia**

time to twenty-five cent pieces that are simply going to be too expensive for all but the best financed among us. But let's look at this oft-overlooked series in a bit of detail. The first easy point to make is that even though the design was issued from 1815 all the way to 1838, the chunk of years for which the diameter was reduced – from 1831 to 1838 – is the chunk where the mintages were consistently pretty high. The 1834 and the 1837 might be tough to find, but the others should not be.

A second point, a very important one, is that the highest single year of output for the entire Capped Bust quarter series was 1835, with 1,952,000 as the official number from the Mint. That's a big enough number that most serious collectors will claim it ought to be common today.

In looking again through various price lists, we find that the 1835 Capped Bust quarter costs about \$150 in a grade like VF-20. It costs far more in a mint state grade, which we can attribute to the simple fact that almost all of these coins were used and not put away, or that we can attribute to the current collector love for all classic coins in mint state condition.



It is interesting to note that the price for the 1835 Capped Bust quarter in VF-20 is just a touch lower than those for the same grade quarters from 1831 all the way to 1838. The most expensive at this grade is about \$200. This probably has much less to do with rarity than it does with the fact or belief that not too many folks collect this series by date. It looks then like we might have a sleeper or two among these classic twenty-five cent pieces.

## Beyond this?

Going back beyond the latter dates of the Capped Bust series, we definitely land in there among quarters that are always expensive. Any of the Draped Bust coins, no matter the reverse or the variety, will always be expensive. Even the VF-20 grade will mean spending over a thousand dollars for an example.

Quarters are definitely one of our work horse coins today. We see them in just about any small



change transaction, and collecting them can be fun. We have also seen that the earliest of our quarters are expensive today. Yet even the Seated Liberty design and the Capped Bust design have some dates among their series that are more affordable than one might first imagine. Now might be a good time to see if we can find a few to add to our collections.





# Back to the Ship of Gold

Press Release, Special Meeting on March 13th

The S.S. *Central America* sank on September 12, 1857, carrying to the bottom of the deep Atlantic the greatest lost treasure in United States history, literally



tons of gold from the California Gold Rush. Found and recovered in a series of expeditions between 1988 and 1991, the gold was a numismatic sensation when it became available in 2000. A series of legal and business complications meant that 23 years passed between the last of the early dives and a 2014 return expedition to the shipwreck site, 150 miles off the Carolina coast, in water 7,200 feet deep. The new expedition explored areas of the site not previously excavated, using vastly improved robotic and computer technology. A very different kind of treasure emerged, not only the money of 1850s big business, but also the coins people used in day-to-day commerce.

Bob Evans, the long-time chief scientist/curator of the S.S. *Central America* treasure, will share his unique experiences and perspectives, and he will discuss many new numismatic wonders found during the 2014 return expedition to the shipwreck: 45 gold ingots, over 3100 gold coins, and over 10,000 silver coins.



## Bob Evans

### Biography

Bob Evans is the co-discoverer of the shipwreck site of the gold-rush era treasure ship S.S. *Central America*, which sank in 1857 with the greatest lost treasure in United States history. He was Chief Scientist and Historian for the project that located the shipwreck, and recovered the lost treasure in 1988 through 1991, including tons of gold ingots and coins, from the bottom of the Atlantic, 2200 meters (1.3 miles) down, using robotic technology that was state-of-the-art at the time. After a hiatus of 23 years (in 2014,) he

returned to the site as chief scientist of a new expedition that fully explored the complex site and recovered many new numismatic wonders. Bob is well-known in the numismatic community and has been the recipient of several awards for both service and authorship, including the ANA Presidential Award and First Place Heath Literary Award. Since its discovery and recovery Evans has been the Curator of the treasure, and a principal scholar devoted to the historical, cultural and scientific study of the gold.







## Annual Dinner, Saturday, April 18th

The Cincinnati Numismatic Association annual dinner will be held on Saturday, April 18th, 2020. The dinner will be held this year at Brio Tuscan Grille located in Newport on the Levee, 1 Levee Way #1140, Newport, KY 41071.

Our dinner will be in the private and spacious "Tuscan room". Cash bar begins at 6:30. Orders for dinner will be taken after guests are seated at 7:00.

Parking: Valet parking is available for \$7 at the restaurant entrance. You can park at the Newport on the Levee Parking Garage for \$5. Enter just off the Taylor-Southgate Bridge or via Dave Cowens Drive from I-471. The Newport on the Levee parking garage is open 24 hours a day. Parking is Park N Pay. You pay at one of our convenient pay stations located throughout Newport on the Levee. Please note: There are no cashiers stationed at the exits. Credit cards are the only form of payment accepted at the exits.



Each member may make a reservation for themselves and one guest. YN members may make reservations for themselves and one or both parents. The club is obligated to pay for 20 reservations. Please make every effort to attend.

The cost per person is \$39 (includes tax and gratuity). The Cincinnati Numismatic Association is providing an additional subsidy in order to keep your cost as low as possible.

Please send your dinner reservation form to David Heinrich at:

**C.N.A.**

**P.O. Box 446**

**Miamitown, OH 45041**

along with your check for the amount of the dinner(s). The check should be made out to the Cincinnati Numismatic Association.

We must receive your reservation by Monday, April 6th, 2020. Early reservations are greatly appreciated so that we can give the restaurant a preliminary count. We hope to see you there!

## Dinner Reservation Form

☐ **\$39 Dinner for myself**

☐ **\$39 Dinner for Guest**

This year you do not need to make your selections for dinner when you make your payment. Just send this form along with your payment of \$39 per person. Send your check and this form to: C.N.A., P.O. Box 446, Miamitown, Ohio 45041. Please return form by April 6th.

Choose from these three entrees on the night of the dinner.

**Chicken Milanese**-Crispy romano chicken, herb pasta, signature Pomodoro

**Grilled Salmon Fresca**-Fresh salmon, asparagus, sweet potatoes, spinach, red peppers, pesto vinaigrette, feta, tomatoes, balsamic glaze,

**Center Cut Filet 7oz filet** with fresh broccolini, roasted fingerling potatoes

The dinner comes with your choice of lobster bisque or house salad. Tea, soda and coffee are included. Coffee drinks like lattes cappuccinos etc. are ala carte. For dessert we will have Lemon Ricotta Cheesecake. A home-made Italian family recipe combining sweet ricotta, fresh lemon and vanilla. Drizzled with acacia honey.

**Comments:**

**Name:**

**Guest:**

**Daytime phone:**

**Email:**

# 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



# 2020 National Coin Week Student Activity

## ANA Press Release

The theme of the 2020 National Coin Week is Remarkable Women: Catalysts of Change. This student activity involves a famous meeting to organize and speak out to further women's civil liberties.

For two days in July of 1848, local residents congregated in Seneca, New York to discuss social, civil and religious rights for women. Several people who later became famous attended the Seneca Falls Convention. Your job is to design a coin that commemorates this historic event.

## Instructions:

- Go to the following page on History.com to learn about the Seneca Falls Convention:  
<https://www.history.com/topics/womens-rights/seneca-falls-convention>
- Choose an appropriate subject discussed at the convention or famous individual who attended.
- Create a design celebrating your subject by downloading the commemorative coin template.

- As with all modern United States coins, your coin must include the following:

- The word "Liberty". The date 2020. You may also include the date of the convention if you wish. The motto "In God We Trust".

- On the back of your paper, be sure to include your full mailing address and your age.

- There are two age categories: 12 & under and 13 to 17.

- Your submission must be postmarked by May 4, 2020.

Every student who submits an entry will receive a United States silver coin as a prize. A grand prize finalist will be chosen for each age category and will receive a United States silver coin and a United States mint set.

Send your submission to:

Rod Gillis  
American Numismatic Association  
818 N. Cascade Avenue  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Purchase the new 2021 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. The Redbooks will ship in April. If you would like to pick up your copy at a club meeting, send an email to [dheinrich@fuse.net](mailto: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 PRE-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:

C.N.A.  
P.O. Box 446  
Miamitown, OH 45041

## CINCINNATI NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

President/Editor: David G. Heinrich  
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cincycoins@gmail.com

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:

Which of these coins does not have an inscription saying how many cents it is worth? Cent, Nickel, Dime,

### Numystery answer:

*Although words on the coins say that the penny is worth "one cent" and the nickel is worth "five cents," the dime simply says that it is worth "one dime."*

## Coin Show Schedule

### Monthly

Cincinnati Greenhills Classic Coin, Currency, Stamp, Jewelry & Watch Show, American Legion Hall, 11100 Winton Rd, Cinti, OH  
Last Sunday, 10:00 am - 3:30 pm  
numismaniaofohio@gmail.com

### 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

### April 5th

Clark County Semi-Annual Coin Show. Location: Windy Knoll Golf Center in the Derby Banquet Center, 500 Roscommon Drive.  
Directions - At I-70, Exit 52. turn North on U.S. 68 go to St Route 41, exit East to Bechtel Ave, turn left (North) on Bechtel go to 500 Roscommon Drive on your right, go to Windy Knoll Golf course and Derby Banquet Center on left.

Hrs: Sun. 10AM-3:00PM. Bourse Dr.  
Gary Lau, PH: 937-206-4943

### April 17th-19th

56th Annual Georgia Numismatic Association Anniversary Show. 325 tables, U.S. Mint exhibit and sales at show, YN program on Saturday, 1 pm, Competitive exhibits, educational programs, grading services at show.  
Website: <https://www.gamoney.org/>

### April 22th-25th

Central States Numismatic Society 81st Anniversary Convention, Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel and Convention Center, 1551 North Thoreau Drive, Schaumburg, IL 60173. The CSNS Convention is one of the leading such events in the United States. It features a 250+ booth bourse area with leading dealers from no less than 40 states, as well as educational exhibits, club meetings, programs and seminars. Regular Public Hours: Wednesday, 3PM-6PM, Thursday and Friday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Saturday

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM (Booth Holders and Early Birds at 9AM) Admission to the bourse area is complimentary during the Thursday-Saturday regular public hours. Contact: Kevin Foley 414-807-0116

### May 17th

62nd Shelby County Coin Club Coin Show, Free admission and parking  
Door prizes and raffle  
New Location!  
American Legion Post 217  
1265 Fourth Ave.  
Sidney, Ohio  
10:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Contact: Todd Garrett 937-339-5437

### Want To Be Published?

If you have an article that you would like to have published in the newsletter, **PLEASE** mail it to; C.N.A., PO Box 446, Miamitown OH, 45041 or email to cincycoins@gmail.com