

The Cincinnati Numismatist

Volume LXXXIX, Issue V

May 2019



The next meeting of the Cincinnati Numismatic Association will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 10th, 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.

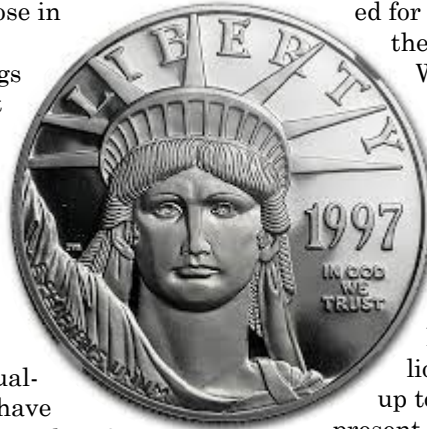
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Is Anyone Collecting These? Platinum Eagles

By Mark Benvenuto

The United States Mint pounds out billions of coins each year for everyday use in countless transactions, and yet at the same time has for years produced numerous commemoratives and bullion coins. We can only wonder about the complexity of the operations in Philadelphia and Denver, and those in San Francisco and West Point. One of the offerings that has been coming out of the facility up the Hudson is the platinum bullion coin series. They are beautiful. They are valuable. They have, since 1997, become an established set of bullion coins in a metal that folks don't usually think of. Yet still, we have to ask, just who is collecting these? Let's look at the series to see if we can come up with an answer.



First, the little guys

The platinum Eagles came out of the gate in four different denominations all the way back in 1997. This precious

metal had been used in coins before, although not in the U.S. The smallest of the quartet was the 1/10th ounce pieces, each of which sport a nominal \$10 face value. There was what can be called a regular issue, made to trade on the metals market, as well as a proof version marketed for collectors. All came from the branch Mint facility at West Point. And today, a person can land one of these little platinum pieces for about \$200.

Before we go onward, it's worth noting that the entire series of all three of the lesser-sized platinum bullion coins span from 1997 up to 2008. From 2009 to the present the program contracted to just the one-ounce coins, which we'll get to in a moment. The reason for stopping the production of the fractional bullion pieces is not all that hard to fathom: they were not selling as well as hoped for. But that becomes something of a plus for any collector interested in diving into the series

2019 Meetings

Date	Presenter	Date	Presenter
January 11th Friday	Colin & Debra Feitl	June 14th Friday	Open
February 8th Friday	Joe Boling	July 12th Friday	Open
March 8th Friday	Fred Schwan	August 9th Friday	Open
April 13th Saturday	Annual Dinner	September 13th Friday	Open
May 10th Friday	Stephen Petty	October 11th Friday	Open



now. It's not all that long, covering a bit more than a decade.

Second, the ¼ ounce pieces

Like their smaller kin, the ¼ ounce platinum bullion coins are beauties. It's fairly obvious that these will always be more expensive because each contains more precious metal. But for about \$465 a person can own one – and start planning to own more.

Third, moving up to the ½ ounce of platinum

The price tag for a ½ ounce platinum coin starts to get hefty, but that's because we're getting a lot more platinum for each purchase. For those of us who like to spend no more than \$50 for a single coin and a single purchase, this is a game with too high a starting point for which we'll have to ante up. The buy-in starts at about \$800 per coin, and can go much higher for PF-70 specimens, for example. But once again, we have a series that spans from 1997 to 2008, and that delivers on being some wonderfully beautiful coins.

Finally, the big guns, the 1-ounce platinum bullion

Okay, now we are moving into the major leagues of bullion coinage, as we consider owning platinum one ounce at a time. This is the lone platinum weight and denomination – a \$100 nominal face value – to have been produced each

year from 1997 all the way to today. So, doing the math, if one of these big, platinum discs costs \$1,500, we would need to put out \$46,500 to land an entire set, which is a huge outlay if a person were to try to do it all at once. Admittedly, it would have been a lot less had we been buying one per year, as they came out – which most of us did not.

But the one-ounce platinum bullion coins are a fantastic set not just because of the metal in them;



2020 obverse design

indeed, coinage is a minor use for platinum when compared to industrial catalysts, for example. No, what makes this series different from virtually every other United States coin series is the designs. First, for several years the reverse design was changed. In 1998 the first of several multi-year reverse themes was unveiled, the Vistas of Liberty. There were others as well.

And for the years 2018 through 2020 it is supposed to be the obverse that will change, honoring "Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" over these three years. Add to all this the idea of reversed proofs and burnished coins – which have not been made every year – and you quickly realize this is going to be an extensive collection.

So, who is collecting?

Based on the prices we have seen, it's fair to say that only the well-heeled collectors are able to assemble a full set or full collection of all the platinum bullion coins, even if they stick only to the one-ounce pieces. Even the lower price of \$1,500 per coin can be too rich for many of us, and those proof versions always cost more. On the flip side of things though, the smaller platinum pieces may just be a do-able set. It would not bankrupt most of us to go for the 1/10th ounce pieces, perhaps as regular issues, and not as proofs. Then, with a bit of saving and patience, we could add just one of the big guys to the collection, giving us something of a spread from small to large. No, the cost would still not qualify as cheap. But it would be a way for the frugal collector to own some platinum.

All things considered, if a person is prudent and saves up, it might just indeed be possible to collect this series in some way, shape, or form. Best of luck to those of us who are willing to give it a try!

Jefferson Indian Peace Medal

a Challenge Article

By Isaiah Hageman

Imagine the following situation: you and a group of men are travelling through the Wild West. You've crossed many rivers and streams. Your group has been moving west for days. One day during your journey, you come to a settlement group of Native Americans. The Chief comes out to greet you, and as a present, your group gives the Chief a medal. What medal was that, and why was it given to the Chief?

The medal in question is a Jefferson Indian Peace Medal, which was commissioned by Thomas Jefferson for the Lewis and Clark expedition to discover and map the Western United States through the Louisiana



Purchase. The obverse of the medal displays Jefferson and an inscription which reads "TH. JEFFERSON PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. A.D. 1801." On the reverse, the inscription "PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP" accompany images of clasped hands, a tomahawk, and a peace pipe.

Before the Revolutionary War, the British, French, and Spanish governments gave medals to Native American leaders to show distinction and allegiance. The United States government made decisions to continue this tradition; Thomas Jefferson in 1793 described this tradition as "an ancient custom from time immemorial" (Jefferson to William Carmichael, June 30, 1793, in PTJ, 26:410).

Lewis and Clark carried a wide variety of these medals on their 1804-1806 expedition. The medals were designed by John Reich and struck in three sizes. The sizes ranged from two to four inches in diameter, and all were struck on thin sheets of silver united by a silver band. Peace medals minted by succeeding Presidents were made on solid silver planchets.

Author's note: this medal was provided to me by the Cincinnati Numismatic Association. I would like to thank them for their generous support and contributions to our hobby. To future writers for this coin and medal challenge, good luck. Some of the pieces in this challenge may be hard to research and write about; however, as always, have fun with your hobby.

Bibliography

Stanton, Lucia. "Indian Peace Medal." September 1993. www.monticello.org. 23 April 2019.

The 1992 P Clad Kennedy Half Dollar Coin

a Challenge Article

By Spencer Duncan

The 1992 P Clad Kennedy Half Dollar is not a rare coin. The diameter of the coin is 30.6 mm and it weighs 11.34 grams. Inside the package envelope it came in it said that it was an "S" coin but it was actually a "P" coin. I didn't see any "S" on the coin like it was described to be! However, it does celebrate and talk about the life of John Fitzgerald "Jack" Kennedy (May 29, 1917 – November 22, 1963), often referred to by his initials JFK. He was the 35th President of the United States, serv-



ing from 1961 until his assassination in 1963.

After Kennedy's military service as commander of the Motor Torpedo Boat PT-109 during World War II in the South Pacific, his aspirations turned political. With the encouragement and grooming of his father, Joseph P. Kennedy Sr., Kennedy represented Massachusetts's 11th congressional district in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1947 to 1953 as a Democrat, and

served in the U.S. Senate from 1953 until 1960.

Kennedy defeated then Vice President and Republican candidate Richard Nixon in the 1960 U.S. presidential election, one of the closest in American history. He was the second-youngest President (after Theodore Roosevelt), the first President born in the 20th century, and the youngest elected to the office at the age of 43. Kennedy is the first and only Catholic and the first Irish American president, and is the only president to have won a Pulitzer Prize. Events during his administration include the Bay of Pigs Invasion, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the building of the Berlin Wall, the Space Race, the African American Civil Rights Movement and early stages of the Vietnam War. Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963, in Dallas, Texas.

\$33,000?...The rest of the Story

Hi Dave, I read the article in the April Cincinnati Numismatist, page 5 about the thief who put coins in the CoinStar machine in West Palm Beach.

Because I live in the area, I know the real story.

The owner of the coins was an older gentleman novice collector who bought junk through the mail. I know this because a few weeks before the theft, he sent a copy of his inventory to Rechant Metals in West Palm Beach. I worked there for 18 years and retired 4 years ago. They told me everything he had was modern junk and they did not want to buy it. The thief



then took the collection to a coin shop in downtown Lake Worth, just a few miles south of West Palm Beach. The store there bought anything of value for \$2331 and gave the thief the remainder back. What the thief put in the Coin Star machine was "Presidential" golden dollars, worth \$1 each. That's where the old man came up with Presidential coins worth \$1000 each. He was out of his mind. End of story.

It sounded much better in the newspaper.

Tony Swicer
West Palm Beach, FL

Club News

Our May speaker is Stephen Petty. Some of you may recall that Stephen has been our speaker several times in the past and always gives an informative and interesting presentation. He is past president of CONA, our friendly coin club in Columbus with the great annual Labor Day weekend show.

We have an opportunity to have a tour guided by Museum Director Abby Schwartz of the *Striking Medals: 50 Years of the Jewish-American Hall of Fame* exhibit. The exhibit is at the Skirball Museum at Hebrew Union College on Clifton Avenue near U.C. The tour is set for May 18th at 1:00 pm.

Please let Dave Heinrich know if you are interested in seeing the exhibit with the club. The anticipated length is about 1 hour. There is no cost for the tour. Besides the 100 medals in the exhibit, the display includes a section on the production of the medals.

Fifth Third Bank on fountain square has opened a new museum which includes some terrific currency. The curator has agreed to stay late for us before our meeting on July 12th. They have scheduled us in from 6pm to 7pm. Plans will be discussed at the May meeting. We could possibly order pizzas to be delivered to our meeting right after the museum visit. Let Dave Heinrich know if you are interested in the museum visit as 5/3 would like a head count.

Next month is the Greater Cincinnati Numismatic Exposition at the Sharonville Convention Center. The show runs from Thursday the 13th through Saturday the 15th. Hours are as follows, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday & Saturday, Dealer setup and early birds (\$40) hours are between 3 and 7 p.m. on Thursday, Contact: Paul Padget at 513-821-2143 or epadget@fuse.net for more information.

Our June meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on Friday after the show. The meeting will be held at Vincenzo's in a private party room. The restaurant is just down the road from the convention center at 11525 Chester Road, Sharonville, OH 45246. The meeting room doors will be open at 5:30, so you are welcome to arrive early and have dinner if you like. Just ask for the CNA group.

You can get a free numismatic item for your collection. Sealed envelopes containing a coin, medal, token or banknote are available for the taking. All you have to do is agree to write an article for the newsletter about the item you receive. The article challenge envelopes are available at the monthly meetings or you can request to have one mailed to you.

We are looking for presenters for meetings for 2019. Share your passion with the club! Every numismatic subject can make a good presentation.

Crossword Puzzle

Answers will be in the June issue

Across

5. One who studies coins, banknotes, tokens and medals.

7. Original last name of the original author of the Redbook.

9. The English _____ originally referred to an English coin worth four pennies or fourpence.

12. The profit generated from the printing or coining of currency.

14. A naturally occurring alloy of two noble metals

15. The name of the country ruled by a queen who appeared on a United States coin as spelled on coins from that country today.

17. The tooth-like devices around the rim seen on many coins.

19. A term that means "double thick," originally referred to French coins that were made in a double thickness to signify double value.

20. Base metal used in U. S. cents today.

4. Name of the shipwreck that sank off the South Carolina coast in 1857 and was recovered by an Ohio group in 1988.

6. Name a geologist/shipwreck recovery expert who does not own a chain of restaurants.

8. Printing method in which the image is incised into a surface and the incised line or sunken area holds the ink.

10. Dr. _____ F. Heath founded the ANA.

11. Coins issued to honor some person, place, or event and, in many instances, to raise funds for activities related to the theme

13. A coin or banknote that is not genuine.

16. Unit of currency with the first letter of Z.

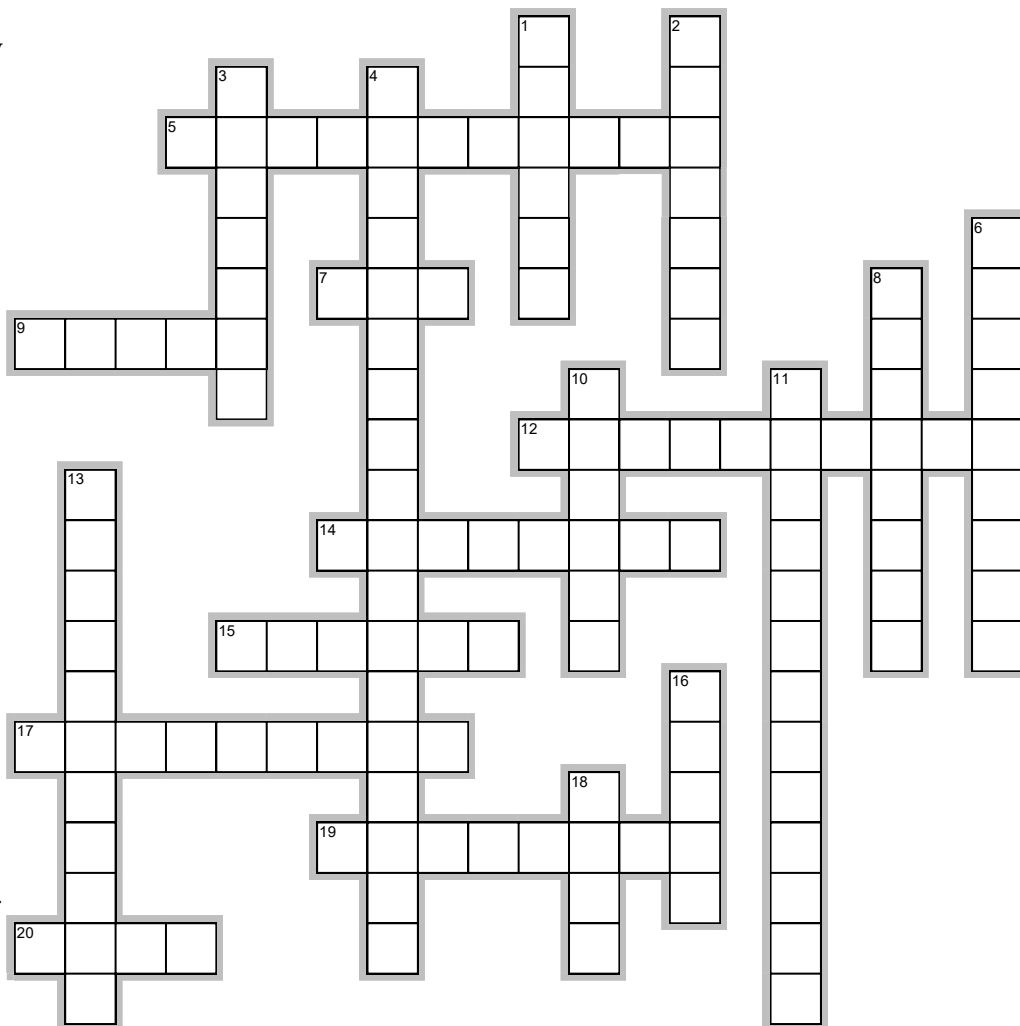
18. Animal depicted on a Canadian Centennial fifty cent piece.

Down

1. Mountain of silver in former Spanish colony.

2. River on the face of the 1896 "History Instructing Youth" \$1 educational banknote.

3. First name of Augustus Saint-Gaudens's wife



Redbook Fundraiser Order Form

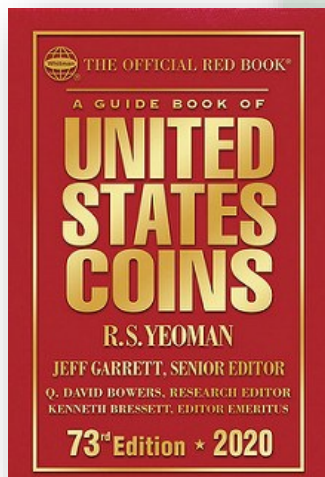
Your Order Will be Available at Club Meetings or Can be shipped to you

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:

Cincinnati Numismatic Association
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 ex-onumia.

The organization meets once a month, on the second Friday at 7:30 pm and some additional Mondays at 7:00 pm. The Friday meeting location is at Coins +, 225

East 6th Street in downtown Cincinnati on an upper floor of the building. Monday meetings are held at the Groesbeck branch library located at 2994 West Galbraith Road. Cincinnati, Ohio 45239. The Groesbeck Branch is on Galbraith Road, approximately a quarter of a mile east of the intersection of Colerain Avenue and Galbraith Road.

Our meetings consist of numismatic talks or discussions, grading seminars, digital presentations, exhibits, and a dinner held every April. 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 and 2017 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.

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: David G. Heinrich
Vice President: Bill Bennett
Recording Secretary: Kirsten Lynch
Treasurer: David G. Heinrich
Webmaster: Colin Feidt



ANA
Member
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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 more 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:

Name the President who appears on a U.S. Coin and also held a patent.

Numystery answer:

On March 10, 1849, Abraham Lincoln filed a patent for a device for "burying vessels over shoals" with the US Patent Office. Patent No. 6,469 was approved two months later, giving Abraham Lincoln the honor of being the only US president to hold a patent.

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

May 2nd-5th

EAC (Early American Coppers)
Convention – Dayton, OH,
Dates: Thursday, May 2nd to Sun-
day, May 5th, 2019,
Public Hours: May 3rd 10am-5pm
May 4th 10am-5pm,
May 5th 10am-3pm,
Dayton Convention Center (DCC),
22 E. Fifth Street Dayton OH 45402
(937) 333-4700 / (937) 333-4711

May 19th

61st Shelby County Coin Club Coin
Show, VFW Post 4239, 2841 Wapa-
koneta Ave., Sidney, Ohio, 10:00 am -
3:00 pm Free admission & parking
Contact: Todd Garrett 937-339-5437

June 13th-15th

The 36th Annual Greater Cincinnati
Numismatic Exposition, 125 Tables,
Sharonville Convention Center 11355
Chester Rd. (1-75 Exit 15 in North
Cincinnati, first exit south of I-275).
Hours: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Friday & Sat-
urday, Dealer setup and early birds
(\$40) hours: 3-7 p.m. Thursday, Con-
tact: Paul Padget, 513-821-2143 or
epadget@fuse.net

June 15th-27th

ANA Summer Seminar 2019, Colorado
Springs, Colorado. Summer Seminar is
a once-a-year opportunity for numis-
matic learning and camaraderie that
offers students a varied selection of
week-long courses designed for discov-
ery or continued study. For 50 years,

Summer Seminar has featured clas-
ses to suit virtually every collector's
hobby needs. Most importantly, eve-
ryone attending Summer Seminar
shares a common trait: a passion for
numismatics. money.org

August 13th-17th

ANA World's Fair of Money, Donald
E. Stephens Convention Center,
5555 N. River Rd., Rosemont, IL
60018, Hours: Tuesday 1 p.m. to 6
p.m.; Wednesday-Friday 10 a.m. to 6
p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
(FREE admission on Saturday the
17th!) Last admission is 30 minutes
prior to closing. Admission is \$8 for
the public; free for ANA members &
children under 12.

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