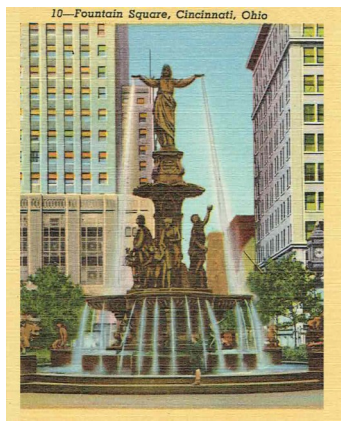


The Cincinnati Numismatist

Volume LXXXIX, Issue XI

November 2019



The next meeting of the Cincinnati Numismatic Association will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, November 8th, 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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The 1992 P Clad Olympic Gymnast Half Dollar Commemorative Coin, a Challenge Article

By Spencer Duncan

Commemorative coins for the Olympic Games of 1984 and 1988 had proved to be good fundraisers for the U. S. Olympic Training Center, so a similar program was planned for the 1992 event. A bill passed on October 3, 1990 provided for up to 6 million clad half dollars, 4 million silver dollars and 500 thousand gold half eagles.

In an open contest for this series which saw 1,107 entries, the half dollar design turned out to be a split decision. The obverse was awarded to U. S. Mint Sculptor-Engraver William C. Cousins, who portrayed a female gymnast in mid air superimposed over the American flag. The USA Olympic logo is seen beneath the gymnast's right leg, along with the date of coining.

The reverse of the half dollar was designed by numismatist and Michigan state politician Steven Bieda. In it, the Olympic torch is overlaid with the olive

branch of peace, while the Latin inscription "CITIUS, ALTIUS, FORTIUS" (Faster, Higher, Stronger) appears above the branch, balancing the design. The remaining inscriptions are all statutory,

with the coin's mint mark (P) appearing below the legend "E PLURIBUS UNUM" and seeming to be a part of it ('P' for uncirculated coins and 'S' for the proof edition.

On the Obverse: it says "In God We Trust – 1992 – Liberty – USA".

On the Reverse it says "United States of America – Half Dollar – Citius Altius Fortius – E Pluribus Unum!"

The diameter of the coin is 30.60 mm. The weight of the coin is 11.34 grams. The mintage of the uncirculated coin is 161,607. The Proof mintage of the coin is 519,645. The composition of the coin is copper-nickel clad copper. The approximate current value of this coin is \$2.



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

Grading Mercury Dimes: A Challenge For Some?

By Isaiah Hageman, Assistant Editor

When I see Mercury dimes, there are only several different grades that I am able to view. Coin shows always abound in Gem Uncirculated coins and the “junk” (Merc dimes in the silver buckets that are only worth silver content). I find that most of the Mercury dimes in silver buckets are usually common dates in the VF to EF range. I don’t know if I have ever viewed (in person) a Mercury dime that would grade less than Fine-12.

When circulated, most of these dimes are of a nice even gray color. If you come across a blast white dime that only grades Very Good or Fine, it is probably safe to assume that the coin was cleaned.

Poor-1 is the lowest grade on our grading scale. Only central details are visible. HOWEVER, the date must be at least partially visible to qualify for this grade. If there is a full date, the coin becomes a Fair-2. No date equals a “no grade” coin that will not be slabbed by the TPGs.

Fair-2 coins display some outer details, such as the inside edges of the word LIBERTY on the obverse, and UNITED STATES OF AMERICA on the reverse. IN GOD WE TRUST is mostly visible, but IN and WE may be partially blended with the rim. There are usually not many reeds on the edge. Bands in the fasces on the reverse are completely gone and smooth.

About Good-3 dimes display a bit more detail than Fair-2 coins, but not much. LIBERTY and IN GOD WE TRUST are slightly more visible, and at least half of each letter shows. IN GOD WE TRUST should be 75% visible. Only IN and WE should be partially worn into the fields.

Good-4 and G-6 pieces display all letters intended around the rim. The letters may slightly blend with the rim, but should be totally visible, although worn.

Details in the head begin to show, and one or two sticks on the fasces have begun to come out.

Very Good-8 and VG-10 coins start to show feathers in the wings on Liberty’s head. None of the letters blend with the rim. The date is fairly sharp, although worn. The uppermost band of the fasces is discernable, and half of the sticks are visible.

Fine-12 and F-15 dimes show all of the sticks in the fasces. The bands are flat though. Hair details on the bust have begun to show, and more feathers on the wings show. All letters are complete.

The grade range of Very Fine-20 to Very Fine-35 comprises the largest spread. For all practical purposes, I will describe only VF-20 and VF-30.

VF-20 coins show definite sticks on the fasces. All of the letters are visible, and mostly strong. Obverse details are average, and display some feathers in the wing on Liberty’s cap. A few hair details are visible.

Very Fine-30 dimes show only slightly more detail than VF-20 coins. Mainly, there are more feathers in the wing and a few more sticks of the fasces.

Extremely Fine-40 Mercury Dimes may start to show luster in protected areas. Most of the sticks in the fasces are visible, and the bands are slightly worn. Do not confuse weak striking of the bands or sticks in the fasces with wear. Most of the feathers in the wing are visible, and the hair detail is almost complete.

About Uncirculated-50, -53, -55, and -58 coins may have a good amount of mint luster present. All of the sticks in the fasces are well defined, and the bands are defined as well. All of the feathers in the wing are visible and strong. Hair detail is also well defined. Certain date and mint mark combinations are notorious for





strike weakness, while other dates are known for good strike and luster.

Mint State coins are graded based on luster and amount of bag marks. There is no wear on the dime (as always), and the luster can range from dull to brilliant (blast white, as some people would say). Toning on the dimes in higher grades, especially if the toning is red or blue, is very handsome and commands a nice premium.

On Proof dimes of this type, cameo is scarce, and deep cameo is rare. Of the few proof dimes of this type that I have seen, they were all PF63 to PF65, and none were cameo or deep cameo. Any coin in a PCGS Doily holder is rare, and a cameo proof Mercury dime in a nice PCGS Doily holder would command a huge premium. I don't know if that even exists. If it does, I would love to see a picture of the coin in the slab.

Christmas Dinner and Charity Auction Preview

Christmas Dinner Meeting is on Friday December 13th

The Christmas Dinner Meeting is on Friday December 13th. Save the date! 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.

Any item is accepted for the auction, numismatic or not. We will feature some of the items that will be in the auction in the December newsletter. If you are planning on donating an item for one of the auctions and would like to preview it in the newsletter send a brief description and maybe a simple photo to cincycoins@gmail.com.

CNA's 90th and 100th Anniversary

By David G. Heinrich

2020 will mark the Cincinnati Numismatic Association's 90th anniversary and plans are in the works to celebrate the milestone. The club will hit the century mark in 2030 and some long range plans are also in the works for that anniversary as well.

Some possibilities for 2020 include striking one ounce silver medals in the style of the original 1930 medals which the charter members had their name and member number engraved on the reverse. Elongated or encased coins might be considered.

Hot-stamping the Redbooks for next year along with a special book plate featuring a solid copper seal may



also become a reality.

The August 2020 issue of The Cincinnati Numismatist will be a greatly expanded issue similar to the ones from our 75th and 85th anniversary issues. Articles for that special issue will be solicited from authors around the country, both members of our club and from outside the membership. The success of many of these initiatives will rely heavily on volunteer efforts of members like you. If you would like to play a part, please let me know at an upcoming meeting or email me at cincycoins@gmail.com. I look forward to working with you and seeing what great ideas you have for our club.

The 1943 Walking Liberty Half Dollar, a Challenge Article

By Colin Feitl

This article is for the Cincinnati Numismatic Association Article Challenge. I do believe and am thankful I got one of the "buried treasures" within the envelopes. I received a 1943 Walking Liberty Half Dollar which is comprised of 90% silver. This coin has a diameter of 30.5mm and weighs 12.5 grams.

Close to 80 million Walking Liberty half dollars were made in 1943, making it one of the most prolific years of the 32 year duration of the series from 1916-1947 with some gaps in production. There were no half dollars produced in 1922, from 1924 to 1926, and from 1930 to 1932. These coins were made in San Francisco, Denver, and Philadelphia. I found mine was made in Philadelphia since it has no mint mark.

The coin was designed by Adolph A. Weinman. The initial "w"

of the designer is under the tips of the eagle's tail feathers on the reverse side. In 1915, Mint Director, Robert Woolley had the Commission



of Fine Arts conduct a competition, as a result, Weinman was selected to design the dime and half dollar.

The design was chosen for its patriotic beauty as the world was being engulfed by World War 1. The design of the half dollar bears a full-length figure of Liberty, the folds of the Stars and Stripes in the background. She is carrying branches of laurel and oak, symbolical of civil

and military glory. The reverse of the half dollar shows an eagle perched high upon a mountain ledge looking fearless in spirit. Coming out from a rift in the rock is a sprig of mountain pine, symbolic of America. Since 1986, Weinman's original obverse design has been used as the obverse design for the American Silver Eagle bullion coin.

For those interested in collecting a series of Walking Liberties, here are a number of low mintage coins such as the 1921, 1921-D, and 1938-D, and conditionally rare coins such as the 1921-S that make it challenging. The lowest mintage issue is the 1921-D Walking Liberty Half Dollar at 208,000. It would be easier to start a short set of the coins from 1941 to 1947 since they were minted in high numbers.

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 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, two in this issue! Watch for more articles to appear in future issues of the newsletter. Why not give it a try?



Club News

Brad Karoleff will be our speaker in November with a look at the coinage of Potosi.

Dues notices for 2020 were included with the October issue of the newsletter. 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.

If you have already paid or have paid for some number of years in advance you will receive a thank you for prepaying instead of a dues notice. Dues notices are not issued for life members. 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!

If you accepted the challenge of writing an article for the newslet-

ter 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.

There are still a few 2020 Redbooks available for anyone interested. 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 cincycoins@gmail.com and give the exact spelling of your name as you want it to appear on the bookplate and bring your \$15 payment to the meeting. For delivery by the U.S. Postal Service send a check for \$18 to:
Cincinnati Numismatic Association
P.O. Box 446
Miamitown, OH 45041

You can also order copies as gifts for friends or relatives! Christmas is just around the corner and a shiny new personalized Redbook would make a nice gift for that coin collector on your list!

Redbook Fundraiser Order Form

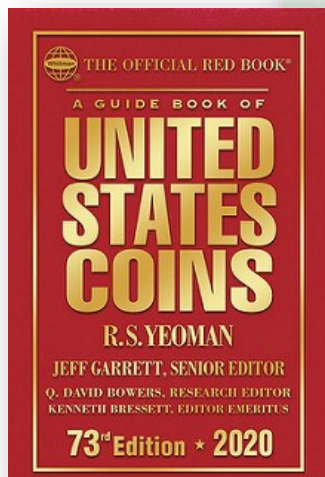
Your order will be available at club meetings or can be shipped to you

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

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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:

The Sacagawea dollar, first struck in 2000, had its obverse designed by Glenna Goodacre. (Reverse by mint engraver Thomas D. Rogers.) What highly appropriate college, which you should have a good chance of guessing, did Glenna attend?

Numystery answer:

Glenna Goodacre is an alumna of Colorado College, where the first has its headquarters.

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

November 9th

Marion Coin Club 12th Annual Fall
Coin Show. Grant County 4H Fair-
grounds Marion, IN

November 10th

Clark County Semi-Annual Coin
Show. Location: Windy Knoll Golf
Center in the Derby Banquet Cen-
ter, 500 Roscommon Dr. Spring-
field, Ohio
Directions - At I-70, Exit 52. turn

North on U.S. 68 go to St Rte 41, ex-
it East to Bechtel Ave, turn left
(North) on Bechtel go to 500 Roscom-
mon Dr. on your right, go to Windy
Knoll Golf course and Derby Banquet
Center on left. Hours: Sunday 10 am-
3:00 pm. Bourse Dr. Gary Lau, PH:
937-206-4943

December 6th-7th

61st Annual I.S.N.A. Coin Show, In-
dianapolis 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-20th

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

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

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