

# The Cincinnati Numismatist

Volume XCI, Issue II

February 2021



*The next meeting of the Cincinnati Numismatic Association will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, February 12th. You will be able to attend this meeting from the comfort of your home through the Zoom application. Members will receive an email invitation and meeting password.*

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## Back to Basics Fun High-End Mercury Dimes

By Mark Benvenuto

The Roosevelt dime has been one of four United States coins that gets to be called a work horse, especially in the past few decades. The other three are the cent, the nickel, and the quarter. Yes, our Mint pounds out a lot of other coins, including some beautiful proofs, but only four do most of the work of making small change on a daily basis.

Curiously, this claim can be made for the Mercury dime as well. In its day it was a serious work horse coin, with millions of them coming out of the three Mints that were active between 1916 and 1945. And while many of us today might consider a collection of Mercury dimes something that qualifies as perhaps a beginners exercise, it can be fun to get back to basics and see what it will take to assemble a handsome collection of these ten-cent pieces.



### First, the 1916-D

The one piece we will not worry about is the grand and glorified rarity of the series, the 1916-D. It's not actually a particularly rare coin – with 264,000 to its official tally – at least not if we compare that Mint total to other famed key dates within other series of United States coinage. But we collectors tend to drool over this piece like a starving mongrel over a bone; so we'll leave its saliva-soaked name off any list we make.

### Second, 1935 – 1945

There are definitely some early years in which a large number of Mercury dimes were produced, but by 1935, almost every date and mint mark is common enough that the prices for them are very attractive today. From 1935 until the end of the series, there are only five dates or mint marks that have totals of less than 10 million. The year 1941 saw the 100-million mark not so

## 2021 Meetings

Date	Presenter	Date	Presenter
February 12th Friday	Open	July 9th Friday	Open
March 12th Friday	Open	August 13th Friday	Open
April 17th ???day	Annual Dinner?	September 10th Friday	Open
May 14th Friday	Open	October 8th Friday	Open
June ??th Friday	Open	November 12th Friday	Open

much broken as shattered, with just over 175 million produced. These big numbers translates to small number prices today, generally those that are only about \$20 per coin for a grade such as MS-62. Putting together a short set of Mercury dimes that covers these final years can be a fun challenge, and can result in a gorgeous collection.

### Third, the very common dates before 1935

To be fair here, we should probably define the foggy term “very common.” How about this – the 1917 saw an official mintage of over 55.2 million dimes, and today costs about \$25 as a lower end mint state specimen. That certainly qualifies as very common, and probably will for a few more centuries. In this earlier zone, meaning the dates before 1935, the most common are usually those coins from the main Mint in Philadelphia. Once again, these high numbers tend to mean low



ones when it comes to price tags. It would not be hard to assemble an early-years date run for perhaps \$25 to \$35 per coin, in some lower mint state grades.

### Fourth, the proofs

During the reign of the Mercury dime and its fellows, there were a few years in which proofs were



made, from 1936 to 1942. Their numbers are just, plain tiny compared to the numbers of proof sets minted annually now. In 1936, for example, only 4,130 were produced. The numbers did rise each year, with 1940 being the year that finally got up above ten thousand proofs.

“It is more than ten times less common than the '16-D. It costs more than ten times less than the '16-D, even when we compare a PF-64 and a F-12.”

Despite all this, the 1942, to choose the most “common” of this septet of proofs, with a mintage of only 22,329 coins, runs about \$200 as a PF-64 coin. Let’s allow this number to sink in a bit. When we compare that minuscule proof output to the 1916-D, in all its drooled-on glory, we can quickly realize that this is a seriously undervalued coin. It is more than ten times less common than the '16-D. It costs more than ten times less than the '16-D, even when we compare a PF-64 and a F-12. In short, this is as classic a sleeper as a sleeper can ever be.

We will admit, all the proofs do not command the same price, with the much rarer 1936 costing about \$1K in the same PF-64 grade. Still, even one proof Mercury would become a crown jewel in any collection. The challenge here might be finding one, either at auction or on eBay.

### Overall?

A collection of Mercury dimes will have some expensive pieces within it, if we plan to complete a full date and mint mark run. That might be the kind of endeavor that will drive us both crazy and to the proverbial poor house. But we have just seen that there are plenty of common pieces, as well as a few under-appreciated proofs, that can be put together by any serious collector, and without too much effort. Why not get back to basics, as it were?

# Medals of the Rochester Numismatic Association

By David G. Heinrich & the Rochester Numismatic Association

Recently, I was browsing on eBay and came across an interesting lot of medals from the Rochester Numismatic Association. In fact, I found it so interesting that I wanted to share it with all of our members. Having recently gone through the process of having our 90th-anniversary medals struck, I was impressed with the effort the RNA goes through every year. The entire listing is below. I have also included some of the photos from the listing as well.

*The Rochester Numismatic Association (RNA) has a proud history: it is the oldest Coin Club in the nation in continuous operation. Meetings and ANA affiliation have been continuous since 1912. This year we celebrated our 2,276th meeting most recently.*



Ever since the beginning we have had the custom of striking a medal for the out-going President. These medals are 51 mm in diameter and weigh 68.5 grams or 2.42 ounces in Bronze. Medals are also routinely struck in silver, each medal containing 2.55 troy ounces of silver, and these are sold by subscription to whomever wishes to order them. Occasionally a member wishes to own a gold medal. These weigh four troy ounces and are quite expensive depending on the price of gold, but quite beautiful. Test planchets are sometimes struck at the Mint in pewter or copper and even lead as well, and these, usually given to the out-going president or auctioned off for the benefit of The Club, are unique.

Several complete collections exist, to our knowledge, The Club itself owning two of them. Medals were struck in every year, but two medals, during World War II, were minted in plastic. Restrikes were metallic. The medals are designed and engraved by local craftsmen of the old school. The reverse was designed by the famous medalist: Alphonse Kolb. They are struck locally, at The North American Mint in Rochester. Each president goes through the process of sitting for technical photography,

*and then follows the process of producing the medal, culminating in actually attending the striking of the first medal at The Mint, which is a bit of a thrill.*

*The medal is then unveiled with great ceremony at the annual banquet. Most medals contain some symbol unique for the honoree: typically a sign of the out-going president's profession, or other club affiliations, or military service, or a hobby. Look for the symbols. For example, 2013 is for a gentleman named John Lighthouse, and his symbol is--you guessed it! A lighthouse. The 2010 out-going President is an Obstetrician and Gyn Surgeon, and his medal features his hands. No other medal shows the hands. The 2008 President flashes his Naval*

*"Each president goes through the process of sitting for technical photography, and then follows the process of producing the medal, culminating in actually attending the striking of the first medal at The Mint, which is a bit of a thrill."*

*insignia. A recent female President displays the logo of her long-time employer, an RNA 100th anniversary pin, a school building, and an ice cream cone. And so on. Note that a fair number of women are represented in the Presidency of the RNA.*

*Every active member receives a bronze medal as a perk of membership. Many long-time members collect the medals. Medals come up for auction now and again, and the older the medal is, the higher the price it commands at auction. Illustrious former Presidents also confer a premium on their medals. A name that numismatists of today may know is George Bauer, who was a well-known coin dealer. A knowledgeable medal enthusiast speculates that the 1920 Woodbury medal would sell for \$10,000 today--if one surfaced on the market.*

*The Rochester Numismatic Association is a very active club, with membership in the 130 range, and meetings twice a month. Each meeting consists of a business section, a health-and- welfare segment (births, deaths, operations, now vaccinations, etc.), a show-and-tell segment, a 50-50 raffle, and then a live talk, usually quite*

*informative and entertaining. After the formal meeting is over, a live, called auction is held with plenty of good material and auction-action.*



*Attendance at meetings is usually strong, even during Rochester snow storms. We now are ZOOMing all meetings, and will henceforth, so coin collectors who crave a club experience can join and participate remotely if they wish.*

*We are selling off old medals in stock in this lot of 23, and batches of three and eight, for the good of the club. E&L Coins (operators of this E-bay Website) are donating their services to the RNA. Both partners of E&L Coins are represented among the medals!*

*This lot of 23 medals starts in 1995 and is continuous up until 2018, except for the 2012 medal. The pictures show: the whole 23 medal lot; the common re-*



*verse; two medals that were struck in Proof-like; the four female Presidents represented in this time period (we are a very progressive club despite membership being predominantly old men!); seven of my favorite medals for their fine working and imagery; and something special-- a Mother--Son presidency pair.*

*We are asking \$10 per medal. New medals may appear from time to time on this Web Store, as members have been solicited to donate medals to be sold for the good of the club. The 2012 medal, our 100th Anniversary Medal, was bought out! Keep your eye on this website, and maybe one will come up!*

## 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 would 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?

## Club News

Many local and national coin shows have been cancelled. Check the show schedule on page eight.

Our next meeting is on Friday February 12th. Members will receive an email invitation and meeting password.

During our December meeting, members were challenged to donate to the Ronald McDonald house. Some members sent donations for the charity to the club. The funds were deposited and a check for the total, \$420, was sent to the Ronald McDonald house. Additionally, other members chose to make their donations directly to the charity and we do not know the total amount of those donations but certainly they were equally generous. During the January meeting a specially engraved 90th-anniversary bottle of bourbon sold for \$250 to benefit

\$3 for delivery by media mail. There is an order form on page 6.

Members can purchase copper examples of the 90th-anniversary medal for \$10 each including postage. Send a check for \$10 for each medal to:



Dave Heinrich/CNA  
P. O. Box 446  
Miamitown, OH 45041

Checks and money orders should be made out to the Cincinnati Numismatic Association.

Extra copies of the 90th-anniversary issue of *The Cincinnati Numismatist* are also available for \$7 each including postage. Send

orders to the same address as the medals and Redbooks.

We don't know when we will be able to have in-person meetings again but the current schedule assumes that by December we will have our Christmas dinner and charity auction back in our downtown location.

Our hope is that we will be able to resume in-person meetings sometime before December. If we can, we should make that first meeting a celebration. Do you have an idea of how we should mark the occasion? Bring it up in a zoom meeting or send an email to [cincycoins@gmail.com](mailto:cincycoins@gmail.com).

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.

### CORRECTIONS:

It has recently come to the attention of the editor that beginning with the August 2019 issue of *The Cincinnati Numismatist* the post office box number for the club on the back cover contained a typo and was incorrect. The correct box number is 446. Corrections have been made to all of the editions in the club archives. Apologies to all who had any mail returned by the post office.

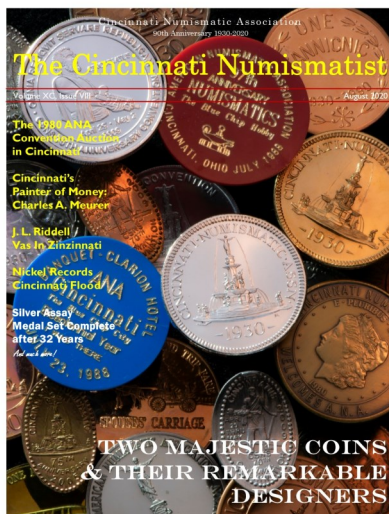
It was previously reported that 300 of the copper 90th-anniversary medals were struck. That was the original number but it was reduced to 250 during negotiations to help keep costs down. This includes the copper medals in the silver and copper sets.

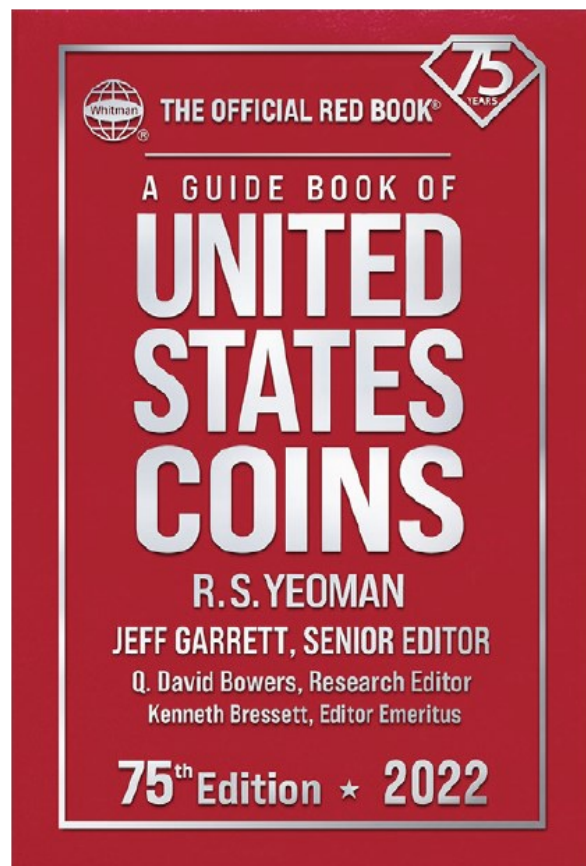
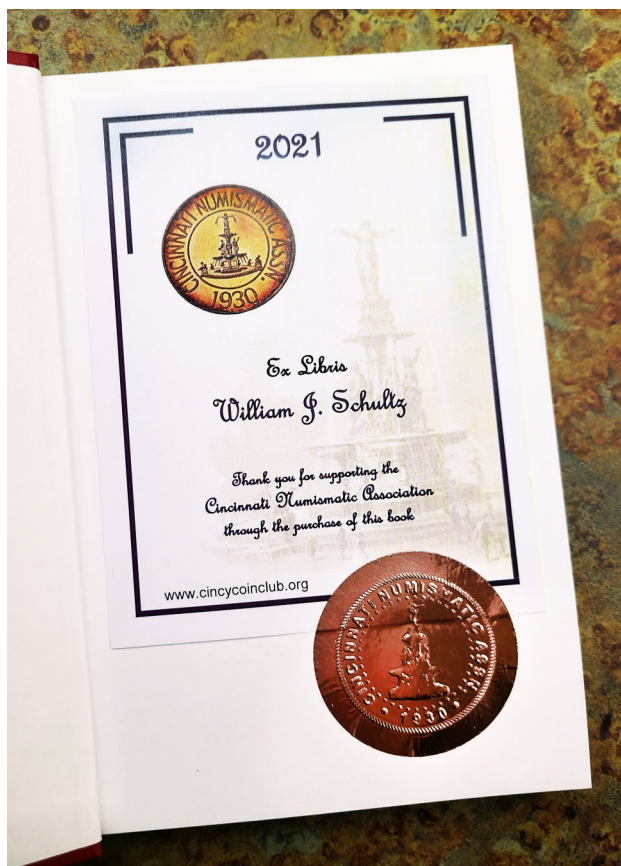


Photo: Katie Bennett

the Ronald McDonald House. That totals at least \$670 in donations. Thank you to all who participated.

2022 75th-edition Redbooks are available for pre-order. The personalized bookplate will have the same copper seal as last year. The price remains the same, just \$15 plus





Purchase the new 2022 75th edition Redbook ([and or the 2022 Bluebook](#)) through the Cincinnati Numismatic Association with a personalized bookplate and help support the club's educational programs. The hand embossed seal is real copper. The cost is the same as last year, only \$18 including delivery. The Redbooks will ship in April. 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~~ Currently no in-person meetings are scheduled

☐ 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

# 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 exonomia.

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: Deborah Lewis  
Assistant Editor: Isaiah Hageman  
Treasurer: David G. Heinrich  
Webmaster: Tom Lanter



ANA  
Member  
Club

### Newsletter contact:

David G. Heinrich  
PO Box 446  
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cincycoins@gmail.com

### Dues & Membership Contact:

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PO Box 446  
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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:

Two hats are in the design of this half dollar minted to commemorate the 75th anniversary of a three day battle.

### Numystery answer:

*Coin: 1936 Gettysburg Commemorative half dollar*

# 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

## Editor's Note

**This schedule was accurate at the time of printing but as you know things continue to change. Check other sources for the most up to date information.**

## March 11th-13th

**Phoenix 2021 National Money Show Officially Cancelled.** The American Numismatic Association (ANA) Board of Governors voted on Dec. 16 to officially cancel the Phoenix National Money Show®, scheduled for Mar. 11-13, 2021, due to heightened coronavirus concerns. The vote was 7-2, with the majority of the Board expressing concerns about the Association's inability to assure the safety of its members, dealers, staff and visitors.

Because of Arizona's current restrictions on indoor gatherings, the show would have been significantly smaller had the Board voted to move forward. The bourse would have been reduced in size, and educational programming and meetings would have moved online. The Phoenix Convention Center informed the ANA the day after its Board meeting that all events through February 28, 2021, would be cancelled, leaving events such as the Association's National Money Show in mid-March in an uncertain situation.

## March 25th-27th

Whitman Coin & Collectibles  
Baltimore Expo **has been canceled**

## April 21st-24th

Central States Numismatic Society Annual Convention. Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel and Convention Center. 1551 North Thorau Drive, Schaumburg, IL 60173  
Hours: Wed 3-6, Thu 10-7, Fri 10-6, Sat 10-5  
Contact: Larry Shepherd  
Phone: (719) 464-8801  
Email: [Convention@centralstatesnumismaticsociety.org](mailto:Convention@centralstatesnumismaticsociety.org)

## 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](mailto:cincycoins@gmail.com)