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## Call for Nominations

The NCNA Board has made a Call for Nominations for the 2014 Board of Directors and Officers. The Positions that are open are: President, VicePresident, Secretary, Treasurer and 2 Board seats. The Nominations must be made and approved by 2 current Members of the NCNA. All written Nominations can be sent to:

> NCNA Nominations, 152 North Trade Street Tryon, NC 28782

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I trust you are all exited as we enter into a new year of collecting. As you can see, your journal has undergone a major overhaul. I hope as the body of the organization you will find this new format acceptable. I would like to thank Jason and Richard for all of their hard work to make this a reality.

In spite of the recent downturn in precious metals, most key date/lower mintage coins are still strong sellers. I would say the hobby as a whole is very healthy from the bottom to the top. I am seeing more young people collecting now then I have anytime in the last ten years. I see this as a great sign for the future of the hobby.

Our 55th Annual Coin Show and Convention is fast approaching. As most of you know by now, we have moved this venue to the Greensboro Coliseum. By relocating here we feel this will better suit all members and collectors across the state and out of state. The dates for this event are October 4th thru the 6th. We will have plenty of room to grow here and I feel we will do just that. Parking passes will be published in your journal and will also be printable from our website as well.

Thank you all for your continued support. Please let me know what I can do for you.

Jim Neely
President, NCNA
919-557-1302
fuquaycoins@earthlink.net

## North Carolina Numismatic Association Member Clubs

The North Carolina Numismatic Association is a combined force made up by Member Clubs. Their purpose is to promote, encourage and educate collectors in the local areas. Support your local Coin Club.

For a more detailed listing (i.e., time of meeting, location, contact, etc.) for the Member Clubs, visit the NCNA website at www.ncnconline.org.

## Editor Notes

As you can see, the NCNA journal is undergoing a massive restructuring. These changes are part of an effort, in conjunction with the modifications to the NCNA's website, ncnaonline.org, to bring the NCNA to the forefront of numismatic state organizations. This effort, however, needs your help. While the organization has the best of intentions, we need your assistance. Everything, and I mean everything, related to numismatics is wanted. Whether it is a story about a coin, club, collector, dealer, or show, we want to hear about it. The NCNA is here to serve the clubs and members of the State. We want to promote the hobby by promoting everything that happens in the State related to numismatics. Help us help the hobby.

Richard McDowell
richard@tryongold.com

## Webmaster Notes

Hello everyone. I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new webmaster for the NCNA. If you've visited www.ncnaonline.org in the past few months, you've noticed a pretty big change in the look. One of the biggest changes has been to the show calendar. Our goal is to make shows easier to find and there are now buttons which will allow you to view only the shows in the neighboring states you choose. Give it a try and I'm sure it will quickly become your favorite destination for finding coin shows to attend.

The Raleigh Coin Club has done an excellent job keeping us supplied with information and materials to help them promote their club and show and we'd be thrilled to do the same for you. I hope you enjoy the new features of the site and I'm always open to suggestions, so if there are additions you'd be interested in seeing, feel free to let me know.

I would also like to thank the Lower Cape Fear Coin Club for their updates and for naming the North Carolina Numismatic Association’s website ncnaonline.org their website of the month for May 2013.

| We would like to welcome the newest <br> Members to the NCNA Family |  |
| :---: | :---: |
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## A Hobby on the Way Out

by Gerald Crain

Sometimes one has to ask oneself, "What on earth is going on here?" This is a question I have been asking since I started dealing in U.S. currency around two years ago and it is a question of which I have yet to find a reasonable answer. In over 35 years of my personal business experience, I have never met more rude, arrogant, and unprofessional business persons in any capitalistic venture like I have in this one.

Numismatics is a wholesome hobby that is about as American as baseball and apple pie. It is a field of study that is passed from generation to generation in a unique way compared to most other fields. It connects us with the past and it has the potential ability to teach our youth valuable lessons about finances, politics, art, science and history. It also has the quality of being a family endeavor -something greatly missing these days! Yet the virtue of all these benefits are lost on some as integrity and a welcoming spirit are tossed to the back burner.

One of the remarkable things from a business standpoint is the insane treatment of customers at shows and conventions with some displaying behavior fringing on the border of the unhinged. How do we expect to keep people in this hobby if they continue to get rude and hateful treatment over simple things such as asking questions concerning items about which they are not well versed? Not everyone is going to phrase everything perfectly. Sometimes I think we forget that some people come to shows to learn from experts in the field just as much as they do to purchase items. What harm is there in taking a few minutes out of your time to educate and inform someone honestly seeking answers? Obviously there are sharks roaming the floor at any show of whom you have to be on guard against, but we should not be so jaded as to believe that everyone that mills up and down the bourse falls into this category. If all we see when customers crowd through the doors of a show are hapless dupes whose pockets are begging to be emptied, then in the future we are inevitably going to see a greater degree of indifference and rudeness from dealers. But customers are not without their vengeance. If they come more and more to view the coin show as an hostile den of thieves, they will simply stay home. And that would not help us as businesses.

There is, of course, one extremely unfortunate drawback to this kind of behavior that almost goes without saying, yet it too is lost in the hustle and bustle of the show scene. That is the negative image displayed for the potential future hobbyists that are the children that come with family to learn and experience the numismatic hobby. If the parents have a bad experience, so will their sons and daughters. It should be painfully obvious that this is a dying hobby. If you believe in the science of actuarial charts, then it is not hard to envision the entire composition of the
dealer floor looking quite different within a decade or less. These children are the future of our craft. If they lose interest, then the hobby dies. If the hobby dies, then our businesses dwindle. If for no other reason than self-interest, there are plenty of incentives for being kind and helpful, patient and informative, and above all supremely interested in seeing satisfied customers leave the show with a positive experience received.

On a final note, it should be said that there are more men and women of great integrity and wisdom in this hobby than not, but you can never underestimate the corrosive power of a few ill-tempered dealers to spoil the fun for many. A business needs capitol and profit to be sustained, but there are proper ways to go about obtaining it. We need to ask ourselves from time to time if we are doing our part to be as helpful as we can be. By doing so, we make ourselves all the better for it, and in the process make this a far more enjoyable hobby for everyone seeking to get involved.

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# Book Review - The African American Experience Through U.S. Postage Stamps, Self Published, 2012. (47 pages). 

"In order to know where you are going You must know where you have been!"
"When you know your heritage
You know how great you are!"

Sherrod N. Gresham, Jr. graduated from St. Augustine's College with a B.A. in Sociology and Social Welfare. For over thirty years, he worked in Human Services providing guidance and support to neglected, abused youth and families in crisis. In his efforts to instill hope and confidence in his clients, he realized many African Americans, both children and adults, are not aware of their cultural or American history. He believes that knowing the positive roles our ancestors played in shaping history is one way to find hope and offers encouragement for each to make a positive contribution himself to society. Building on the inspiration and hope he found in 27 years of collecting, Gresham formed Gresham's Coins, Stamps and Medals.

The African American Experience Through U.S. Postage Stamps was envisioned as an educational guide to inform teachers, students, families and community organizations about the African American experience as depicted on US postage stamps. One can expand his sensitivity to his cultural and linguistic backgrounds by understanding the social, political and economic effects African Americans have had on our Nation.

The author's overall objectives are to: 1) develop an awareness of our culture through knowledge of African American contributions to the nation and world; 2) develop an awareness and acceptance that all people are more alike than different; and 3) develop a positive self-concept by increasing awareness of one's cultural heritage and individual strengths which can be shared within our society.

The book is divided into several sections. After a brief introduction, the author provides a thorough history of African Americans on stamps in the United States. He then has a section designed to educate a neophyte philatelist with a discussion on stamp collector's tools. Beginning on page 16 and continuing through page 36 is the heart of the book that contains stamp pages designed to mount your stamp collection. These pages are arranged in 11 groups: Constitutional Rights, Military, Human Rights Leaders, Civil Rights, Inventors \& Scientists, Educators, Writers, Kwanzaa, Athletes, Journalists, and Singers \& Entertainers. The work concludes with a list of stamps featuring African Americans arranged by Scott \#'s.

Sherrod Gresham also authored African Americans on U.S. Currency \& Numismatic Materials: Coins and Medals for which he won the 2011 North Carolina Numismatic Association Bason Literary Award.

To purchase a copy for only $\$ 12.00$, please contact the author directly at P.O. Box 334, Knightdale, N.C. 27545, or calling 919-266-5579.


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## Trade Dollars 1873-1885

Jim Neely

Facts
Designed by: William Barber
420 grains .900 silver ( 27.2 grams)
Business strikes were minted from July 1873 to April 1878
Proof only strikes were minted from 1879 to 1885
Only 15 coins were struck in 1884 and 1885 combined
Total minted across all dates and mints is almost 36 million
One of the shortest-lived coin series ever produced
Bullion value at issue was $\$ 1.02$

Barber's Design on the obverse has liberty seated on bales of merchandise facing west. In her right hand is an olive branch which she extends to the west. In her left hand she holds a ribbon which reads "Liberty". There are 13 stars which represent the original colonies and waves representing the Pacific Ocean in her background. The design on the reverse depicts an eagle with wings out spread above the coin's weight and fineness. The inscription reads "United States of America Trade Dollar".
Prior to introduction of the Trade Dollar, the U.S. and China preferred the Mexican Peso or Eight Reales as it was more comely referred to. American banks purchased these coins at a $7.5 \%$ premium above spot. The Seated Liberty Dollar was reluctantly accepted but at a discount. The Coinage Act of February 1873 brought us the Trade Dollar as a means to compete in the far eastern trade market. This act was also nicknamed "The Crime of 1873". It suspended production of the Silver Dollar, Two Cent Piece, Three Cent Piece and the Half Dime. It also increased the weight of Dimes, Quarters and Half Dollars back to what they were in 1873. Arrows were placed at the dates to show the weight change. In addition to these terms of the act one last rider was added on. This bill made the Trade Dollar legal tender but only up to $\$ 5$. In other words, only five could be spent at one time.

The Trade Dollar had a lesser known role in the U.S.. The Comstock Lode was producing huge quantities of silver during the Civil War and post war. They needed an outlet for this silver which prompted the act. One other factor which caused the U.S. to have such a surplus of silver was in 1871. Prussia was placed on the gold standard by Otto von Bismarck and as a result silver was dumped on the world market.

During the first few years of production the majority of the coins were shipped to the Orient. In 1875 and 1876 a greater number of dollars were used in the U.S.. Due to the counterstamp or chop mark process and melting, high grade early coins are very tough to find. \{Counterstamping or chopping was done to attest to the weight and fineness of the coins \}. In the summer of 1876 Silver had plummeted which prompted the government to revoke the Trade Dollar’s "legal tender" status. This occurred on July 22, 1876. The final blow came on February 28, 1878 when Treasury Secretary John Sherman mandated that no more business strikes be struck. By this time the Philadelphia Mint had produced only proofs for the year.
On February 28,1878 the Bland Allison Act directed the government to buy massive quantities of silver at subsidized prices to produce the new Morgan Dollar.
In February 1887 the public was allowed to redeem Trade Dollars at face value.....But only if they had not been mutilated!
In 1878 there were 97,000 business strikes minted at the Carson City, Nevada Mint. On July 19, 1878, 44,148 of those coins were ordered to be melted which makes this coin a tough coin to find in high grades.
In 1884 and 1885 only proof coins were struck. The entire series includes 18 regular issues and 11 proofs not including the $84 \& 85$ which makes this collection possible to put together for some collectors.

In all 35,958,460 Trade Dollars were minted; 20,327,910 after they were demonetized. Of the grand total produced from 1873 to 1878 all were exported except for $6,607,632$ coins. $82 \%$ served their intended purpose for international commerce.

## Trade Dollar



# Exploring North Carolina Exonumia 

By David Provost, LM

Welcome to a new regular feature of the NCNA Journal, a column dedicated to the fascinating field of North Carolina related medals, tokens, badges and other related items.

There is no doubt that North Carolina has a rich numismatic history. The privately-minted gold coins of the Bechtlers (Christopher, his son August and his nephew Christopher, Jr.); the gold dollars, quarter eagles and half eagles struck by the US Mint at Charlotte; and the more than 250 different types of banknotes issued by private, state-chartered North Carolina banks all attest to this fact. But these "mainstream" numismatic collectibles are only part of the Old North State's story.

The rest of North Carolina's numismatic narrative unfolds through its medals, tokens, badges, scrip, wooden money and elongated coins. In other words, its exonumia. Merriam-Webster defines exonumia as "numismatic items other than coins and paper money." And that will be the focus of this quarterly column, I hope you enjoy it!

In this inaugural column, I present a commemorative medal for the 1875 centennial of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.

## The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence Centennial Medal

The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence is a controversial part of North Carolina's history. In brief, some historians believe that representatives of Mecklenburg County met on May $19^{\text {th }}$ and $20^{\text {th }}$ in 1775 to discuss, debate and decide what steps would be taken by the county in response to the increasing oppression they were being subject to by King George III, the British Parliament and local Crown authorities. Further, it is said that the assembled representatives developed a series of resolutions that declared Mecklenburg County's independence from Great Britain; the document is said to have been read to an assembled public on May 20, 1775 from the steps of the Charlotte Courthouse. If this is all true, it would be very significant considering it occurred more than a year before the national Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776.

There is a problem, however. No original written copy of the May $20^{\text {th }}$ resolves exists and no contemporary newspaper accounts of the meetings or the alleged public reading of the document have been found. "Proof" of the document comes from the memories and testimonies of those claiming either to have signed
the original document, been part of the meetings that created them or at least present in Charlotte at the time of the meetings. This makes some believe that the events and document are more fantasy than reality - but no one knows for sure!

The story of the "Meck Dec" is far too deep for me to cover here, however, so it is suggested that those with further interest visit the web sites listed at the end of this article. My focus will be on the commemoration of its centennial.

As the 1875 Mecklenburg Declaration centennial approached, plans were put in place for Charlotte to host a grand celebration of North Carolina's role in helping propel the original 13 American colonies toward independence from Great Britain. The celebration would take place over two days - May $19^{\text {th }}$ and $20^{\text {th }}-$ exactly 100 years after the purported meetings that led to Mecklenburg County dissolving its ties to the British Crown.

On Wednesday, May $19^{\text {th }}$, the centennial celebration was officially launched at Noon when a large US flag was raised on a flagpole standing 115 feet tall; it was specially-built in Charlotte's Independence Square for the centennial. The raising of flag was followed by a patriotic speech by NC Governor Curtis Hooks Brogden; the speech was said to be enthusiastically received by those in attendance.

The centennial celebration's second day featured a parade that started in Independence Square and proceeded approximately one mile out of town to the local fair grounds. The parade featured military and fire companies, local fraternal organizations, bands, and various local and state government officials in procession. Once at the fair grounds, the large crowd in attendance listened to Mr . Seaton Gales of Raleigh read the five resolutions that became known as the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.

Mr. Gales was followed on the speaker's stand by the Hon. John Kerr of North Carolina and Congressman John Bright of Tennessee. In the evening, a fireworks display was followed by additional patriotic speeches from South Carolina Governor Daniel Henry Chamberlain and Indiana Governor Thomas Andrews Hendricks, among others. Gov. Hendricks roused the crowd during his speech by boldly proclaiming "This centennial commemorates the greatest event in American history. On this spot, North Carolina declared herself free and independent of Great Britain, and from this beginning sprung the free and independent union of American States."

It is estimated that between 25,000 and 40,000 people attended the Mecklenburg centennial events.

As part of the centennial's commemoration, it was decided by its organizing committee to have a medal struck. In early 1875, William Johnston, a successful North Carolina lawyer and businessman who was then also the Mayor of Charlotte, approached Richard Henry Linderman, Director of the US Mint, concerning the striking of a commemorative medal to help mark the centennial.

A private citizen or group contacting the Director of the Mint directly to get a
medal authorized would not be possible today - the US Congress needs to be involved - but it was not uncommon in the mid-1800s. The engravers and production facilities of the Mint were often engaged to design and strike medals for a variety of private/personal purposes. Many of these personal requests were made directly to the Director or through one of the Mint's engravers.

The Coinage Act of 1873 largely put a stop to this "Mint for Hire" practice by stipulating that the US Mint could only produce medals "of a national character" and that "no private medal dies shall be prepared" by the Mint. Director Linderman apparently believed the Mecklenburg medals met the "national character" standard set forth by Congress and so agreed to have the Mint strike the medals. He had dies for the medals prepared by Chief Engraver of the US Mint William Barber from design concepts provided by Johnston and the centennial committee; the cost of the dies was $\$ 75$.

The medal's obverse features several symbolic design elements. At its center is a tree branch supporting a Phrygian (Liberty) cap and a hornet's nest (complete with flying hornets). The hornet's nest is a reference dating to the Revolutionary War. After British General Lord Cornwallis unsuccessfully battled local militias in the Battle of Charlotte in September, 1780, he wrote that Charlotte was "a hornet’s nest of rebellion." "Hornet’s Nest" was soon adopted as the city's moniker and later became part of its official seal. Also seen on the obverse are the anniversary dates " 1775 - 1875" and a pair of clasped hands (with some of the longest fingers you'll ever see!) representing the post Civil War reconciliation of the North and South. The central design elements are surrounded by a series of rays. [See Figure 1]


Figure 1. Obverse of "Meck Dec" Centennial medal. (Enlarged)

The simple reverse features the inscriptions Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and 20 MAy 20 1775. [See Figure 2]


Figure 2. Reverse of "Meck Dec" Centennial medal. (Enlarged)
The medals are 30.6 millimeters (mm) in diameter and 2.15 mm in thickness, they have a plain edge. The silver medals were struck on existing US half-dollar planchets and thus have the standard coin composition of 0.900 fine silver and 0.100 copper; they weigh 12.5 grams. The bronze pieces were not struck on existing coin planchets, but were struck using the standard copper cent composition of 0.950 copper and 0.050 tin and zinc; the two bronze pieces in my collection vary slightly in weight; one weighs 11.07 grams, the other 10.98 grams. The Mint rolled standard copper cent material to the appropriate thickness for the bronze medals and then created planchets using half-dollar sized punches.

The US Mint struck 1,005 silver medals and 1,000 bronze medals on standard coining presses; 25 bronze and five silver proofs were also struck. Both medals are difficult to find today and, as would be expected, nice examples command quite a premium.

As I researched contemporary newspapers and magazines for accounts of the centennial events and mentions of the medal, I came across the following discussion in the New York Times: "two thousand silver ones struck of the size and value of half dollar pieces, and a large number of copper ones, which were freely distributed." This was the first time I had seen mention of such a medal "giveaway" before. Considering the number of people attending the centennial celebration, I wonder how many were aware of the medals and if any issues arose when (if) the free supply was exhausted?

Until next time, Happy Collecting!

## Suggested Reading:

To learn more about the history of, and controversy surrounding, the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, I would suggest starting with the following two websites: The Mecklenburg Historical Association at www.meckdec.org and The North Carolina History Project at www.northcarolinahisotry.org.
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1. "Mecklenburg" Harper's Weekly, June 12, 1875.
2. "Mecklenburg. The Centennial Celebration Yesterday." The New York Times, May 20, 1875.
3. "Mecklenburg. The Centennial Celebration Yesterday."
4. Julian, RW, Medals of the United States Mint: The First Century 1792-1892 (El

Cajon, CA: Token and Medal Society, Inc., 1977), 245.
5. Coinage Act of 1873 (17 Stat. 424), Sec. 52.
6. Julian, 245.
7. Mecklenburg Historical Association, http://www.meckdec.org
8. Julian, 245.
9. "Mecklenburg. The Centennial Celebration Yesterday."

## Raleigh Coin Club

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# The Great Silver Dollar Hoards 

By Danny Freeman


#### Abstract

Perhaps no other United States coin ever made stirs the human imagination more than the silver dollar. Images of the old west, poker tables, saloons, and bank robbers all come to mind when the silver dollar is the subject of discussion. This will be part of a series that examines the "Hoards" of dollars that have become famous and are known to the collector.


## The Binion Hoard

This is possibly the most famous of the silver dollar hoards, not just because of the over 100,000 Peace and Morgan dollars involved, but the representation of sex, drugs, Las Vegas nightlife, and murder of Ted Binion that made this tabloid and TV fodder.

Ted was the son of "Benny Binion," owner of the Las Vegas landmark "Horseshoe Casino." He grew up at the casino and ended up managing the day to day operations; he had it all. There were no limits to his life; he had everything. He loved to party, and he loved the women too. This was to be his downfall. Ted, age 55, met a 23 year old vixen named Sandy Murphy at a Vegas strip club in 1995. She moved into Ted's home where for the next few years she indulged in his lifestyle of sex, drugs, and alcohol. Physical abuse between them often took place.

In 1998 Ted met and became fast friends with a building contractor named Rick Tabish. Rick was not very good at managing his business and was always in financial trouble. Ted felt sorry for him and moved him into his mansion. "Two's a couple, three's a crowd" is an old saying that would depict this situation. This would ultimately lead to Ted's demise.

While all of this was going on, Ted had neglected his duties at the casino and was in hot water with the gaming commission. They barred him from running the casino, and his sister took over his position. Now we get to the "silver" part of this story. All through his years at the casino, Ted had hoarded vast amounts of silver dollars and other silver coins in the casino's vaults. Ted now had to move his private stash and had nowhere to hide it. He came up with the idea to have his friend Rick build him a secret vault underground on some property he owned out in the desert at Pahrump. In July of 1998, Rick moved over 46,000 pounds of silver coins to the location.

Rick, along with Sandy tried to get Ted to sell the silver, but Ted felt the price was going to go up and wanted to keep it. Just barely two months later Ted Binion would be found dead in his Las Vegas home. He died from an overdose of heroin, xanax, and valium. Two days after his death, Rick and two associates were caught by sheriff deputies hauling silver out of Ted's secret vault in the desert. The Binion family hired investigators to find out what was really going on. Now you can see this "made for TV" movie unfolding. Rick and Sandy became lovers under Ted's nose, planned his murder and the robbery of his hoard of silver. They were
tried and convicted in May of 2000, but after several appeals they were acquitted of the murder charge. They did however still have to serve time for the theft.

After all of this, the silver was finally sold in 2001. Spectrum Numismatic International purchased the hoard for over $\$ 3$ million dollars. The coins were authenticated and graded by NGC and then marketed by Goldline over a period of years. The silver dollars were marked "Binion Collection" on the holders and the other silver coins were marked "Nevada Silver Collection."

## References

- The Laguna Journal News
- The Las Vegas Sun
- Numismatic Guaranty Corporation
- Coin World
- Numismatic News


## The Continental-Illinois National Bank Hoard

A much lesser known hoard than Binion, this one had a much larger impact on the numismatic community due to its sheer size, over 1.5 million silver dollars. Let's take a look at the bank's history first.

The Continental-Illinois National Bank \& Trust Company was formed by the merger of two Chicago banks in 1910. The Commercial National Bank, founded during the Civil War and the Continental Bank, founded in 1883 pooled their assets of $\$ 175$ million to form the Continental \& Commercial National Bank of Chicago. In 1932, during hard times, the bank was restructured and renamed the Continental-Illinois Bank. The bank blossomed after the depression and grew even stronger after World War II, but got in serious trouble in the early 1980's due to risky loans it purchased from a failed Oklahoma bank. A majority of the loans involved gas and oil service companies in Oklahoma and Texas. The negative press that was generated caused depositors to withdraw over $\$ 10$ billion dollars in May of 1984. The bank was doomed, but due to its size, the Federal Reserve stepped in and the FDIC placed $\$ 4.5$ billion into the bank to protect account holders. After this government bailout, the bank was renamed the Continental Bank, and continued to operate with the federal government owning $80 \%$ of the stock until 1991. In 1994 the banks assets were purchased by Bank of America.

Now, let’s jump back to the 1960's. A bank has to keep a "set amount" in cash reserves at all times. The Federal Reserve and the FDIC determine this amount for each bank. During the early 1960's, silver dollars were readily available from the Federal Reserve. Several of the board members of the Continental-Illinois Bank thought it would be a good idea to keep some of their required reserves in silver dollars. In the early 1980's when the bank was about to collapse, they had an estimated 1.5 million silver dollars they could sell at a profit.

Ed Milas of Rarcoa bought the dollars and with the help of Leon Hendrickson
of Silver Towne, and George Vogt of Colonial Coins, the large hoard was marketed very quietly over a period of several years in a manner that would not overwhelm the market. Most dealers and almost all collectors knew nothing of this hoard until it was all over. Ed, Leon, and George did a good job of "keeping it close to the vest." The terms of the purchase have always been shrouded in mystery.

It has been estimated that almost 1 million of the dollars were high grade UNCS of the following dates and mintmarks... 1879-S, 1880-S, 1881-S, 1882-S, 1883-O, 1884-O, 1885-O, 1885-P, 1886-P, and 1887-P. Before I knew of this hoard, I always wondered where all of the 1880 and 1881 S Mintmarked Morgans came from.

In our next series, we will begin with the GSA / Carson City Dollar Hoard.

## References

- Wikipedia
- Professional Coin Grading Service
- Numismatic Guaranty Corporation



## Rowan Collectable Coins



## COINS \& CURRENCY FOR COLLECTORS



## Upcoming Coin Show Schedule

```
7/11-7/13
7th Annual Summer FUN Convention
Orange County Convention Center, Hall C
9800 Universal Blvd - Orlando, Florida
7/13-7/14
Rare Coins of Raleigh Coin Show (Danville)
VFW Post 647
275 VFW Drive
Danville, VA
7/19-7/21
Raleigh Coin Club Annual Coin, Currency & Stamp Show
NC State Fairgrounds
Exposition Center
Raleigh, NC
7/27-7/28
Rare Coins of Raleigh Coin Show (Rocky Mount)
Moose Lodge Family Center
5 2 1 \text { Country Club Rd.}
Rocky Mount, NC
7/27-7/28
Salem Coin Club Show
American Legion Building
710 Apperson Dr.
Salem, VA
8/2-8/4
Low Country Coin Club Summer Show
Exchange Park Fairgrounds
9850 Hwy 78
Ladson, SC 29456
8/3-8/4
Buncombe County Coin Club 6th Annual Show
Western NC AG Center, Boone Building
Airport Road
Fletcher, NC 28732
```

8/10-8/11
Iredell-Statesville Coin Club 18th Annual Show
Statesville Civic Center
300 S. Center St.
Statesville, NC
8/17-8/18
Rare Coins of Raleigh Coin Show (Fayetteville)
Holiday Inn Bordeaux
1707 Owen Drive
Fayetteville, NC
8/23-8/25
Blue Ridge Numismatic Association Convention
Northwest Georgia Convention Center
2211 Dug Gap Battle Rd.
Dalton, GA 30720
8/24-8/25
Rare Coins of Raleigh Coin Show (New Bern)
Riverfront Convention Center
203 South Front Street
New Bern, NC
$9 / 7$
Stephen James CSRA Coin Club Show
H.O. Odell Weeks Activity Center

Whiskey Rd. (Route 19 South)
Aiken, SC
9/13-9/15
Carolina Coin \& Stamp Show (Charlotte)
Metrolina Tradeshow Expo, Bldg. C
7100 N Statesville Rd.
Charlotte, NC
9/27-9/29
Virginia Numismatic Association 54th Annual Convention \& Show
Fredericksburg Conference Center
2371 Carl D. Silver Parkway
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

## Full Torch Roosevelt Dimes

George McDowell


#### Abstract

I have always enjoyed collecting dimes. As a kid, I collected Mercurys. I thought then, and still do, that the Mercury Dime was the most beautiful US coin ever made.

I might add one story. Years later when I was married, I went to work one day without leaving my wife Linda any money or cigarettes, something I never did again. When I got home that evening, she told me she had removed three of my uncirculated Mercurys and bought cigarettes. That was in 1963 and I still haven't forgiven her.

But back to my story. All the time I collected Mercurys, I just looked for pretty coins that didn't have much wear. I bought many marked "uncirculated" and thought I had the best dimes available. But then in 1979, Redbook added one line at the beginning of the Mercury dime pricing: "Uncirculated values shown are for average pieces with minimum blemishes, those with sharp strikes and split bands on reverse are worth much more." That entry has been included in every issue since. That was the first time I realized split bands were important. I must add, very few of my Mercury collection had full split bands.

What is a full split bands? On the back of the Mercury Dime is a fasces, a band of sticks tied together with an ax, that is supposed to represent strength in unity. At three places, the top, bottom, and the middle, bands tie these items together. Since 1979 I have been searching for Mercury dimes with full split bands--with the band having a centerline that runs unbroken. Believe me, they are hard to find.

But that brings me to the Roosevelt dime. On the back of the Roosevelt is a torch with two bands. Like the Mercury, if both bands are complete and the vertical lines in the torch are completed, they are recognized as superior and called "Full Torch." Redbook mentions them and there is not yet a listing for "full torch," but I'm collecting them. And believe me, full torch Roosevelts are difficult to find. To prove that, I pulled over 100 Roosevelts from old mint sets we had in inventory and was shocked to find how few were "full torch."

Let's go back to the Mercury dimes and my collection of so-


called uncirculated coins. In MS 65, the 1917-D today bids for $\$ 825$,, but the 1917-D full split band bids at $\$ 4,500$. The 1918-D MS-65 bids at $\$ 450$ while the 18-D full split band, $\$ 19,000$. The 24 -S MS-65 bids at $\$ 825$, and its split band, $\$ 11,000$. Quite a difference.

And Linda, I still dream nightly about those three dimes you used back in '63 for cigarettes, and in my dreams, all were full split bands! I looked them up--the 1945 MS-65 full split band bids today for $\$ 8,000$. I truly hope those Marlboros were good!

But calming down and getting back to today's theme, I bet when I was 10 years old, I could have bought all of these uncirculated Mercurys for a song, and I was a good singer. The uncirculated 17-D is listed in the 1954 Redbook at \$15. The 18-D, $\$ 12.50$; and the 24-S, \$17.50. Yeah, I would have had to go to shows and looked through a lot of dimes to find one with full split bands, but it could have been done. To put it another way, I possibly could have done a lot of searching and spent \$45 in 1954 and today I could have sold them for $\$ 34,500$, that is if I had hidden them from my wife!

As for the Roosevelts, I think we may have the same opportunities with them. One day the "Full Torch" Roosevelts may possibly be viewed as a premium item, and I want to have as many as possible. For the past three years I have attempted to complete a set, but l'm nowhere near finishing it. Even the recent dates are difficult to find.

I don't know if one day the same thing will happen to the Roosevelt dimes as happened to the Mercurys and the full torch command such a premium, but what if it doesn't happen. I will still have the best set of Roosevelt for Linda to use to buy cigarettes.


A 16-year old South Carolina high school sophomore, Raymond Hawkins, who began collecting coins six years ago and recently founded a local coin club and a coin dealership, is the winner of the Professional Numismatists Guild’s 2013 Young Numismatist scholarship competition.

The annual PNG scholarship provides tuition and expense money to attend one of
 the two week-long Summer Seminar sessions conducted by the American Numismatic Association in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Hawkins is an honors student at Holly Hill Academy near his hometown of Eutawville, South Carolina, plays the pipe organ and is considering becoming a music major when he attends college. He recently used an 1808 French 10 centimes coin as the centerpiece for a history class presentation about Napoleon, and eagerly wants to "learn even more about the skills involved in coin collecting."

In his scholarship-winning essay, Hawkins stated: "I have been collecting coins since I was 10 years old. But even after all of those years have passed - here I am: 16 and no longer a casual coin collector, but a dedicated numismatist!"

His brother-in-law, Anthony Cristofani, introduced him to coin collecting with the popular 50 State Quarters ${ }^{\circledR}$ Program commemoratives. He now enthusiastically searches through rolls of coins obtained from the bank, and recently found a 1909 Philadelphia Mint Lincoln cent.
"It wasn't an S-VDB, but quite an 'oldie’ nonetheless. I have gotten on such good terms with the bank that they will even save half-dollars for me whenever customers bring them in. The first time I looked through their customer-rolled halves, I scraped up over $\$ 90$ worth in silver coins. (Unfortunately, that is not enough to cover the tuition for Summer Seminar!)," he wrote in his essay.

Hawkins and a friend founded a coin club this past November and then began buying and selling coins, and have set up an informal dealership to help people determine the value of their old coins.

His parents, Randy and Wendy Hawkins, are excited about Raymond's accomplishments and the PNG scholarship.
"I was stunned but not really surprised that he won," said Wendy Hawkins. "He’s creative, self-motivated and seems to excel at most everything he tries to do. His father and I are both thrilled that he won the scholarship. We thought, 'Oh, my gosh! That’s our kid!"
Raymond is looking forward to meeting collectors and experts from across the
country and wants to take an ANA Summer Seminar class on either grading United States coins or collecting U.S. coins by type.
"Grading is fundamental, and I want to know what to look for to determine a coin's condition," he explained. "I just recently learned what a type set is, and really like the idea since it means I don't have to try to collect every year produced, only one of each type of design and denomination."

This is the ninth consecutive year of PNG's YN scholarships for the popular, annual summer ANA educational programs.
"Numismatic education helps keep this great hobby healthy and energized. We are so grateful PNG recognizes the importance of education and supports the Summer Seminar," said Susan McMillan, Education Project Manager for the ANA.

For additional information about the ANA Summer Seminar, visit www.money.org/summerseminar.

The money to pay for the annual PNG YN Scholarship is administered from PNG's Gerald Bauman Memorial Fund. Bauman, who died in 2001, served for many years as a prominent coin dealer with Manfra, Tordella \& Brookes in New York City.

## About PNG

The PNG is a nonprofit organization composed of many of the top rare coin and paper money dealers in the United States and seven other countries. PNG member -dealers must adhere to a strict Code of Ethics in the buying and selling of numismatic merchandise. For additional information, visit online at www.PNGdealers.com or call (951) 587-8300.
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# North Carolina Club News <br> <br> The Eagle Coin Club 

 <br> <br> The Eagle Coin Club}

The Eagle Coin Club has elected Leon Little President, Forest Michael as Vice President, Theresa Dinkins and Secretary and Gary Michael as Treasurer. The club meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Ag Center in Lexington, NC at 7 PM .

The Club's Annual Coin Show was held on April 27, 2013 at the YMCA located at 119 West 3rd Street in Lexington, NC from 9am-4pm,.

## Lower Cape Fear Coin Club

The Lower Cape Fear Coin CLub announces the following slate of officers for 2013: President Jason Yopp, Vice President Gene Meadows, Secretary OT Thompson, and Treasurer Paul Bakke.

The club meets at 7:00 the second Wednesday of each month except July and August at Carolina BBQ 1602 South College Rd. in Wilmington and almost always an interesting speaker. Check www.lcfcc.org for a list of speakers.

The club's North Carolina Azalea Festival Show was held April 13th and 14th, 2013 at the American Legion Hall located at 702 Pine Grove Dr. just past the municipal golf course.

The Club’s Fall Show will be held October 19th and 20th, 2013 at the same location. Both shows have approximately 30-35 dealers.

## Morganton Coin Club

The Morganton Coin Club held its annual Christmas Dinner, raffles, and auction on December 18, 2012. The club meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Morganton Recreational Center from 7-9 P.M. Each meeting boasts a raffle, a program on numismatics, snacks, and an auction.

The Club hosted its annual show on April 20th, 2013 at the Morganton Recreation Center in Morganton, N.C.

You are invited to attend


## 55th Anniversary Show

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Friday October 4, 2013
8 AM Bourse open to dealers
10 AM Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Show and Exhibits open to the Public
6 PM Show closes for the Public
Saturday, October 5, 2013
8 AM Bourse open to Dealers
10 AM Show and Exhibits opens for Public
10:30 YN Program and Auction (Room X)
11 AM
12 PM
1 PM YN Program and Auction (Room X)
1 PM
2 PM
3 PM YN Program and Auction (Room X)
3 PM
6 PM Show closes
6 PM NCNA Awards Dinner \& Membership Meeting
Sundav. October 6. 2013
8 AM Bourse open to Dealers
10 AM Bourse opens for Public
11AM YN Program and Auction - (Room X
1 PM YN Program and Auction - (Room X)
3 PM Show Closes

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For Updated Information go to www.nenaonline.org
(The NCNA reserves all rights of admission)

## 2013 AZALEA FESTIVAL COIN SHOW



Many thanks to Bob D. for the photos of Karen and her 'Belles', our bourse area, the dealer and his help and Eugene, John, Burt and Carmine at the desk. Our April 13 \& 14 Coin Show was a success even with the beautiful weather. A record number of bourse tables gave many coin collectors in the area the opportunity to add to their collections or sell the spares and duplicates from their holdings. Most of our members helped out at the Show in various ways according to their abilities.

Karen also helped out at the Children's Art Show where she presented the winners with a specially designed certificate from


our members helped out at the Show in various ways according to their abilities.

Karen also helped out at the Children's Art Show where she presented the winners with a specially designed certificate from our Club. The certificate featured a genuine buffalo nickel along with our 50th anniversary logo.


The Gold Corporation returned this year showing us how to pan for gold. The kids especially liked panning for gold with every 'panner' finding something.

Bourse Chairman, Show Chairman and President Jason Y. did a superb job herding our members together and handling the many dealers at the Show. Chris V., our Raffle Chairman, even accounted for almost all the raffle tickets sold. Thanks guys!

## The Banknote Book - A Better SCWPM Alternative

The Banknote Book is a new catalog of world notes for everyone frustrated with the many errors, omissions, and poor-quality images in Krause's "Pick" catalog, officially known as the Standard Catalog of World Paper Money (SCWPM).

Owen W. Linzmayer started BanknoteNews.com to provide a forum for presenting breaking news about international paper \& polymer money because he couldn't find anything like it on the Internet. While it is a lot of work to maintain, he has the pleasure of collaborating with avid collectors, dealers, and central bankers the world over to help spread current, correct, and comprehensive news and images about the very latest developments in this entertaining and educational hobby.

Each chapter of The Banknote Book includes detailed descriptions and background information, full-color images, and accurate valuations. The Banknote Book also features:

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- Security features described in full
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- Variety checkboxes for tracking your collection and want list
- Red stars highlight the many notes missing from the SCWPM
- Date reproduced exactly as on note
- Precise date of introduction noted when known
- Replacement note information
- Signature tables, often with names and terms of service
- Background information for historical and cultural context
- Details magnified to distinguish between note varieties
- Bibliographic sources listed for further research

As of today, 171 chapters (each a stand-alone country-specific catalog) of The Banknote Book have been published as individual high-resolution PDF files. This represents a total of 2,007 pages covering 16,789 types and varieties, including thousands of notes not listed in Krause's "Pick" catalog.

The Banknote Book is a work in progress and there is not currently a schedule for publishing particular chapters that extends beyond the next few weeks. Some countries are much more challenging to complete than others due to the large number of notes to be cataloged, as well as the difficulty in obtaining information about and images of rare issues. However, Mr. Linzmayer intends to cover every country eventually and already have working drafts of all countries, past and present.

The Banknote Book reports prices, it does not set them. Mr. Linzmayer is not a dealer, nor a collector of means, and he maintains that he has no hidden agenda when pricing notes for the catalog. He searches auction results online, including eBay and the major auction houses which specialize in collectibles looking for completed sales rather than mere listings because those transactions represent market-clearing prices, not overly optimistic auction estimates. When sales data are difficult to obtain, dealer price lists are checked and input is solicited from contributors regarding their specific areas of interest. Pricing is not a science by any means, and Mr. Linzmayer makes adjustments, both higher or lower, if someone demonstrates that a given note's price isn't realistic.

The Banknote Book is available in print format and PDF files sold by subscription or individually by chapter, and payments may be made online or by mail. The chapters-which serve as stand-alone catalogs for individual countries-are priced based upon their page count:

- Fewer than 5 pages: $\$ 0.99$
- 5 to 9 pages: \$4.99
- 10 or more pages: $\$ 9.99$

A \$99 annual subscription is available and is more economical than buying individual individually, and it entitles you to every chapter currently available as well as everything published—or revised—during the next 12 months. At the end of your subscription, you will receive an email notifying you that the subscription has expired. If you choose not to renew your subscription, all previously downloaded PDF files are yours to keep and enjoy, though you will no longer be entitled to revisions or new chapters.

If you would like to receive email notifications whenever a new chapter of The Banknote Book is published is modified, you can join an email list that is sent out weekly. For more information visit http://banknotenews.com.

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## Richard (Dick) G. Doty, 1942-2013 Smithsonian Curator

Richard. G. Doty, senior numismatic curator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, died on June 2, 2013 after battling lymphoma. Born in Portland, Oregon in 1942, Doty earned a B.A in history from Portland State University in 1964 then went on to receive a Ph. D in Latin-American Studies from the University of Southern California in 1968.

Until his death, Doty was the senior numismatic curator with the National Numismatic Collection at the National Museum of American History. After joining the staff in 1986, he revolutionized numismatic research by illustrating poignant human relationships reflected in
 the objects he thoughtfully analyzed. Doty shunned the rarified, traditional history told by many of his predecessors in favor of what numismatic artifacts could teach about the lives of everyday people. This lead to the publication of several major works including his most recent book Pictures from a Distant Country: Seeing America through Old Paper Money, published in 2013. Other popular books written by Doty include America's Money, America’s Story (2008), The Token: America’s other Money (editor, 1994) The Macmillan Encyclopedic Dictionary of Numismatics (1982), Paper Money of the World (1977) and Coins of the World (1976).

Doty's passion for telling stories about the lives of people led him to devote thirteen years of his life in pursuit of understanding how inventor and minter Mathew Bolton pioneered the use of steam power to make coins and then spread his technology around the world. This research led to Doty's ground-breaking work The Soho Mint \& the Industrialization of Money, published in 1998. Recognized as an authority in minting technology and the analysis of numismatic collections, Doty's research was funded by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for Humanities and the Smithsonian Institution, among others that supported the dissemination of his ideas.


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Prior to joining the Smithsonian, Doty worked at the American Numismatic Society in New York City from 1974-1986 where he served as Curator of the Modern Coins and Currency Department.

Doty began his professional career as a teacher. From 1967-1970 he was an Assistant Professor of United States and Latin History and Studies at Central College, Pella, Iowa. He also served as an Assistant Professor of Latin American and World History, York College, City University of New York (1970-71) and an Assistant Professor of United States and Latin American History at the University of Guam (1971-73).

Doty received numerous honors and awards during his prolific career, most notably a Fulbright Fellowship to the University of Madrid, Spain; a Mexican Government Fellowship for study in Mexico City and Guadalajara; the Del Amo Foundation Fellowship for research in Spain, the Millennial Award Medal of the Royal Numismatic Society and the Huntington Award from the American Numismatic Society and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Numismatic Association.

Doty was the founding President of ICOMON, the International Committee for Money and Banking Museums. He advocated for the importance of numismatic collections in society-as tools for teaching world history and important artifacts of material culture deserving of preservation and analysis.

As one of the world's leading numismatists, Doty will be remembered for his irascible humor and the belief that by examining everyday life and deeds of ordinary people we can discover extraordinary history. He leaves his wife, Cindi Roden, and an international community of friends and colleagues.

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# The Best Barbers - From Dimes to Half Dollars by Mark Benvenuto 

For a coin design that was met with some serious criticism in its day, the Barber design has weathered a lot, and moved to a place in the collector heart where there is even a club devoted to it. Issued from 1892 only to 1916, the Barber design for Lady Liberty graced three denominations, the dime, the quarter, and the half dollar. Assembling a type set of the best of these three coins that you can obtain, for the best possible price, of course, can become a stepping stone into three very satisfying collections. Let's see just what Barbers might have tiny price tags attached to them.

## The Barber Dime

The littlest of the Barber siblings is the dime. Weighing in at 2.5 grams of $90 \%$ silver, each as only 0.07234 ounces of the metal in it (the rest is copper). This is also the only barber design of the thre that has a wreath and value stated on the reverse. When it comes to common dimes from which to pluck a piece for a type set, well there are several. Quite a few dates have more than 10 million to their tally. The 1907 comes in first, with 22,220,000 produced, although in a win-place-show scenario, there are a couple of runners close behind. Any of these are easy to find, and are priced near $\$ 100$ as you bump into the mint state grades.

## The Barber Quarter

The mid-point in any trio of Barber’s Lady Liberty images in the quarter. The 8.2 million that were churned out of the Main Mint in Philly did not get surpassed until the year 1898 saw 11.1 million come from the same place. Even that was surpassed a couple more times, meaning there are several years with mintage totals near or over 10 million coins. Once again, these common dates make for a good starting point if you choose to search for a piece that will land in a type set.

While the $\$ 100$ we just mentioned can land a person any of a wide choice of Barber quarters, it doesn't crack the MS-60 line. It will net plenty of good looking EF-40, and maybe even an AU-50 coin, but be warned: it takes a couple of hundred dollars to land one of these quarters in any grade of mint state.

## The Big Guy - the Barber Half

The Barber half dollars may not be as heavily collected, graded, and slabbed into third party grading service sonic holders as some other half dollar series - but then again, they may be. Certainly, several of the dates within this series qualify as common. There are a handful of dates that got near or crossed over the 5 million coin tally. There are many dates and mint marks that went over 1 million coins. But no matter how common a Barber half dollar is, finding one in an upper grade can be expensive.

Let's quickly note: just because a coin is expensive in the grades we all go hunting for, does not mean it is automatically out of reach. For example, way down in grades like G-4 and VG-8, many of the Barber halves costs somewhere between $\$ 25$ and $\$ 35$. But most of us prefer to collect coins with greater detail and eye appeal. So we look for coins in better condition. Earlier, we mentioned spending \$100 for a Barber dime - which can easily be translated to the half dollars. But here that $\$ 100$ will probably land a sample in VF-20 shape. That's not automatically ugly. But a person has to factor in cost as well as grade when buying a big gun, like one of these halves.

Other Ways to Build A Type Set
We just detailed the simplest way to go about creating any type set: find the most common coin, and look for the best price. But this is just one way to have some fun with the Barber design. Knowing the prices for the common coins, a further way to approach building a type set is to find the least common coin that still has the same price as the very common one. You won't ever get the key date in this manner (as if anyone could even find an 1894-S dime, much less find one that actually was for sale!), but collecting in this manner becomes a hunt for sleepers. It's always fun to find a coin that appears to be underpriced, especially when you are looking at big coins, like half dollars.

Another way to go about gathering a type set trio of this design is to see what you can do by way of ' $S$ ' marked coins, or even ' $D$ ' marked coins. In the case of the Barber coins, you could even approach it from the ' O ' mint mark of New Orleans. While most years saw the highest mintages coming from the main facility in Philadelphia, there are some dates that qualify as common, and that carry a mint mark as well. Thus, you can build a type set that most people will hav overlooked. But this could also be your first step in moving from a type set to a date run, or some other, fuller collection.

In short, there is still quite a bit in the Barber design with which a person can have some fun, and do some serious collecting. If you have ignored Barber coins in the past, why not take a closer look now?

## Articles Wanted!

Do you enjoy the hobby? Have you discovered information that has helped you? Would you like to share this information with fellow collectors? The NCNA Journal is looking for informational articles by North Carolina numismatists and collectors. The articles can be educational, relate personal experiences of both a serious or humorous nature or recognize others for their work with local Clubs or YN's. Submissions should be in the 400 to 600 word range and individuals submitting articles may be considered for the Bason Literary Award that is awarded annually.

## Issues

April- June
July-September (Convention issue)
Oct-December
January-March

## Submittal Deadline

May 1
August 1
November 1
February 1

## 

The Bason Literary Award is given to the person who had made the most significant contribution to the NCNA Journal from the previous Fall issue through the Convention issue at which the award is presented. Articles are judged based on their content, readability and timeliness of the subject matter.

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The purpose for which The NCNA was formed are as follows:

1. To bring together in fellowship persons, numismatic clubs and kindred organizations interested in the science of numismatics.
2. To advance the science of numismatics.
3. To promote educational and charitable activities in the field of numismatics.
4. To foster and promote the formation of clubs throughout North Carolina whose members are interested in the science of numismatics

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