

SVCC

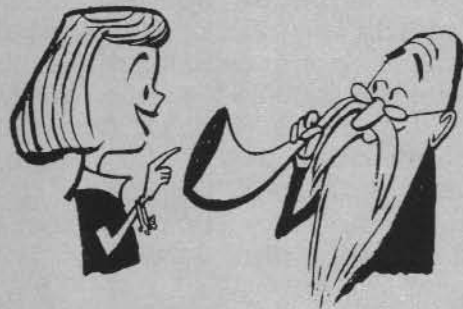
NEWSLETTER

AUGUST, 1988

VOLUME III, NO. 8

SACRAMENTO

SCENE



PASS THE WORD!

Another reminder that space is available for competitive exhibits at our 31st Annual Coin-o-Rama to be held October 22-23, 1988 at Cal-Expo. Those of you who are willing and eager to display your coins and knowledge will find an Exhibit Application on Page 7. Send it in before we run out of room! Exhibit Rules will be mailed back to you with your copy of the Application form.

GSA DOLLARS

New member Bo Borick had an attentive audience of 54 at the July 27 SVCC meeting for his program on the Government Services Administration sales of U.S. silver dollars held during the late 1960's and early 1970's. It was evident that there is still much animosity over the government's poor handling of the sales. Many members related stories about how long it took to receive their orders, the condition of the coins, and other complaints. A job well done, Bo.

PREVIEWS OF COMING PROGRAMS:

- August 24: Fred Meyer / English Coins from Elizabeth I to Elizabeth II
September 28: To Be Announced
October 26: John Gomer / Mother and Son: The Coins of Julia Mamaea and Severus Alexander
November 23: Dave Showers / Private and Pioneer Coinage

SVAS #2

Seven ancient coin enthusiasts met on Saturday, July 30 for the second meeting of the Sacramento Valley Ancients Society. John Gomer presented an encore performance of his program "Roman General: The Family of Septimius Severus." The slide presentation generated discussion and questions relating to the family and their coins. Many other subjects were discussed as coins, books and articles were passed around.

The SVAS will hold its next meeting at 2:00 P.M. on Saturday, August 27, 1988. Several presentations are planned for the meeting. If you have an interest in ancient coins, call John Gomer (WORK: 486-8755; HOME: 487-9667).

SINKING NSG

Summer activities and other factors (locusts, floods, yellow fever epidemics. . . We'll blame anything!) and the resulting lack of participation caused the cancellation of the second consecutive Numismatic Study Group meeting, this one scheduled for August 16.

The NSG will try to pull itself together once again on September 20. The subject will be "Themes on U.S. Commemorative Coins."

We are looking for new blood! Please help us out by calling John Gomer or Dave Showers.

* * * * *

JUNIOR NSG: OFF AND RUNNING

by Steve Bardin

August 16, 1988 marked the first meeting of the Junior Numismatic Study Group. Present were Mike Lewis and his father, Tim.

We spent approximately two hours swapping stories, and discussing smart ways to collect coins. By the end of the session, we all agreed on one basic idea: Coin collecting is meant to be fun. This can even be accomplished on a limited budget.

Our next meeting will be spent discussing different places to buy coins. Don't be left out! Reserve your spot today by calling Steve Bardin at (916) 452-2840.

(As can be seen by the stories above, several auxiliary groups have been formed by SVCC members. Support them. . . They are a lot of fun!)

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THE NEXT SVCC MEETINGS WILL BE HELD: * * SEPTEMBER 14 * *

* * SEPTEMBER 28 * *

MY DRAPED BUST HALF
CENT COLLECTION

by Bob Travis

Little did I know back in 1973, when I purchased a nice EF-45 1806 half cent for \$42, that I would eventually get hooked on that series. It happened, but it did take a while. I didn't purchase my second piece until 1985. Thanks to Bill Weber (a well-known half cent collector from Sebastopol), I was able to complete the set recently. Too bad it took me so long. I could have saved a bundle if I had kept going back in 1973!

I would like to share some of my experiences in putting this set together. My goal was to obtain a well-matched, for grade and color, date set. Since my first piece was an EF, I chose to continue with that grade. To allow some flexibility, I set a grade range of EF-40 to AU-50. Since the 1802 is a major rarity, it would, of course, be an exception. I realized that this would not be an easy task, as nice EF Draped Bust half cents are very difficult to locate (with the exception of 1804 and 1806). Even those dates are becoming hard to find.

The purchase of one specimen of a particular type is usually not a serious problem. It's that second piece that starts you down the road of no return! In 1985 I purchased a nice 1804 at an SVCC show. I know that it cost \$100, but I don't remember the dealer's name. At about the same time, I also purchased a nice 1804 Spiked Chin variety that I didn't own very long. A collector from Fresno who specializes in die varieties felt that he couldn't live without this coin. Seems it was a die state that he didn't have, so we traded his EF for mine. I'm not into die states, so I'm glad he could use it. Although I chose not to collect by variety, I decided to include an example of the Spiked Chin type because of its popularity.

In January of 1986, things began to get serious. While on a business trip to San Diego, I happened upon the San Diego show. While there I purchased a choice 1817 15 star large cent. The dealer also had a nice EF-45 1800 half cent that I couldn't resist. About a month later the same dealer called with the news that he had a pair of 1805 half cents. Both pieces were choice AU-50 coins. I purchased one and another SVCC member bought the other. Later that Spring the same dealer provided an 1807 (a nice strong EF-45) and an 1808. The latter coin is somewhat weakly struck, but an acceptable piece, which turned out to be an example of the relatively rare 1808/0 variety.

At this point, I still needed the 1802 and the 1803. This is when it got tough. I talked to several major copper dealers without success. I also searched the bourse tables at numerous coin shows. I had absolutely no luck locating a suitable 1803. VF coins were available, but true, no problem EF-40 coins were very elusive. The 1802 is also difficult, but that is to be expected. . . Walter Breen lists the finest known 1802 as an EF-40. There are two varieties of 1802, but since I am a date

collector, I considered only the C2 variety. Obviously, I would have to settle for less than an EF. I spent two years looking for those two pieces. I did see two VF 1802's, but they both had serious problems. Most are black, porous, or otherwise defective. The reason for the poor quality of most 1802's is that all were struck on spoiled large cent planchets. Apparently the process of heating, rolling and re-annealing the planchets altered their properties such that they have not withstood the test of time. I also found a choice VG, but one of our other SVCC members purchased that piece. I examined several other low-grade 1802's, but none were acceptable.

Then, in March of this year, lightning struck. A major copper dealer sent me an 1803 on approval. It was a nice coin, but was somewhat weakly struck. Most are weak strikes, but this one was a little too weak on the hair detail. It didn't quite measure up to the other pieces in the set. I had been looking for two years though, and I was about convinced that it was the best I could do. It happened that our club show was scheduled for the weekend after I received the coin, so I decided to exhibit my collection. A friend owned an 1802 (the above-mentioned VG), so with the loan of his piece, and the 1803 I had on approval, I put together an impressive display.

Enter lightning. Bill Weber was in town for the show. His first reaction to my display was "How would you like to upgrade the 1803?" When I asked what he had in mind, he immediately produced a gorgeous AU-50. Naturally, I had to have Bill's coin. I returned the other 1803 the following Monday morning. Not happy with nearly destroying my financial well-being, Bill called a couple of weeks later to tell me that he had a great 1802 for my consideration. I told him I couldn't afford it, but that I would like to see the coin. To make a long story short, my financial condition deteriorated even further. I now own Lot 3055 from the Ebenezer Milton Saunders Sale, held by Bowers and Merena in November, 1987. It is a choice coin with lovely color (not black) and fairly nice surfaces. It may have VF-30 sharpness. However, I think a net grade of VF-20 is more realistic. Clearly though, it rates among the top dozen or so. What an opportunity! Bill noted some interesting, and formerly unreported, die scratches on both the obverse and reverse of the coin. He plans to submit an article on the subject to Penny-Wise (the journal of Early American Coppers, Inc.) in the near future.

As you can probably tell, I'm quite pleased with my collection. The pieces are nicely balanced for color and grade (except the 1802). They also make a lovely display. They were expensive, but I consider the set an excellent investment. When was the last time you saw a choice EF-AU 1803, 1805, or 1807 half cent at a coin show?



A BRIEF HISTORY OF
THE ISRAEL GOVERNMENT COINS
AND MEDALS CORPORATION, LTD.

This article, submitted by Madera de la Secoya, first appeared in The Shekel, journal of the American Israel Numismatic Association, Inc.

Israel began minting its original and beautifully designed commemorative coins in 1958. It was the tenth anniversary of the young state. The idea was to produce a coin with a memorable symbol. The first of the commemorative coins was launched with a symbol no one would ever forget: The menorah, the seven-branched candelabrum, ancient Hebrew symbol.

Miriam Karoly drew the inspiration for the coin knowing that the menorah had appeared on Jewish coins as early as 40-37 BCE on coins of Mattathais Antigonus of the Hasmonean dynasty. This first commemorative coin had a mintage of less than 100,000 (98,051).

There had to be a marketing arm. There had to be a responsible body to oversee the making of coins and medals for Israel. The Bank of Israel had been approached to conduct the necessary operations. After some review, this new operation was entrusted to a Medals and Coins Section attached to the Prime Minister's office. As the activities of this section expanded and the services of artists, manufacturers, and businessmen were needed, the government established, in 1961, the Israel Coins and Medals Company, Ltd. In late 1963 the company was renamed the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, Ltd. with all of the shares in the corporation owned by the government.

The corporation is headed by a Director General, responsible to a board of directors which represents the Prime Minister's office, the Minister of Finance, Commerce and Industry, The Bank of Israel, and the Government Tourist Corporation.

The corporation is the distributor of the commemorative coins issued by the Bank of Israel and the yearly prooflike sets issued since 1965, as well as the presentation sets issued from 1962 to 1965. It is also the task of the corporation to strike medals in celebration of national and international events, and in honor or in memory of great men and women. The profits from all sales are devoted to the improvement of the landscape and the maintenance and restoration of archaeological sites.

Levi Avrahami was the first Director-General of the corporation serving from 1959 to 1963. Yitzhak Avni was the second director. The present director is Eliezer Shiloni. Under the



guidance of these directors, the corporation flourished and the profits from the sale of coins and medals were expended on the preservation and improvement of historical sites, such as:

CAESAREA: The Crusader town with its encircling fortified wall was cleared and restored, and the Roman aqueduct and many contemporary buildings, the amphitheatre, and mosaic floors are all now excavated and exposed. New roads give easy access to the several sites.

ACRE: Many improvements have been made in this ancient town to bring back some of its former glories. Buildings of the Crusader period were brought to light and their former splendor restored.

The corporation takes pride in having played no small part in bringing about these changes in the preservation and landscaping of historical sites, and its role becomes constantly more important as the number of persons eager to acquire Israel's coins and medals grows.

Although the coins are sold above their nominal face value, and the medals above the intrinsic value of their metallic content, the corporation feels that justification lies in the fact that the coins and medals are issued in strictly limited quantities and the dies are destroyed, insuring no restriking. As a result, the prices of the issues tend to rise as soon as distribution by the corporation has ended.

Any collector of Israel's coins should experience a deep sense of personal satisfaction in being a very real part of the restoration work being done in Israel, so vital for both Christian and Jew. He is also the possessor of the world's most beautiful modern coins with their momentous themes and noble artistry.

* * * * *

IF YOU HAVE A FASCINATION WITH ANCIENT ROME, YOU SHOULD BE
SUBSCRIBING TO. . .

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A non-academic journal devoted to ancient Rome and its influence, offering bimonthly: Numismatics, History, Culture, Archaeology, Religion, Mythology, Latin Language and Literature. \$5.00 per annum (before June 30 of each year; \$3.00 thereafter). Send check or money order payable to the publisher: Joseph B. Geranio, 27824 Hummingbird Court, Hayward, CA 94545-4042.

EXHIBIT APPLICATION

NAME: _____ CLASS: ADULT _____

ADDRESS: _____ JUNIOR _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EXHIBIT TITLE: _____

DESCRIPTION: _____

_____ Please provide one display case for my exhibit.

_____ I will provide the case for my exhibit.

I understand that I will be limited to one case for display material. This application must be received by the Exhibit Chairman no later than October 8, 1988. If it is necessary to cancel my exhibit, I agree to notify the Exhibit Chairman no later than October 20, 1988. I understand that I may enter the show area at 8:00 A.M., October 22, 1988 for the placement of my exhibit. In placing my exhibit, I will be assisted by _____ . I understand that only exhibitors and their placement assistants will be allowed into the show area prior to 10:00 A.M. I agree to have my exhibit in place no later than 10:00 A.M., October 22, 1988. The lock to my exhibit case shall be left in the custody of the Exhibit Chairman during the show. My exhibit may be opened ONLY IN MY PRESENCE. In the event of emergency, you may contact me during the show at the above address and/or telephone number. I will not remove my exhibit earlier than 3:00 P.M., October 23, 1988 unless I receive prior written permission from the Exhibit Chairman to do so. I will remove my exhibit no later than 5:00 P.M., October 23, 1988. I hereby certify that all numismatic material in my exhibit is my personal property.

In consideration of providing exhibit space to me without cost or other form of consideration, I hereby release the Sacramento Valley Coin Club, its officers, members, committees, agents and servants, in their official and/or individual capacities, from any liability for loss, damage or destruction, through negligence or otherwise, of numismatic items which I display. The foregoing shall not, however, limit the liability of any individual who may personally be guilty of theft, willful damage or destruction of numismatic material.

DATE: _____

EXHIBITOR'S SIGNATURE

(Parent or legal guardian must sign if Exhibitor is less than 18 years of age)

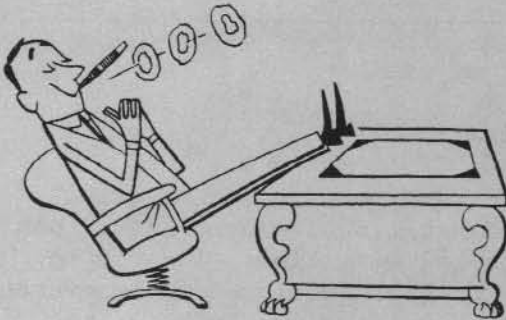
JOHN L. GOMER, Exhibit Chairman

MAIL THIS EXHIBIT APPLICATION TO:

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Sacramento, CA 95864
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HOME PHONE: (916) 487-9667

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SVCC meets at 7:30 P.M. on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at:

SMUD Service Center
5026 Don Julio Blvd.
North Highlands, CA