

SVCC

NEWSLETTER

JULY, 1988

VOLUME III, NO. 7

SACRAMENTO

SCENE

FAMILY PORTRAIT

An educational program entitled "Roman General: The Family of Septimius Severus" was given by your editor at the June 22 SVCC meeting. The presentation detailed the life of the founder of the Severan dynasty (193-235 A.D.) and his family--wife Julia Domna and their two sons, Caracalla and Geta. A total of 56 slides picturing coins from our collection were shown. Two different series of slides allowed viewers to witness the sons aging from young boys to adults. Another series illustrated various reverse themes of the coinage. The 50 members and guests in attendance seemed to enjoy the program. Many questions were asked regarding the family and their coins.

EXHIBITS, FRONT AND CENTER!

Table space has been set aside for competitive numismatic exhibits at the 31st Annual SVCC Coin-o-Rama to be held at Cal-Expo on October 22-23, 1988. Discover the pride of showing off your coins and knowledge. Start arranging your exhibit today! If you are interested or need assistance, contact Exhibit Chairman John Gomer, 3445 American River Drive, Suite D, Sacramento, CA 95864; DAYS: (916) 486-8755; NIGHTS: (916) 487-9667.



PAST PRESIDENT PASSES UP PRIZE

The lucky winner of the first place Member prize at the July 13 SVCC meeting was Past President Jack Frost. Unfortunately, Jack had sneaked out of the meeting early and was not present to collect the prize. . . an uncirculated 1922 Peace dollar. I think it was an overdate, Jack!

TRIVIAL MATTERS

The Numismatic Study Group (NSG) convened at the home of Bob DeCesaris on June 21 for a spirited game of Coin World Trivia. Members split into two teams to wage the contest. We won't report which team won, but the score was close!

Newest member John Bither showed other members some of his superb quality Morgan dollars, most of which exhibited either prooflike surfaces or beautiful toning. Also attending were Lynne Kreps, Dave Showers, Bob Travis, and John Gomer.

Prior commitments forced the cancellation of the NSG meeting scheduled for July 19. The next meeting will be August 16 at the home of Dennis Pacheco, where the topic will be "Themes on U.S. Commemorative Coins."

ARDENT ANCIENTS ADVOCATES ASSOCIATE ALL AFTERNOON

The first meeting of a new organization, the Sacramento Valley Ancients Society (SVAS), was held in Sacramento on June 25, 1988. Nine collectors of ancient Greek, Roman, and Byzantine coins gathered from as far away as Hayward and Portola.

It was decided to keep the group informal until such time as its size necessitates otherwise. As various members gave presentations, hundreds of coins and many reference books were passed around and discussed.

The next SVAS meeting will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Saturday, July 30, 1988. If you have an interest in ancient coins, contact John Gomer, 3445 American River Drive, Suite D, Sacramento, CA 95864; (916) 486-8755.

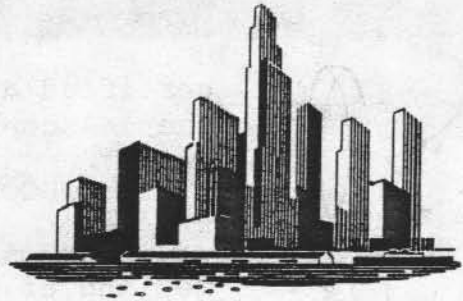
ON THE HORIZON

- August 10: Regular SVCC meeting
- August 24: Educational meeting - English Coinage from Elizabeth I to Elizabeth II
- October 22-23: 31st Annual Coin-o-Rama - Our "really big show" is only three months away! Once again, all able-bodied SVCC members are being recruited for setup, breakdown, and hospitality duty.



CINCINNATI

CIRCUS



*** Some notes, numismatic and otherwise, on the recent adventures of Dave Showers and John Gomer at the ANA Cincinnati convention ***

DAY 1

REDEYE RIDE:

Our flight left Sacramento at 11:15 P.M. Wednesday. We flew all night, changing planes in Chicago. Of course, when we got to the hotel, we were not ready for sleep. After a quick breakfast, we were on the bourse. At 1 P.M. we attended a Numismatic Theater program on the animal reverse coins of Philip I and his family. We viewed some of the Heritage auction lots, but at 2:30 my eyes began to blur, so I went back to the hotel. I was so tired I couldn't sleep. When Dave returned at 4:15, he announced that he only needed a 5 minute nap to recuperate. He was asleep immediately and was snoring loudly within a few minutes. After doing a convincing impression of a chainsaw for 45 minutes, he woke up. We had a quick bite at Skyline Chili. It seems that chili is a Cincinnati tradition, with many restaurants specializing in its various forms. One of the most popular dishes is chili con carne over spaghetti, adorned with mounds of shredded cheese.

SCALPED:

We walked to Riverfront Stadium, where we bought tickets for \$10 each from a scalper to see the Reds-Expos game. The couple next to us had sold their extra tickets to the scalper for \$3 each. They said they would have been happy to give us the tickets. They were very friendly people, and we talked about baseball and California. I enjoyed a Bratwurst dog, another Cincinnati favorite. The Reds lost 3-2 (Go, Giants!).


DAY 2

"MONSTER" MORGAN:

We went to a packed meeting of Early American Coppers (EAC) Friday morning. An amazing story was told relating to an 1881-S Morgan dollar picked from a bag many years ago by Superior at an initial cost of \$30. The coin was recently

certified as MS-69 and reportedly changed hands at the ANA convention at a price of \$100,000!!

LUMPY LINCOLN:



Dave and I went to prepare the room where the meeting of the Society of Private and Pioneer Numismatics was to be held. While looking through his change, Dave found a 1988 cent with a large cud atop Lincoln's head. That coin provided lots of fun for us. Dave put it in a flip and labelled it "Bun Top Lincoln: R-8." We decided it was our duty to inform Walter Breen of the discovery so he could include it in the supplement to his new "Encyclopedia." Later, on the bourse, Dave showed it to an error coin dealer, who proclaimed it "a real beauty."

Dave presided over the SPPN meeting at 11:00. Sixteen people were in attendance, including Walter Breen, Art and Don Kagin, Larry Goldberg of Superior Galleries, and many interested collectors. Superior will be auctioning the legendary Lee collection of California gold immediately prior to the Long Beach show in late September. The next SPPN meeting will be held in conjunction with that auction. Dave is justifiably proud of the fact that SPPN, the organization which he founded, already has about 40 paid members.

That evening we went to our second Reds-Expos game (we had bought our tickets the night before!) and saw another good one, as the Reds won 4-1. We were treated to a short fireworks display, which happens after each Reds victory at home.

DAY 3

BARGAIN BOX?

We sat with our mouths open as Lot 2683 sold at the fifth session of the Heritage auction on Saturday morning. It was a box for a 1915 Pan-Pac set (no coins included), which cost its new owner a mere \$5,280!!

SATISFIED WITH SECOND?

While Dave sat in on Numismatic Theater programs, I made my way to the ANA Awards Ceremony. A huge crowd packed the room. It seemed like hours passed before the publication awards came up. When Barbara Harris, Editor of The Numismatist, announced that the selections had been very difficult due to the large number of entries, doubt set in. When she said there was a tie for second place, I resolved to be satisfied with that. But doubt turned to joy. . . Your SVCC NEWSLETTER walked away with First Place for the second year in a row! Your Editor cannot begin to express his appreciation to all SVCC members, for supporting our club newsletter and for sending him to the ANA convention twice!

As for our acquisitions, Dave found California gold, Colonials, a U.S. large cent, two medals, and a handful of ancients (see the following article). I gathered a diverse group of Roman coins and one Byzantine bronze.

Sunday morning we soared back to Sacramento, laden with coins and fond memories. Next year. . . Pittsburgh!



* * * * *

JOYS OF A JUNK BOX

by Dave Showers

Toward the end of a major coin show, the collector, if successful in finding specimens to fill his want list, may be low on reserve funds, if not downright broke. Such was the case at the ANA convention on our last day in Cincinnati.

Still, the search continued for additional, albeit inexpensive, coins for our collections. As we casually passed the table of Harlan Berk, an ancients dealer from Chicago, we spotted two trays of well-worn ancient coins on their backup table. "How much are you asking for those?," we asked. The reply was \$10 each in one box and \$5 each in the other. Just think of it--mounds and piles of 2000 year old coins for less than the price of a circulated silver dollar! I immediately began searching for well-preserved designs, undamaged pieces, and unusual portraits and reverses. I was lucky enough to find a large copper coin (sestertius) of the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius for \$10. In the \$5 box, I picked out pieces from the late Roman empire, the Roman Republic, and Greek and Byzantine copper coins. I easily found 22 coins to my liking and was given a discounted price of \$4 each for quantity. I nearly doubled my collection of ancient coins for less than \$100!

Later that night in our hotel room, John attributed a Byzantine half follis of the 6th century, which turned out to have a catalogue value of about \$75, nearly the cost of the entire lot of 22 coins!

No matter how much I spend on rare coins, the thrill of the hunt in junk boxes remains.



(EDITOR'S NOTE: For \$5, I purchased a Byzantine bronze easily worth \$20. Adding to the pleasure of this experience was the attitude of the dealer's employees. The woman who waited on us was friendly and courteous, offering us paper towels when our hands became grimy from handling coins, and helping us in any way she could. Another employee who was attributing coins

nearly frequently stopped to discuss coins with us and talk about his collecting interests. It was a sharp contrast to the demeanor of many dealers, who may frown and ask you to make room for paying customers, unless you are ready to spend thousands of dollars.)

* * * * *

THE ANA CONVENTION

by Dave Showers

The ANA convention is truly an event that every coin collector should experience. The nearly 100 year old tradition brings together collectors, dealers, authors, historians, specialists, numismatic scholars, junior members, and the general public. The people most of us only read about in Coin World, who are the leaders in their fields, are available to answer questions and to discuss the many diverse areas of numismatics. Unlike several commercial shows I have attended, many dealers are truly interested in selling coins to the collector (as well as the investor). They will take the time to discuss what interests them in their own collecting pursuits and how to get started in a particular field. There are few shows where as many of the less popular collecting areas are represented. For the specialist, there are dealers of California fractional gold, elongated cents, tokens and medals, mint errors, and various specialists in ancient and foreign areas. The ANA officials know how to put on a show and make the collector feel welcome. There are numerous educational forums, club meetings, news and information booths, and other forms of hospitality available. The large number of exhibits, which ANA encourages, are well done, with fierce competition for prizes. All in all, it is truly the numismatic event of the year.

* * * * *

JUNIOR NSG

SVCC member Steve Bardin has announced the formation of a study group for all SVCC junior members. Steve says the purpose of the group is "to educate, inform, and offer guidance to junior members just getting started in our fabulous hobby." Steve would like to hold some meetings before our October show. Interested junior members should give Steve a call today at (916) 452-2840.



N O R T H E R N C A L I F O R N I A

S H O W C A L E N D A R

AUGUST



- 7: Fremont Coin Club 16th Annual Coin Show, Elk's Hall, 38991 Farwell Drive (Mowry exit from Nimitz), FREMONT
INFO: Fremont Coin Club, P.O. Box 1401, Fremont, CA 94536



SEPTEMBER



- 11: Alameda and San Francisco Coin Clubs 2nd Annual Greater Bay Area Coin Show, Airport Hyatt-Regency Hotel, Hegenberger Road, SAN FRANCISCO
- 15-18: Northern California Numismatic Association Annual Convention, Cathedral Hill Hotel, Van Ness & Geary, SAN FRANCISCO
BOURSE: Ron Miller, 3769 Peralta Blvd., Fremont, CA 94536
EXHIBITS: Ed Sins, P.O. Box 5075, San Jose, CA 95150

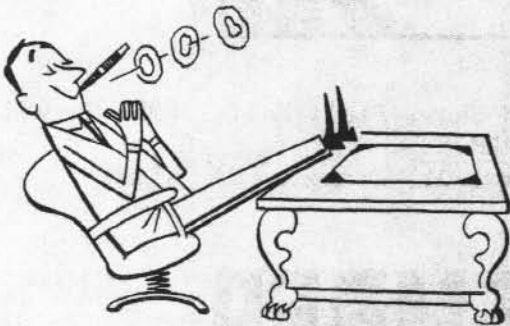


OCTOBER

- 15-16: Delta Coin Club Annual Coin Show, Eagle's Hall, 1492 Bourbon St., STOCKTON
BOURSE: Elden Enzminger, P.O. Box 216, Victor, CA 95253.
- 22-23: Sacramento Valley Coin Club 31st Annual Coin-o-Rama - Expo Center, Cal-Expo, Exposition Blvd. & I-80, SACRAMENTO
BOURSE: Dennis Pacheco, P.O. Box 160122, Sacramento, CA 95816
EXHIBITS: John L. Gomer, 3445 American River Drive, Suite D, Sacramento, CA 95864

The SVCC NEWSLETTER is published monthly by:

Sacramento Valley Coin Club
P.O. Box 160122
Sacramento, CA 95816



EDITOR: John L. Gomer

OFFICERS:

Hank Wavers - President
Bob DeCesaris - Vice President
Madera de la Secoya - Recording Secretary
John L. Gomer - Corresponding Secretary
Jim Hagarty - Treasurer
Ray Tisser - Assistant Treasurer

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