

SVCC

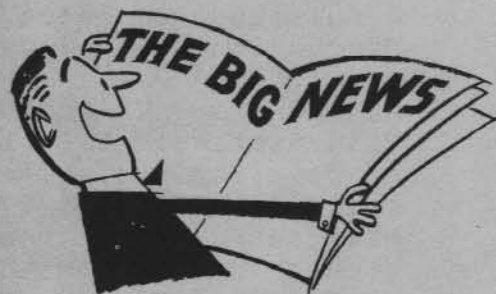
—NEWSLETTER—

MAY, 1988

VOLUME III, NO. 5

SACRAMENTO

SCENE



NEW SHOW LOCATION. . . AGAIN!

Frustrations in dealing with the State of California at the Cal-Expo location have led SVCC officers to find a new site for our semi-annual coin shows. It is the BPOE hall West of Interstate 5 at Florin Road and Riverside Boulevard. The facility is less than 10 years old and will accommodate the same number of tables in the bourse area as the Cal-Expo building. Adjoining the bourse are kitchen, dining and bar facilities. Rental of the hall will include 60 tables, tablecloths, and a security guard. Arrangements have been made for additional security guards, tables, and supplies. Ample parking is available. Officers are negotiating a continuing contract for the hall beginning with the March, 1989 Spring Show. The October 22-23 Fall Show will be held at the Cal-Expo facility. Competitive exhibits are being contemplated for the October show. Those interested should contact John Gomer, 3445 American River Drive, Suite D, Sacramento, CA 95864.

TOKEN TALES

Ron Lerch gave a program on "Tokens and other Exonomia" at the April 27 SVCC meeting. Ron, a dealer and collector of California merchant tokens, began his presentation by displaying five tokens. He related the stories surrounding

each of the pieces and how he came to acquire them for his collection. Ron spoke about values of various tokens and showed the audience the standard reference book for California merchant tokens.

AT BAT: May 27 - Pete Prince: Coin Cleaning and Preservation
ON DECK: June 22 - John Gomer: Roman General / The Family of Septimius Severus

STUDY GROUP ROLLS ON

Dave Showers and John Gomer combined to present "An Introduction to Roman Coins" at the April 19 meeting of the Numismatic Study Group held at the home of John Gomer. Dave gave an historical overview of ancient Roman coinage and its various denominations. John spoke on general aspects of collecting ancients, including grading, factors affecting value, and reference materials. Other attendees were Bob DeCesaris, Dennis Pacheco, and guest Eric Kondratieff. A multitude of coins were available for examination and discussion.

On May 17 the Numismatic Study Group examined "Little Half-Sisters: U.S. Half Cents" at its 19th meeting held at Dave Showers' home. John Gomer discussed the early half cents from 1793 to 1797. Bob Travis spoke on Draped Bust half cents and on some peculiarities found in the series, such as discrepancies in mintage reports. Dave Showers covered the Classic Head type, and Bob DeCesaris finished up with Braided Hair. Also present were Lynne Kreps and John Bither, who discussed an attribution guide for half cents which he is refining from a system originally created by Bob Travis. Many fine examples of half cents were on hand, including Bob Travis' 1793 electrotypes!

The NSG's 20th meeting, to be hosted by Bob DeCesaris, will feature unusual numismatic items and a Coin World trivia quiz. Come along and show off your vast numismatic knowledge; or maybe yours is equivalent to that of the NSG members. . . half-vast!

C KORRECTION!

In the April issue, your editor inadvertently placed the wrong picture in the article entitled "THE SUN GOD'S SUCCESSOR" on page 5. The correct picture appears below:



Oh no!
My frist mistrake!

DENARIUS OF SEVERUS ALEXANDER
REV: "To Jupiter the Defender"

COINAGE OF THE ROMAN PROVINCE OF JUDEA

by Eric Kondratieff

The procurators of Roman Judea were, as a group, a rather nefarious lot, famous more for their insults and atrocities against the Jews than for any acts of munificence or good government. Some of them stand out more than others, such as Pilate, Felix, Festus, and Florus, immortalized in the pages of the Bible and countless epic movies. However, some of the most interesting "monuments" left behind by these men are the vast quantities of small bronze coins issued under their authority. These coins, known as prutahs, leptons, or "widow's mites", yield some fascinating clues to the political climate then, and sometimes to the personalities of the procurators themselves.

Originally, Judea was governed by the Herods, but so many complaints reached his ears about the vicious behavior of Archelaus, that Augustus was finally forced to depose him and bring the province into the full control of the Imperial administrative system. The procurators, unlike the governors of nearby Syria, were not Senators or men of aristocratic rank, but came from the lower classes. They resided at Caesarea, visiting Jerusalem only for the festivals. Except for the reign of Agrippa I (37-44 A.D.), they ruled continuously from 8 to 66 A.D.

The first procurator was Coponius (6-9 A.D.). He was a tough man sent to govern a difficult province. Nevertheless, he seemed so mild and even-handed after the cruel Herod Archelaus, that the Jews named a temple gate after him, an honor unique for a gentile.

He set a pattern in his coinage that was to be followed for at least nine years, until the death of Augustus. The obverse of his coins had a palm tree and the year of Augustus' reign, generally believed to be dated from the battle of Actium (31 B.C.). The reverse had a barley ear, probably signifying Judea's importance as the "bread-basket" of the East, and the inscription KAICOPOC, Greek for "Caesar" (See Figure 1). These types were not only inoffensive, but they actually did a certain honor to the Jewish homeland. Apparently, Coponius only minted coins for one year (6 A.D.).

Marcus Ambibulus succeeded to the procuratorship in 9 A.D. Not much is known about his period in office, but he seems to have maintained the status quo, issuing the same coin types, the only variations being the dates (years 39-41, or 9-11 A.D.) and some slight style differences (See Figures 2-4).

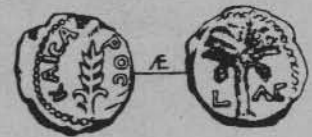


Figure 1

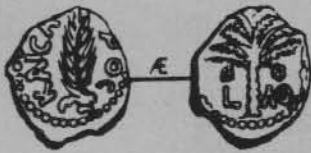


Figure 2

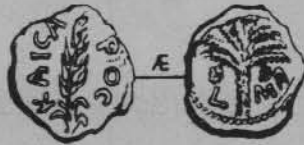


Figure 3

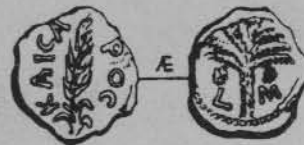


Figure 4

Annius Rufus was next in line, another quiet and efficient administrator about whom little is known. It is apparent from the present dating of the coins that Rufus did not issue any coins at all. He stayed at his post through the end of Augustus' reign, being relieved by Valerius Gratus a few months into the reign of Tiberius in 15 A.D.

Under Tiberius there was less change in procurators than before. In fact, except for the few months that Annius Rufus overlapped, there were really only two procurators during the reign of Tiberius: Valerius Gratus (15-26 A.D.) and Pontius Pilatus (26-36 A.D.). This was due to Tiberius' philosophy of provincial administration: he liked his governors to stay at their posts for a long time, comparing them to flies that suck their fill at a wound and stay there, keeping other flies away.



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7

A nominee of Sejanus, Tiberius' infamous right-hand man, Gratus arrived in Judea early in 15 A.D. Upon his arrival, he started a new issue of small bronze coins quite different from those under the Augustan procurators. They were remarkable in that many carried the name of Julia Augusta (Livia, who had been adopted into the Julian family by Augustus' bequest). She was the wife of Augustus and the mother of Tiberius. The only mention of Tiberius was the regnal date on the opposite side (See Figures 5-7). True, Gratus did issue coins for Tiberius concurrently (See Figures 8-9), but coins dedicated solely to honoring Julia Augusta give a fair indication of her power and influence immediately after the death of Augustus. In fact, senatorial decrees of the time addressed the emperor as the "son of Julia", which never ceased to rankle Tiberius. These concurrent issues went on until the end of year 4, when a standard issue was adopted that carried Tiberius' name on the obverse and Julia's name (IOYAIA)



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10

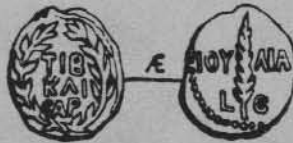


Figure 11

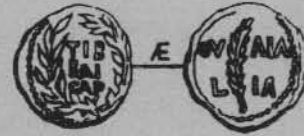


Figure 12

on the reverse with the regnal date (See Figures 10-12). As Tiberius had repeatedly made it known that only "reasonable" honors should be given to women, Gratus may have thought it prudent to diminish the prominence of Julia's name on the coins. These were issued intermittently (years 4, 5, and 11), until Gratus was replaced by Pilate.

Pontius Pilate arrived in 26 A.D. and did not waste much time in committing insults and crimes against the Jews. But he did not restrict himself to bringing legionary eagles into Jerusalem, or to affixing sacred shields to the governor's palace. He also irritated the Jews with the symbols on his coins. His first issue in 29-30 A.D. carried the name of Tiberius on the obverse, together with a simpulum, or sacrificial ladle. This was an obvious reference to Tiberius' position as chief pontiff of the Roman state religion, which was abominable to Jewish sensibilities. The reverse was less offensive, bearing Julia Augusta's name, a testimony to her continuing influence, and three barley ears. The barley ears could be taken as a double entendre, a reference not only to the fertility of Judea, but also to the fertility of the empress-dowager, the wife and mother of emperors (See Figure 13). As Tiberius' mother died in this year, it is not surprising that her name does not appear on subsequent issues.

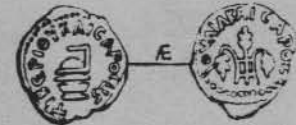


Figure 13

Pilate's later issues are particularly interesting, because they were really quite personalized. The augur's wand pictured on the coins of years 17 and 18 (30-32 A.D.) may have been placed there not only to mortify the Jews, but to do honor to Tiberius and, indirectly, to Pilate himself. The office of Augur in the Roman religion required much training in interpreting signs, portents and omens of all types--in fact, one had to attend and graduate from Augur's college in order to be a practicing professional. Before becoming governor of Judea, Pilate was an Augur, and it is quite possible that his eminence in this field won him the emperor's favor, for Tiberius was an ardent believer in augury and astrology. Thus, it may be concluded that the augur's wand appeared on Pilate's later issues as a point of pride in his profession, as well as an unsubtle mockery of Jewish religious sensibilities (See Figures 14-16).

No more coins were issued by Pilate after 32 A.D., and in 36 A.D., after ten unsuccessful years governing Judea,

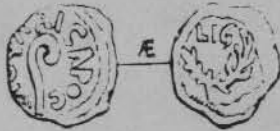


Figure 14

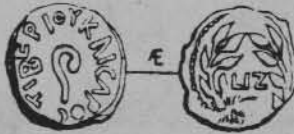


Figure 15

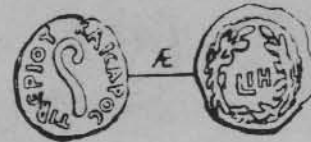


Figure 16

Pilate was finally recalled to Rome, only to arrive after the death of Tiberius -- at which point he passes from history into legend.

NEXT ISSUE: Coinage of the Procurators under Caligula, Claudius and Nero.

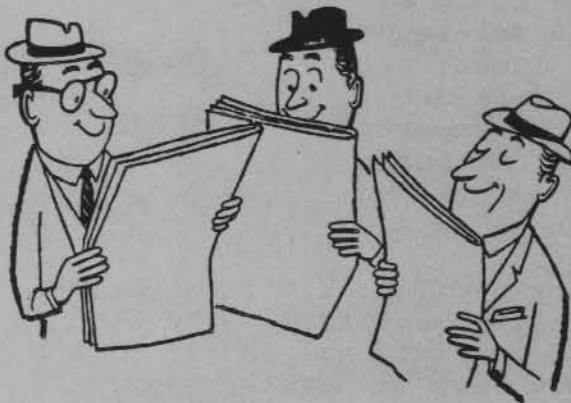
SOURCES:

Hendin, David: Guide to Biblical Coins, Amphora Books, 1987.

Grant, Michael: The Jews in the Roman World, Dorset Press, 1973.

Tacitus: The Annals of Imperial Rome, Penguin Books, 1956.

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SECTION

WANTED: We buy coin collections and acculumations, U.S. and foreign, gold and silver. Especially need coins of Japan. Strictly confidential. FINDER FEES PAID. Call "Ben" Gay, (916) 726-5334.

WANTED: MS-63 or better Lincoln cents, pre 1940. Call 421-7630 after 5:00 P.M.

WANTED: California fractional gold coins and 19th century gold tokens. I will pay at least 45-70% of current Red Book value (page 238) for problem-free coins. Also buying Colonial coins and U.S. half cents and large cents. David Showers, P.O. Box 2420, Woodland, CA 95695.

WANTED: Israeli and Thai coins & currency. Call Madera: (916) 483-5683.

(25 years ago this month)

U.S. \$20.00 GOLD PIECES — YOUR CHOICE

1873-S	1877-S	1881-S	1893-S	1899-S	1904-P
1875-S	1878-S	1885-S	1894-S	1899-P	1905-S
1879-S	1879-P	1888-S	1896-S	1900-P	1907-D
1880-S	1880-S	1890-S	1897-S	1900-S	
	1880-S	1891-S	1898-S	1901-S	

VF-EF EACH — \$49.00

CURIO

An overdate, a Double Die, A Micro S, or full bow tie, Are things I like to buy.
 A Disme, and a Mass. Pine Tree, A Fugio, a 16-D, Are things I like to see.
 A Buffalo, a Silly Head, A Flying Eagle or Indian red, I'd take the chain or link instead.
 A Continental, planchet thin, A Lincoln with a broken chin, Are heirlooms for your next of kin.
 Three that close, or three that opens, Civil War and Hard Times Tokens, These are those for which I've spoken.
 Grading good, or fine, or better, Watch out for the rim worn letter, Do not jingle in your sweater.
 Some dates far, some are near, Some are worn, others clear, Be sure it has a well formed ear.
 Shell Case Copper, War Time Steel, Piece of eight, eight times one real, All of these to me appeal.
 Some like the lone, bison Noof, Some like their wares in Matte Proof, And many keep them quite aloof.
 Pattern rare, or Plain Hair Cord, These are some I can't afford, But others have them in their hoard.
 P, S, D, CC, and O, And where most of these did grow, Come from machines, row after row.
 Eagles Half, and Eagles Double, Certainly worth all of your trouble.
 Collecting coins may be erratic, With your hobby be emphatic, It's fun to be numismatic.

How To Stay Ahead of the Coin Forgers
 By WALTER BREEN
KREISBERG
 Numismatists
 Beverly Hills, Calif.



The All New Liquid
"GOLDEN GLOW"
 COIN CLEANER

"GEM-PRUF"
 COIN CONDITIONER

New, Safe Non-Acid
"NU-DATE"
 DATE RESTORER

Investing in Coins

COMPLETE WITH CHARTS



compiled by
 the marketing staff
 of Numismatic TIME
 and Trends

SILVER DOLLARS

	VG	Fine	VF	EF	AU	Unc.		VG	Fine	VF	EF	AU	Unc.
78 P 7F	—	—	1.25	—	1.50	1.75	90 P	—	—	1.25	1.35	2.00	—
78 P 8F	—	—	1.50	1.75	2.00	2.50	90 CC	1.25	1.50	1.75	2.50	—	—
78 P 7/8F	—	—	—	—	3.00	3.25	90 S	—	—	1.50	1.75	2.75	—
78 CC	—	1.25	1.50	1.75	2.25	4.50	90 O	—	—	1.25	1.50	2.00	—
78 S	—	—	—	—	1.50	1.75	91 P	—	—	1.25	1.35	2.00	—
79 P	—	—	1.25	1.35	1.50	1.75	91 CC	2.00	2.25	2.75	4.00	—	—
79 CC	4.00	4.50	6.00	10.00	—	—	91 S	—	—	1.50	2.00	4.00	—
79 S	—	—	1.50	1.75	—	—	—	—	—	1.25	1.50	2.50	—

EMPIRE COIN COMPANY, INC.

Directors: Q. David Bowers, James F. Ruddy



Use Your Coins on the S. & W. R.
COLLECTORS CHARGE PLAN
J. J. Teaparty Co.
 Boston

INVESTMENTS of TOMORROW

(50 years ago this month)

From the May, 1938 The Numismatist: **UNITED STATES GOLD.**

WHY NOT COLLECT ANTIQUE COINS?

They at least, even if you do not care about artistic or historical merit, will always keep their value.

YOU CAN START IN A MODEST WAY

SEND 5 DOLLARS

And I will forward one or two Greek silver tetradrachms, or three or four Greek silver drachms, or seven Greek silver coins of smaller denomination, or ten Alexandrian potin tetradrachms, or seven Roman Consular silver coins, or nine Roman Imperial silver, or twelve Roman base silver, or two or three Roman first bronzes, or five Roman second bronzes, or twenty Roman third bronzes. All V. F., different and guaranteed genuine. Double quantities if Fine specimens only are wanted.

THE BRONX COIN CLUB—Fifty-fifth meeting, March 23rd, Vice-President Stein presiding. Twenty-two members and four guests were present.

Exhibits were as follows:

Mr. Kosoff: 1804 dollar with altered date, 1805 half dime, double eagle proof of 1903.

TABLET FOR COIN COLLECTORS NOT TO BE ERRECTED.

Several months ago it was announced that C. Frank Dunn, distributor of the Daniel Boone commemorative half dollars, would submit to the Daniel Boone Bicentennial Commission a plan to erect a tablet to the coin collectors of the world at one of the shrines in the Pioneer National Monument for the part they played in the acquisition of the memorial. Mr. Dunn writes that the plan was submitted, but was disapproved by the commission.

U. S. SMALL INDIAN HEAD CENTS

	Pine.	Unc.		Pine.	Unc.
1857 Flying Eagle	25	11.50	1861 COPPER NICKEL	15	2.50
1858 S. L. Flying Eagle	25	1.00	1862 COPPER NICKEL	15	1.75
1858 L. L. Flying Eagle	25	2.75	1863 COPPER NICKEL	15	1.75
1859 COPPER NICKEL	20	1.25	1864 COPPER NICKEL	25	1.00
1860 COPPER NICKEL	20	1.25	1864 Bronze	25	16.00
			1864 "L" on ribbon	25	16.00

U. S. LINCOLN HEAD CENTS (Uncirculated)

	Pine.	Unc.		Pine.	Unc.
1909 V. D. B.	15	1914	53	1928-S	1.25
1909 Plain	25	1914-B	1.25	1928-D	1.25
1909-S V. D. B.	2.00	1915	1.25	1929-S	1.25
1909-S Plain	2.00	1915-D	1.25	1929-D	1.25
1910	25	1915-S	1.75	1930-S	1.10
1910-S	25	1915-D	1.25	1930-D	1.10
1911	25	1916	25	1930-E	1.10
1911-S	1.75	1916-S	25	1931	85
1912	25	1916-D	25	1931-B	85
1912-S	25	1917	25	1931-D	85
1912-D	25	1917-S	25	1932	40
1913	35	1917-D	25	1932-D	40
1913-S	35	1918	1.00	1932-S	40
1913-D	35	1918-S	1.00	1933	40
1914	1.25	1918-D	4.50	1933-D	40
1914-S	2.75	1919	3.25	1934	40
1914-D	2.75	1919-S	4.50	1934-D	40
1915	1.75	1919-D	3.25	1935	10
1915-S	1.25	1920	2.50	1935-S	10
1915-D	1.25	1920-S	2.50	1935-D	10
1916	60	1920-D	2.75	1936	10
1916-S	60	1921	1.25	1936-S	10
1916-D	60	1921-S	1.25	1936-D	10
1917	25	1921-D	1.25	1937	10
1917-S	25	1922	1.25	1937-S	10
1917-D	25	1922-S	1.25	1937-D	10
1918	25	1922-D	1.25	1938	10
1918-S	25	1923	1.20		
1918-D	25				

UNITED STATES GOLD.

\$10.00	1799 E. F.	\$3
10.00	1799 F.	3
10.00	1800 Unc.	4
10.00	1801 E. F.	3
5.00	1809 V. F.	1
5.00	1810 Unc., Mint	1
5.00	1818 Fine (ring removed)	2
5.00	1839-C Unc.	10
5.00	1839-D Unc.	10
5.00	1840-C Unc.	10
5.00	1840-O V. F.	11
5.00	1844-C V. F.	12
5.00	1845-D V. F.	10
5.00	1845-O V. F.	8
5.00	1847-C Ext. F.	12
5.00	1854 Ext. F.	8
5.00	1874 F. (Rare) (Only 3508 coined)	15
5.00	1874-CC V. F., rare	10
5.00	1890-CC V. F.	9
5.00	1891-CC Unc.	10
2.50	1836 F.	4
2.50	1843-O V. F.	5
2.50	1843-C V. F.	7
2.50	1847-O V. F.	6
2.50	1854 Ext. F.	4
1.00	1853-C F.	2

Wayte Raymon
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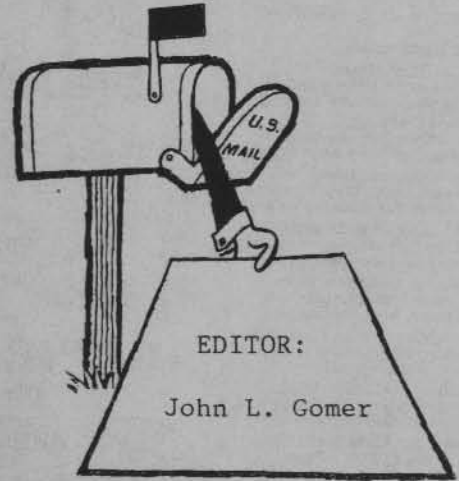
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