

SVCC

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER, 1988

VOLUME III, NO. 11

SACRAMENTO

SCENE

SHOW SUMMARY

The Sacramento Valley Coin Club's 31st Annual Coin-o-Rama, the last to be held at Cal-Expo, took place on October 22-23, 1988. Many members contributed their efforts to make the show a success. The honor roll includes:



SETUP: Hank Wavers
Bob DeCesaris
Jim Hagarty
Tony Barajas
Ben Gay
Mori Eiri
Ted Clement
Jean Clement
Del Klock

Madera de la Secoya
Pucha de la Secoya
Dennis Pacheco
John Gomer
Tim Lewis
Ray Tisser
Steve Bardin
Bill Freeman

JUNIOR MEMBERS:
Mike Lewis
Neal Tigner
Chris Bradeen
Chris Slavensky
Jason Bardin
Jason Lewis

HOSPITALITY: Jim Tyson, Chairman
Merle Coover
Smokey Burkart
Bill Freeman
Vi Curry
Lynne Kreps
Mike Wilke
Dave May

Jim Hart
Greg Whitney
Loren Weste
Frank Stangl
Jack Meyers
Ray Tisser

Gee Albietz
Tim Lewis
Don Christon
Kitty Trent
Jack Frost
Judy Wavers

	Jack Frost		
BREAKDOWN:	Troy Thompson	Tony Barajas	Tim Lewis
	Wendy Thompson	Millie Barajas	Mike Lewis
	Dennis Pacheco	Bob DeCesaris	Mori Eiri

The first competitive exhibits at an SVCC show featured seven excellent displays by club members. Exhibit officials were: Chairman - John Gomer; Judges - Lynne Kreps, Art Trent, and Jack Frost. Special thanks to Jack Frost, who was recruited as a judge at the last second! The final results were:

ADULT:

FIRST - James Peoples: Dollar Coins of the United States
 SECOND - Timothy Lewis: How Good Is "Good"?
 THIRD - Madera de la Secoya: Israeli Commemorative Bronze Medals
 HONORABLE MENTION - Greg Hereford: 20th Century Type Set
 Troy Thompson: Coins of Europe
 Roy L. Sperr: Potpourri

JUNIOR:

FIRST - Mike Lewis: Eisenhower, the Coin

If you are thinking that Mike Lewis did not deserve a trophy because he was the only junior member exhibiting, think again! In overall judging of the seven exhibits, two judges had Mike's exhibit ranked third, and one judge placed it second! Good job, Mike!

Walter Breen was there for both days of the show, to discuss numismatics and to autograph copies of his new book Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins. SVCC had 24 copies of the book available and sold all 24! The profits helped the club buy a copy for its library.

ANA Representative Mary Sauvain provided verbal grading and authentication at her table, and gave slide programs on both Saturday and Sunday.

No rest for the weary! Preparations are now beginning for the Fall show to be held next March in the BPOE Hall at Florin Road and Riverside Boulevard.

NSG RESURGENT!

After a period of deep hibernation, the Numismatic Study Group is reorganizing. Instead of members researching assigned topics, the NSG will be an informal forum for discussing and viewing coins. Presentations will be voluntary and may cover any numismatic topic. The NSG provides an excellent opportunity to meet other numismatists and to learn about all areas of numismatics.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 1988 at 7:30 P.M. If you are interested, please call John Gomer (WORK: (916) 486-8755; HOME: (916) 487-9667).

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IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO GAVE

"THEIR LAST FULL MEASURE OF DEVOTION":

* * * The U.S. Civil War Commemoratives * * *

by Bob DeCesaris

Few U.S. commemorative pieces are as important in their historic significance as those struck to honor the memory of our Civil War dead, the great battles, and the heroes. Included in this category are one gold dollar and four half dollars: the 1922 Grant Memorial gold dollar and Grant Memorial half dollar; the 1925 Stone Mountain Memorial, the 1936 Battle of Gettysburg, and the 1937 Battle of Antietam half dollars.



I. The Grant Memorial Pieces



Both the gold dollar and silver half dollar were struck as souvenirs of the 100th anniversary of Ulysses Grant's birth. Designed by Laura Gardin Fraser, who is more commonly remembered for her rendering of the artistically acclaimed Buffalo nickel, both pieces are identical in design and varieties and differ only in composition and size. The obverse of this piece consists of a handsome portrait of Grant with the reverse depicting a log cabin of the early 19th century in Point Pleasant, Ohio, where Grant's childhood was spent. Both the silver and gold pieces struck early in 1922 included a small star above the N in Grant. This was removed at some point during the year for no known reason, thus creating two distinct varieties of the piece.

	<u>ORIGINAL MINTAGE</u>	<u>MELTED</u>	<u>NET MINTAGE</u>
1922 Grant half dollar (with star)	5,006	750	4,256
1922 Grant half dollar (no star)	95,055	27,650	67,405
1922 Grant gold dollar (with star)	5,016	- 0 -	5,016
1922 Grant gold dollar (no star)	5,000	- 0 -	5,000
TOTALS:	110,077	28,400	81,677

II. Stone Mountain Memorial

This commemorative half dollar was struck to raise money to carve the likenesses of Confederate leaders and soldiers into an enormous mass of exposed granite on Stone Mountain, 16 miles east of Atlanta, Georgia.

The United Daughters of the Confederacy initially proposed, in 1915, that a statue of General Robert E. Lee be carved on the mountain. A deed was obtained from the owner of the mountain which explicitly stated that this patriotic work could be chiseled into the face of the mountain provided that all work be completed by 1928. Sculptor Gutzon Borglum was chosen for the task and immediately changed the design to include three figures. He began cutting in 1923, but after

several disagreements with his sponsors, abandoned his work. By 1925, with only three years remaining on the original deed, a new effort was made to construct the monument. Working with new designs, another sculptor, Augustus Lukeman, restarted the task.

Concurrently, in order to raise more money for the work to be done, the first Stone Mountain Memorial coins were struck in Philadelphia on January 21, 1925, General Stonewall Jackson's birthday. The obverse of this piece depicts Generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson, each on a horse. On the reverse are

found an eagle and the words "MEMORIAL TO THE VALOR OF THE SOLDIER OF THE SOUTH." A total of 1,314,709 pieces were minted,

all dated 1925.

However, although some progress had been made by 1928, the work was nowhere near completed. Therefore, the owner reclaimed the property as originally agreed, and all work ceased.

In 1958, the Georgia legislature created a memorial association to purchase the mountain. The effort was successful and in 1963, Walter Hancock was commissioned to complete the memorial. Completed in 1970, the finished work consists of huge equestrian figures of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, and Generals Lee and Jackson. It resides in what is presently Stone Mountain Memorial State Park.





III. The Battle of Antietam Commemorative



This issue was struck to commemorate the 75th anniversary of one of the most decisive early battles of the American Civil War. As is often true with this war, this battle is known by two different names: Union leaders and records show that the creek which flows across the battlefield was chosen to name this conflict; the Confederates named it the Battle of Sharpsburg after the nearest village (Sharpsburg, Maryland). This battle, fought in September of 1862, represents both the climax of the South's thrust into the North, and yet also the end of the first Confederate invasion into Union territory.

Fresh from victory at the Second Battle of Manassas (also known as the Battle of Bull Run), the Confederates under General Robert E. Lee continued driving the Union forces toward the Northern capital, Washington. At one point, as the Confederate Army crossed the Potomac River, a scant 30 miles separated Washington from the Confederate forces! The authorities in Washington were understandably concerned and feared for the safety of the capital. Thus, General George McClellan and the Union Army were kept close by, between the city and the opposing army. Knowing this, Lee felt free to do as he pleased and, in a bold and risky move, ordered his forces (via the now historically famous written order Special Orders No. 191) to separate into four parts in order to approach, surround and capture Harper's Ferry, a Union garrison that was needed by Lee to strengthen the Confederate line of supply.

Given General McClellan's forced caution, this plan would have worked marvelously were it not for one strange twist of fate. On September 13, a Union soldier found a copy of Lee's Special Orders No. 191 at an abandoned campsite near Frederick, Maryland wrapped around three cigars. These were hastily forwarded to McClellan, who now knew the location and mission of each part of Lee's fractured army. Yet he waited until the next morning before moving to attack. On the night of September 14, Lee learned that a copy of his written order had fallen into Union hands and ordered his separating forces to reunite behind him in Sharpsburg under General Stonewall Jackson, where his force would attempt to hold off McClellan until a reasonable Confederate force could be re-assembled.

Lee held McClellan off for one day, but finally retreated towards Sharpsburg, hoping that his troops had had time to re-assemble. McClellan pursued him, but not at all in a quick and vigorous manner. (Historians and strategists agree to this day that McClellan, with his superior force, could have easily made this a decisive, and perhaps final, blow to the Confederate forces if he had attacked sooner

and pursued with more vigor.) Finally, still retreating, General Lee was reunited with General Jackson on September 16, just outside of Sharpsburg. On September 17, McClellan finally attacked a reunified Confederate force. Of the 40,000 Confederate troops available, all were engaged in battle. Of the 70,000 Union troops, 46,000 were engaged. On this single day, more men were killed than on any other day of the Civil War. Over 12,000 Union and 10,000 Confederate soldiers perished. On the 18th of September, General Lee ordered an orderly retreat, thus preserving the South's morale and prestige. However, the first campaign to invade the North had ended.

The Battle of Antietam commemorative, struck in 1937, precisely 75 years after the battle, depicts the Union and Confederate Generals, George McClellan and Robert E. Lee, on the obverse, and the Burnside Bridge, an important tactical objective of the battle on September 17, on the reverse. A total of only 18,028 pieces were struck, all dated 1937, commemorating that bloodiest day of the Civil War.

NEXT MONTH: The Battle of Gettysburg

(Editor's Note: How carefully do you read? 2 factual errors are hidden in this article. The first SVCC member to correctly identify the errors to the author of the article will win a nice prize!)

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SHOW
CALENDAR

NOVEMBER



- 13: Peninsula Coin Club Annual Coin Show - Hyatt Palo Alto, 4290 El Camino Real, PALO ALTO
BOURSE: Fred van den Haak, P.O. Box 60484, Palo Alto, CA 94306-0484
- 13: Redwood Empire Coin Club 21st Annual Show - Veterans' Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Avenue, SANTA ROSA
BOURSE: William Feist, P.O. Box 2811, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

DECEMBER



- 4: Chico Coin Club Show - Chico Holiday Inn, Highway 99 at Cohasset Road, CHICO
BOURSE: Al Beck, 1040 Village Lane, Chico, CA 95926
- 11: Diablo Numismatic Society 27th Annual Show - Concord Hilton, 1970 Diamond Blvd., CONCORD

JUNK BOXERS

by Troy Thompson

Some people love us, some hate us. Who are we, you ask? We are the junk boxers: Collectors who love to search through all those boxes full of unwanted, unrespected coins, tokens, etc.

Many of my favorite coins have come from dealers' so-called "junk boxes". One of my most successful ventures has been my collection of Mercury dimes. I've put together a set that lacks only three coins (1916-D, 1921, and 1921-D) and have paid no more than a dollar for any coin. True, most are in Good to Fine condition, but some of them are really nice coins. The best of these includes: 1916-S (F), 1919-S (VF), 1925 (VF), 1926-D (VF), 1926-S (VG), 1931-D (F), and most from 1938-1945 in Very Fine or better.



Another appealing field of junk boxing is world coins. I have purchased numerous world coins for a fraction of their catalogue value. A few of my better finds have come from dealers here in Sacramento. Once I walked out of a coin shop with a hundred coins purchased for a dime each. When I was done cataloging them, I had well over \$200 worth of coins, many of them silver. In fact, I had more value in silver than I had spent on the coins! Another time, I bought six early Honduran pieces for a quarter each. . . Catalog value: over \$50! My best purchase to date is a Netherlands twenty five cent piece, which I got off a bid board for a dollar. Its catalog value is \$45!

Some people say all the good deals are gone. I say, They're not. . . It just takes a little searching.

* * * * *

S A C R A M E N T O

S C E N E

(Continued from Page 2)

The educational program at the meeting of October 26 was given by John Gomer, who discussed the coins issued during the last part of the Severan Dynasty of ancient Rome (218-235 A.D.).

During the reign of Severus Alexander, who became emperor at the age of 14 upon the death of his cousin Elagabalus, the political affairs of the Roman Empire were actually in the hands of his mother, Julia Mamaea, one of four powerful Syrian women who were very influential in Roman government for over 40 years.

The presentation featured 42 slides of silver and bronze coins of Elagabalus, Severus Alexander, and Julia Mamaea.

NOVEMBER 23: David Showers - Private and Pioneer Coinage

The SVCC NEWSLETTER is published monthly by:

Sacramento Valley Coin Club
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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