

SVCC Meeting Minutes of February 14, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. This meeting convened at our regular meeting spot, Swanston Community Center in Sacramento.

Gold: \$1,991.10 Silver: \$ 22.34

Club Officers in attendance:

President – Bruce Williams	Recording Secretary - Patrick Carpenter
Vice President – Troy Dinin	Treasurer – Marlain Minardi
Corresponding Secretary – Mike Grieneisen	Assistant Treasurer – Nick Shel

Guests: Six guests attended the meeting. Monique Cox, guest of 2\$ Bill Walden was back for her second meeting. Ken and Jeremiah Durham, family of Elias Durham, were in attendance, as was Jeff Wells and Tinna Miles. Keitha Hunter, wife of Patrick Carpenter was also enjoying the gathering.

Attendance – Thirty-nine club members, and the six guests listed above attended the meeting, for a total attendance of forty-five people.

New Club Member - Doug Wells, a past member of the club, rejoined the club. Welcome back, Doug!

Past Meeting Minutes - Minutes of our last regular club meeting on January 24, 2024, were provided to club members by email several days before the meeting. The reading of the minutes of our last meeting were waived and the minutes were approved. Our Recording Secretary read out one portion of the minutes that provided the record of accomplishment of two of our members in getting perfect scores on our annual coin trivia contest. The membership enjoyed the retelling.

Sad News – John Poole, a long-time member of our club passed away last year and the news of his demise has just reached our club. Several members recalled him fondly. Mr. Poole had collected many outstanding coins and was generous in sharing his expertise with others. He will be missed. A card was circulated for members to share their condolences with Mr. Poole's family.

Topics for a Future Club Meeting Question & Answer Pannel – Our club president is planning two evenings this year where a panel of knowledgeable folks will answer questions from club members about a particular topic. At this meeting, he asked club members to pick their favorites from a list of about a dozen possible topics. These are the six topics that received the most votes:

- 9 votes – Negotiating Successfully When Buying or Selling Coins
- 8 votes – Grading Modern U.S. and World Coins
- 8 votes – Tips for Buying and Selling Coins on eBay
- 7 votes – Keys to Buying Coins at Coin Shows
- 5 votes – Assessing the Value of a Coin
- 5 votes – U.S. Silver Coins of the 1800s & 1900s

Bruce also asked club members to suggest other topics that could be voted on for similar meetings in the future. The suggested topics are:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Ancient Coins Before the Christian Era | Civil War Tokens |
| How to Determine if a Coin Has Been Cleaned | Hard Times Tokens |
| How to Identify Fakes / Forgeries | Odd Denomination U.S. Coins |
| Silver Strikers (Casino Gambling Tokens) | V Nickles |
| Why Send Coins to Auction Houses | Collecting Foreign Coins |
| The Future of Coinage in the U.S. and the World | Collecting U.S. Coins |
| Types of U.S. Currency (Fed. Reserve, US / Legal Tender, Treasury Notes, Silver & Gold Cert., etc.) | |

Good News – Club President, Bruce Williams, announced that one of our youth members was selected to receive a scholarship so that he can attend the ANA Summer Seminar this year. The winner is William Stuter. Congratulations to William!

Show & Tell – At this meeting our club president had asked for members to bring coins that were either foreign or ancient. Six members brought items to share with the club:

Rick Yadon – Rick enjoys collecting gold sovereigns from Great Britain. He noted that sovereigns were also minted in Australia, Canada, South Africa and India during the time those nations were part of the British Empire. He brought three to share. One of the three was a counterfeit and he asked the club members to check out the coins during the break and see how many could spot the phony. Later in the meeting Rick divulged that the middle coin, one with Queen Victoria in her golden jubilee pose, was the fake. The suspect coin was dated 1900 and by that time British coins were using the “mature head” for Victoria, showing her older and veiled.

Mike Grieneisen – Mike shared a book titled, “The Numismatourist: The Only Worldwide Travel Guide to Museums, Mints, and Other Places of Interest for the Numismatist” by Dr. Howard M. Berlin. Mike told us that the well-researched paperback is a fun read and a great source for any traveler who is interested in coins and currency. Mike noted that he recently traveled to Costa Rica and enjoyed a visit to a Numismatic Museum in their capitol city of San José. That museum was not in the book, so perhaps Mike will need to assist Dr. Berlin with a revised edition.

Nick Shel – Nick has also been traveling and he happened upon a coin carver in Costa Maya, Mexico. The very talented carver worked mostly with a hand drill and could make any design. Nick proudly shared two coins that he and his wife commissioned. One is a fifty-centavos piece that now has a San Francisco Giants logo, and the other is a one-peso piece that now includes a design with two cats.

Bob Shanks – Bob shared several “combination coins” – coins that have more than one reason for him to collect. One coin is a Japanese Bu, a rectangular coin from the period 1837-1854. The coin includes a counterstamp, that one might first think is a chop mark. The counterstamp is an impression hammered into the coin, after its minting, by a local government administration, to signify proof that the coin was good within the bounds of that governmental administration. Another coin that Bob shared was from the Indian subcontinent, dating to a time between the third and second century before the Christian era. This was the time of the Mauryan Emperors and the coin includes punch marks, that one might first think are also chop marks. Bob also showed a book that has detailed information about chop marks, counterstamps, and punch marks. There are approximately 450 different types of punch marks, so by studying the different types of punch marks one of these ancient coins may have, will give you something like a map of the various places in which that coin once circulated.

Joe Bardon – Yet another fascinating coin was shown to the club by Joe Bardon. This one is a Chinese German Coin. Many in the club were surprised to learn that an area of China, known as Jiaozhou Bay, was leased to, and administered by, Germany between the years 1898 and 1914. This area is on the Chinese Shandong Peninsula. During this time, Germany issued printed currency with a dollar equal to the Chinese Yuan and that was divided into one hundred cents. Two coins were produced in 1909 for use in this small enclave of Germany within China. One for five cents and the other for ten cents. Both had the German Imperial Eagle, along with the denomination, on one side. Both had Chinese characters on the other side which translate to “Great German Empire’s currency” and then an indication of the denomination and how many of this coin would be worth one Yuan. This revealed yet another fascinating piece of history.

Bruce Williams – Our club president shared three ancient coins, each from the time of the Roman Emperor, Constantine the Great. Constantine ruled from 306 to 337 A.D., so these coins were all nearly one thousand, seven hundred years old. Bruce remarked that when we collect U.S. coins, we often are amazed when we get to see a coin from the 1790s. These ancient coins are all more than seven times as old! Bruce

noted that the emperor is known as the first Christian ruler of the ancient world, ended the persecution of Christians, and won many battles against the Franks, the Goths and other enemies of Rome. Although much praised by historians, Bruce noted that Constantine the Great also murdered his eldest son and second wife. (Well, nobody's perfect!) Bruce's three coins are all graded Very Fine or Extra Fine, and so they show great detail. One of the coins was produced to mark the emperor's victory of the Milvian Bridge. This was the battle that led Constantine to being the sole ruler of the Roman Empire and where he saw a vision of a cross just before the battle and that changed the course of history. Bruce noted that he has had great fun in the past collecting U.S. gold coins, but now has all of them that are affordable, and so he will be turning his attention to ancient coins in his future.

A random drawing resulted in Rick Yadon being the winner of a nice 1943 Walking Liberty half dollar.

Break – Started at 7:46 and concluded at 8:02 p.m.

Auction – The club auction commenced at 8:03 p.m. with John Degen once again handling the auctioneer duties. The helpful runners were John Bither, Bob Shanks and Christine Spring. There were eight donations auctioned off followed by sixty-five lots of members' items offered for bidding and purchase. The auction ended at 8:48 p.m. Many thanks to the auctioneer and all who assisted.

Raffle – The top prize in the raffle was a 1/10th ounce Australian gold coin – with a design featuring a Kookaburra. This beautiful coin was won by John Bither. When asked if he liked the design, John indicated if the coin was gold, he liked it just fine. Congratulations to John and many thanks for his support of our club.

Next Meeting – Our next club meeting will be in two weeks, February 28th.

The meeting concluded at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, February 16, 2024
Patrick Carpenter, Recording Secretary SVCC