

ALEXANDRIA COIN CLUB NEWS

Volume 20, Number 4

April, 2012



New to our club? Welcome!

We meet on the **3rd Wednesday each month**, at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. in Alexandria, VA. It's just off US 1 inside the Beltway, and there's plenty of free parking. Meetings are held in the Gold Room. Check the lobby bulletin board just to be sure! The bourse opens at 7:00 p.m. and members may display, trade, and sell coins during this time. Our auction starts about 8:10 p.m. Members and visitors can bid during the bourse and auction. Members are encouraged to submit coins to be included in future auctions – contact **Auction Chair Robin Borum** at Robin.Borum@LNF.com or 703-395-3269.

Next Meeting: April 18!

Please make note of our new website address below

President:	Boots Barnes
Vice Pres/ANA Rep:	Frank Falgiano
Secretary:	Doug DeBarr
Treasurer:	Tom DeYoung
Auction Chair:	Robin Borum
Auctioneers:	Frank Falgiano Joel Cherry
Historian/CONECA Rep:	OPEN
ESNA Rep:	OPEN
MWNA Rep:	Jeff Saah
VNA Rep:	Joel Cherry
Microscope Coord:	Ron Iliffe
Refreshments Coordinators:	Doug DeBarr Michael Atkins
Raffle/Door Prize Coordinators:	Ron Iliffe Bob Kimes
YN Director:	Pete Locke
Webmaster:	Mike Atkins
Newsletter Editor:	Noelle Locke

Tentative Meeting Agenda:

- 7:00pm Bourse opens – please help yourself to refreshments!
- 8:00pm Meeting begins: welcome, announcements, discussions, speakers.
- 8:10pm Auction begins. Door prize drawing and raffle held at intermission.
- 9:30pm Settlement of auction accounts, submission of coins for next auction, adjournment.

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Alexandria Coin Club

PO Box 1233 Alexandria, VA 22314

www.alexandriacoinclub.com

Members: ANA, ESNA, VNA

It's Tax Time – *Time to Look at Tax Tokens!*

Now that the dreaded tax deadline is behind us, let's all breathe a sigh of relief and take a look at a more interesting aspect of taxes – their numismatic history.

Although a centuries-old concept used in Europe to finance wars and other major national endeavors, taxation in the United States caught on much later. It was first proposed as a 1% national tax in 1862 to help the Union pay the monetary costs of the Civil War, but it did not become a reality at the time. A national sales tax of 1% was again proposed in 1921 to help pay for the debt incurred during World War I. Although on a national level the action did not move forward, West Virginia that year successfully passed legislation for a statewide sales tax.

Nearly twenty years later, over 30 states had enacted sales taxes. Kewanee, IL was the first city to produce and use sales tax tokens for a 2% tax – a copper round 16 mm in diameter. In 1935, the US government filed suit against the state of Washington, asserting that the use of sales tax tokens was an assault on US coinage. The governor of Washington refused to back down and the issue was dropped. The state of Illinois was asked to cease distribution of its round tokens because they were too much like US dimes, causing the state to switch to square pieces.

Kansas was the first state to suspend token usage in 1939. Most states had curtailed their use after World War II, as the burden on merchants and consumers of tracking ration tokens, stamps, and sales tax tokens became overly complex. By 1961, the national mindset was not to worry about fractions of a cent, and in that year, Missouri was the last state to repeal the use of tax tokens.



State-issued sales tax tokens came in many different sizes, shapes, and colors. They were made from materials that included aluminum, plastic, and wood.

Why were they used, anyway?

Sales tax resulted in the final price of items having fractions of a cent. For example, purchase of a \$1.25 item, taxed at 3%, would cost \$1.2875, or \$1.28 and $\frac{3}{4}$ cent. What to do? Rounding up to \$1.29 would result in a "unfair" profit to the seller of $\frac{1}{4}$ cent, but rounding down would be unfair to the seller by reducing the profit by $\frac{3}{4}$ cent. The solution was to provide tokens denominated in fractions of a cent, or "mills" (1 mill = 1/1000 of a dollar, or 1/10 of a cent). So in the above example, the customer would pay \$1.29 and receive 2.5 mills in tax tokens as change. If the next purchase came to \$3.4325, the customer could pay \$3.43 plus the 2.5 mills in tax tokens. Imaging dealing with that?

How are they collected?

More than a billion sales tax tokens are estimated to have been produced, and most tokens are inexpensive and easy to find in dealer "junk boxes" for as little as 10 cents each. There are also much sought after pattern tokens. In 1921, a national sales tax was proposed and millions of fiber tokens were printed. When the legislation was shelved, they were all destroyed. Rumors persist, however, of 4 to 6 pieces that remain in existence.

There are state tokens as well as "Provisional Issues" from specific towns. These are much scarcer, but prices are still fairly low, as there are a limited number of collectors. Many towns also printed sales tax "tickets" or script on paper or cardboard stock, usually in vibrant colors or security patterns that were difficult to duplicate.

State issued sales tax tokens vary widely in size, shape, and color. They were made from a range of different materials, including copper, brass, paper, cardboard, fiber, aluminum, zinc, plastic and wood. The language ranged from Arizona's practical: "to make change for correct sales tax," to blunt in Louisiana: "Public Welfare Tax Token" and Oklahoma: "For Old Age Assistance." Missouri's second generation "milk-cap" token reads "helping to pay for old age pensions, support of public schools, care of poor insane and tubercular patients in state hospitals and relief of needy unemployed in the state of Missouri."

Like so many aspects of coin collecting, sales tax tokens provide yet another interesting piece of history to have and to hold. Want to know more? Check into the American Tax Token Society's web site at <http://www.taxtoken.org/faq.htm>, where information for this article was obtained.

Mark Your Calendars – Upcoming Shows and Events!

Vienna Quarterly Coin Show	4/28 10 – 6 4/29 10 – 4	Vienna Community Center Vienna, VA	Contact: Darren Coker 703-532-6640 darrencoker@aol.com
Warrenton Coin Club Show	4/28 9 – 4	St. John The Evangelist Catholic Church Warrenton, VA	Tony Tripi 540-347-2567 tripi@earthlink.net
Baltimore Monthly Coin Show	4/29 10 – 4	Hilton Pikesville Pikesville, MD	James & Jennifer Reeves 814-599-9546 (Jim-cell) jreevesandcompany@hotmail.com



Have a Question? Need Some Help?
Contact an ACC Dealer!

Robin Borum	Robin Borum Rare Coins	703-395-3269
Andy & Alynne Skrabalak	Angel Dee's Coins and Collectibles www.angeldees.com	703- 580-6969
Carl Ostiguy	CEO Coins, Currency & Treasurers	443-623-7025
George Watson	George A. Watson	703-843-7072
Frank Falgiano	CEFCO Enterprises	703-491-1017
John Koebert	Butternut	703-802-0252
Mike Olson	MCO Consultants - Numismatics	703-644-5375
Mike W. Hess	Classic Coins & Collectibles Cameo Coins and Collectibles camcoins@aol.com	703-330-3747 703-281-7053
Bob Patterson	Bob's Coins	703-490-1222
John Manley	German Coins	202-546-5256
Wayne Wilcox	Wayne's Coin & Currency	703-920-2385
Jason Zeibel	Z&Z Coins	703-598-1340
J.W. Kennedy	Kennedy's Stamps & Coins J.w.kennedy@verizon.net	703- 569-7300



Reminder!

Keep your membership up-to-date! Please remember to pay your annual dues. If you're not sure that you've paid or not, contact Doug DeBarr at ddebarr@caci.com

This is your newsletter -- please submit articles or items of interest to: Noelle.locke@verizon.net Thanks!

ACC April Auction Lots					
#	Item	Description	Min Bid	Estim Value	Win Bid
1	Comm.	2012 U.S.Infantry Silver Dollar, Proof in Mint box		55	
2	50c	1964 Kennedy Half Dollar, Proof		15	
3	mixed	2pc, 1978 U.S.Mint Unc.Set; 1971 Ike Dollar Unc 40% Silver		23	
4	5c	80pc, Jefferson Silver 'War Nickels' Circ. Mixed dates in tubes		160	
5	5c	11 Rolls, Jefferson Nickels 1963 & 1964, All BU in tubes		440	
6	25c	8pc, 1925-1931 Standing Liberty Quarters, avg G4		48	
7	\$1	1900-O MS61		52	
8	\$1	1904-O MS61		52	
9	\$1	2pc, 1924 MS60, 1922-S F12		75	
10	\$1	25pc, 2010 Native American Dollar Roll		50	
11	\$1	4pc, 1922-P,D,S F-VF, 1924 VG8		120	
12	\$1	2pc, 1891-O G4, 1896-O VG8		57	
13	25c	16pc, 5-Standing Lib.(dateless) 11-Washington 1951-64		88	
14	50c	3pc, 1940 F12, 1942 VG8, 1963-D VG20		40	
15	50c	16pc, 1964 avg UNC-BU		240	
16	50c	8pc, 1966-1969 avg UNC-BU, (40% Silver)		48	
17	25c	1950 in PCGS MS65 holder		50	
18	25c	1958 in NGC MS66 holder		45	
19	1c	191pc, 1909-1963 in folders, avg circ (some are BU)		65	
20	\$1	1990 Silver Eagle, UNC in velvet box		37	
21	\$1	1994 Silver Eagle, UNC in velvet box		37	
22	\$1	2001 Silver Eagle, UNC in velevt box		37	
23	Comm.	1982-S George Washington Half in Mint box, Proof		25	
24	50c	3pc, 1917 G4, 1918 G4, 1942 EF40		42	
25	\$1	1986-S Silver Eagle Proof in Mint box	70	75	
26	1c	50pc, Indian Cents mixed dates in tube, avg G4	45	75	
27	10c	7pc, 1947-S,50-S,51-S,54-D,56,59,64 avg VF-BU		24	
28	10c	3pc, 1857 F12, 1877-CC F12, 1891 EF40	25	78	
29	25c	2pc, 1853 A&R F12, 1877-CC F15	45	125	
30	25c	1961 Proof, 1972-S Proof		12	
31	50c	4pc, 1941-D,1942-P,D,S; avg circ		58	
32	50c	2pc, 1963 & 63-D; UNC		36	
33	\$1	1890 AU50		38	
34	\$1	1923 MS61		47	
35	World	Germany 2004 10 Euro, UNC			
36	25c	16pc, 1917 Ty1 to 1930, avg AG3 to F12		156	
37	1c	17pc, mixed dates 1859-1906 avg G4 in Whitman folder	38	48	
38	10c	Canada 31pc, 1937-1967 dimes in Whitman folder avg G-VF	38	61	
39	1/2c	1855 EF40	52	95	
40	1c	1838 EF40	52	90	
41	1c	2pc, 1906 AU & 1909 VDB AU; both cleaned	20	26	

42	1c	1931-S F12	60	130
43	5c	1866 F12	40	75
44	10c	3pc, 1855 w/arr F12, 1857 F12, 1872 VF20	36	77
45	mixed	4pc, 1943-S 5c EF, 1940 10c EF, 1943-S 50c VG, 1964 50c UNC	14	36
46	Set	1961 Proof Set		27
47	50c	2pc Comm, 1893 Columbian EF45, 1982 G.Wash. 250th UNC		30
48	\$1	1878-S Trade Dollar F12	90	150

Hey! It's National Coin Week!

This year's National Coin Week theme is *Change in Money: Cowries to Credit Cards* and it will be held from April 15-21. Every year during the third full week of April, the ANA and its members celebrate National Coin Week with exhibits, educational resources, presentations and other activities at civic centers, libraries and schools to let the world know about the joys of collecting and studying coins and other forms of money. The 89th annual event will focus on how money has changed over the years and the innovations that have allowed those changes to occur.

