

# ALEXANDRIA COIN CLUB NEWS

Volume 21, Number 8

September, 2013



## 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@verizon.net](mailto:Robin.Borum@verizon.net) or 703-395-3269.

**Next Meeting: September 18!**

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:	Robert Mitchell
Refreshments Coordinators:	Doug DeBarr
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

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[www.alexandriacoinclub.com](http://www.alexandriacoinclub.com)

Member: ANA, ESNA, VNA

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# The Briot Shilling

ACC member **John Mercer** recently had his writing published as a feature article in *Coin News*, the largest circulation coin magazine in the U.K. The article was about design transitions during the minting of the Victoria shield sovereign from 1838-1887. (<http://www.tokenpublishing.com/issue.asp?iid=362>)

Two of John's previous submissions were published in July and August. "Atrocious Hideousness," compared Charles I and Teddy Roosevelt's efforts to reinvigorate coin design. "The Briot Shilling," recounts the story of a 1643-4 Charles I shilling found hidden in the drawer of an antique chest of drawers, still in mint condition centuries later. We're very pleased to reprint the latter in this month's newsletter.

Here is the story of a very interesting coin, told to me by [Bruce Lorch](#), an acknowledged expert on English coins. It is about an English shilling from the reign of Charles I, minted at York by Nicolas Briot in 1643-4. The shilling was found in a Jacobean chest of drawers, stuck somehow in the back of one of the drawers, somewhere in the English north country back in the early 1980s. It was seemingly lost in the piece of furniture just after it was minted over 350 years ago. The coin is a gem, with full luster, and is almost certainly the finest of its kind known to exist.



The dealer who first acquired the shilling was a dear friend of Mr. Lorch (Bruce hereafter) who often traveled around the English countryside looking for coins, banknotes and other historical relics. He had never seen such a marvelous shilling and saved it, knowing Bruce would treasure it as well. Bruce kept it for nearly 20 years before selling it to an avid shillings collector. It later resurfaced at a Goldberg auction in a plastic holder, inexplicably graded MS 63 by the Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC), despite its fabulous silvery luster and freshness, probably due to the small area in the center of the coin that is actually the result of an alloy flaw rather than a poor strike, mishandling or wear. (The red area seen in the center of the shilling is actually red wax, classically used for marking

such flaws, and may have been placed there by the original finder in the early 1980s.) Who holds the coin now is unknown.

## Identifying the Coin

Spink's *Standard Catalog of British Coins* assigns the reference number of 2870 to the shilling, associates the lion mintmark seen on the coin with the mint at York where it was made, and provides an image of an example on page 287. The coin is also identified in Sutherland's *English Coinage*, with an image shown on plate 94, but this example is much nicer than the ones shown in either reference.



*Charles I, Shilling, York Mint, 1643-4 (S.2870), type 1, crowned bust left, with scalloped lace collar and value (12 pence) behind; lion mint mark on both obverse and reverse. Reverse: long cross fourchée upon a quartered shield of arms with "EBOR" above (Eboracum, the ancient fort and city in Roman Britain that eventually became known as York).*

### **York and the English Civil War**

On the eve of the English Civil War in April 1642, civil unrest made London too dangerous for King Charles I to remain, so he moved his court to York, effectively establishing it as the English capital until August, when he declared war against the rebel Parliamentary forces and departed to establish his court at Oxford. York continued to serve as a Royalist base of operations in the north and the Midlands, and it was during this period that one of Briot's provincial mints was in operation in the city. A Parliamentary army under Lord Fairfax, seeking to eliminate Royalist strength in the area, defeated a Royalist force at nearby Selby on April 11, 1644, and placed York under siege. Although a Royalist relieving force under Prince Rupert of the Rhine was able to raise the siege, Rupert unwisely sought battle outnumbered and was decisively defeated at the Battle of Marston Moor, leading to the fall of York and the collapse of Royalist strength in the north of England.

### **Nicolas Briot**

Nicolas Briot was the French engraver-general at the Paris mint whose artistry and flair for improving upon the minting machinery that had been introduced to France from Germany earned him considerable jealousy and resentment. Accused of fraud, Briot fled France to England in 1625. Luckily, Charles I was already displeased with the work of Edward Greene, his chief engraver, and in Briot he found the very man who could both design his coins and supervise their production. Within a year of his arrival, Briot was engaged to engrave a new Great Seal of England. In 1628, he became the designer of Charles' portraits for coins and medals, and by 1629, he was using his innovative machinery to strike coins.

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No one really knows how Briot made his English coins, but a good guess would be a further development of his French coining machine. It is certain that this particular shilling was made by Nicolas Briot at York, but the exact configuration of the machinery he used to make it is unclear. During the war Briot often moved, setting up temporary facilities to mint emergency coinage in several provincial cities, and the machinery he used seems to have varied from place to place. Meanwhile Parliament, controlling much of the southeast, continued to mint coins in London bearing the king's image. Accounts indicate that Parliamentarians seized some of Briot's machinery at Scarborough while it was on the journey north to York from the Tower of London. Chaliss's *New History of the Royal Mint* suggests Briot used cylindrical dies at York, operated by hand, through which a metal strip was fed; a process not used at the Tower. If this was the case, Briot's machinery must have had features similar to one of the German roller dies shown at right.



## Summary

As the saying goes, all coins have a story to tell. This one, the product of a turbulent time of political and numismatic change, has a much more interesting story than most. My thanks to Bruce for sharing it with me and giving permission to share it with you here.

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## Sources

1. C.E. Chaliss: *A New History of the Royal Mint*. London: Cambridge University Press, 1993.
2. "The Coining Technology Heritage Project," [www.segoviamint.org](http://www.segoviamint.org) (Multiple coining machinery images.) Accessed 8 February 2010.
3. Ira and Larry Goldberg, *Money of the World: Coins That Made History*. Atlanta: Whitman Publishing LLC., 2007.
4. "History of York," [www-historyofyork-dot-org-dot-uk](http://www.historyofyork.org.uk), a website exploring York's history, provided by a partnership led by York Museums Trust, supported by Yorkshire Forward and City of York Council. Accessed 8 February 2010.
5. Bruce Lorch: <http://www.bruceorch.com/>
6. Spink & Son: *Standard Catalogue of British Coins, Coins of England & the United Kingdom*. 47th Edition. London: Spink, 2012.
7. C.H.V. Sutherland: *English Coinage, 600-1900*. London: Batsford Ltd., 1973.
8. Image of the Jacobean chest of drawers is from MacKenzie Galleries & Commercial, <http://www.mckenziegalleries.com/>.

# Mark Your Calendar:

## Upcoming Shows and Events in our Area



Banc Towson Coin Show	9/ 22 9 - 4	Best Western Towson Balt N 1100 Cromwell Bridge Rd Towson, MD	Alan Jefferson 410-866-6332 <a href="mailto:morbeus1@comcast.net">morbeus1@comcast.net</a>
VNA Annual Conv & Coin Show	9/27-28 10 - 6 9/29 10 - 4	Fredericksburg Expo & Conf Ctr 2371 Carl D. Silver Pkwy Fredericksburg, VA	Gregg Coburn 540-272-1524 <a href="mailto:coburngregg@gmail.com">coburngregg@gmail.com</a>
Frederick Cty Coin & Curr Show	10/ 4 9:30 - 4:30 10/5 9:30 - 4:30	Grange Hall 1 South 8th Alley New Market, MD	Michael Dixon 301-788-6232 <a href="mailto:mike@dixonshows.com">mike@dixonshows.com</a>
Middle River Coin Club Show	10/ 12 10 - 3	Victory Villa Comm Ctr 404 Compass Rd Middle River, MD	Wendell Petri 410-254-3955 <a href="mailto:pennsylvpete@comcast.net">pennsylvpete@comcast.net</a>
Richmond Coin Club Show	10/18 - 19 10 - 6 10/20 10 - 3	Clarion Hotel 3207 North Blvd	William Scott 804-350-1140 <a href="mailto:woscott1@verizon.net">woscott1@verizon.net</a>



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

Robin Borum	Robin Borum Rare Coins	703-395-3269	<a href="mailto:rborum@verizon.net">rborum@verizon.net</a>
Joel P. Cherry	MERCURY Numismatics	703-876-9450	<a href="mailto:joel.cherry@cox.net">joel.cherry@cox.net</a>
Frank Falgiano	CEFCO Enterprises	703-491-1017	
Mike W. Hess	Classic Coins & Collectibles	703-330-3747	
J.W. Kennedy	Kennedy's Stamps and Coins	703-569-7300	
John Koeber	Butternut	703-802-0252	
John Manley	German Coins	202-546-5256	
Bob Mitchell	RKT Coins	703-268-5234	<a href="mailto:RKTcoins@cox.net">RKTcoins@cox.net</a>
Mike Olson	MCO Consultants - Numismatics	703-644-5375	
Bob Patterson	Bob's Coins	703-490-1222	
Andy & Alynne Skrabalak	Angel Dee's Coins and Collectibles	703- 580-6969	<a href="http://www.angeldees.com">www.angeldees.com</a>
T.J. Shea	Penny Pincher Coins	703-383-1414	
John Sullivan	Cameo Coins and Collectibles	703-281-7053	<a href="mailto:camcoins@aol.com">camcoins@aol.com</a>
George Watson	George A. Watson	703-843-7072	
Wayne Wilcox	Wayne's Coin & Currency	703-920-2385	
Jason Zeibel	Z&Z Coins	703-598-1340	





## Counterfeit GSA Found at Summer FUN in Orlando, FL

From 1972 to 1980 the General Services Administration (GSA) sold a group of Uncirculated Carson City Morgan dollars that was discovered in Treasury vaults. Each coin was sealed in a special slab-like plastic case. A thin black & silver cardboard box held the slab and contained a numbered certificate. Many of the original boxes and cases have been destroyed as coins were sent to grading services; nevertheless, these GSA coins in original holders can still be found with a little searching.

On the last day of the Summer F.U.N. Show in Orlando, Randy Campbell, ICG Senior Grader and silver dollar authority, was asked to give his opinion on the grade of one of these coins still in its plastic holder but without the outer box. Verbal opinions are a free service provided at shows by ICG graders. As it turned out, this simple request caused quite a stir and soon the ICG table became crowded with dealers and collectors wishing to view the coin.



Campbell reports that he noticed the coin was cleaned and had the color of a dollar minted at Philadelphia rather than Carson City. Genuine Uncirculated GSA coins are not cleaned. After a short examination, Campbell discovered that the 1881-CC coin was a modern counterfeit probably made in China. Moments later, Campbell announced that the entire "package" was bad (Fig. 1). The coin was counterfeit, the black insert surrounding the coin was counterfeit and the plastic case was not original.

Figure 1

Let's start with the coin. On a quality scale of 1 to 10, ICG authenticator F. Michael Fazzari rated the coin as a 6+. It is not as dangerous, or as well executed, as the Trade dollars (rated 8+) that appeared in the market several years ago; but he believes it's a coin that would be purchased by at least 40% of the dealers at the show who would probably not give it more than a cursory glance inside the government holder. Fazzari states that he viewed a fake Carson City dollar of similar quality on the final exam at a seminar on Chinese Counterfeits taught by Dr. Gregory DuBay and Beth Deisher in Colorado Springs. The quality of most Chinese counterfeit dollars seen by ICG authenticators is rather crude – especially the date digits. This counterfeit had a nice style that was pleasing to the eye; however, with 7X magnification using fluorescent light, defects could be seen on its relief. A comparison of the mint mark area of a genuine Carson City dollar (Fig. 2) and the counterfeit (Fig. 3) is shown in the micrographs.

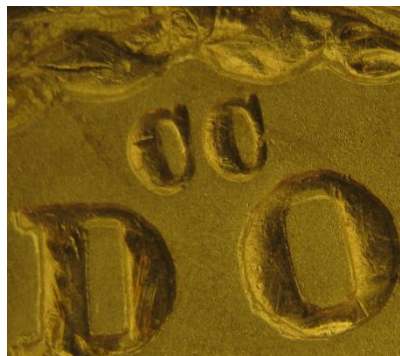


Figure 2



Figure 3

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The black insert used to hold genuine GSA dollars is made of plastic with a granular pattern (Fig.4). Campbell noticed that this fake was surrounded by a smooth cardboard insert (Fig.5).



Figure 4



Figure 5

While a discussion about the quality and manufacture of the outer plastic case was going on, ICG staffers Libby Dollar and Ryan Barnhardt purchased a set of proof presidential dollars from a dealer nearby. Upon examination, they confirmed Campbell's belief that the fake used a genuine mint plastic case to further the deception (Fig.6). The modern mint case surrounding the counterfeit insert is not permanently sealed. Additionally, it has a slightly different design from the sealed GSA product (Fig.7).

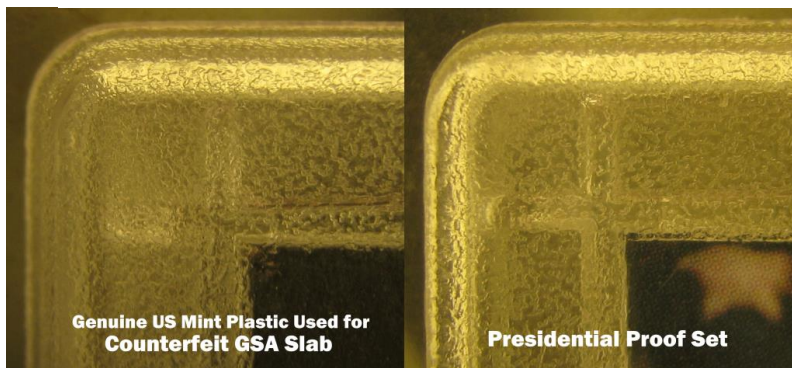


Figure 7



Figure 6

Finally, a bright silver “Carson City Uncirculated Silver Dollar” logo is imprinted on the inside of the genuine GSA plastic case (Fig.8). The counterfeit product has its logo printed directly on to the black cardboard giving it a rough appearance (Fig. 9).



Figure 8



Figure 9

In view of this new counterfeit, collectors should check their GSA coins and compare any that are questionable with the photos posted.





Counterfeit Coin Obverse



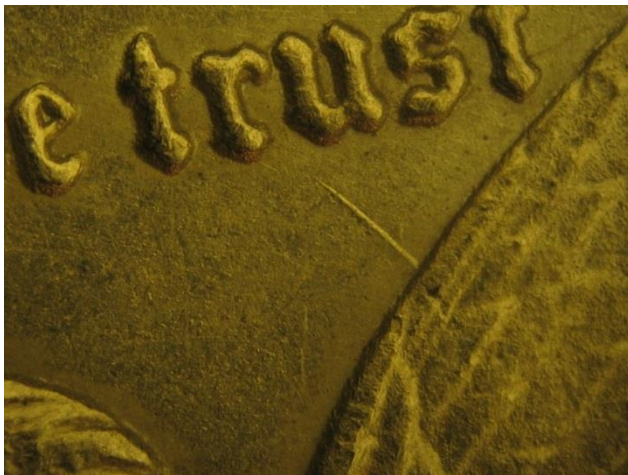
Counterfeit Coin Reverse



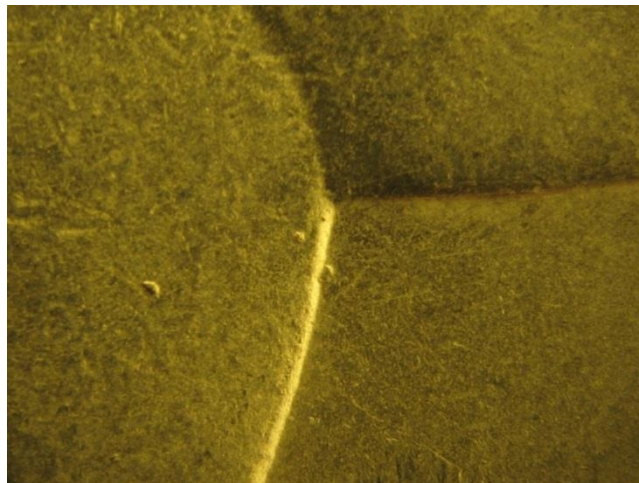
Genuine Coin Date



Counterfeit Coin Date



Tool Mark on Wing of Counterfeit



Lump Defects on Jaw of Counterfeit



**Bring your 1881 CC Morgans to the next ACC meeting and use the microscope to determine if your holdings are the real deal!**





*Drum Roll Please...*

**Announcing:  
The 2014 Alexandria Coin Show!**

**When?**            **Saturday, February 8, 2014**  
**9:00 am – 5:00 pm**

**Where?**           **Springfield American Legion Post 176**  
**6520 Amherst Avenue**  
**Springfield, VA 22150**

**Who?**            **Your contact is Boots Barnes**  
**703-975-7029 (cell)**  
**[steven.barnes8@verizon.net](mailto:steven.barnes8@verizon.net)**

Anything else?

It's free and open to the public! Door prizes will be awarded and there will be a special instruction period at 1:00 pm that's not to be missed!

Bring family! Bring Friends! Get your sweetie a love token!

ACC September Auction Lots					
#	Item	Description	Min Bid	Estim Val	Win Bid
1	50c	2pc, 1960 & 1961, Proof		30	
2	50c	2pc, 1963 Proof, 1964 UNC		25	
3	World	Canada; 80pc small cents in folder 1920-1998 VF-BU (4-Proof)		75	
4	1c	145pc, 50's 60's 70's, UNC & Proof		145	
5	25c	51pc, 1999-2006 Proof (5-UNC)	50	95	
6	5c	2pc, 1913-D Ty2 AU50, 1981-S Proof	125	260	
7	50c	1935-S San Diego comm PCGS 'cleaned' & 1941 NGC MS64	100	160	
8	\$1	1879-S NGC MS64	45	85	
9	\$1	1889 ANACS AU58	25	40	
10	\$1	1897 ANACS MS64	45	115	
11	\$1	1898 ANACS MS64	45	100	
12	1c	4pc, 2000-S to 2003-S, all PCGS PR69RD DCAM		162	
13	\$1	1879-S MS63	35	70	
14	\$1	1880-S MS63PL	60	75	
15	mixed	20pc, 60's & 70's Proof cents,nickels,dimes		25	
16	mixed	14pc, 60's & 70's Proof quarters, halves	40	60	
17	1c	6pc, 1878,80,82,87,88,89, avg AG to G		27	
18	50c	1861-O VG10	40	50	
19	50c	1917-S obv, VG	25	50	
20	World	Great Britan 1984 1/2 Sovereign Proof, .1176 oz AGW	150	150	
21	1c	5pc, 1859-1864 CN, avg G		50	
22	1c	2pc, 1884 EF, 1917-S VF		30	
23	mixed	8pc,1863,(5)1902 1c;1912,1930 5c; 1914-D 10c; avg G4		15	
24	10c	2pc,1820 "sm o" VG rev scars, 1828 "sm date" VG	65	95	
25	10c	1889 EF40	25	40	
26	25c	1858 VF20	35	45	
27	25c	1907-D VF20	38	50	
28	50c	1837 AG3	36	45	
29	50c	1853 A&R F12	36	60	
30	50c	2pc, 1858-O G4, 1874 G4	44	70	
31	mixed	2pc, 1835 1c Fr2, 1829 5c Fr2		30	
32	50c	1948 MS64		50	
33	mixed	3pc,1919 5c VG,1935 50c VG,encased 25c VA 400th anniversary		18	
34	Comm	1982-S Silver Half Proof (George Washington 250th anniv.)		30	
35	Comm	1987-S Silver Dollar Proof (Constitution Bicentennial)		40	
36	Comm	1993-S Silver Half Proof (Bill of Rights Coin and Stamp Set)		35	
37	\$1	1883-O MS63		65	
38	Silver	1oz 1985 Engelhard 'American Prospector'		28	
39	Set	1962 Proof Set		30	