

MISSOURI JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS

VOLUME 29

JULY, 2004

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSOURI NUMISMATIC SOCIETY



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MISSOURI JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS

VOLUME 29

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSOURI NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
MEMBER CLUB OF THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION (ANA)

P.O. Box 410652

St. Louis, MO 63141-0652

MissouriNumismaticSociety.org

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The
MISSOURI NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
invites you to attend
the
NEXT REGULAR MEETING
which will be held on the fourth Wednesday
of the month at 7:00 p.m.

President's Message

By

Jerry L. Morgan

Greetings and welcome to the Missouri Numismatic Society 44th annual MNS coin festival!

This year we are teaming with the Scotsman Auction Company to add a new feature to our festival: an Auction. Called "The Gateway City Sale", it consists of 1,807 lots and features such interesting items as: 1792 Half Disme, 1793 Chain Cent, 1856 Flying Eagle Cent, a PCGS MS-65RD 1909-s V.D.B. cent and several 1836 Gobrecht Dollars.

Those of you who have been attending our festivals in the past may remember a time when an auction was one of the looked forward to events. We thank the people at Scotsman, especially John Bush, for their help in setting up this attraction.

John also deserves our gratitude for acting as bourse chairman of the show. After many extremely successful years as bourse chairman, Mr. John Foster, passed the baton to John Bush this year. While still an active member of the club, Mr. Foster wanted someone else to experience the fun he was having. I speak for the entire MNS when I say to Mr. Foster "Thanks for all your hard work. We deeply appreciate the time and effort you put into making the previous festivals the successes they were".

Last year was also one for change in our meeting location. In order to provide our members with a convenient location with comfortable surroundings at an affordable price we tried out several locations. I am pleased to report that we have found our new home: the American Legion in Creve Coeur. The facilities consist of two large meeting rooms with plenty of room for our members to gather and discuss the latest events in the world of Numismatics.

You are invited to join our open club meetings. Each meeting features a show-n-tell, a researched program, a jackpot drawing, attendance prizes and an auction. For more information please contact Johnny Woodside at 314-692-2646.

This year our Journal features the 200th anniversary of Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery. We hope you enjoy the articles on this topic. One of our members, Norm Bowers, is a member of the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles. This group reenactment portions of the famous journey from Elizabeth, Pennsylvania to Great Falls, Montana.

I would like to thank our current MNS officers, Board of Directors, and members for providing leadership and support for this show.

Thank you for attending our festival. We welcome your ideas and comments at our show. If our organization or myself can assist you at the show please let any of us know. The Missouri Numismatics Society appreciates your interest and involvement.

Interesting Stories From The Boone County National Bank of Columbia

*By
Craig J. Dickherber*

The Boone County National Bank serves the citizens of Columbia, Missouri and the surrounding area. The bank has a history dating back to 1857 when Moss Prewitt, a Columbia merchant, and his son-in-law, R.B. Price Sr. established the firm of Prewitt and Price. This became the Columbia branch of the Exchange Bank of Saint Louis.

The National Currency Act of February 25, 1863 provided for the organization of National Banks and granted circulation privileges to these banks provided they deposit United States Bonds as security. On September 1, 1863 the Columbia branch of the Exchange Bank became the First National Bank of Columbia and was granted Charter Number 67. This was the first national bank chartered in Missouri and only the third national bank west of the Mississippi River.

During the Civil War bank robberies were a common occurrence. In 1864 raiders had looted several banks and merchants in surrounding communities like Huntsdale and Centralia. The raiders were reported to be heading for Columbia. R.B. Price Sr., the president of the bank at that time, took \$150,000 in currency and \$70,000 in gold from the bank and buried it under a fence post for safe keeping on a trusted friend's farm three miles north of Columbia. The money remained there until the threat of a raid had passed.

Later in 1864, the bank converted to a state charter, which required a small-cash reserve to be kept in the bank. After the Civil War, on January 1, 1871, the bank once again received a national charter. This charter, number 1770, was now under the name Boone County National Bank.

In the years up to and through the great depression bank panics would occur. Some rumor would start saying the bank down the street was insolvent. People would hurry down to the bank to withdraw their money. With no other security for their cash they would simply take the money to the bank across the street and deposit it. As the bank that was experiencing withdrawals began to run out of cash the other banks would take their deposits and return it to the bank through the back door. This type of cooperation, that would not be found today, would stave off insolvency for the banks.

During the currency issuing period the Boone County National Bank issued \$2,147,180 worth of bank notes. Notes that were issued before July 1929 were shipped to the bank from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in sheets of four, which would then be signed by the President and cashier of the bank and then cut into single notes.

Rumor has it that A.G. Spencer, the Cashier of the Boone County National Bank, the President. To the surprise of a clerk or waitress he would take out the sheet, cut off a note, sign it, and present it for payment!

There were 265 banks in 124 different towns that issued National Currency from the state of Missouri. Most of these banks have an interesting history like this one. The joy from the hobby of collecting National Bank Notes comes not only from finding and purchasing the notes, but from the great lesson one receives when he researches his purchases.



Series 1902 Plain Back \$5 Signed by A.G. Spencer; Cashier and R.B. Price (Jr.); President A Coin of Viminacium

Things to do in St. Louis

If you have some free time while in St. Louis and want to learn more about Lewis and Clark, you may:

- See historic artifacts of Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery at the **Missouri History Museum**. This exhibit is a self guided audio tour.
- Discover items made by the Osage Indians at the **Saint Louis Art Museum**. Materials such as beads, fur, wood and stone were used these works.
- Watch a large format film, "Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West" at the **St. Louis Science Center**. The film takes viewers through the adventure, danger and beauty of the unmapped west.
- Learn what Lewis and Clark did in St. Louis to prepare for the expedition at the **Museum of Westward Expansion** beneath the Arch.
- View the animal life that Lewis and Clark discovered at the **Saint Louis Zoo**. A self-guided tour is presented that includes the animal named by a member of the expedition: the prairie dog.
- Bring your children to **The Magic House's** "Lewis and Clark Adventure". The adventure is an interactive tour showing the landmarks and challenges faced by Lewis and Clark.

For more information about these activities refer to Explore St. Louis at http://www.explorestlouis.com/grouptours/itin_lewclrk1.asp



Did You Know This About The Lewis And Clark Expedition?



What States did the Corps of Discovery Travel through?

Eleven states: Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon.

What was the cost of the Louisiana Purchase?

15 million dollars. This worked out to about 3 cents an acre. By purchasing 820,000 square miles, the size of the United States was almost doubled.

What was the cost of the expedition?

The final cost was \$38,000. Only \$2,500 was appropriated for the trip. This appropriation was made by Congress on January 18, 1803, four months before the official July 4th announcement of the land purchase.

Which River is longer: the Missouri or the Mississippi?

The Mississippi is longer. However, this maybe a case of mistaken identification. The rules of river naming state that when two rivers meet, the one with the greater water flow will be considered the primary river and the other river will be a tributary. In the case of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, the Missouri has the greater flow but the name given to the continuing river was Mississippi. The reason for this may be that the Mississippi looks wider when the rivers meet and this may have been interpreted to indicate a greater flow.

Where are Lewis and Clark buried?

Meriwether Lewis was shot on October 11, 1809. He was 35 years old. He died in a cabin along the Natchez Trace and was buried close by.

William Clark died on September 1, 1838 at the age of 69. He was buried with Masonic and military honors on the farm of his nephew, Col. John O'Fallon. In the 1850s his body was moved to the new Bellefontaine Cemetery.



Remember When?

Remember back in 1964 when...

- The Kennedy half dollar was in big demand, although the reasons behind it were very sad?
- Collecting rolls was hot?
- After 1933 single coins were not wanted and all coins must be uncirculated?
- The 1922, 1923, 1924 or 1925 Peace Dollar was worth one dollar? And it better be uncirculated!
- The 1950-D Jefferson nickel was still considered rare?
- Eleven dollars would buy you any two and a half Indian Head gold coin except for the 1911-D? Fourteen Dollars would purchase most five dollar Indian Heads.
- The 1913 Liberty Head could not be found (in circulation) since all 5 pieces are in collections?

Appraising and Selling Your Coins, by The Coin and Currency Institute, Inc.

New Challenges

Half Cents are one of the more unusual dominations produced by the U.S. Mint. Half cents were first struck in 1793. Production continued until 1857 when they were discontinued as part of the same bill that reduced the size of the cent .

A short but interesting collection can be made of the Coronet type. Business strikes of this type were produced from 1849 through 1857, with the exception of 1851.

Christian Gobrecht used the same obverse design for the Coronet half cent that he did for the large cent: a bust of Liberty facing left. A tiara is in her hair. LIBERTY appears on the tiara. Thirteen stars appear along the edge. The reverse contains the words HALF CENT within a wreath tied at the bottom with a bow. Surrounding the words is UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The eight business strikes could be obtained for around \$500 in Fine while in Extremely Fine the set would require a little over \$1000.

Proof only and restrikes also exist for 1840 - 1849 and 1851. However, these are quite expensive.

Values courtesy of Coin World COIN Values, July 5, 2004



A Coin of Viminacium

by
Charles Calkins



Ancient coins can be very expressive and symbolic. The imagery and the text can be representative of elements secular or religious, monetary, chronological, civic, militaristic, political, geographic... This article examines a coin of Viminacium and elements on one such coin are identified and examined.

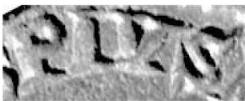
Viminacium, now Kostolac, Serbia, Yugoslavia, was originally a Roman military camp, but became a Roman colony at the start of the reign of the emperor Gordian III in 239 or 240 AD. The coin above is a coin of Viminacium issued under Gordian III.



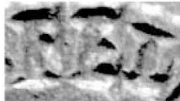
IMP



GORDIANVS



PIVS



FEL



AVG

The obverse legend, IMP GORDIANVS PIVS FEL AVG, consists of several parts. IMP is an abbreviation of Imperator, or Emperor. GORDIANUS PIUS is the name of the emperor issuing the coinage, Gordian III. FEL AUG abbreviates Felicitas Augusti, referring to the happiness of the emperor as a blessing attached to his reign.



Portrait

The portrait is of Gordian III. Gordian was born about A.D. 225, given the title of Caesar by the joint emperors Balbinus and Pupienus, and became Augustus in 238 when they were murdered. While emperor he suppressed a revolt in Africa in 240, but was murdered while on a campaign in Mesopotamia in 244.

The radiate crown worn by Gordian indicates the coin was probably a dupondius. It is of "middle" weight where the large weight corresponds to a sestertius, and a coin of small weight corresponds to an as. At the time this coin was issued, the standard, non-provincial Roman coin denominations were the following:

Gold <i>aureus</i>	=	25 silver <i>denarii</i>
Gold <i>quinarius</i>	=	12 1/2 silver <i>denarii</i>
Silver <i>denarius</i>	=	16 copper <i>asses</i>
Silver <i>quinarius</i>	=	8 copper <i>asses</i>
Brass <i>sestertius</i>	=	4 copper <i>asses</i>
Brass <i>dupondius</i>	=	2 copper <i>asses</i>
Copper <i>as</i>	=	4 copper <i>quadrantes</i>
Brass <i>semis</i>	=	2 copper <i>quadrantes</i>
Copper <i>quadrans</i>		



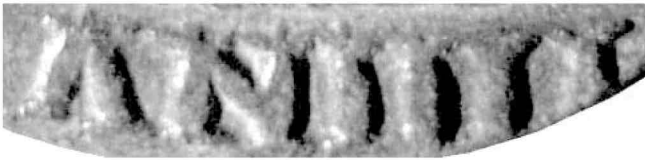
The reverse inscription, P M S COL VIM, abbreviates Provincia Moesia Superioris Colonia Viminacium. The province of Moesia was created on or before A.D. 6 after the Roman army conquered Pannonia in 12 B.C. About A.D. 85 the province was divided into Moesia Superior (Upper) and Inferior (Lower). Moesia was located in what is now Serbia, Albania and Macedonia.

The town of Viminacium, now Kostolac, Serbia, was located on flat terrain on the Mlava river close to where it empties into the Danube. The camp itself was on the left bank of the Mlava, and measured about 443x386 m. A walled civil settlement was to the west of the camp and measured approximately 850x600 m.

The figure on the reverse is a personification. Certain Roman coins had figures that represented geographic locations or ideas rather than traditional gods and goddesses, although members of the Greek pantheon were often present. The figure on this coin has been identified as either representing the province of Moesia Superior, or the town of Viminacium itself.



Figure



Date

This coin is dated Anno IIII, the fourth year of Viminacium as a colony, corresponding to A.D. 243 or 244. Colonial coins of Viminacium were issued for 16 years under 14 emperors and empresses, with Gordian III the first.



Bull Standard with VII



Lion



Standard with IIII

The typical reverse type of a coin of Viminacium has the figure standing with a bull and lion at her feet, though this coin also has the figure holding military standards. The bull represents legion VII Claudia Pia Fidelis ("the legion that is loyal and faithful to Claudius"), stationed at Viminacium since the first century A.D., and the lion represents legion IIII Flavia Felix ("The lucky Flavian legion"), stationed in the second half of the first century also in Viminacium, but by the issuance of this coin it was located at Singidinum (now Belgrade, the capital of Serbia) 90km from Viminacium.

The basic element of a Roman legion was a tent of 8 men known as a tent group (contubernium). Ten of these groups formed a century, commanded by a centurion. Six centuries formed a cohort, and a legion consisted of ten cohorts. The first cohort was of double size as it also consisted of non-fighting men, including clerks, engineers, blacksmiths, builders, and other specialists. The legion also had a complement of about 120 cavalrymen who were used as scouts. A legion thus consisted of nearly 6000 men.

Although this coin is particularly descriptive, it is not unique amongst ancient coins – all ancient coins have their own story to tell.

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How Well Do You Know The Lewis And Clark Expedition?

Match the following items with what they are:

Seaman	Foe
Corps of Discovery	A Good Place to Leave
Jean Baptiste	A Good Way to Go
Cameahwait	End
Blackfeet Tribe	Famous First
Sergeant Charles Floyd	Man's Best Friend
Camp Dubois	Official Name
Thomas Jefferson	Littlest Traveler
Keelboat	Idea Man
St. Louis	Relative

Answers on page 24



*Lewis and Clark Bicentennial
Silver Dollar. Issued 2004 to
commemorate the 200th
anniversary of the Corps of
Discovery.*

Daily National Intelligencer

From the Thursday, January 18, 1816 edition of the Washington D.C. *Daily National Intelligencer*:

Looking for a job?

A GARDENER WANTED – An experienced gardener, who can come well recommended for his horticultural talents, his industry, sobriety and honesty, will meet with an agreeable situation by applying at the office of the National Intelligencer.

Looking for a gift for your family at Christmas?

JEWELLERY, SILVER, AND PLATED WARE.

John Gaither has removed a few doors east of Mr. M'Keowin's Hotel where he has just opened a Handsome assortment of Goods, In his line, consisting of

Handsome French time pieces

Gold patent lever watches

Gold watch chains

Halt lamps

Pearl and plain Jewellery

Snuff boxes and combs

Looking to rent a place for your business?

TO RENT, A BRICK STORE

In the centre of Bridge Street, Being an excellent stand for the Dry Good Business. Also, a front cellar, well suited for a Wine or Porter Cellar, or Grocery.

Want to attend a meeting?

PATRIOTIC BANK of WASHINGTON

Notice.

A meeting of the stockholders of the Bank is requested at M'Keowin's Hotel on Saturday the 10th of February next, at 11 o'clock A.M. to take into consideration the propriety of altering the 25th article of their association.

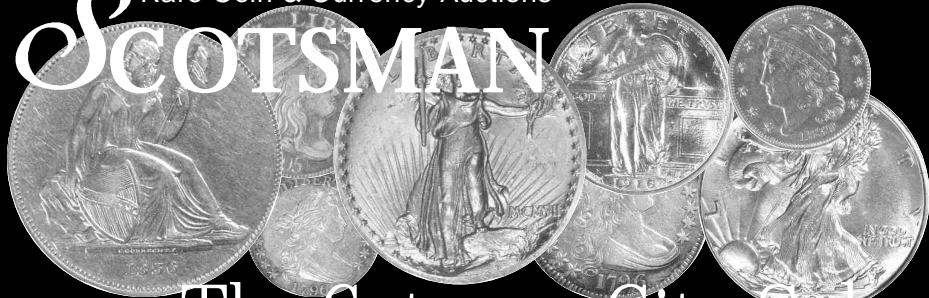
What do you think of him now?

GENTLEMEN – Having as editors of a newspaper given publicity to an advertisement of a Mr. Joseph P. Le Clerc, you will do justice to my feelings by inserting this reply.

It is true that a few months past I became indebted to this fellow, Le Clerc, to the amount of one hundred and seventy or eighty dollars, which it was not convenient for me to pay before I left Philadelphia and it is equally true that I have treated his demand with the same respect and am making the same exertions to satisfy it, as those of a gentlemen who are willing to extend to me that indulgence which the situation of my pecuniary affairs at present requires.

Thanks to Michael Pfefferkorn for this find.

Rare Coin & Currency Auctions
SCOTSMAN



The Gateway City Sale...

Lot Viewing

You can view all 1,807 lots right here at the Hilton hotel. Ask someone at the MNS Hospitality Desk for the exact location.

Lot Viewing Times

Thur. July 29th 8a-6p
Fri. July 30th 8a-6p
Sat. July 31st 8a-6p

Auction Times

Fri. July 30th 6p Sharp
Sat. July 31st 6p Sharp

Lot Pick-up

Sat. July 31st Noon-6p
Sun. August 1st 10a-4p

You are cordially invited to join us Friday, July 30th, and Saturday, July 31st for Scotsman Auction Co.'s "The Gateway City Sale".



Jay & John Woodside

The auction will be held right here at St. Louis' Airport Hilton Hotel in the "Gateway Ballroom" starting at 6pm sharp. To obtain a

bidder number, please go to the lot viewing room and register.



John Bush



Bob Brandt



Norm Athy



Clay Teague



Jay Laws

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ST. LOUIS NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

The St. Louis Numismatic Association features a numismatic auction at each meeting which commences at 8:00 p.m. on the first Friday of each month. Meetings are held at the Machinists' Hall on St. Charles Rock Rd., east of I-270. For more information contact S.L.N.A., P.O. Box 410051, St. Louis, MO 63141.

METRO-EAST NUMISMATIC GROUPS

The St. Clair Numismatic Society meets at 1121 East Main St., Belleville, Illinois at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month from September through April.

The Dupo Coin Club meets on the third Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the American Legion Hall at 200 S. Fifth St., Dupo, Illinois.

Roman Coins on a Budget

by
Chip Vaughn

Why do you collect coins ? Artistic Value ? Investment Value ? Sentimental Value ? Or just plain old Fascination ? Different people collect coins for different reasons. No matter what your reason, by default when you collect coins you really are collecting history. History that you can hold in your hand. History that has a store of value. Whether you collect Lincoln Cents, Morgan Dollars, or Roman Denarii it's all pretty much the same. Every coin has a story behind it. Finding out the stories behind a coin can be just as much fun as finding the coins themselves. What are the symbols in the design ? How old is this coin ? How much was it worth ?

"I have no idea what this is worth. "

When you first started collecting coins did you even have a clue as to what those coins in the glass case at the coin shop were worth ? Of course not. You learned from reading, listening, and observing . It didn't take long to figure out that a mint state coin is usually worth more than a beat up, worn out slug. Coins with attractive designs are usually more desirable than ugly ones. Scarce coins are more valuable than common ones. Roman coins follow the same rules. Most people start out by collecting the inexpensive coins while they learn.

Here are some inexpensive Roman coins that are fun, historic, educational, and definitely not boring. Most of the coins I'll be discussing were minted some-time during the period between 313 and 363 AD (but not during the whole period. Decent examples can be found in "Fine" condition or better from around \$3 to \$10 at coin shows (usually in the dealers "bulk" coin box), on eBay (<http://www.eBay.com>), V Coins (<http://www.vcoins.com>), and many other coin auction sites and web sites. If you want better grades, Mint and Near Mint examples can be found between \$30 and \$100. Imagine that - a 1700 year old high grade coin for \$30 (what would you have to pay for a 200 year old high grade U.S. coin?). Some of the Emperors during this time period were : Constantine the Great (the first Christian Emperor) and his sons, Crispus, Constantine II, Constantius II, and Constans. Also there were Licinius I and II, Magnentius, Constantius Gallus, and Julian II.



Constantine the Great



Crispus



Constantine II



Constantius II



Constans



Licinius I



Licinius II



Magnentius



Constantius Gallus



Julian II

First, I want to take a look at one of the most common series of Roman coins - "The Fallen Horseman" Series. On the obverse you will find a portrait of the emperor. On the reverse is a Roman soldier thrusting a spear towards an enemy soldier who has fallen from his horse. The legend reads "FEL. TEMP. REPARATIO" which loosely translated means "Happy Days Are Here Again" (Literally "Restoration of Happy Times"). These coins were originally minted to celebrate the 1100th anniversary of the founding of Rome, but they were also a reminder to the public that the emperor guarded the borders against barbarian invasions. In a world without newspapers, coins delivered the emperor's message to the people.



The fun of collecting this series is in the huge variety of types. There were around 15 different Mints through out the Roman Empire at this time. Each Mint was divided into several officinae (individual workshops within the mint where the coins were struck). Apparently there was quite a bit of leeway in each mint's interpretation of the details in the basic design. For example : the mint at Arles (France) might make the enemy soldier (barbarian) look Germanic while the mint at Constantinople would make the barbarian look Persian. There are also differences in the position of the barbarian.

The four basic types are :

FH1 Kneeling - Horseman kneeling on ground in front of horse



FH1
Kneeling

FH2 Sitting - Horseman sitting on ground in front of horse



FH2
Sitting

FH3 Reaching - Horseman on horse reaching back toward soldier



FH3
Reaching

FH4 Clutching - Horseman on horse slumping forward clutching horse's neck



FH4
Clutching

Beyond that there is an infinite number of variations in the types of weapons, shields, horse armor, hair and beard length, etc. Not to mention the skill of the individual diemakers in each of the different mints and officinae.



To the right are some examples of different barbarian types and different spear types :

It's not unusual to find a rarer variety of these common coins for a few dollars, and later find out that it's worth ten times what you paid for it. Many ancient coin collectors and dealers are not even aware of some of the more unusual varieties, just as many collectors of U.S. coins are unaware of some of the less common double dies and over date varieties. The workmanship on these range from exquisite to miserable and there is usually enough material in dealers' stock and junk boxes to form an interesting collection of just this type.

Another very popular and common series is the "Campgate" series.

On the obverse, again, is the portrait of the emperor. On the reverse is a gated block structure with varying decorations and details. On some, the gate has visible doors (open or closed), on most the gate is merely an opening. There is a huge variety in the number of rows and columns of blocks. On top were a varying number of beacons or 'turrets' which look like Weber barbecue kettles and were used to signal, by smoke or fire, the next fortification down the line of the frontier. Here are several examples :

**Some Interesting Varieties
Of the Camp Gate Series**



You may find it interesting that all of the coins in the middle row of the picture above were purchased for \$5 to \$15 each, but the three coins in the center of the top row recently sold on eBay for over \$300.00 each.

Next up is the "Urbs Roma" series.

The reverse of these coins allude to one of the legends involving the founding of Rome. The legend relates the tale of the twin brothers Romulus and Remus. They were the offspring of Mars and the Vestal Virgin Rhea Silvia. The twins were placed in a reed boat at birth and set adrift on the Tiber. They floated ashore near the Palantine Hill and were found by a she-wolf who protected and suckled them until they were found by a shepard. When they became adults, the twins decided to found a new city close to where they had been washed ashore. According to the legend this happened on April 21, 753 BC (the traditional date of the founding of Rome). Romulus took to marking the city's boundaries with a plough drawn by a white bull and a white cow. Remus, either in jest or derision, leapt over the furrow mocking Romulus. Romulus lost his temper and killed him, after which he then named the city Rome and made himself king. The violent tone of Rome is said to have been set in this first violent act at its founding.

On the obverse of the coin is the personification of the goddess Roma, wearing the imperial mantel and a helmet. On the reverse is the she wolf suckling Romulus and Remus.



This series, like the other two, is common enough to find decent examples for under \$10. The higher grade and unusual examples demand a premium, of course, but many examples found in "uncleaned lots" and "dealer's bulk bins" can turn out to be exceptional coins with a little careful cleaning.

Note the differences in the wolf, and in the positions of the twins. Also note the different symbols above the wolf and, in some cases, on the wolf's shoulder.



I would be remiss if I didn't at least give mention to several other types -

1.) "Gloria Exercitus" (The Glory of the Roman Army). The Emperors frequently paid tribute to the soldiers lest they become ex-emperor.

2.) The "Vota" (Vows) Types - The vows were made by the emperor every five years as a sacrifice to the gods (later to the Church) in thanks for the last five years and a promise of a good reign during the next five years.

3.) "Iovi Conservatori" - Jupiter the Preserver, holding Victory in one hand and a sceptre in the other - The emperor asking for the protection of the king of the gods.

4.) The Constantinopolis Commemoratives - struck to commemorate Constantine the Great's newly constructed capital city at Constantinopolis. These coins feature a figure of Victory standing with her foot on the prow of a ship, holding a sceptre and a shield. These coins were circulating commemorative coins similar to our bicentennial coins of 1976.



So, there you have it. An introduction to the fun and exciting world of inexpensive Roman Coins. I must stress that this is just an introduction, because there are dozens of other types of ancient roman coins besides these that are also inexpensive and interesting. But for the money, I believe these coins of the early 4th century to be the best bargains in coin collecting today. The historic interest, variety, and fun per dollar just can't be beat !

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Several of the photographs courtesy of Charles Calkins

<http://www.lotn.org/~calkinsc/coins>

Authenticating U.S. Gold

By

C. Joseph Sutter

Owning a U.S. gold coin has been a goal for most people who enjoy the hobby of coin collecting. While many dream of assembling a complete date and mint set of Saint-Gaudens double eagles, for most of us it remains just that, a dream. Satisfaction usually comes with ownership of one or two twentieth century type coins.

It was my Dad's job as a teletype repairman that brought me in contact with my first coin dealer. This was back in the 1960's when coin dealers were first discovering the power of instant communication. Using teletypes allowed dealers from throughout the area to find large quantities of coins quickly. My father played a key role because he was the one that fixed the teletype machine when it broke.

My coin dealer ran an antique shop in an old barn near her farm house. Since she was many miles out of town it was quite a treat when my dad would take me to visit her on a Saturday afternoon. Prior to the trip he would ask me what I wanted to see. One day I got up enough nerve to say "U.S. Gold". The next Saturday she presented me with several examples of Liberty gold coins from which I selected a one, two and a half, five, ten and twenty dollar example. While my Dad had the joy of paying, I received the pride of ownership. To this day when I see the coins I remember my Dad and that day.

But are they real? I know now that the 1960's were a time when people in the Middle East believed that they could make better gold coins than the United States Mint. They were also made more cheaply, since they did not have to follow such silly rules as making sure the coins contained gold.

My first step was to determine what I had. My coins range from an 1852 gold dollar to an 1878 double eagle. The eagle is from 1897, the half eagle 1884 and the quarter eagle 1851. The half eagle was made in San Francisco, the others in Philadelphia. None of the coins are very rare, I would rate them as a basic type coin. With their relative low value there would have been no incentive for a counterfeiter to make and pass them as "high-value" collector coins.

One area to look for is the quality of the coin. Since counterfeiters do not have an incentive to produce as high of



quality product as the Mint, poor craftsmanship is the result. Genuine coins have sharp, crisp details while counterfeit coins have square, flat letters and numbers.



I choose to examine the letter "O" on the coins since this letter could show the roundness of the numbers. All of the coins exhibit a nice round and clear "O". Looking at other letters, "A" for example, also shows a nice sharp letter. Additionally, the strike is quite pleasing, since the details seem to rise off the surface of the coins.

One exception to the sharp strike is the dollar. It has a very weak strike in the date area. This does not worry me very much since the date, on the reverse, is opposite the top of the head, on the obverse. I am aware that this led to flow problems in the metal during the striking process with the result of loss of detail in the date.

According to Coin Grading and Counterfeit Detection, counterfeiting is a problem with liberty gold coins minted after 1875. It also is concentrated with the Philadelphia mint. This provides some comfort with the quarter eagle and dollar, since they were minted prior to 1875, and with the half eagle, since it was minted in San Francisco.



One last area to consider is die polish or die cracks. I observed several lines on the double eagle that could be die polish. However, I do not trust my skill enough to conclude that die polish is or is not present.

So, are the coins real? I believe that they are. I did not see anything that would lead me to conclude that they are counterfeit. They feature the sharp strike of a genuine coin.

I am very pleased with my small gold collection. I find the images very attractive to look at and they provide me the memories of days long ago when a non-collector would spend the time to introduce his son to the joys of gold collecting.



References

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A Missouri Record

continued from the July, 2003 issue

The editor encourages reader assistance in locating, attributing, and documenting the historical significance of numismatic items relating to Missouri. This column provides a place to publish unusual exnumia, thereby preserving such items for future research.

50. Obv. CARDINALS (St. Louis Baseball Cardinals logo of 2 birds on a bat)

Rev. Blank Elongated cent.

Purchased at Bush Stadium, ST Louis. Mo, in June 2004.



51. Horseshoe Encased Cent

Obv. KEEP ME AND / HAVE GOOD LUCK / I BRING GOOD LUCK /

Rev. FIRST NATIONAL BANK / YOUR EXTRA SERVICE BANK / COLLINSVILLE, ILL.

Cent Encased: 1969



52. Horseshoe Encased Cent

Obv. KEEP ME AND / NEVER GO BROKE / I BRING GOOD LUCK /

Rev. A.B.C. TIRE CO. / PHONE NE 7804 / 102 S. SARAH / ST. LOUIS 8, MO.

Cent Encased: 1946



53. Horseshoe Encased Cent

Obv. KEEP ME AND / NEVER GO BROKE / I BRING GOOD LUCK /

Rev. MILTON LINDER / ADVERTISING NOVELTIES / PHONE RO. 4521 / 5211 ENRIGHT - ST / ST. LOUIS 8, MO.

Cent Encased: 1946



54. Round Encased Cent

Obv. KEEP ME AND / NEVER GO BROKE /

Rev. SECURITY NATIONAL BANK / ST LOUIS MO / 312 NORTH 8TH ST. / MEMBER FDIC

Cent Encased: 1953-d



Answers to "How Well Do You Know The Lewis and Clark Expedition?"

Seaman – Man's Best Friend. Meriwether Lewis' Newfoundland dog. Lewis purchased him for \$20 in Philadelphia while gathering supplies for the trip.

Corps of Discovery – Official Name of the expedition.

Jean Baptiste – Littlest Traveler. On February 11, 1805 Sacagawea gave birth to a baby boy. The boy's father was Toussaint Charbonneau, a French Canadian fur trader. Toussaint and Sacagawea joined the expedition at Fort Mandan. At the time of departure from Fort Mandan Toussaint was 47 years old, Sacagawea around 17 and Jean Baptiste 55 days.

Cameahwait - Relative. A Shoshone chief and brother of Sacagawea. This was very fortunate since the Shoshone had horses that were needed to cross the mountains. Sacagawea was the negotiator between the Shoshone and the expedition.

BlackfeetTribe – Foe. The Blackfeet attempted to steal the expedition's guns. During the attempt two Blackfeet warriors were killed.

Sergeant Charles Floyd - Famous First. First and only death on the expedition. He died on August 20, 1804 near present day Sioux City, Iowa of a burst appendix. He was one of the first to join the expedition, joining on April 1, 1803.

Camp Dubois – A good place to leave. Also called Camp Wood, it was the starting point on May 14, 1804 of the Expedition from St. Louis. It was located on the Illinois side of the Missouri River.

Thomas Jefferson – Idea Man. It was Jefferson's ideas to explore the west. Meriwether Lewis was his personal secretary. On January 18, 1803 Jefferson send a message to Congress describing his desire to investigate the Missouri River westward to the Western Ocean. The request was approved on February 28.

Keelboat – A Good Way to Go. Keelboats were one of the vessels used to travel on the Missouri River.

St. Louis – End. On September 23, 1806 the journey ends, nearly two and a half years after it started.

FUTURE NUMISMATIC EVENTS

July 30 - August 1, 2004

The Missouri Numismatic Society will host its 44th Annual Coin Festival at the Hilton St. Louis Hotel, 10330 Natural Bridge Rd. (parallel to I-70 near Lambert International Airport).

August 18 – 22, 2004

The American Numismatic Association (ANA) World's Fair of Money (113th Annual Fall Convention) will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. (Consult the Numismatist for details).

October 7 - 9, 2004

The Silver Dollar Show will be held at the Hilton St. Louis Hotel, 10330 Natural Bridge Rd. (parallel to I-70 near Lambert International Airport).

November 17 - 20, 2004

The Professional Currency Dealers Association 19th Annual National and World Money Convention will be held at the Hilton St. Louis Hotel, 10330 Natural Bridge Rd. (parallel to I-70 near Lambert International Airport).

May 5 – May 8, 2005

The Central States Numismatic Society's 66th Annual Convention will be held in St. Louis at the America's Center, 701 Convention Plaza 63101.

May 3 – May 6, 2007

The Central States Numismatic Society's 68th Annual Convention will be held in St. Louis at the America's Center, 701 Convention Plaza 63101.

Shows held in the St. Louis area are highlighted.

ANCIENT COINAGE STUDY GROUP

Since 1980, the Missouri Numismatic Society and the World Coin Club of Missouri have sponsored the informal meetings of the Ancient Coinage Study Group (ACSG) which are open to the public. ACSG is dues free. Information about the ACSG is available at meetings of either society.

Ancient coins can be easily and often inexpensively purchased from coin show dealers or through internet auction services. The availability of inexpensive quality coins make this an exciting time for the collector. Members of the ASCG can also aid novice collectors in developing collecting strategies.

The ACGS gives both advanced and novice collectors a forum to share their acquisitions with professional archaeologists and historians in an informal atmosphere. The "show and tell" session of our meetings offers members the opportunity to identify "mystery coins" brought in by members and guests. Visitors should bring in their most challenging coins for identification and discussion.

The ACSG meets on the third Friday of every other month at 7:00 PM. Meetings are usually held on the Washington University campus or at the Mid-County library in Clayton. For information about meeting locations or any other questions about the ACGS, please call 314-935-7931.



WORLD COIN CLUB OF MISSOURI

The World Coin Club (W.C.C.) meets the second Sunday of each month (except in May) in the meeting room of the Mt. Zion United Methodist Church. Member's bourse begins at 1:15 p.m. followed by a brief business meeting at 2:15, concluding with an educational program, silent auction and bourse.

The church faces Craig School at 1485 Craig Road one mile north of Olive Blvd. Craig Road is also accessible from Page Avenue. Ample parking is available at the rear of the church.

The club address is W.C.C., P.O. Box 410652 St. Louis, MO 63141-0652.

2005

January 9	Jim Watson	Prisoner of War Money
February 13	Ken Thompson	Coins of Elizabeth I and Elizabeth II
March 13	Kurt Farley	Money of the Orient
April 10	Dave Frank	Who Wants to Be A Millionaire?
May 15	Jerry Faintich	A Numismatic Subject of Interest
June 12	Barb Ormsby	Miss Liberty
July 10	Al Hortmann	A Notophilic Subject of Interest
August 14	Mike Pfefferkorn	Money Topic of Interest
September 11	Bill Kaiser	Changing World of Coinage, Part II
October 9	Roger Schmidt	To Be Announced
November 13	Ed Schroeder	Disposing of Your Coin Collection
December 11		Christmas Party

MISSOURI NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

The Missouri Numismatic Society meets the fourth Wednesday of each month (except in November). The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m., and includes an educational program, attendance prize drawing, an auction and members bourse.

The club address is M.N.S., P.O. Box 410652 St. Louis, MO 63141-0652.

2004

August 25	Dave Murrey	Washington University's Wulfing Collection
September 24		Coin Spending Contest
October 29		
November 19	John Bush	Exonumia Part VIII
December 7		Annual Christmas Dinner With Special Entertainment

January 26
February 23
March 23
April 27
May 25
June 22
July 27
August 24
September 28
October 26
November 16

Please note that the November meeting will be held on the 3rd Wednesday to avoid a conflict with Thanksgiving.

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A MISSOURI NUMISMATIC SOCIETY PUBLICATION

BIBLICAL RELATED COINS by James B. Lovette

This book is a comprehensive guide to the places mentioned in the Old and New Testaments. Typical coins are referenced and priced.

1. ABILA--one of the cities of DECAPOLIS about 12 miles east of Gadara.

Not mentioned by name in the Bible but Decapolis is and can be represented in any collection by any of the cities.

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