

# Coin Chronicles

The Newsletter of the Trenton Numismatic Club

June 2017

Volume 35 Issue 6

## David Rittenhouse

*-First Director of the US Mint*

David Rittenhouse was treasurer of Pennsylvania from 1777 to 1789, and with these skills and the help of George Washington, he became the first director of the United States Mint.[14] On April 2, 1792, the United States Mint opened its doors, but would not produce coins for almost four months. Rittenhouse believed that the design of the coin made the coin a piece of artwork. The first coins were made from flatware that was provided by Washington himself on the morning of July 30, 1792. The coins were hand-struck by Rittenhouse, to test the new

equipment, and were given to Washington as a token of appreciation for his contributions to making the United States Mint a reality. The coin design had not been approved by Congress. Coin production on a large scale did not begin until 1793. Rittenhouse resigned from the Mint on June 30, 1795, due to poor health. In 1871 Congress approved a commemorative medal in his honor.

Rittenhouse was born in a small village within Philadelphia called Rittenhousetown. This village is located near Germantown, along the stream Paper Mill Run, which is a tiny tributary of the Wissahickon Creek.

When his uncle William Rittenhouse died, Rittenhouse inherited his uncle's set of carpentry tools and instructional books. Using his uncle's tools, he began a career as an inventor. Also at a young age, Rittenhouse showed a high level of intelligence by creating

a working scale model of his great-grandfather William Rittenhouse's paper mill. He built other scale models in his youth, like a working waterwheel. He was self-taught from his family's books, never attended elementary school, and showed great ability in science and mathematics. When Rittenhouse was 13 years of age, he had mastered Isaac Newton's laws of motion and gravity. When he was 19, he started a scientific instrument shop at his father's farm in what is now Valley Forge Medical Center & Hospital, located in East Norriton Township, Pennsylvania.

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### Articles Wanted

If you have a topic you'd like to be covered in the Newsletter... write an article or submit your idea. Don't be shy....do it. All entries are welcome. Articles will appear in the Newsletter as soon as possible and might be edited for space consideration, not editorial content.

## COIN SHOW SCHEDULE

By Bill Liatys

### *July 2017* LOCAL SHOW SCHEDULE

**PARSIPPANY** July 2nd at Sunday 9 AM – 3 PM  
Pal Bldg 33 Baldwin Road Parsnippany NJ

**BURLINGTON** July 9th Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM  
Burlington Mason Lodge Route 541 Burlington, NJ

**TREVOSE** July 16th Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM  
Trevose Fire house 4900 Street Road Trevose PA

**TRI-STATE COIN & STAMP SHOW** July 23rd Sunday 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM  
Sheraton Bucks County 400 Oxford Valley Road Langhorne, PA

**TRENTON NUMISMATIC FALL COIN SHOW**  
October 29 Sunday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM  
Ramada Inn Exit 7 NJ Turnpike 1083 Route 206 North Bordentown, NJ

**WHITMAN COIN & COLLECTIBLES** November 9th-12th Thursday – Sunday  
Thursday – Noon – 6 PM Friday – Saturday - 10 AM – 6 PM Sunday – 10 AM – 3 PM  
Baltimore Convention Center One W. Pratt Street Baltimore, MD

His skill with instruments, particularly clocks, led him to construct two orreries (scale models of the solar system), the first for The College of New Jersey (now known as Princeton University), the second for the College of Philadelphia (now known as the University of Pennsylvania). Rittenhouse was prevailed upon to construct the second orrery by his friend, the Reverend William Smith, the first provost of the College of Philadelphia, who was upset that Rittenhouse would deliver such a device to a college located in the rural area of New Jersey, rather than in Philadelphia, which was seeking to be one of the important centers of the 18th century enlightenment and for the study of "natural philosophy" such as astronomy. Both of these orreries still exist, with each being held by their original recipients: one in the library of the University of Pennsylvania and the other at Peyton Hall of Princeton University.

Rittenhouse, with sparse education became an accomplished inventor, astronomer and a pillar of our new country.

## RAGO

Coin and Currency Auction August 24th, 2017

Consign by June 30th!

Tnc was a part of the last Rago auction. It was a great experience for all. Consider attending in August.

The highlight of the last auction was the sale of the 1901 Pan American Exposition Gold Medal pictured below for \$46,995.



## Rago Arts

333 North Main Street  
Lambertville NJ 08530

Phone (609) 397-9374  
Fax (609) 397-9377  
TF (866) 724-6278

## ANA Announces Collaboration with CDN

The American Numismatic Association (ANA) is excited to announce a collaboration between its flagship publication, The Numismatist, and The Coin Dealer Newsletter (CDN), providing ANA members a reliable retail pricing tool for collectable U.S. and Early American coinage. Beginning in June, ANA members can access the "Collector's Price Guide" (CPG) in The Numismatist. Each monthly 8- to 10-page supplement offers up-to-date values for a variety of U.S. coin types and denominations on a regular rotation, with early coppers, cents and nickels in June, silver in July, and gold in August. "The Numismatist is one of the great publications of our hobby and

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*Trenton Numismatic Club*

President : Andrew Waholek  
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Randy Ricco  
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Newsletter: Joe Pargola  
Auction: Bo Bobjak

*Trenton Numismatic Club is members of:*



**American Numismatic Association**

the cornerstone benefit of ANA membership," says ANA President Jeff Garrett. "The new CDN retail price guide will make The Numismatist an indispensable resource for collectors. This partnership is one of the most important developments for the organization in many years." The "Collector's Price Guide" is intended as a hobby resource only and should be used in combination with other numismatic references as part of a practical, informed purchasing plan. CDN Publishing is solely responsible for the content of the guide. According to CDN Publisher John Feigenbaum, "An online version of CPG was launched a few months ago in response to dealers who have long been frustrated by the disconnect between established Greysheet pricing and unrelated retail values that don't reflect wholesale levels. CPG values are derived from the Greysheet and move in direct reaction to the wholesale market so

collectors and dealers can finally be in sync." "It's a dream come true to have coin-pricing information available in The Numismatist," says ANA Executive Director Kim Kiick. "This is a huge benefit to our members, and we are grateful to John Feigenbaum for approaching us with this opportunity."

**For more information, call 719-632-2646 or visit [www.money.org](http://www.money.org).**



Life's tragedy is that we get old too soon and wise too late.

-Benjamin Franklin

### Meeting Schedule

The Trenton Numismatic Club meets on the fourth Monday of each month at the

HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ONE JUSTICE SAMUEL A. ALITO JR. WAY  
HAMILTON, NJ 08619-3809

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[www.trentoncoinclub.org](http://www.trentoncoinclub.org)