

Coin Chronicles

The Newsletter of the Trenton Numismatic Club

November 2016

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ANA's 48th Summer Seminar June 2016

-Harry Garrison

Medal collecting is enjoying a renaissance in the United States today. Medals span the worlds of art, history, biography, science, and industry and are unmatched in the variety of sizes, shapes and metals in which they are struck or cast. Much to my delight, I became aware that during the 2016 Summer Seminars in Colorado Spring a course covering "The History and Collecting of Medals" was to be offered. I had to attend when I became aware none other than David T. Alexander in conjunction with Dr. David Menchell were the course instructors.

The American Numismatic Association's summer seminars have been held on the campus of

Colorado College adjoining the association's headquarters for nearly 50 years. Traditionally US coinage has been a primary focus with some attention paid to ancient and world coinages. In 2016 the ANA invited MCA members David Thomason Alexander and Dr. David Mitchell to create and present a four-day eight session introductory course on the history and collecting of medals. Signing up for the course were William Cather, Mitchell Ernst, Roger Gudith, David Rickard, Roger Shippee, Michael Wehner, John and Karen Zappitelli and of course myself. All attendees proved to be spirited participants generally arriving around 8 AM (the course started at 9 am) and leaving long after the 4:30 pm conclusion. We had our own designated classroom, kept locked between sessions, and only a block from the ANA headquarters to which our medals were returned each evening for security.

This was the first medals seminar to be offered and the two instructors drew on their own experiences as students, collectors, writers, researchers, and auction catalogers to reduce the huge field of medal collecting into workable proportions. Study aids were prepared including a general purpose

medallic book list covering medals issued from the Renaissance to the present day.

Selected medals for exhibit were drawn from the instructor's own collections and from the holdings of the ANA museum. All pieces were chosen as representative of categories being explored and were passed on trays around the central table in the classroom. Also the instructors had obtained a supply of Sir Mark Jones' classic but out-of-print book "The Art of the Medal" published by the trustees of the British Museum and the nearest thing to a textbook on medal history in existence. Copies of the book were made available to each of the participants for purchase. A true bargain priced at \$14.00.

While making their basic preparations, the instructors had no idea of what kind collectors might sign up for the course or what their interests might be. With no past experience they did not know if there would be any YN's, beginning adults or established collectors with years of experience. As it happened, no very young participants, but adults ranging from their early 20s through a New Jersey professional numismatist of age 75. The latter being myself and a married couple

In This Issue:

ANA's 48th Summer Seminar	Cover
June 2016 Show Schedule	2
Summer Seminar ctd.	3
TNC Coin Show	4
Meeting Schedule	4

COIN SHOW SCHEDULE

By Bill Liatys

December 2016

LOCAL SHOW SCHEDULE

PARSIPPANY *December 4th at Sunday 9 AM – 4 PM*

Pal Bldg 33 Baldwin Road Parsnippany NJ

BURLINGTON *December 11th Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM*

Burlington Mason Lodge Route 541 Burlington, NJ

TREVOSE *December 18th Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM*

Trevose Fire House 4900 Street Road Trevose, PA

TRI-STATE COIN & STAMP SHOW *No show in December*

Williamson's Restaurant 500 Blair Mill Road Horsham, PA

WHITMAN COIN & COLLECTIBLES *March 3rd to April 7th 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

FLORIDA UNITED NUMISMATISTS (FUN) *January 5 – January 8 Thurs – Sunday*

Thursday – Friday 10 AM – 630 PM Saturday – 10 AM – 530 PM

Sunday – 10 AM – 3 PM

Broward County Convention Center 1950 Eisenhower Blvd, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

President's Message

By Andrew Waholek

Hello everyone! The holidays are fast upon us. The meeting for December will be held on the 3rd Monday of the month which is December 19th at 7pm. This is due to the library observing Christmas on our regularly scheduled meeting date. Please feel free to bring some holiday treats to share and an appetite, as we will be having pizza that night as well. I hope to see all of you there! Happy Holidays to everyone!

from the Midwest who operate a coin shop full-time.

All the participants were highly motivated, bringing items from their own collections to share with the group, taking part in freewheeling discussions, and expressing a wide range of interests and opinions. Rigidity to a program was avoided wherever possible and encouraging maximum participation and the free flow of communication by all present.

Each session started with a theme or a specific topic such as the Renaissance and the birth of the medal in Italy. The class then traced the spread of medals over the Alps to the Habsburg lands, the German states, the Netherlands, France and finally into Britain. The role of official medal series was discussed including the Medallic histories of France under King Louis XIV, Napoleon's career and Britain's victories under Queen Anne.

The expansion of the medallic art into the Americas followed with particular attention paid to the medals of the colonial era as documented by C Wyllys Betts; now undergoing modern study by such scholars as Boston's John W Adams. Medals created by the US Mint and documented by RW Julian in his book "Medals of the United States Mint" were examined at length along with discussion of

original strikes versus re-strikes. US Presidential Inaugural medals were examined with all four medals of Franklin Delano Roosevelt exhibited as examples. The question of re-strikes was raised with particular vigor in the case of medals of the Paris Mint, which offers continuing re-strikes of a bewildering array of medals dating back to the 1500's.

Another country requiring in-depth attention was Germany. In the modern world no German medalist has the notoriety of Bavaria's Karl Goetz, whose famous "Lusitania Sinking" medal was displayed in original bronze cast and iron casts by the British Admiralty. Instructor Alexander pointed out that Goetz's fame in the US is owed in large measure to the English language catalog "Medals of Karl Goetz" readily available in this country.

In addition to medals by country, we addressed more general subjects including conservation, storage, grading, cataloging, research, and writing. The retail and auction markets for medals was examined, and organizations for medal collectors were noted; with emphasis on the Medal Collectors of America and its publication the MCA advisory.

Aside from the actual course material, the other students, and

the incredible knowledge of the instructors, nothing could have been more enjoyable. Then there were the meals in the Colorado College cafeteria with great food and an unobstructed views of Pike's Peak. As for evening events, I took a trip to the top of Pike's Peak by cog train one evening and another evening joined a group of students taking a bus trip to Denver to see the Colorado Rockies baseball team. The final night was a reception for all, followed by dinner and the awarding of certificates of appreciation to the instructors.

I can only add that if you haven't attended an ANA summer seminar you are missing a great educational experience.





Trenton Numismatic Club

President : Andrew Waholek
Vice-President: John Janeczek
Treasurer: Randy Ricco
Secretary: Joe Pargola
Sgt at Arms: Gary Elmer
Committees:
Bourse: Bill Liatys
Randy Ricco
Programs: Ray Williams
Newsletter: Joe Pargola
Auction: Bo Bobjak

Trenton Numismatic Club is members of:



Trenton Numismatic Club Coin Show

-Joe Pargola

The Trenton Numismatic Club held its annual coin show and bourse on Sunday October 30th at the Ramada Inn Bordentown New Jersey. It was well represented with over 30 tables sold and well attended by the membership and public. The vendors



presented items ranging from Collectable Coins, Rare Medals, Presidential Inaugural Medals, Prints and Autographs and many other collectable items. Bill Liatys did an outstanding job of setting up this event,



managing the vendors and reporting to the membership. Many thanks to Bill, Harry Garrison, Drew Waholek, John Janeczek and all the Members who helped this to be a great success.



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.

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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