

September 2015



# The Coin Courier

"Official Publication of the Baltimore Coin Club"

Baltimore Coin Club, P.O. BOX 43681, Baltimore, Maryland 21236

## CONTENTS

US MINT Schedule  
President's Message  
Club Notes and Calendar  
The Coin Courier Interview  
POGS!  
Words from the Past #30  
Interesting Coin Facts

US MINT  
Ken Finkenbinder  
BCC Editor  
BCC Member  
Tracy Ibberson  
Don Curtis  
BCC Editor

Photograph of new officers is forthcoming

## BALTIMORE COIN CLUB OFFICERS

Ken Finkenbinder  
President

Chris Vares  
Acting Vice-President

Fred Cook  
Secretary

Joe Adam  
Treasurer

## US MINT SCHEDULE:

3 September 2015 US Mint Presidential \$1 Coin & First Spouse Medal Set  
Lyndon Johnson  
16 September 2015 Coin & Chronicles Set – John F. Kennedy  
17 September 2015 Lyndon B. Johnson \$1 Coin Cover  
21 September 2015 First Spouse Medal Set  
30 September 2015 America the Beautiful Quarters® Rolls and Bags – Bombay  
Hook National Wildlife Refuge (DE) Three-Roll Set (P, D, S)  
October 2015 America the Beautiful Five Ounce Silver Uncirculated Coin™  
– Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge (DE)

## President's Message

Another 2/3 of the year has passed. Two of the the three Whitman shows are too passed. The Whitman staff has made some comments as to some of our Club members acting in an unprofessional manner. These issues be they real or not, have been addressed. Please everyone remember to act in a professional manner at all times while working the shows. The money we receive for the shows keeps this club going. Whitman rules, like them or not are to be followed, if asked to do something in a certain way, just do it, we cannot afford to loose this income. Please remember the parking issues will also continue, try to use public transportation or car pool etc to keep parking cost down. The next show is in early November.

The Holiday party is looming up soon, as of now we do not have a person to organize the party, If no one steps up we will not have it. Bill Stratmeyer has stated he will be unable to do so due to family issues. The Spring banquet will be at Pappas's again on the first Thursday in April.

The program at the meetings are moving along and coming to an end early next year. When we start anew please advise me if there are any topics that you would like to include. I do plan to refine the topics in several ways to spread out the topics. With less grouping in like topics. EG: Lincoln cents, instead of one night to try and cover them. I would break them up in to Matte proofs, Regular proofs, Wheat's, 1909-1934, 1935-1958, Lincoln Memorials 1959-2008 and 2009 to present. A lot of the topics can be extended like this while others can be grouped together.

Ken Finkenbinder

### **Club Notes and Calendar:**

#### **2015-2016 Baltimore Calendar**

#### **(BCC Requests members to sign up for Theme Night)**

5	August	Error's
19	August	Foreign Coins
2	September	Coin Grading
15	September	Altered and counterfeit coins
7	October	US Paper Currency
21	October	Fractional Currency
4	November	Foreign Paper Currency
2	December	Pre 1600 AD Coins
16	December	Hobby Related
7	January	Casino Gaming Tokens

## **The Coin Courier Interview BCC Member**

Baltimore Coin Club would appreciate if members could complete this questionnaire and also they can remain anonymous if they so choose.

- 1) Identify how many years that you have been collecting numismatic items?**

**Answer:** I have been collecting for over 50-years, and while the U.S. still produced 90% silver U.S. coins for circulation. When I was young, you still could get Buffalo Nickels, Mercury Dimes, Standing Liberty Quarters, Walking Liberty half's, Franklin half's, all out of circulation. I started like most during that time, putting coins into blue Whitman folders, trying to fill as many spaces as I could from circulating coins.

- 2) List the various numismatic items that you collect.**

**Answer:** I have collected just about everything to include, U.S. and foreign Coins; U.S. and foreign Notes; Medals, Tokens, Stamps and Exonumia.

- 3) How did you start collecting numismatic items and or material?**

**Answer:** I began collecting when I found an 1899 Barber dime in circulation, the first time I seen this type of dime. This sparked my interest in coins what other type of coins the U.S. minted. I also liked history and was fascinated with the history of the Lincoln cent and the Washington quarter.

- 4) What is you main focus of your collection interest?**

**Answer:** Today I concentrate on upgrading my U.S. coin collection, to include my Classical Commemorative Coins, as well as completing my Modern Commemorative Coins.

- 5) What items or series that you are most proud to display?**

**Answer:** I have a complete (144) certified (MS 63-MS66) set of Classical silver Commemorative Coins, as well as most of the Modern silver Commemorative Coins.

- 6) Describe your most memorable event or purchase or find of numismatic items or material?**

**Answer:** I once purchased a slabbed ANACS (MS-64) Texas Commemorative Half dollar and had it sent to PCGS for crossover grading/slabbed and it came back as an MS-66 – Wow!

## POGS !

Pogs - the small, round, coated-paper gift certificates issued by Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) facilities supporting Operating Enduring and Iraqi Freedom in place of metal coins - have been given to Soldiers in lieu of metal currency since 2001.

Those serving America at current contingency locations already know what a POG is good for. **AAFES**, The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is an agency of the United States Department of Defense, has produced 15 printings/ POG gift certificates for use by our troops in contingency operations overseas. A total of 497 different POGS have been produced.. These POG gift certificates are intended for use as change in remote locations where coins are not readily available. Using POG gift certificates for small change reduces shipments of bulky, base metal coins to some contingency locations while maximizing availability of goods and services. POG gift certificates are redeemable at and AAFES facility. Additionally, even at OIF/OEF locations where coins are not available, POG gift certificates can still be exchanged for cash, in even dollar amounts.

Some of the designs found on the POGS include powerful images featuring OEF/OIF action. AAFES's Treasury Division was instrumental in selecting a series of 36 different designs that are both captivating and relevant to the Middle East operations. All the artwork was performed in-house by the AAFES marketing staff. Selected designs pay tribute to OEF and OIF theater activities, with images of traditional operations and cutting edge weaponry. Examples of images included in the printings range from fighter and transport planes to artillery and missile launches, and much more.

Although designed exclusively for use overseas, these coin substitutes have already generated collector interest stateside even before the introduction of the new series. A recent article brought to the attention of **AAFES's** Treasurer featured **AAFES's** POG gift certificates in a publication devoted to collecting. This positive coverage came in the April edition of the monthly journal produced by the ANA, a congressionally chartered and eminent organization in the field of numismatics, money related collectibles.

These POGs represent the lengths AAFES will go to provide goods and services to America's fighting men and women anywhere in the world by providing an active presence in locations where even things as mundane as change require special effort and initiative. AAFES is committed to providing goods and services to service members, as well as supporting MWR, and continues to live by the motto, " We go where you go " as depicted on one of the POGS of the 5<sup>th</sup> printing.

Some of the POGS are much more rare than the others. The Elvis Presley pogs are listed as P-M279 (5 cents), P-283 through 285 (10 cents). There is a note that the Elvis pogs were "limited to 50,000 of each design". They catalog for \$3.00 each, which is quite a bit more than any other type. It has been noted that there was only 50,000 each of the 5<sup>th</sup> printing thus making the Elvis POGS highly sought after and can be found on Ebay at times demanding anywhere from \$5.00 to \$20 each depending upon condition.

If you or someone you may know would like to put together their own collection or even collect a few of the most noted Pogs, please contact Tracy Ibberson, a member of the Baltimore Coin Club, at [armysqti@yahoo.com](mailto:armysqti@yahoo.com) and he will be able to provide you with what you need. Tracy has a wealth of information regarding POGS. He has served overseas in support of OIF , OEF , and OND .. Since he started collecting POGS in 2006 he has managed to complete one set with over 5000 additional spare Pogs.

**Source:**

Standard Catalog of World Paper Money, Modern Issues, 13th Edition (2008)

# AAFES Military Picture 25¢ Gift Certificates (Pogs)

FULL-COLOR, DOUBLE-SIDED POG COINS, 1.5816" DIAMETER, 23MIL STYRENE



Front



10A251



10B251



10C251



10D251



10E251



10F251



10G251



10H251



10J251



10K251



10L251  
LENTICULAR



10M251

## Words from the Past – #30

*By: Don Curtis*

*The Year was 1945*

### Excerpts from minutes of past Baltimore Coin Club meetings as written by the club Secretary–Treasurer John R. Sheckells

**January 3, 1946** - *The meeting was called to order by President Straus at 8:15 PM, with 24 members and 1 guest present. The President extended a welcome to Dr. Hecht, an old member of the Club who has recently returned from Military service.*

*Mr. Schmidt of the Membership Committee reported on the application of Mr. L. T. Howell and recommended it for favorable action. At the Election Mr. Howell was made a member of the Club and assigned Number 111.*

*Mr. Heiserman read a newspaper article on the increased use of cotton in paper money.*

*Mr. Straus reported on his recent trip to Cumberland where he addressed the Western Maryland Coin Club.*

*After the auction which netted the Club \$1.71 in commission, the meeting was adjourned.*

**January 17, 1946** - *The meeting was called to order by President Straus at 8:15 PM, with 33 members and 3 guests present, Mr. Coard, Lilly and Wishmeyer.*

*Mr. Smyth of the Program Committee reported that the exhibition and talk tonight would be by himself and that it would cover the Dollar size coins of Mexico.*

*Mr. Smyth stated that Mr. Reagan of the A.N.A. had advised him that he would visit the Club in February or March. Mr. Duffield asked that the Banquet Committee invite Mr. Reagan as one of the banquet speakers. Mr. Duffield also asked that Mr. Bullova, recently returned from service, be invited to the banquet.*

*Mr. Westheimer (#42) was welcomed back after returning from Military service. An election was held and Mr. E. Schulz was elected to membership and was assigned number 112.*

*Mr. Smyth had the program and had on display 101 silver crowns of Mexico. Mr. Smyth had the coins arranged by mints and had coins from all except two mints. In his talk Mr. Smyth told of the Spanish influence in the world during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries and how the rise of the British sea-power had a great deal to do with the decline of Spanish power, particularly in its colonial aspects. Mr. Smyth ended his fine talk by suggesting that collectors should avail themselves of the many books and other printed matter pertaining to coins in order to get the maximum enjoyment out of the coin hobby. Mr. Smyth was given a rising vote of thanks by the Club for his fine display and interesting talk.*

*After the auction netting the Club \$2.91 in commission, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 P.M.*

**NOTE:** *in the files was a letter to the Club Secretary, from the American Numismatic Association (A.N.A.) dated February 7, 1946 proclaiming National*

*Coin Week – April 7 to 13, 1946. In the letter the A.N.A. urged member Clubs to take part, stating “This is the only nation-wide publicity campaign sponsored by our Association to promote Numismatics. They suggest that individual collectors and local Clubs take advantage of this opportunity to demonstrate the educational and recreational benefits to be derived from our hobby and to interest collectors in joining their club and the A.N.A. The letter goes on to say “A banner, ribbons and many fine merchandise prizes will be awarded to clubs and individuals on a competitive basis”.*

## **INTERESTING COIN FACTS**

- 1) Half cents were the smallest monetary unit ever used in the United States. Made of pure copper, they were nearly the size of a modern day quarter. Half cents were minted from 1793 through 1857.
- 2) Large cents were coined every year from 1793 to 1857 except the year 1815 when a lack of copper prevented production. This was the only coin minted in 1816 due to a fire in January of that year causing damage to most coin producing machinery.
- 3) The two-cent piece was one of the short lived issues of U.S. coinage. The motto “IN GOD WE TRUST” appeared for the first time, largely due to the increased religious sentiment during the Civil War crisis. These two-cent pieces were issued in an effort to alleviate the coin shortage caused by the hoarding during the Civil War.