



Worcester County Numismatic Society

Founded 1946

Meets 2nd Friday of the month except July and August

April
2019
WCNS
Monthly
Newsletter

Club Address: WCNS, P.O. Box 1079, Douglas MA 01516

Club Website: www.worcestercoinclub.org

Contact phone number: Mike at 508-667-9968

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Next Meeting: Friday April 12

St. Josephs Parish Center
68 Central Street, Auburn MA

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

YN meeting: 6:15 p.m.

Educational Program:

*An Illustrated Ironclad Civil War story called
"Our Little Monitor" presented by Bob Hess*

YN program:

Trading Places

WCNS Leadership

Officers

Co-Presidents: Mike Simpson & John Frost

Vice President: Jim Turner

Secretary: Maria Matys

Treasurer: Stanley Sobiech

Director at Large: Bob Moffatt

Programs

Speaker Bureau: Bob Moffatt

YN Coordinator: Mark Matys

Newsletter Editor: John Frost

Hi everyone,

At the time of writing, the annual coin show of our friends, the Mansfield Numismatic Society in Connecticut has just wrapped up in Willimantic. A well-run club show, it is always a good time. If you missed it this year, we recommend you give it a try next spring.

Next on the calendar, on Tuesday April 2, the Thomas P. Rockwell lecture, co-sponsored by the Boston Numismatic Society, Collectors Club of New England, and Currency Collectors will be taking place in Waltham. Our friend, Bob Fritsch will be doing a talk on the future of paper currency – *Polymer Money*. The lecture begins at 7:30, but doors open earlier for refreshments and social hour.

Even with a number of our regional shows taking the month of April off, it is still a busy time. The largest show is the NH Coin & Currency Expo in Manchester in a couple weeks. Fortunately this spring, the show does not conflict with our April 12th meeting, so we hope we'll have a good turnout. Bob Hess will be offering an interesting talk, and the YNs continue their program this month.

As always, the calendar of local events is show below. **One last thing – due to international travel of your editor, the deadline for next month's newsletter is a week early, so please get any news or auction/bid board lots to us by Saturday April 20th.**

Hope to see you all on the 12th!

- John and Mike

Upcoming Events

- **Rockwell Lecture** – Bob Fritsch presents *Polymer Money*. Tuesday April 2, 730 Main St., Waltham, 7:30 p.m.
- **Greater Worcester Coin Show**, Elks Club, Auburn MA, Sunday April 14, 9:30 a.m.
- **Blackstone Valley 3rd Wednesday Show**, VFW Post #1385, Uxbridge MA, Wednesday April 17, 3-8 p.m.
- **New Hampshire Coin & Currency Expo**, Doubletree Hotel, Manchester NH, April 19-20.
- **No Nashua show this month! Show resumes in May.**
- **No Devens Coin Show in April or May. Show resumes in June.**
- **Blackstone Valley Annual Spring Show**, Elks Club #850, Woonsocket RI, Sunday May 19, 9:30 a.m.



WCNS Auction

Item Description	Owner Value	Min Bid
1. Love token on 1884 Seated	\$ -	\$ 10
2. 1951 Canada 50 cents	-	15
3. Chiefs Café Southbridge MA	-	8
4. 1880-O Morgan dollar, XF	-	24
5. 1875 love token	-	10
6. 1904 Canada large cent	-	20
7. 1870 Canada 5 cents	9	4
8. 1984 off-center error, AU	-	10
9. 1887 Morgan dollar	-	50
10. 1994 Foxwoods token .999, BU	-	25
11. 1960 proof set	20	15
12. 1962 Canadian proof-like set, 1.1 oz actual silver weight	19	14
13. Ancient Roman bronze coin, Constantine	15	7
14. 1877 Liberty Seated half, Good	36	20
15. 1949 Franklin half, XF-AU	15	7
16. 1973 Bahamas \$10 proof, 1.499 oz. actual silver weight	25	22
17. 1935A Nor. Africa note, Good with border splits	20	5
Kittredge Foundation donation		
1. 1939 Mercury dime, tone MS63	19	-

Bid Board

Item Description	Owner Value	Min Bid
1. Whitman type set album	\$ -	\$ 5
2. Heinz pickle World Fair	-	3
3. Disney elongate	-	1
4. 1945 Masonic penny, Unc.	-	3
5. Love token "AM"	-	10
6. Jack Daniels 19 th hole	-	7
7. Grange-contractor Worcester	-	1
8. Hobo nickel	-	10
9. Love token "Laura"	-	10
10. 1938 Washington quarter, VF	-	5
11. Herbert Hoover U.S. Mint medal	15	5
12. Statue of Liberty proof half dollar	3	-
13. 1976 Bicentennial Massachusetts medal	3	-
14. Brass Rail Tavern, Middletown CT good-for token	10	3
15. Masonic Chapter penny, Philadelphia, AU	7	-
16. 1945 WWII Victory medal	7	2
17. 1946 West Point officers quarter uncut key	7	2

Coin in the Spotlight: 1880 Shield Nickel

For the Shield nickel, after two proof-only years (1877 and 1878) and 1879 mintage of less than 26,000, the year 1880 saw the fewest nickels ever coined for circulation, with a paltry 16,000 minted. This key date is by far the rarest nickel struck for circulation, and one of those dates where proofs are *much* more available than business strikes. Almost 4,000 proofs were struck that year, and are easily obtainable.

One of the challenges for the 1880 nickel is that many of the proofs were a bit dull, and quite a few of them were spent and are found circulated, where they can be hard to distinguish from the actual business strikes.

Study of the dies indicate that the reverse die of the 1880 circulation strike had a gouge on it, and all coins struck from it have a raised mound below the right side of the second T in STATES. Visible in the photo at right as a raised white spot, this small mound is what the third-party grading services use for attribution. Without that mound, PCGS and NGC will call the coin a proof, even if well circulated. This difference is critical, as a Proof-65 is worth just \$600 while an XF circulation strike is worth a whopping \$5,500 !!



1880 Shield Nickel Circulation Strike

Note: EARLY DEADLINE for next issue: April 20th