



# Worcester County Numismatic Society

Founded 1946

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month except July and August

WCNS  
Monthly  
Newsletter  
  
December  
2017

**Club Address:** WCNS, P.O. Box 1079, Douglas MA 01516  
**Club Website:** [www.worcestercoinclub.org](http://www.worcestercoinclub.org)

**Contact phone number:** Mike at 508-667-9968  
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## Next Meeting: Friday December 8

St. Josephs Parish Center  
68 Central Street, Auburn MA

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.  
Young Numismatists Meeting 6:15 p.m.  
Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

### Educational Program:

*Expanded Show and Tell.* Please bring something to Show. And also to Tell!

### YN program:

*Find that Coin!*

## WCNS Leadership

### Officers

Co-Presidents: Mike Simpson & John Frost  
Vice President: Jim Turner  
Secretary: Bob Hess  
Treasurer: Stanley Sobiech  
Director at Large: Open

### Programs

Speaker Bureau: Bob Moffatt  
YN Coordinator: Mark Matys  
Newsletter Editor: John Frost

Hi everyone,

We are approaching the end of another year. Hard to believe that 2017 is drawing to a close. As winter approaches, some of us are looking forward to skiing and other sports, and some of us are looking forward to a pilgrimage south to the FUN show and warmer weather. Regardless, we all hope that the snow gods are kind to us this winter, and leave us alone on meeting nights in January and February!

At last month's meeting, we voted to stagger elections with some 2-year terms. President and Secretary will be elected in even years (starting 2018) with VP and Treasurer in odd years (in 2019). Director at Large position will be voted annually.

Our year-end December meeting and holiday party is on Friday December 8<sup>th</sup> at our normal time. As is our tradition, a pasta feast prepared by Chef Mike is the foundation of the evening, so come hungry. We are asking everyone to **bring a pot-luck dessert**. All the rest of the food and drink will be provided.

Our December meeting also features the higher-end raffle of gift-wrapped items. In addition to this, we will also have our traditional Dime Raffle, where you can stuff the ballot boxes with your dime tickets, to increase your odds of winning those items you want the most! Finally, instead of the Auction and Bid Board this month, we will have our expanded Show and Tell. We like broad participation here, so bring one of those special items you would like to share with everyone!

Hope to see you all on the 8<sup>th</sup>!

- John and Mike

## Upcoming Events

- **Greater Worcester Coin Show**, Elks Club, Auburn MA, Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup> 9:30 a.m.
- **Nashua 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Show**, Holiday Inn, Nashua NH, Sunday December 17, 8:00 a.m.
- **Blackstone Valley 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Show**, VFW Post #1385, Uxbridge MA, Wednesday December 20
- **No Devens Coin Show in December.** Show resumes in January
- **FUN 2018**, Tampa FL, January 4-7, Tampa Convention Center, 1500 dealers
- **NYINC (New York International Numismatic Convention)**, January 12-14, Grand Hyatt Hotel, NYC



### WCNS Holiday Party Reminder:

- Bring a Pot Luck dessert
- Bring Show & Tell items!

**YN Update:** Due to a fortunate schedule change, there will be a YN meeting this month after all. YN meeting begins at the normal time of 6:15 p.m. Topic this month: *Find That Coin!*

## No Auction or Bid Board this month – Expanded Raffle and Dime Raffle instead

### Coin in the Spotlight: MCMVII (1907) St. Gaudens Double Eagle (\$20)

By 1906, the Liberty Head design had been on most of our nation's gold coinage since before 1840, with minimal changes over nearly 70 years. President Theodore Roosevelt desired a design change to our gold coins, with each denomination to be of particularly high artistic merit. Renowned sculptor Augustus St. Gaudens, a friend of Roosevelt and a resident of Cornish New Hampshire, would design the Eagle and Double Eagle (\$10 and \$20) for 1907, right up until his death that same year.

St. Gaudens designed a beautiful standing figure of Liberty, wearing a flowing gown, carrying a torch. The U.S. Capitol building is to her lower left, among the rays of the rising Sun. The date is in Roman numerals. The reverse shows a majestic eagle flying among the rays of the Sun, which is at the bottom. The edge is adorned with stars and E PLURIBUS UNUM.

After a few initial patterns in extremely high relief, the first production run of the famous High Relief coins was executed in November 1907. The design had so much relief, that *five blows* of the dies were required in order to bring up the details into the final coin from the blank planchet. St. Gaudens *was* a sculptor!

The result of each striking was a stunning coin with three dimensionality, a piece of art. They are widely considered the single most beautiful coin ever minted by the United States. With a total mintage of 12,367, there were two distinct types of High Reliefs: wire rim, and plain rim. About 75% of the coins (those struck in December) exhibit a wire or knife rim, a thin flange of raised metal around the edge of the coin, caused by metal being squeezed between the collar and the obverse and reverse dies, due to the intense pressure from the repeated blows. While the plain rim (initial November production run, pictured at right) is far scarcer, there is no price difference between the two varieties.

The coins had stacking issues, and while very beautiful, mass-production of coins requiring five blows of the dies was not practical. A much lower-relief version of the design (much more practical) was implemented by Charles Barber, dated 1907 (so-called Arabic date), and was used until the series end in 1933.

The High Relief twenties are not especially rare, but they are highly prized for the beauty. There are simply no other U.S. coins that are anything close to these in appearance. And with .9675 ounces of gold in each coin, the final product is a sight to behold! Demand for these remains extremely high to this day.



**Deadline for next issue: December 28<sup>th</sup> – Auction resumes in January**