



Worcester County Numismatic Society

Founded 1946

Meets 2nd Friday of the month except July and August

January
2023

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 January 13

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:

My Bermuda Obsession, by Fred Liberatore

YN program:

P. E. 101

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 all,

Happy new year! I am writing this after a successful FUN show down in Orlando. But back up here in New England, it is the heart of winter. Still, the bitter cold has mostly eluded us thus far. We'll see how it goes. Hopefully, snow will not impact our next couple of meetings as it sometimes does. At least the days are getting longer.

Last month's holiday party went off without a hitch. Chef Mike provided his famous pasta salad, along with a ton of meatballs to accompany the ziti. Smaller than expected attendance meant everyone there left quite full! There were plenty of side dishes and desserts. Show and tell provided a number of interesting items. Now we are in 2023.

At this month's meeting, our own Fred Liberatore will share his obsession for the coins of Bermuda. For those of you who have seen Fred talk, his passion comes through and it makes for an interesting time! The YNs will again meet with their topic this month being, *P. E. 101*. Be there!

Next month's meeting will be completely different, as we are trying something new, and hopefully you will find it fun and interesting. See description next page.

Also, Nominations for club officers will be taken for next month's election.

We hope to see you on the 13th!

- John and Mike

Upcoming Events

- January 13-15 – NYINC, New York International Numismatic Convention, at the New York Barclay.
- No Auburn show this month.
- January 15 – Nashua Coin Show, Nashua NH, 9:00 a.m., Eagle's Wing Function Center
- January 18 – Blackstone Valley 3rd Wednesday Show, Uxbridge MA, Wed, 3-8 p.m., VFW Post #1385
- January 22 – Devens Coin Show, Devens MA, 9:00 a.m., Devens Common Center
- January 27 – Deadline for the February newsletter
- February 10 – February meeting of the WCNS **with special fund-raising Silver Raffle.**



WCNS Auction

Item Description	Owner Value	Min Bid
1. 1947-D dime, choice unc. Full bands toned from a mint set	\$ 10	\$ -
2. 1927 Canada 5 cents, XF	6.50	-
3. Civil War token, Patriotic, Fuld 221/324a, Rarity 1, uncirculated	35	25
4. Bronze medal - "Dead Sea Scrolls By Mico Kaufman from Mass." From his estate (see Bob)	25	11
5. 1963 UN 20th Anniv. Silver So Called Half Dollar/Stevenson, Unc	45	25

Auction

Item Description	Owner Value	Min Bid
6. 2005D special mint set cent NGC MS67 Red	\$ 10	\$ -
7. 1972S cent NGC MS 65 Red	7	-
8. Two ANI cert. coins: 1977S cent, Proof 70 Red, and 1979-S Type 1 quarter, Proof 70 DCAM	7	-
9. 2001 5 sticker coins: 3 NY state Qtrs and 2 JFK 50-cent War History, Unc. In holder	5	-
10. Two silver plated medals: American Cowboy, and Barack Obama, Unc in capsules	10	-

Next month's Silver Raffle

We will try something new for the February meeting – a special fund-raising Silver Raffle. We would like as many members as possible to donate a silver item, value \$10-15 or more if you can. We will sell tickets for \$2 each, 3 tickets for \$5, and 7 tickets for \$10.

Each member who donates an item will receive 3 tickets for free. Bob Moffatt will start off by donating a Silver Eagle (currently worth about \$35). You can bring your items this month in January, or next month. Please remember, part of your item should be silver. For example, a 1965 Special Mint Set has a 40% silver half dollar in it.

Let's raise some money for the club and have fun doing it. There will be no auction next month.

Bermuda's Coinage by Fred Liberatore

Early Bermuda coinage, then known as the Somer Islands, is listed in the Red Book and dates to 1616. The brass/copper pieces, lightly silvered, 2, 3, 6 pence and shillings are usually in awful condition from exposure to a marine environment and catalog in about good for \$4,000.

More than 350 years passed before the coins in the name of the original discoverer of the Islands, Juan Bermudez, appeared in 1970. The currency in dollars and cents was pegged to the United States dollar in 1972 at par. Of course, this makes good sense since Bermuda has little to offer but being a somewhat exotic and ideal tourist destination for Americans on the East Coasts of the United States and Canada.

Bermuda's circulating coinage is not only on par with American currency but is also of the same sizes, mostly the same or of similar metal composition, and has nice reverse designs WITH the DATE prominently displayed on the reverse. All of this leads to the fact that Bermuda coins fit nicely into standard US coin albums and are NOT a queen show the way circulating US coins often are a dead presidents show. (As the queen aged, her portrait does too, which adds variety.)

Bermuda is internally self-governing and retired the standard British coinage in 1970. Initial mintages were heavily front loaded to affect the replacement of the British currency, so the mintages are high and this date in all denominations is very common. Happily, a proof set was issued, mintage 11,000, and it too can easily be found.

My son spent vacation time in Bermuda and kindly went to a bank in Hamilton and brought me rolls of cents and nickels. I had expected lots of Bermuda coins to sort through, but they were in the minority. Half of each roll was U.S. cents and nickels with about a quarter being Canadian cents and nickels. Clearly the currencies intermingled freely at that time since all three currencies were about on par.

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Tourists constantly bring Bermuda coins back from the island as souvenirs. Once in the hands of coin dealers, they eventually wind up in junk boxes where I find many of them. A couple of dealers also pick them out of poundage for me. Most dates can be found without much difficulty except those from 1982. That year was a serious recession year for the world economy and coinage needs were low due to limited tourist leakage away from the island. The 1982 nickel at 200,000 is scarce as is the quarter of 1982 at 160,000. Most Bermuda coins never see a 2 x 2 holder as their values are so low but I once found a 1982 quarter and dime in nice BU condition for an overpriced \$3. The rarest standard circulation issue coin is the 1993 dime which was only issued in a BU year set. Curiously all the other coins in the set were issued in the typical circulation mintages. Proof sets were also issued in 1983 and at a mintage of 6,474 do turn up occasionally and are not too expensive. The 1986 and 1999 proof sets of circulating coins with mintages of 2,500 and 2,000 are uncommon. I've never seen them.

In this brief note I have basically focused on cents, nickels, dimes and quarter dollars. Bermuda did issue half dollars irregularly from 1970 to 1988 with several at just a 40,000 mintage. Their reverse design, the Bermuda coat of arms, hasn't done a lot for me. Whereas, the cent with the hog, nickel with the Queen Angel Fish, the dime with the Bermuda lily, and the quarter with Yellow-billed tropical bird all have designs I admire.

Bermuda has issued many coins beyond the standard circulation issues. A 1984 quarter dollar set honors the 12 parishes of Bermuda in collector sets. Circulation designs have been issued in sterling silver and 0.917 gold. Coins in cupronickel mimic Ike dollars, Susan B Anthony dollars and our presidential "gold" dollars. All were issued for circulation.

Finally, there are further NCLT issues at 2, 3, 5 10 etc. up to 200 dollars in various metals including sterling silver and 0.999 gold.

None of them appear in junk boxes but I have found low denomination proofs of 1970 in junk boxes. I'll leave the NCLT to other collectors and will find my joy in the circulating coins which for me has led to Happy Collecting.

F.A. Liberatore

Deadline for next issue: January 27th