

Worcester County Numismatic Society

Founded 1946

Meets 2nd Friday of the month except July and August

**June
2020
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 June 12**

St. Josephs Parish Center
68 Central Street, Auburn MA

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

NO YN MEETING THIS MONTH

Educational Program:

To be announced

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,

This has been a tough period for a number of reasons. With the slow, staged, reopening of Massachusetts, we will finally be able to have our June meeting, but with severe restrictions. But it will enable us to see each other for the first time in 3 months, and even a limited meeting is better than nothing. I know I've had many regional and national shows cancelled and I'm definitely going through coin withdrawal. Here are the ground rules:

- All attendees **MUST** wear a mask or face covering while inside the Parish Hall at all times (no exceptions, and bring your own). If you are unable to wear a mask for medical reasons, please stay home.
- No food or beverage will be served.
- Attendees will sit properly distanced from each other. Couples/families may sit together, but each group must be distanced (we will remove chairs to ensure distance).
- There will be no YN program, but YNs can certainly attend the meeting with their parents.
- There will **NOT** be a dealer bourse at the meeting.
- No auction or bid board either.
- We will have an education program.
- We will have Show & Tell, with extra tables to spread things out and people can look at the items well-spaced apart.

Although this is not an ideal situation, it's the best we can do, and better than nothing.

Obviously, if you are ill, stay home. If you have any concerns about attending, please stay home.

This will be an informal get-together to allow people to see each other before the summer break and to catch up.

We hope to see many of you on the 12th!

- John and Mike

Upcoming Events

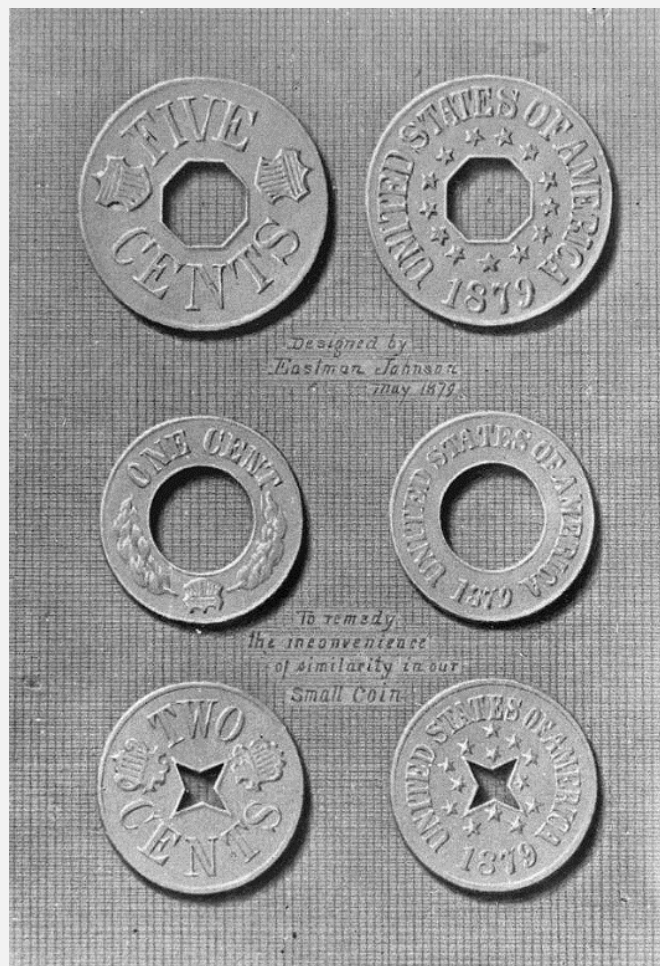
- August 4-8, ANA's World's Fair of Money, Pittsburgh PA, is still planned, but all indications from the State of Pennsylvania reopening guidance are that it will be cancelled, as will all very large-crowd events.
- Friday September 11th, first fall meeting of the WCNS



Advanced notice about September meeting: Because we have no idea what the situation will be by September, there is no way to know whether we'll be able to have a dealer bourse (we hope so) or Auction and Bid Board (we hope so). We will send out a special notice in early August to let people know if we will have an Auction and Bid Board, so you will know whether you need to send Lot Descriptions by the August 28th newsletter deadline.

Coin in the Spotlight: Charles Barber's 1884 Pattern cent of Eastman Johnson's "Holey" coins concept

In the 1870s, the United States minted many different denominations, including six different coins up to the value of just five cents! Imagine the confusion in any cash drawer at a store, saloon, or restaurant!



Eastman Johnson's original drawing

Although there was no intention to introduce these new holey coins into the U.S. economy, they did demonstrate how such a coin might be manufactured.

Eastman Johnson had an idea about making it easier to differentiate all of these small coins from each other. He came up with his "holey" coins idea, where each denomination would feature a different-sized and -shaped hole in the middle of the coin. His idea was documented in 1879 in the form of a 3D-appearing drawing (see left).

In 1884, with no new coins or medals to design, Chief Engraver Charles Barber created some "experimental pieces" based on Johnson's ideas. The pieces were struck in nickel from perforated planchets with metal flow both inward and outward, resulting in irregularly-shaped holes. The sizes of the holes come in large and small sizes. The one- and five-cent pieces were experimented with, but the two-cent was never made. Today, these patterns are rare and highly sought. The two featured here are from the Charles E. Barber estate.



Small hole (top) and Large hole (bottom)

Deadline for next issue: August 28th