



Worcester County Numismatic Society

Founded 1946

Meets 2nd Friday of the month except July and August

March
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

Email address: wcns@worchestercoinclub.org

Next Meeting: Friday March 8

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 presentation on Shipwreck Coins, presented by Mike Simpson

YN program:

Non-Numismatic Show & Tell

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, it's almost March!

This is an extremely busy month, with no fewer than 8 coin shows and events on the calendar (see below). The Auburn show returns this month, but two annual shows are also this month – the Bay State show in Marlboro mid-month, and the Mansfield Numismatic Society show in Willimantic is on the 31st. Two great shows, both well worth going to, and we look forward to them every year!

At our meeting on the 8th, Mike Simpson will be doing an interesting talk on Shipwreck coins – you will want to be there. That same night, your other co-Prez John will be a guest speaker at the New York Numismatic Club's meeting in Manhattan (must wear a jacket and tie – ugh!). This will be a new experience for me.

As mentioned at our February meeting, you will want to save the date for the annual Thomas P. Rockwell lecture, co-sponsored by the Boston Numismatic Society, Collectors Club of New England, and Currency Collectors. Our friend, Bob Fritsch will be doing a talk on the future of paper currency – *Polymer Money*. It is Tuesday April 2. The lecture begins at 7:30, but doors open earlier for refreshments and social hour. Mark your calendars.

And good news – the April NH Coin Expo in Manchester does not conflict with our meeting, so that's easy.

Hope to see you all on the 8th!

Save the date for the Rockwell Lecture

- John and Mike

Upcoming Events

- **Greater Worcester Coin Show**, Elks Club, Auburn MA, Sunday March 10, 9:30 a.m.
- **Bay State Coin Show**, Best Western Royal Plaza, Marlboro MA, March 14-16
- **Nashua 3rd Sunday Show**, Holiday Inn, Nashua NH, Sunday March 17, 8:00 a.m.
- **Blackstone Valley 3rd Wednesday Show**, VFW Post #1385, Uxbridge MA, Wednesday March 20, 3-8 p.m..
- **Devens Coin Show**. Devens Common Center, Andrews Parkway, Devens MA. Sunday March 24, 9:00 a.m.
- **Mansfield (CT) Numismatic Society Annual Show**, Prospect School, Willimantic CT, March 31, 9:00 a.m.
- **Rockwell Lecture – Save the date!** Tuesday April 2, Bob Fritsch presents *Polymer Money*. Waltham, 7:30 p.m.
- **New Hampshire Coin & Currency Expo**, Doubletree Hotel, Manchester NH, April 19-20



WCNS Auction

Item Description	Owner Value	Min Bid
1. 1938D Buffalo nickel, NGC MS66	\$ 100	\$ 75
2. 1935P Mercury dime, ANACS MS65 FSB	125	75
3. 1945S Mercury dime, ANACS MS63, premium toning	100	75
4. 1959 Franklin half, NGC Proof 66 slight cameo	75	60
5. 1962 Franklin half, NGC Proof 67, great toning	85	65
6. 1942P Walking Liberty half NNC MS66, great toning	105	50
7. 1949 Canada silver ship dollar, NGC MS62	50	30
Matt Erskine Donation for Juniors		
1. 1863 Civil War token, Constitution Forever	15	-

Bid Board

Item Description	Owner Value	Min Bid
1. 1880's U.S. Mint silver Lincoln/Garfield medal	\$ 75	\$ 50
2. 1964 Washington quarter. NGC MS66, premium toning	50	30
3. 1947 Sweden 2 ore. NGC MS64	50	25
4. 1950B Switzerland silver one half franc. NGC MS66	50	25
5. Two 1970 1 ounce .999 silver medals. Louisiana State Museum, #400, PL-toned	45	38
6. 1962 Canada proof-like Mint Set, 1.11 ounce actual silver weight. Toned	25	17
7. 1986 France State of Liberty anniversary double thick silver piefort, 5000 struck, BU	45	15

Coin in the Spotlight: 1870-S Half Dime

In 1978, a coin was brought to the Chicago office of RARCOA. It was taken into the back room and placed on a velvet pad for examination. The person said, "An 1870 half dime... so what?" To which was said, "Turn it over." There it was, an "S" mintmark. If you looked at the Red Book in 1978, you would not see anything listed for 1870-S. The coin was unknown. But now there was one.

It was authenticated using a scanning electron microscope (SEM) and a battery of other tests. 40 years after its discovery, it is unique – the only one known. And a lovely coin it is!

Like the unique 1870-S \$3 gold coin, this coin is assumed to be a duplicate of a coin placed in the cornerstone of the new San Francisco Mint (the "Granite Lady"). Other than the cornerstone coin itself, there is no record of mintage (like the \$3 and the 1870-S silver dollar, of which 9 are known).

The 1870-S half dime remains a most mysterious coin. Sold twice at auction as a choice AU55, the coin has been certified numerous times, crossing between NGC and PCGS multiple times, and has gradually been upgraded over the years. Despite there being some definite rub on the high points, the coin now resides in a PCGS MS64 holder! Of course, the grade inflation since certification began isn't the coin's fault! This coin is being displayed in Baltimore at the display table of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club from February 28 to March 2.



The unique 1870-S Half Dime

Deadline for next issue: March 29th