



# Worcester County Numismatic Society

Founded 1946

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

March  
2020  
WCNS  
Monthly  
Newsletter

**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 March 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:

Gold & Silver Extended Show and Tell

### YN program:

"Lowering the Barr"

## 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,

The next month and a half has no fewer than nine local coin shows! In addition to the Auburn/Nashua/Devens trio and the monthly Blackstone Valley Wednesday shows, our friends at the Mansfield Numismatic Society in Connecticut are having their annual show on the 29<sup>th</sup> in Willimantic. This fun show is well worth the drive. In April we have the NH Coin Expo and the Bay State show, followed by Nashua again. Whew!

This month's theme is Gold & Silver, and our auction is gold & silver items. Not that many lots, but some interesting items! *Our Show & Tell session is the event of the night, and will also be Gold & Silver themed. So please bring some of your interesting items to share with the others.*

A "save the date" notice for this year's Thomas P. Rockwell memorial lecture, sponsored by three Boston-area numismatic clubs. This year's lecture is *Women, Power, and Magic in 13 Ancient Artifacts*, by author David Wray, and will be held in Waltham on April 14 from 7-9 p.m. at the New Light Korean Church on Main Street.

Speaking of magic, Steve the Magician wowed last month's meeting with his program, *The Magic of Coins*. Some amazing illusions were performed right in front of our eyes. Many head-scratchers, and a lot of fun.

We hope to see you all on the 13<sup>th</sup>!

- John and Mike

## Upcoming Events

- Auburn/Greater Worcester Coin Show, Elks Club, Auburn MA, Sunday March 8
- Nashua Coin Show, Holiday Inn, Nashua NH, Sunday March 15, 8:00 a.m.
- Blackstone Valley 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Show, VFW Post #1385, Uxbridge MA, Wednesday Mar. 18, 3-8 p.m.
- Devens Coin Show, Devens Commons Center, Andrews Parkway, Devens MA, Sunday March 22, 9:00 a.m.
- Mansfield Numismatic Society Show, Prospect School Gym, Willimantic CT, Sunday March 29, 9:00 a.m.
- NH Coin & Currency Expo, Doubletree Hotel, Manchester NH, April 10-11
- Thomas P. Rockwell Memorial Lecture, New Light Korean Church, Waltham MA, 7-9 p.m.
- WCNS April meeting will be delayed to Friday April 17<sup>th</sup> due to conflict with Manchester Show!



## WCNS Auction

Item Description	Owner Value	Min Bid
1. One vile of gold flakes	\$ 20	\$ 10
2. 1982 Lincoln mini gold coin	10	5
3. India gold cochin Fanam circa 1770, 22 KT, XF	30	20
4. Antique gold 9 KT memorial hairpin	175	100
5. Antique 14 KT gold and coral ring, 3.2 grams, Size 7	175	100
6. Silver ancient Greek coin, Philip III, 323-317 B.C. Drachm, head of Heracles/Zeus enthroned, Fine	200	110
7. 1679 silver 2 Real cob, Potosi, pendant	150	95
8. 1988 silver Eagle, vivid toning	75	50
9. 1992 silver proof set	28	22
10. 1998 silver proof set	28	22

## Bid Board

Item Description	Owner Value	Min Bid
1. Alaska small gold nugget	\$ 15	\$ 9
2. Austrian 1849A coin pendant, silver	9	2
3. Silver Maine mini-token	3	1
4. 2001 silver Pearl Harbor 1-oz.	25	19
5. Sterling souvenir spoon, Taunton MA	15	10
6. Silver John Adams U.S. Mint bicentennial medal, P-L, in box	25	18

### This month's meeting:

Given our “**Gold & Silver**” theme for this month’s auction, our program will be a discussion-oriented Show & Tell session of silver & gold items.

Bring something to share with the others!

## Coin in the Spotlight: 1909-O Indian Half Eagle

The Indian \$5 gold coin minted in New Orleans is a most unusual coin. The 1909-O half eagle is the only coin of its type struck in this southern mint, and the first half eagle struck there since 1894. And it would be the last, as 1909 marked the last year of operations in New Orleans.

One of the two key dates of the series (the other being 1929), this coin is scarce in all grades, and rare in true mint state. The mintage was just 34,200 coins, making it the single-lowest mintage of the series (and lowest mintage of any half eagle since the 1894-O fifteen years earlier).

The average 1909-O grade is XF to AU50, and the coin gets pricey the closer one gets to uncirculated grades.



1909-O Indian Half Eagle

It is especially scarce because the mintmark is raised on this incuse coin, making it the single-highest point on the coin, and subject to immediate wear. A few of the well-worn 1909 pieces may be O-mint coins that are now unidentifiable.

Collectors also must be weary of 1909-D coins that have been altered into 1909-O.

**Deadline for next issue: March 28th**