



Worcester County Numismatic Society

Founded 1946

Meets 2nd Friday of the month except July and August

November
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 November 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:

Pirate Booty, presented by Mike Simpson

YN program:

"Trading Places Part Deux"

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 days are growing shorter and we get closer to the end of 2019. It's hard to believe that by the time our next meeting comes around, we'll be off daylight savings time and it will be dark when you arrive for our meetings. It's that time of year, I guess.

This month, we'll be trying our higher-level auction again that we first tried last month for the first time. Last month had mixed results. While we had a greater diversity of coins than we've had in a long time, including a number of higher-value items, most items didn't sell, even with reasonable below-wholesale minimums on many of them (although attendance wasn't particularly high either, perhaps because of the weather). We'll try this again this month, and again in January. If you see something in the auction list that you like, bring your checkbook! It may take a few tries before it catches on. While we have fewer lots in the auction this month, there are definitely some more interesting items for your consideration.

Due to illness, co-Prez Mike Simpson was unable to attend the meeting last month, so this month, we'll have him do the short educational program that was slated for last month, as we didn't want to miss it! Last month's meeting featured an update on the 1894-S Barber Dimes, where the mystery about the coin and why only 24 were minted has finally been solved.

Next month on the 13th is our annual meeting and holiday party with no auction, and just a Bid Board, perhaps a short program, but our enhanced raffles and pasta feast. Stay tuned for that.

We hope to see you all on the 8th!

- John and Mike

Upcoming Events

- No Auburn show in November – show resumes in December
- Nashua Coin Show, Holiday Inn, Nashua NH, November 17, 8:00 a.m.
- Blackstone Valley 3rd Wednesday Show, VFW Post #1385, Uxbridge MA, Wednesday Nov. 20, 3-8 p.m.
- Devens Coin Show, Devens Common Center, Andrews Parkway, Devens MA, November 24, 9:00 a.m.
- WCNS December meeting and Holiday Party, Friday December 13



Coin in the Spotlight: 1875 Liberty Head Eagle

The rarest of all the gold \$10 eagle issues, and one of the rarest U.S. gold coins is the 1875 \$10 gold eagle. One of the most famous gold rarities in all of U.S. numismatics, the 1875 eagle makes headlines whenever it is offered for sale, usually at a premier auction. And it doesn't happen very often.

During 1875, there were a number of very low mintage Philadelphia gold issues, including the gold dollar and the quarter eagle, each of which had a mintage of only 400 pieces. However, it is the \$10 gold eagle of the year that exceeds these in rarity by a wide margin. Only a paltry **100 pieces** were minted that year, plus 20 proofs. Why only 100 pieces? We'll never know.

With the low proof mintage of 20, one might think they are rarer than the circulation strikes, however this isn't the case. While more than a dozen survive of the proofs, only **seven to nine examples** of the circulation issue are known, fewer than any other eagle from 1795 to 1933. These trade at auction only a few times a decade.

The pictured coin sold in 2005 for just \$38,000 (a bargain – I was there), and just six months later it sold again for almost \$52,000, quite a gain for the original buyer! In 2014, it sold again for \$211,500 and is probably worth over \$300,000 today.

The finest known is a generously-graded NGC AU55, which has some notable marks and is probably no better than the above coin. At one auction about 15 years ago, a copper die trial of the proof coin (collected as a pattern) that had been gilt (and thus looked like the gold proof) sold for about \$11,000, likely the cheapest way to get an 1875-dated eagle. Even the rare 1875-CC eagle doesn't compare!



1875 Eagle, PCGS AU50

**Auction and Bid Board list on next page
Deadline for next issue: November 28th**

WCNS Auction

Item Description	Owner Value	Min Bid
1. Spain, 1776, 4 Maravedis AG	\$ 7	\$ 2
2. 1773 Virginia half penny, G with scratches	25	10
3. 1804 half cent. Crosslet 4. Stems. AG, rough	35	10
4. 1849 Large Cent, F with deposits. Net Good	20	10
5. 1858 Flying Eagle cent. G. Weak at top with obv mark	30	10
6. 1865 3¢ nickel. Good	15	5
7. 1849 half dime, Good	20	10
8. 1898 Canada 5¢ silver, VF, marks before face	30	5
9. 1930 Worcester 300th anniversary Mass. Bay Colony/Pine Tree Shilling copy. XF	20	10
10. Worcester Light Infantry badge, with top bar, circa 1900	45	30
11. 1806 Draped Bust half dollar, VG	300	275
12. 1811 Capped Bust half dollar, VG	80	60
13. 1818 Bust half dollar, Fine	95	90
14. 1831 Bust half dollar, Very Fine	95	85
15. 1914-S Barber quarter, mintage just 264,000, G6	110	95
16. 1915-S Buffalo nickel. AG/G	25	18
17. 1938-D Buffalo nickel, BU	27.50	24
18. 1904-O Morgan dollar VAM 32, Rarity-5, BU	75	60

Kittredge Foundation Donation

1. 1909 VDB Choice Unc.	15	-
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Bid Board

Item Description	Owner Value	Min Bid
1. Pennsylvania Masonic Chapter penny, copper, AU	\$ 10	\$ 5
2. Culled Large cent.	5	-
3. 1864 2¢ piece, AG	5	-
4. 1868 Shield nickel, dark, dug	5	-
5. 1856 Seated half dime, edge damage	5	-
6. 1884 dime, G/AG	15	5
7. 1912D Barber dime, XF, reverse damage	10	3
8. 1903 Barber quarter, G/AG	8	3

Consigning to the Auction and Bid Board

It's easy to consign to our Auction and Bid Board. All you need to do is send in your lot information before the deadline (at the end of each newsletter) to our email address: wcons@worcestercoinclub.org. The information should include:

- Lot description (date/mintmark, type, grade, and other information to describe the lot). Please be as brief as possible, as we have limited amount of space in the auction listings
- Owner's value – amount the item is worth, either on a retail or wholesale basis. This is optional.
- Minimum bid – the lowest acceptable bid that will be accepted, if any (you can also specify no minimum).

If a lot sells at the Auction or Bid Board, the club will take a 5% commission and you will receive 95% of the hammer price. There is no "buyer's premium" so a winning bidder will pay the hammer price.