



Worcester County Numismatic Society

Founded 1946

Meets 2nd Friday of the month except July and August

November
2020

WCNS
Monthly
Newsletter

Club Address: WCNS, P.O. Box 1079, Douglas MA 01516

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Next Meeting: December 11?

We will have to see. There will be an update in the December newsletter, and on the WCNS website as soon as we know more.

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,

As the COVID-19 numbers tick up significantly here in Massachusetts, we have decided it would be wise to once again suspend our in-person meetings for the time being. **Therefore, our November meeting is CANCELLED.**

The experts say the next few weeks are critical, so we will do our part. We will resume in-person meetings when the numbers go down and we can once again hold well-spread-out get-togethers and educational programs.

We will see if we can offer an alternative approach if we can't hold a meeting in December. Regardless, it is safe to say we won't be having our traditional holiday party next month.

We hope that our members understand, and wish for things to improve here quickly.

Stay safe everyone!

- John and Mike

Coin in the Spotlight: 1855-C Gold Dollar

It is well known that the Charlotte and Dahlonega mints produced some of the scarcer issues of gold coinage, mostly due to low mintages. The quality of the coins produced at these two branch mints also varied greatly. The capabilities and equipment at these two mints were vastly different from the other mints. Also, skill levels of mint employees varied widely, resulting in a wide range of striking quality from issue to issue.

The design and engraving of the Type II gold dollar (1854-56) was fundamentally flawed, and resulted in notoriously poor strikes, so much that the design was abandoned quickly and replaced with the Indian Princess Type III design.

Put these factors together and the result is that the 1855-C gold dollar is, on average, the worst-struck issue in the history of the U.S. Mint! Well-struck examples with nice luster are virtually unknown. Poor planchet quality didn't help either. Even some choice AU examples are so poorly struck that they appear to have what any other series would call VF details. As a result, specific knowledge of the 1855-C gold dollar is needed to properly grade these coins. Of an original mintage of just 9,808, about 175 are known in all grades, making it very scarce indeed.



1855-C Gold Dollar, Type II