



FORT WORTH COIN CLUB

Club Meeting Minutes April 3, 2025 Held at the FW Botanical Gardens

Thanks to Dalia and Ryan S. for starting the meeting off with the wonderful dinner they served to the club. It included Swedish and Italian meatballs, potato salad, a green salad with tomatoes and croutons and multiple varieties of cookies for dessert. We were only missing the Chateau Le Coin Bordeaux. Thanks also to Scott S. for the homemade cookies he brought.

President Kevin G. began the business portion of the meeting by recognizing three guests, Terry P., Jean W., and Caron B. and having them introduce themselves and tell why they have an interest in the hobby.

Kevin then had a drawing for door prizes. It is amazing how often guests and brand-new members win the drawings. Sure enough, guest Caron won a 1986 proof set. Member Jerry O. won the other door prize, a 1987 proof set.

The club voted to buy \$100 of the TNA (Texas Numismatic Assn.) raffle tickets. The drawing will be on Sunday, June 1, the final day of the TNA's coin show in Conroe. The prizes are all gold coins!

There were multiple Show & Tell items:

- David P. showed a 2 peso gold piece.
- Danny M. showed some old English coinage plus medals from Iceland made in the 1930s commemorating their legislature's 1000 year anniversary,
- Larry H. displayed some new acquisitions - an 1831 and an 1851 large cent, both in VF as well as an amazing 1794 large cent with stars on the reverse,
- Jimmy D. and Frank H. also participated in the show and tell



Educational Program

Robert S. gave a very good review of the history and coinage of the New Orleans Mint.

In 1835 Congress approved the money for three new mints including New Orleans which, at that time, was the largest city in the south. (Charlotte and Dahlonega were the other two). It started production in 1838 with coinage of half dimes. Twenty half dollars were also minted of which only twelve are known to exist today. (Good luck on getting one of those Bust Half collectors.)

At the start of the civil war in 1861, the Confederates took control of the mint. They continued minting half dollars with the original Federal dies, so no one is sure if an 1861-O seated liberty half dollar was made by the North or the South. Eventually the reverse die was altered by the Confederates who struck pattern coins with "Confederate States of America" on them. Only four are known to survive.

The Confederates were driven out of New Orleans in 1862 and production at the mint ceased. It was reopened in 1876 as an assay office and in 1879 full mint operations resumed, primarily to strike silver dollars.

Operations continued until 1904 when the US stopped silver dollar production. The New Orleans mint was shut down in 1909. It is now a museum.

Robert showed O mint mark coins from his collection including an 1894-O AU-58 Coronet \$5 gold coin. He also had a 1904-O MS-63 Morgan dollar which was the last year of silver dollar mintage and a 1909-O Barber half dollar, the last year the New Orleans mint operated.

Robert delivered an excellent program and his numismatic knowledge is encyclopedic. Kevin gave him a speaker's award of a 1963-D Franklin half dollar.

Frank H. had some good prizes in his raffle. The first item was a 2023 MS-70 Eagle which was won by new member Bentley Y. Didn't I mention how frequently guests and brand-new members win prizes at our club meetings? See. The second item in the raffle was a winner's choice of either an Australian 1 ounce silver Koala coin or a James Madison commemorative silver dollar. Jack G. won and chose the Koala.

The club's auction contained 35 lots and was conducted by raffle winner Jack G. who was assisted by Frank H.

Upcoming coin shows:

- Houston – May 2-3
- Lubbock – May 9–10
- Cowtown – May 16-17, White Settlement
- San Antonio – May 24
- Texas Numismatic Association (TNA) – May 30-June 1 – Conroe
- Gainesville – June 26-28
- Austin – July 4-5

- Grapevine – July 11-13
- Tyler – August 15-16
- ANA World's Fair of Money – August 19-23 – Oklahoma City

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Lasko
Club Secretary