FORT WORTH COIN CLUB

Club Meeting Minutes
August 6, 2026
Held at the FW Botanical Gardens

Members were served a very satisfying dinner of quesadillas with salad courtesy of Dalia S. She topped it off with a variety of cakes for dessert including a cheesecake and a chocolate one. Thanks, Dalia.

President Jimmy D. called the meeting to order a little after 7:00 pm. He recognized and welcomed two guests – Jim W. who has been a collector of U.S. coins since his childhood, so for the past 40 years, and Jim M., who has only been collection for a year, but has already focused on ancient, medieval, and foreign coins.

BUSINESS:

The minutes of the July meeting were accepted as previously emailed to the membership by club secretary Ed L.

Treasurer William S. gave the financial report including the activity and balances of the club's checking, petty cash and brokerage accounts. His report was accepted by the membership. He also noted that the club had already purchased coins for bingo prizes to be awarded at our September picnic meeting, so no additional expenses will be incurred for that.

Wiliam also reminded us of the club's Marketplace. If you have a coin or coins you are looking for or want to sell, let William or Ed know or fill out the Marketplace form that is available at the meeting. That list will be circulated to the membership with the monthly minutes. I listed that I was looking for circulated Barber half dollars in XF or AU condition on the Marketplace and connected with Felix T. who had exactly what I was looking for.

Dalia announced that the club's board had noted that several members had said the auction took too long and that not too many members were staying to bid on items. To expedite the process, on a trial basis starting with this meeting, the auction will be split into two parts. A short portion, 15 minutes or less, will be held at the break with the remainder occurring after the meeting as usual.

SEPTEMBER MEETING:

Jimmy announced that the September meeting would be the club's annual picnic meeting. The club will be serving various pizzas. Members are encouraged to bring side dishes, salads, or desserts to round out the fare. Bingo will be played for numismatic prizes. There will not be a formal educational program or an auction.

DOOR PRIZES:

Congratulations to Frank D. who won a 1965 BU Kennedy half and to Carl N. who won a 1978 BU Kennedy half.

SHOW AND TELL:

On his driving vacation to Colorado earlier this summer, Kevin G. picked up the obverse and reverse dies for tokens produced by the American Zinc. Co. I had seen dies before from the U.S. mint which, by the time they are distributed to customers, are completely defaced. Kevin's dies were untouched and he can mint his own tokens if he wants to.

Danny M. showed us several coins including a 1723 British Crown and an 1822 Louie XVIII 5-franc coin. He also brought his 2026 U.S. mint set with all the new coin designs.



Ed L. brought to our attention, via an article in Coin World, that the U.S. Mint had just released its first not round coin in over 100 years. To celebrate our country's 250th birthday, the Mint produced a 1oz. gold coin in the shape of the Liberty Bell. The astounding thing about it, other that the shape, was the mint's selling price - $19,600. It is the most expensive numismatic item ever sold by the mint.





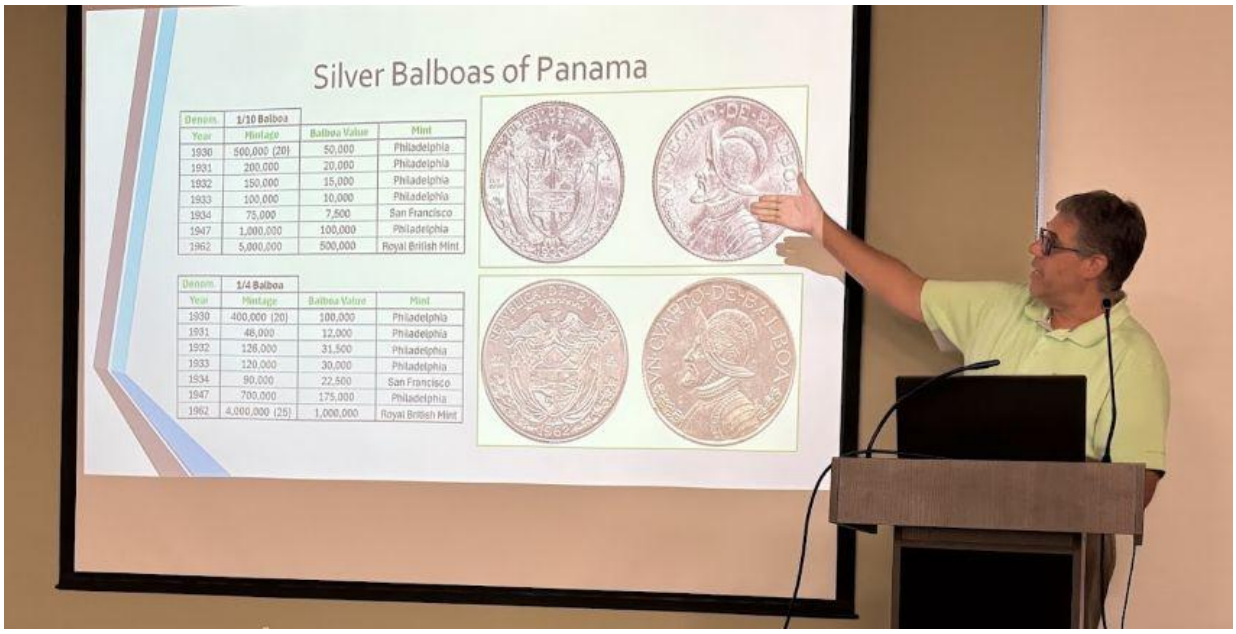
Larry H. showed us his recent acquisition in an old ANACS soapbox holder – a 1798 Turban Head $5 half-eagle graded VF-details. Wow! That is an old U.S. coin.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM:

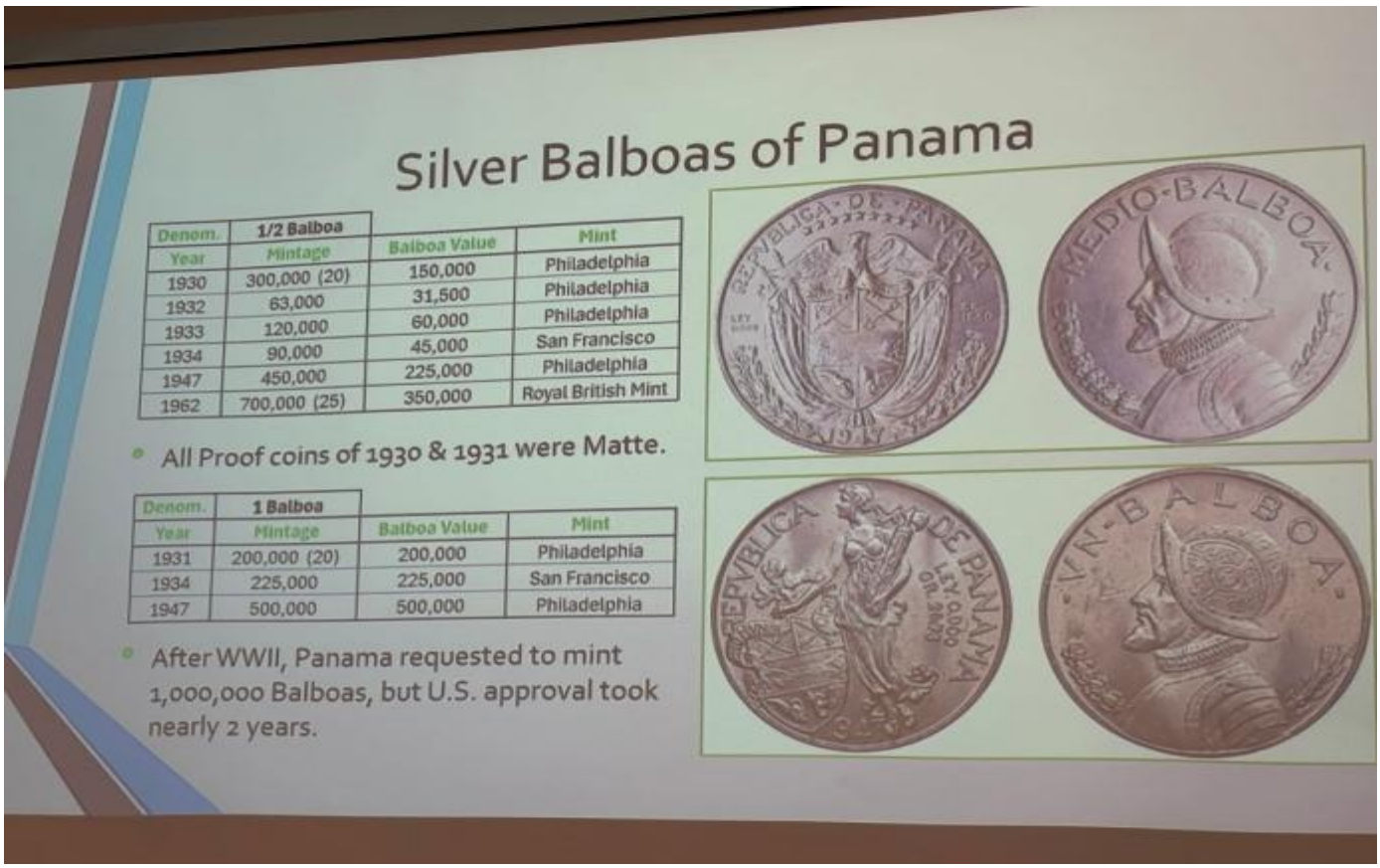
We were fortunate to have Kevin K. from the Northeast Tarrant Coin Club give us the second part of his definitive program on the Silver Balboas of Panama. He quickly reviewed Part 1. Panama achieved independence from Columbia in 1903. In 1904, the new nation replaced the

Colombian peso with the **balboa**, named after the Spanish explorer who was the first European to discover the Pacific ocean when he crossed Panama in 1513.

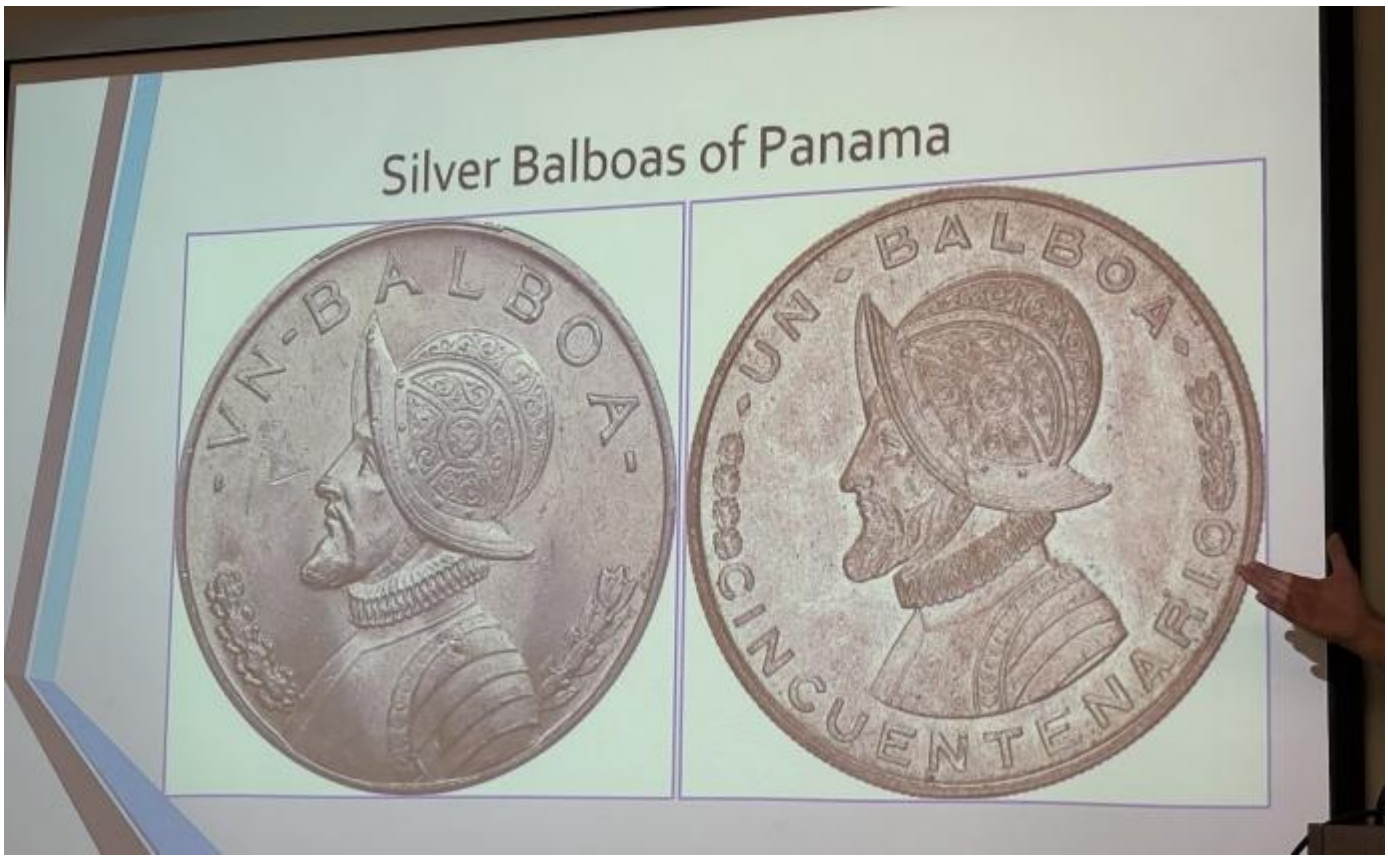


Kevin had already discussed the original Balboas of 1904 and 1905 which were issued to facilitate the building of the Panama Canal. Because of the monetary arrangement with the U.S., Panama needed permission from the U.S. to issue more balboas with the coins being minted in Philadelphia or sometimes San Francisco. Because Panama does not issue currency, only coins, it uses the U.S. dollar and, I believe, the value of the balboa is pegged to the dollar.

Unlike U.S. coinage which is minted every year, balboas are minted only occasionally. In very concise charts, he reviewed all issuances of the balboa and which denominations were made.



In 1953, Panama wanted to have coins minted celebrating its 50th year of independence. The U.S. was experiencing a coin shortage at the time and couldn't do the work, so Mexico was contracted to mint the coins. The word "Cincuentenario" (50th anniversary) was added to all denominations as requested. Unfortunately, the Mexican mint made several errors. All ¼ balboas were too large and all ½ balboas were too small. Compounding the problem, the composition of the coins was 90% silver as required, but the remaining 10% was not all copper. It probably contained amounts of zinc and/or tin that can cause unusual oxidation problems.



The U.S. authorized the minting of an additional 1 million balboas for 1961. That mintage was again done by Mexico. Amazingly, Mexico made exactly the same mistakes it made in 1953. It may not have been Mexico's fault, however, as the correct sizes may not have been communicated to them by Panama.

The 1962 series of 1/10, 1/4, and 1/2 balboas was done by the British Royal Mint in a design identical to the 1930 series. All denominations can be found in high grades and are well struck with sharp details.

The 1966 series reduced the silver content of the half balboa from 90% to 40%, the same as the U.S. half dollar and continued that through 1970. All other denominations followed the U.S. system of clad coinage.

A really interesting and detailed look at the unique coinage of a foreign country. Thanks, Kevin.

RAFFLE

A $5 star note in uncirculated crisp condition was won by Gary G.

A 1971 Proof Eisenhower dollar was won by William S.

Congrats to both of you. Better luck next time for the rest of us.

AUCTION

The auction was done in two parts on a trial basis with a 15 minute portion occurring at the break and the rest, as usual, at the end of the meeting. Thanks to Jack G. who acted as our auctioneer, Kevin G. who took care of the money, and Earl C. who was our runner.

UPCOMING AREA COIN SHOWS

Per www.coinshows-usa.com

- Richardson Coin Show – Sept. 12, First Baptist Church, Richardson (per flyer)
- Cowtown Coin Show - Sept. 18-19, White Settlement
- Waco Coin Club Show – Sept. 25-26
- Cowtown Coin Show – Oct. 16-17, White Settlement
- Grapevine Coin Show – November 7-8
- Grapevine Coin Show – Dec. 12-13

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Lasko

Club Secretary