

Pocket Change

VOLUME 71 ISSUE 3

MARCH 2024

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Capped Bust Half
- NM Alamo
- Wrage
- Kisluck Estate
- ANA Connection

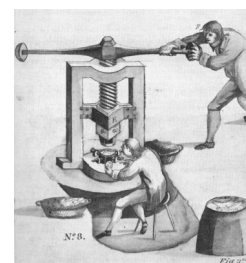
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Feature Article 1
- Rick's Two Bits 6
- Coin Cabinet 5
- ANA News 4
- Rod's Two Cents 6
- Dates To Remember 7
- ACC Information 8

Capped Bust Half Dollars – A Variety Pickers Dream

By Eric Kibbey

The year is 1807 and coins are being produced and minted at the United States Mint in Philadelphia. We're still 30 years away from the first steam powered press. What we have are screw presses and dies made of steel that are not of today's quality steel. Silver dollar production was suspended in 1804 (none being dated 1804). From 1805 till 1836 the half dollar was our country's largest denomination coin being struck. The capped bust half dollar rarely circulated in the common persons hands but instead more often was used for inter-banking needs. State Banks at this time in our history were printing their own paper money and according to law, this paper printed currency had to be backed by lawful money of the United States. To fill this need, many of the banks used Capped Bust Half Dollars. For this very reason many capped bust half dollars were spared from bullion meltings over the years as well as heavy circulation wear.



During the period of 1807-1836 the Mint produced over eighty-two million Capped Bust Half Dollars, almost half of them were made from 1830 on. There are three main types to the Capped Bust Half Dollar series. Type 1 (1807-1836), the lettered edge, type 2 (1836-1837), the reeded edge with "50 CENTS" on the Reverse, and type 3 (1838-1839), the reeded edge with "HALF Dol." on the reverse. In 1817 The Capped Bust Half Dollar remained unchanged until 1825. New Chief Engraver William Kneass made changes on the design from 1825-1836. The first new steam coinage press was introduced on March 23, 1836, replacing the outdated screw presses. In 1836 soon to be third appointed Chief Engraver Christian Gobrecht was responsible for the Type 2 and 3 capped bust half dollar.

In complete contrast with the coins made today, back in 1807 the only part of the design on the working die was the main design element. The Capped Bust Half Dollar design (particularly those of the lettered edge variety from 1807 – 1836), has Lady Liberty wearing a cap or as some might call it a turban. The die does not have the date, the 13 stars that go around the portrait, or even the many dentils that circle the outside of the coin. Believe it or not, every one of these important design elements were stamped in by hand into each working die.

When that die reached the end of its working life another die was produced and more hand stamping had to occur. This hand stamping would often need to be touched up further with the graver to sharpen the edges and details of the smaller devices such as the stars, letters or numbers. These effects often show up on many Capped Bust Half Dollars in the form of recutting (extra lines), on serifs, letter stands, stars and numerals. *(continued page 2)*



You are the expert. Do a presentation at a club meeting and share your expertise.

(Capped Bust from page 1) Another interesting aspect of the capped bust half dollar was the lettered edge which was made using a Castaing machine. The edge lettering was in incuse. One major drawback to the use of the Castaing machine was that if the planchet was not fed between the bar dies at the correct point of entry, the lettering on the bar dies would not match up correctly with one another, which would lead to overlapping words or missing letters.

I'm sure it's probably going through your head already that the standardization our first mint was seeking was not there. Stars weren't always placed exactly identical to the other dies. Dates may be a bit higher or lower from the previous dies. The dentils surrounding the coin may not all be evenly placed.



Human error, or as I like to call it human uniqueness, created many different varieties of coins for the Capped Bust Half series. The span may have only lasted a scant 30 years (or I should say 29 due to the fire at the Mint in 1816) for the lettered edge variety but produced over 450 unique die marriage varieties. A collector's dream come true. A treasure hunt for the ages to come.



Sources:

Souder, E. E. (1995). *Bust Half Fever 1807 - 1836*. Money Tree Press. Yeoman, R. S. (2023). *A Guide Book of United States Coins* (77th ed.). Whitman Publishing LLC.

February Presentation

by Phil Vitale

Neuvo Mexico's Alamo; Rio Arriba's Chimayo Revolt 1837 – 38.

The February meeting saw Rod Frechette present a little-known chapter of New Mexico's history that questioned what we think we know that makes history. This story started with Mexico's chaos 1824 to 1835 and the passing of their 2nd Constitution in 1836 which consolidated power from the states to the federal government. This led to rebellions around Mexico and Texas. New Mexico was no exception. The subsistence villagers and Puebloans north of Santa Fe, Rio Arriba, were mostly poor, with a racial caste system and deep religious faith. This led to distrust of the wealthy few elites from Santa Fe and Abajo. The rebellion spark was in Santa Cruz de la Canada with the August 3rd, 1837 Declaration of Independence from the "Canton" of the north. 3,000 rebels went to Santa Fe and defeated Governor Perez on their way. They caught Perez and beheaded him and killed another dozen of his supporters. An illiterate buffalo hunter and "Generizo" of Taos



Pueblo, a respected thoughtful man, was named the first Indian Governor of New Mexico. Jose Gonzales' rule of chaos lasted about a month. In September former Governor Armijo was named General in Tome by the wealthy "Ricos" and funded by the worried Santa Fe Trail traders. Armijo took back Santa Fe, made peace with the rebels who disbanded, and jailed the 4 main instigators from Santa Cruz. The rebellion was finally crushed in a January 1838 battle near Pojoaque.

Member Profile

by: Phil Vitale

Marian Wrage *Making Things Happen*

I'm sure you've noticed an interesting new person around the club over the last year or so. Interesting, capable and supportive, Marian Wrage is our newest director and brings a fresh energy to our Board of directors.

Marian Wrage was born in Youngstown Ohio, but grew up all around the country because of her father's (Ken) federal career having them move frequently; her other stops included Gallup, NM, Anchorage, AK, and finally Scottsdale, AZ.

Marian has a Bachelor of Science degree in geology from Northern Arizona University. She met her future husband, Eric, in Physics and Fortran classes and Marian also took some additional courses related to geology and science after graduation. The newlyweds moved to Southern California in the LA area for Eric's new job in aerospace; a rocket scientist who worked on both the space station and space shuttle programs for Rockwell International.

With the end of the Cold War, aerospace and other engineer positions were disappearing from California, so the two relocated to Albuquerque. Marian worked at a full-service environmental laboratory first with asbestos analysis and later as the lead project manager. She eventually found a position with the City of Rio Rancho as their Environmental Program Manager and retired in 2021 after 15 years.

Marian Wrage joined ACC because she is the executor of her father's estate. Ken was the coin collector with his children bringing him the odd/old coins they found. The family would look at his various collections through the years and marvel at the Indian Head pennies and Buffalo nickels. None of his children have become avid collectors, though. Marian collected the Girl Scout commemorative set when it came out years ago. Marian inventoried his collection, and the siblings had several coins that they were interested in keeping as part of their inheritance. Marian is still unsure if the Mercury dimes, the Indian Head pennies, or perhaps the Standing Liberty quarters or Walking Liberty coins would be most fun to keep. She is still deciding.

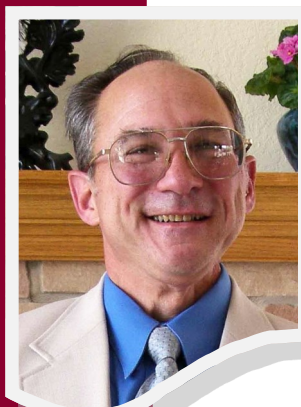
In her spare time, Marian likes to quilt, read, and walk. She used to be hiker, but she is out of hiking shape right now. She is involved with the New Mexico Quilting Association as their secretary and attends meetings with the Thimbleweeds quilt group in Rio Rancho. She has always been a supporter of the Girl Scouts and she is a lifetime member. She was on the board of directors for a number of years for the local council.



ANA News

by: Phil Vitale

Summer Seminar Around the Corner



There is absolutely no doubt that the ANA's Summer Seminar is the best numismatic education anywhere. The two sessions (June 16-19 & June 23-25) are offering 35 courses to choose from. The course catalog with the details on each course are on the ANA's website, money.org.

Summer Seminar courses are conducted on the beautiful Colorado College campus. The courses offered cover a broad spectrum of topics. Some of the most popular courses cover Coin Grading, Counterfeit Detection, Numismatic Photography, Ancient Greek & Roman coinage and Commemoratives. The instructors for these courses are experts in their respective areas.

In addition to four concentrated days of instruction, students have access to hobby notables and members of the ANA staff. A great additional benefit is developing a comradery with numismatists from around the country and the world.



Kisluck Estate Items to be Auctioned

Beginning with the March club meeting, the Albuquerque Coin Club will be offering items from the Dick Kisluck collection during the auction. Proceeds will be used by the club to conserve, protect and showcase a permanent collection based upon a generous gift from the estate of Mr. Kisluck. In addition,

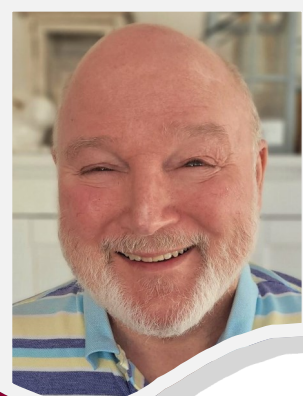
we will be offering Old Club Bucks as lots.

Our March meeting auction will include items from Dick's collection including Roosevelt Dimes, Canadian Cents, Walking Liberty Half Dollars, Morgan Dollars and other numismatic items.



The Coin Cabinet

by: Jim Derrick



I wanted to highlight the tremendous national involvement and participation the Albuquerque Coin Club has with the American Numismatic Association (ANA). First, our former Past President (2012-2013), Mr. Rod Frechette, who was the ANA's "Numismatist of the Year" and "Glen Smedley Award Winner" in 2022, is the current Chair of the ANA's "Outreach and Marketing Committee". He is an avid numismatic educator and collector, and we were fortunate to hear his excellent presentation on the "New Mexico Alamo/Revolt" at our February membership meeting. Second, former Past President (2019-2021), Mr. Phil Vitale, who is a multiple award winning "Pocket Change Newsletter" Editor, was appointed last October 2023, by ANA President, Mr. Thomas Uram, as the ANA's "Outreach Program Coordinator". He coordinates the District Representative Program for the ANA, and also serves along with Rod Frechette on the "Outreach and Marketing Committee", among other activities. Phil leads our monthly numismatic educational series on KRQE, Channel 13 morning news broadcasts, and has presented numerous educational webinars available on the ANA's website. Also, both Rod and Phil are graduates of the ANA's Numismatic Scholars Program. We are very fortunate to have these two nationally recognized Volunteers as ACC members.

We are growing as one of the best local coin clubs in the country. Our membership is up and our assets are also expected to increase with the auction of selected coins thanks to the donation to the club from past member, Mr. Dick Kisluk, who passed away September 13, 2022. The Club will retain much of the collection he donated to place on display at Club events. The rare collections include early American Silver Dollars (Flowing Hair Dollars 1794-1795, and Draped Bust Dollars 1795-1803, though an incomplete set), as well as a complete set of US Trade Dollars (1873-1885) and other collections.

I wanted to also inform the membership that the Board has approved retaining Mr. Ed Hollington, Esq. as ACC Attorney to represent the Club, when needed. Mr. Hollington, has 43 years of Attorney experience working with non-profit corporations in the Albuquerque area. He will be available to the Board to assist with any legal matters. While there are no pending legal issues, one of his first activities is to review and make recommendations for the 2024 draft By-Laws. Our goal is complete editing and holding a membership vote at the April 2024 membership meeting. By-Laws draft revision #5 is expected to be completed soon and will be sent out by email for review.

Beginning April 1, 2024, as approved by the Board, the ACC will have a new location to house its 500+ piece Numismatic Library at the Frechette Law Office Building, 1022 Second St. NW, Albuquerque, 87102. The Library is not open daily but will be available to members by request and appointment. An updated listing of available material in the Library is available on the Club's website at www.abqcc.org. Contact a board member to schedule an appointment. Director Rex Borders oversees the Club's Library.

Rod's Two Cents

by: Rodary Tyler Moorechette



Another crazy busy month for the Board of Directors (BOD) and me. Moore record breaking progress at the BOD meeting and it was not TEDious. Treasurer Rick T. made major progress on our accounts and successfully set up our Vanguard account. He also took care of State and Federal tax reporting requirements for our non-profit, tax exempt 501c-3. He is also coordinating with our membership Chair, Jane Fuller, who is busy organizing our membership contacts and records. Please provide her with any updates of

your snail mail, email, and phone numbers. Also, please consider giving her your emergency contact info in case we need to assist you and/or your loved ones.

Tim Fuller is the new Chair of the State Fair Committee. The bylaws continue to be tweaked and the club has voted to rent an office for the library, YN supplies and sensitive equipment. It enables us to purchase insurance coverage once a year for all things club instead for each individual show. We also now have a Club attorney on retainer since we have so much growth in assets and members.

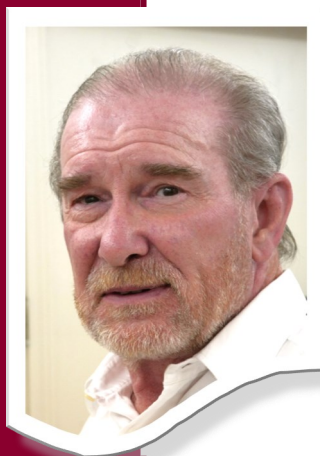
The February meeting was a lot of fun and 7 people zoomed in to join the 3 dozen in person at the GAAR location across the street. That weird Frechette fella went on about something revolting in a fit of history-onics! People seemed to like it though it went long..

Our club exists to serve our members.

Get involved and enjoy it more.

Rick's Two Bits

by: Rick Tope



In February there were \$6,025 in bank deposits and \$5,444.87 in withdrawals, with a service fee of \$2.07, so we finished the month with a total of \$51,391.46 including our 2 CDs. Already for the month of March we have gotten a large amount of work accomplished. We are totally caught up on our federal and state taxes. Recently we inventoried Dick Kisluk's coin collection, which was donated to the club, photographed it in detail, and appraised it; it appears to be worth nearly \$200,000. All the paperwork has been filed for the Vanguard investment account and currently waiting for their approval so we can start transferring money into the account. We have already sold out all the tables for the Spring Show. These shows are our big moneymakers for the year and Matt Peacock deserves virtually all the credit for signing up the

dealers. Thanks, Matt!

Dates to Remember

ALBUQUERQUE COIN CLUB EVENTS:

Albuquerque Coin Club Monthly Meetings are held at the UNM Continuing Education Building located at 1634 University Blvd. NE, Albuquerque. Meetings are conducted in person and concurrently on Zoom. The Zoom invitation is:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89460254208?pwd=wgHoZVdt9UeBcJhQdoWdSaK0YdBvsT.1>

Meeting ID: 826 6978 2007 Passcode: 346547

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--|------------------------------|
| March 25, 2024 | Membership Meeting | Speaker: Rex Borders |
| | Topic: Ways to Collect - Type Collecting | |
| April 29, 2024 | Membership Meeting | Speaker: Tim Cox |
| | Topic: Shipwreck Coins | |
| May 20, 2024 | Membership Meeting | Speaker: Matt Peacock |
| | Topic: Washington Pieces | |

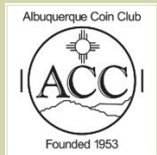
ANA EVENTS

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| June 16 - 19, 2024 | Summer Seminar Session I |
| | Colorado Springs |
| June 23 - 26, 2024 | Summer Seminar Session II |
| | Colorado Springs, CO |
| August 6 - 10, 2023 | World's Fair of Money |
| | Chicago, IL |

UPCOMING AREA AND MAJOR COIN SHOWS

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| March 29 - 30, 2024 | Waco Coin Show |
| | Bellmead, TX |
| April 19 - 21, 2024 | Great Southwest Coin Expo |
| | Marriott Pyramid Hotel, Albuquerque, NM |
| May 9 - 11, 2024 | Denver Coin Expo |
| | Denver, CO |
| July 12 - 14, 2024 | TNA Coin & Currency Show |
| | Conroe, TX |

Albuquerque Coin Club



P.O. Box 11602
Albuquerque, NM
87192

A.C.C. Monthly Meeting Agenda

The club meets the last Monday of every month, except December. Meetings are held at UNM Continuing Education Building located at 1634 University Blvd. NE, Albuquerque. We encourage and welcome visitors.



ANA Member Club # C1063082

- 6:00 pm Open floor trading and socializing
- 7:00 pm Call to order
Educational Presentation
Club Business
- 8:00 pm Break, socializing and trading
1st Door prize and 50/50 drawing
Auction of numismatic items
2nd door prize
Payment of auction winnings



Promoting Numismatics Through Education

2024 ACC Board of Directors

President: Jim Derrick
jderrick0702@msn.com
505-220--3219

Vice President: Tim Fuller
tfullerkc5tcf@yahoo.com
479-252-2206

Secretary: Rod Frechette
rtfrechette@frechettelaw.com
505-379-5207

Treasurer: Rick Tope
RickTope89108@gmail.com
702-281-8421

Director: Tim Cox
Tacox39@toast.net
505-286-0530

Director: Rex Borders
rjborders2@comcast.net
505-715-1999

Director: Matt Peacock
themattruben@gmail.com
505-270-8685

Director: Byron Kesner
bkesner1@comcast.net
505-280-4876

Director: Marian Wrage
mcwrage@msn.com
505-554-4465

ANA Rep.: Phil Vitale
moneyman75x@outlook.com

Website Guru: Rex Borders
rjborders2@comcast.net

Parliamentarian: Ed Deye
edwdeye@gmail.com

Pocket Change is published every month by the Albuquerque Coin Club. If you are interested in writing an article to be published in the newsletter, want to receive it via email, or just have ideas, please contact one of our publishers at the following email addresses. Phil Vitale: moneyman75x@outlook.com - or Pat Vitale: patvitale49msn.com