

# Pocket Change

VOLUME 71 ISSUE 6

JUNE 2024

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Grant
- History Tour
- Hemphill
- Washington Pieces
- Website

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## 1922 Grant Commemoratives

By Scott Bucholtz

I recently read "A Guide Book of United States Commemorative Coins" by Q. David Bowers. I have never been very gung-ho on commemoratives, but really wanted to understand the topic and see if there were pieces that would pique my interest.

While this book covers the topic quite well (as all Bowers books do), there were just a handful of motifs that made me say, "I really want to collect those." Tops on my list was the 1922 Grant Commemoratives.

For the 100th anniversary of the birth of Ulysses S. Grant, the Grant Commission wanted to sell 200,000 gold dollars. Congress only authorized 10,000 gold coins, but they also authorized 250,000 silver half dollars. Selecting and approving the design for the Grant Commemoratives fell to The Commission of Fine Arts (CFA). As most of the CFA members were busy with other projects, its resident sculptor-member, James Earle Fraser (designer of the famed Buffalo Nickel) made the decision. While his selection of Laura Gardin Fraser (his wife) has overtures of nepotism, Laura was already a well-known, accomplished sculptor in her own right who was more than up to the task. Her design was modeled and the full CFA ratified it.



The design for the two coins are identical. On the obverse, Grant (visible from the neck up) is facing right and wearing his military coat and well-trimmed beard. His name is split on either side ("ULYSSES S" on the left and "GRANT" on the right); "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" surrounds him on the top; "1822 1922" is below; and the denomination written out at the bottom. On the reverse is a rendition of Grant's birthplace (in Point Pleasant, Ohio); house, trees, and fence. The words "IN GOD WE TRUST" are across the top and "E PLURIBUS UNUM" are broken up into four lines at the left.

In hopes of bolstering sales, the Grant Commission asked for 5,000 of the gold dollars to bear a special mark. A meaningless incuse star was placed above the 'N' in "GRANT" on the obverse of these coins in *(continued page 2)*

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

**(Grant from page 1)** in an effort to force collectors to buy 2 coins to complete their sets. While the star was intended only for a small number of the gold dollars (it ended up being on nearly half due to the change in the writing of the bill). The Mint added the star to 5,000 of the silver half dollars as well. This fourth type proved "a bonus that greatly surprised the committee."

Many contemporary collectors acquired their pieces from the Grant Commission before the existence of the half dollar with star variety was fully publicized. The result is that this variety is now considered among the rarest and most valuable of all silver commemoratives. As the incuse star can be added to a genuine "without star" Grant Commemorative coin to artificially inflate its value, today's numismatists are highly encouraged to acquire examples certified by a reputable third-party grading service.

On my journey of acquiring the four I first thought about my budget. I wanted to acquire the specimens with [nearly] identical grades to produce an appealing, visually matched set. The first three were not a problem (eBay proved up to the challenge) within my budget.



The final, the silver half dollar with star, was unsurprisingly, the one I spent the longest time on.

Not only did I have to save up for it, nice looking specimens were being offered and selling for far more than the Red Book guide suggested. After watching and waiting, the "right" coin came up at a Heritage Auction at the right price, certification, and visual appeal - I pulled the trigger and won!



Together, these four slabbed coins serve as a visual homage to Laura Fraser's talents as well as to the history of the Commanding General who was instrumental in the Union's victory in the Civil War.

Jim Derrick, Tim & Jane Fuller, Tim Cox, Tom Stone and Rod set up 32 display cases, 1 paper money and 5 stamp displays at the Corrales Library on June 4th to the wonderment and acclaim of 50 visitors and staff from 3 to 83 years old. Free money and fresh hammered coins were distributed as part of the Magical History Tour.



# Member Profile

by: Phil Vitale

## Patrick Hemphill Renaissance Man

Leader, flippant, generous, smart, charitable – these words describe one of our great out of state members, Patrick Hemphill. In addition to these qualities, he’s a great friend. It is my pleasure to introduce him to the rest of the club.

Patrick was born in Merced, CA, and grew up in Caruthers, CA. He enlisted in the army and spent four years in communications and security areas. His career continued with the Fresno Sheriff’s department for the next seven years followed by twenty-two years in the California State Corrections department. Patrick’s involvement with law enforcement and corrections has made him very careful with his personal information; he does not use social media or email.

His interest in numismatics originated with his grandfather who collected all sorts of coins and Patrick would go through them. Like many of us, his collecting efforts took a backseat to life’s other pursuits. Patrick’s numismatics infection surfaced again after his retirement. He collects an array of items, but his focus is on Civil War era coinage. He has joined a local, an out of state (that’s us), and national coin clubs.

We get to see Patrick each year at one of the ANA’s coin shows and at Summer Seminar. I am particularly impressed by his support for the Washington Kid’s Coin Club in Reedley, CA, where he conducts lectures and activities for 20+ kids.

I asked him why he joined the Albuquerque Coin Club. He replied: “I took classes at the ANA Summer Seminar and was impressed by the efficiency of the ACC members and the variety of knowledge about types of coins people collected. (I was) Impressed by their leadership and accomplishments at the local and national level.”



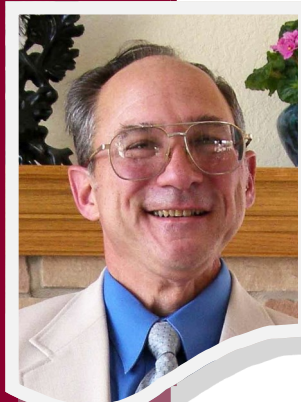
He and his wife, Neelima, live in Fresno and have a son living in Oklahoma. His outlook for the future is overseas travel, continued numismatic education, and setting up additional kids clubs to encourage their interest in coins.



## ANA News

by: Phil Vitale

I will probably be at the Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs when you get to read this update. The Albuquerque Coin Club again has the best turnout for this educational event of any club in the country.



The next big event for the ANA is the World's Fair of Money being held this year in Rosemont, IL (Chicago), from August 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>. Hundreds of dealers/tables, great displays and free lectures await the numismatists that visit from around the country and the world. The Board of Governors, hobby luminaries, and ANA Staff leaders will be available to share your inputs.

The Albuquerque Coin Club will have a table at the World's Fair of Money again this year. I'm looking for volunteers to help man the table; please contact me should you be interested.



## May Presentation

by Phil Vitale

### Washington Pieces

Our May meeting saw Matt Peacock educating the members on the proliferation of medals, tokens and pattern pieces featuring George Washington produced from 1783 to 1795. Washington Peace Medals were produced early in Washington's presidency to be used as gifts for prominent native American chiefs (since there was no US mint yet, these medals were produced for the government by silver smiths).

Many souvenir coins (or tokens) were produced in England and shipped to the US for sale. Some of these items are available today; those in better grades can be rather expensive. There were also a number of pattern coins made in denominations of half cent, cent, and half dollar.

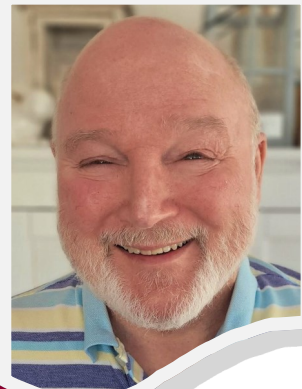


# The Coin Cabinet

by: Jim Derrick



The new 2024 By-Laws are now approved following one-year of work to update this important guiding document. I would encourage you to access the new ACC Webpage Link below to download the new By-Laws and view/download other important events, documents and information about the Club. The Board of Directors uses the By-Laws to guide the ACCs day to day management and operations, meetings, decision-making, planning, finance and other areas. My sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone that participated in the By-Laws review and revision process, including Club Members, Board of Directors, and Members of the By-Laws Committee.



The new ACC Website approved by the Membership in January 2024, is UP and RUNNING and has a new name: [ALBUQUERQUECOINCLUB.COM](http://ALBUQUERQUECOINCLUB.COM). It has a great deal of information and is easy to navigate and download information (Home Page Pictured Right). The Website Contractor, WebsiteMD, has done an outstanding



job in building our new site. We will eventually add electronic application processing and payment, but this function is not yet available at this time. Our volunteer Club Webmaster is Mr. Rex Borders, who has been working long hours to organize, gather and catalog information for the new site. Thank you Rex for taking on this demanding role and making our Club information and programs easier to access and use. Rex is your point of contact to add, change, remove or approve information for the site. His email is at the end of the newsletter. WebsiteMD is also our monthly contractor for hosting our Website and performing monthly updates and maintenance.

The second half of 2024 is quickly approaching and there will be lots of activities. Our June 24<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting will feature a live overview of the Club's new Website, and an Educational Presentation on Challenge Coins, by member Peter Rechkemmer. **The July Membership Meeting will be held one-week early on Monday, July 22, 2024**, at the usual times (6-7PM for trading, 7-9PM for meeting) at the UNM Continuing Education Center. The Club's Summer Trade Fair Coin Show will be held at the same location from 10AM-4PM on Saturday, August 17, 2024 and everyone is welcome to attend. The final Show of the Year will be held November 8-10, 2024, at a new venue, the Crowne-Plaza Hotel, 1901 University Blvd. I hope you can find the time to attend or volunteer for these events.



Our Club's success is accomplished through the hard work of our dedicated volunteer members for all of our events and activities. I am so very proud of our volunteers. I encourage any members wishing to participate by volunteering to identify yourself to a Board of Director (Yellow Vest) at our meetings or reach out to me by email: [jderrick0702@msn.com](mailto:jderrick0702@msn.com). Volunteers are rewarded through the ACC Club Bucks Program based on the number of hours you volunteer. Thank you and have a fun and safe summer.

## Mea Duo Sestercius

by: Rodicus Tullius Tiro

I must develop shorthand. My long hand notes are barely keeping up with this Board and club! There are times I feel like a slave. Terry M. has agreed to take over show promotion for Ed D. who stepped down after many years of successfully tooting our horn! Thank you, Ed and Terry. Peter T. has taken his seat on the Board of Directors since Matthew P. has stepped back. Byron K. has stepped up to be our club ANA Representative since Phil V. has his hands full as the ANA District Representative National Coordinator. The ANA has awarded seven ACC members \$1,500 scholarships for the Summer Seminar! The show calendar for 2025 has both spring and fall dates reserved and is awaiting contracts from Crowne Plaza Hotel which is this November's



*Our club exists to serve our members.*

*Get involved and enjoy it more.*

venue as well. Mega Thanks and Kudos to Matt P. for his being show chair and serving on the BOD. Even though we had the monthly meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>, due to Memorial Day on the 31<sup>st</sup>, Matt P. gave a great presentation on the Washington Peace Medals with member participation. Well done, Matt! We had a fun picnic and a huge shout out to Jim D., Byron K. and Tim C. for all their hard work. Also, thanks to Tim F. for putting together the 2-coin guess jars. The Membership Chair, Jane F. and Treasurer Pat V. spent time with Phil V. updating the membership rolls. Our new treasurer and membership chair deserve recognition for their diligent efforts in making us organized. The year long push by Jim D., the Bylaws committee and Board of Directors paid off with Pro Tem Parliamentarian Bob D. shepherding the unanimous approval of the present membership passing the new Bylaws. Thank you and congratulations to all, especially President Jim D!

## Pat's Pittance

by: Pat Vitale



The month of May has us looking very well financially. We had total deposits of \$10,565.98, \$9005.10 of which were from the Spring Coin Show Silent Auction. From that amount, the Club retains \$3153.00 as profit. The remainder of \$5852.10 goes to the auctioneer, as not all the merchandise belonged to the Club. Our expenses for May totaled \$6,573.34. These monies were used to cover the Club Picnic costs, security and some advertising for the Spring Coin Show, final payment for the creation of the new website, shelving for the storage shed and library, and miscellaneous expenses. Our ending checking account balance is \$23,735.27, and our Vanguard account has \$15,197.49. We still have one remaining bank CD for just over \$10K that will mature in the middle of June. If you need more information on your Club's funds, please feel free to contact me. I will be happy to answer any questions.

Thank you for your continued trust in me.

## 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/9868085956?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9868085956?pwd=VU9lWlZQVJaQWJ2OG55SXl1R095QT09&omn=84712199691)

[pwd=VU9lWlZQVJaQWJ2OG55SXl1R095QT09&omn=84712199691](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9868085956?pwd=VU9lWlZQVJaQWJ2OG55SXl1R095QT09&omn=84712199691)

Meeting ID: 986 808 5956

Passcode: u6fN73

**June 24, 2024**                      **Membership Meeting**                      **Speaker: Peter Rechkemmer**

Topic: Challenge Coins

**July 22, 2024 (New Date)**                      **Membership Meeting**                      **Speaker: Michael Hajny**

Topic: Dealer Update

**August 17, 2024**                      **Trade Fair**

**August 26, 2024**                      **Membership Meeting**                      **Speaker: Jim Derrick**

Topic: Fugio Cent

### 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

**June 21 - 22, 2024**                      **Springs Coin Show**

Colorado Springs, CO

**July 12 - 14, 2024**                      **TNA Coin & Currency Show**

Conroe, TX

**July 26 - 28, 2024**                      **Vegas National Show**

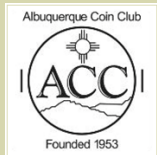
Las Vegas, NV

**August 16 - 17**                      **Denver Coin Club Show**

Golden, CO

Promoting Numismatics Through Education

## 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

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