

The Augusta Coin Club Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at America's Best Value Inn on Washington Road

The Augusta Coin Club since 1959

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V.P. Arno Safran
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THE AUGUSTA COIN CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

June, 2008

Our Next Meeting is Thursday, June 19, 2008 from 6:30 to 9:30 PM

June 19 is Our Pizza Party Meeting

Club Meeting Calendar for 2008

Jan. 17	May 15	Sep. 18
Feb. 21	June 19	Oct. 16
Mar. 20	July 17	Nov. 20
Apr. 17	Aug. 21	Dec. 18

Pizzas to Be Delivered at 6:30 PM

Our June 19 get together will be something special as we will be holding another Pizza Party for our club members. *(The first one was held back in December, 2006 as part of our pre Christmas celebration.)* Since then, the club has grown considerably and at last count, we are planning for around sixty to seventy members. We are expecting Pizza Hut to deliver the pies around 6:30 PM. A number of members have also volunteered to bring in the following:

1. Regular and diet sodas: John Neivel, Glenn Sanders, Gary James and Steve Huffman
2. Paper plates—John Mason, Kevin Martin and Xavier Pique
3. Napkins, plastic knives, forks and spoons – Joan Sienkiewicz
4. Cold drink cups - Melissa Sleeth and Robert Anderson
5. Ice – Lynn Jennings
6. Desserts – Lynn Jennings, Joe Bert & Howard Black
7. Paper Towels – Arno Safran

The meeting hall at America's Best Value Inn will be available to members between 5:45 PM and at 6:00 PM to help with the set up. For a head count or estimated number of items required, please contact either David Chism at chism79@comcast.net, phone - (706)-541-4143 or Arno Safran at arnosafran@comcast.net, – phone (706)-860-5991 prior to the meeting and thanks!

President Bill Myers has prepared an agenda which aside from a short business meeting will include the usual two silver eagle drawings, a 50/50 drawing and Educational portion including Show & Tells for those who wish to share a numismatic item of interest with the members, and of course our regular monthly auction.. The hall is air conditioned, so, come one, come all. We are looking forward to see you there.

(Club News continued on page 4, column 1)

1938, another transitional Year in US Coinage: 70 Years Ago By Arno Safran



Obverses of a composite 1938-D Year Set

If you were born when these beautiful coins were issued, 2008 represents a significant milestone. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was in the midst of his second of four terms as 32nd President. The nation had been slowly coming out of the Great Depression though the economy dipped in 1938 resulting in a drop in mintages from the record high coinage struck in 1936. Probably, as a cost cutting measure, no quarters were struck in Denver in 1938, so the 25¢ coin pictured above is obviously not a 1938-D. No half dollars were struck at the San Francisco mint either and only a paltry 491,600 were coined in Denver, down from the 4.2 million issued at the mile high facility in 1936. Oddly, despite the 1938-D half's popularity as a low mintage date, the coin is not scarce, having been saved by the roll by coin dealers, a practice begun in 1934.

The big coinage news of 70 years ago was the changeover from the Indian Head/Buffalo nickel to the Jefferson Head type of 1938. First struck in 1913, the Buffalo nickel was completing its required 25 year run in 1938 and plans were already underway to replace it with another president's portrait continuing the practice begun with the Lincoln cent in 1909 and the Washington quarter in 1932.

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

1938, another transitional Year in US Coinage
70 Years Ago (Continued from page 1, column 2)



The reverses of the 1938-D Year Set save for the P Mint quarter. Coins appear actual size when printed out on 8½" x 11" standard paper. [Magnifying the page to 200% will show the mint marks and other details.]

So, in late 1937 and early 1938 the Fine Arts Commission announced a competition open to American sculptors to submit designs for a new nickel bearing the Bust of Thomas Jefferson. Of the 390 entries, Felix Schlag was declared the winner, receiving \$1,000. Even so, he was asked to make a number of revisions, including changing the angle of Monticello. Many hobbyists believe this to have been a big mistake as Felix Schlag's original reverse showing Monticello in a corner view rather than frontal one was arguably superior.



The original award winning Schlag Jefferson Nickel design for 1938. A replica by the Gallery Mint made for the Full Step Nickel Club in 2002. Shown in actual size when printed out. [Magnify to 200% to view details.]

Apparently Mint officials preferred a front view of Monticello and while they accepted Schlag's obverse Bust of Jefferson, it is likely that the then Chief engraver John Sinnock was asked to redo the reverse design which may have been based on another contestant's entry.



At left, Schlag's original reverse; at right, the traditional reverse. Possibly engraved by Sinnock after one submitted by Marcello Rotundo.

While the new Jefferson nickel was first coined at the Philadelphia Mint in September, 1938, the D and S mint issues were not released until November 15 of that year. As a youngster, I remember receiving my first one during Christmas in Connecticut. My uncle came in from the cold, reached into his coat pocket and gave all the children a brand new 1938

Jefferson nickel. I recall liking the appearance of the new design probably more because it was "new" than for aesthetic reasons. In 1938 both the Buffalo and Jefferson nickel types had quite a bit of purchasing power. One could hop on a trolley car or bus or buy a soda or large candy bar for a nickel. Today public transportation in urban America is around \$1.50 while that candy bar is closing in on \$1.00.



1938-D Indian Head/ Buffalo and Jefferson/ Monticello nickels. 1938 was the last year the Mint issued transitional types.

Giving coins to nephews, nieces or grandchildren at Christmas or other family occasions for good behavior was a routine experience. Usually it was a quarter that Grandpa handed out just before we were about to leave. He would ask, "Have you been a good boy?" and I would nod and out from grandpa's pocket came a Washington quarter. I do not recollect seeing any Standing Liberty or Barber quarters tendered in this manner but even a Washington quarter had tremendous purchasing power in 1938. It was equivalent to what \$3.75 might buy today. Back then one could buy a three drawer pencil box for school at the Five and Dime store for 25¢ and I remember getting one with a quarter that Grandpa gave me.

In 1936 the government began reissuing annual proof sets but in extremely small numbers. In 1938 only 8,045 were produced. The original asking price was \$1.89. The 2009 Red Book lists them at \$2,100 today. Unfortunately the Mint did not offer a proof version of the 1938 Buffalo nickel because it was struck only in Denver and all proof coins emanated from the Philadelphia Mint. Still it would be wonderful to fantasize what such a set would like housed in a Lucite holder.



A 1938 Proof Set plus one – The coins are reduced in size to fit on the page. For details, magnify to 200%. The 1938-D Buffalo 5¢ is a business strike; not a proof.

In 1938, Walt Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" was released. Vocalist Kate Smith revived Irving Berlin's "God Bless America" making it into a hit song. Hitler marched into Austria. World War II in Europe was just one year away.

WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE

By Bill Myers



The face of the 1946 Hungarian 100 Million B Pengo note
The largest denomination note ever released

To become a millionaire you can try working hard and investing wisely. Other options include winning the lottery, robbing a bank (not advised), get on and win a reality TV or game show, or for a few dollars you can buy some world currency. The advantage of the last method is that you do not have to invest much to purchase millions. The disadvantage is that your millions will have very little to no buying power.

Many countries have experienced a runaway inflation, necessitating the printing of very large denomination notes. This occurred in Germany after World War I. Starting in 1923, notes were produced in denominations of 1, 5, 10, 20 and 50 millionen (million) mark. When inflation continued, 1, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 200 milliarden (billion) mark notes were printed. This was soon followed by 1, 5, 10 and 100 billionen (trillion) mark notes. By 1924 they were only producing 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 billionen mark notes.



A One Billion Marks German Inflation note circa 1924

With World War II, Greece released 1 and 5 million drachma notes in 1944. The value of the notes subsequently released was valued in the hundreds of millions and ultimately 1 and 2 billion drachmai were released.



A Greek 5 million drachmae banknote issued in 1944

In 1946, Hungary experienced significant inflation. A One million *pengo* note was issued at that time. The following series was in multiples of milpengo (million pengos) from 10,000 (1 and 10 zeroes) to 1 million (1 and 12 zeroes). Then came issues denominated in **B-pengo** (trillion pengos) from 10,000 (1 and 16 zeroes) to 1 billion. The 100 million B-pengo note (1 and 20 zeroes) is the highest denomination note ever released. The One billion B-pengo note was never released, but to this day remains the highest denomination note ever produced – that's 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000! (See directly across in column 1, ED.)

More recent examples are abundant. Yugoslavia released a series of notes from 5,000 to 2 million dinara in 1985-89, then 100,000 to 10 billion in 1993. They also had reform issue notes that went from 5,000 to 500 trillion dinara. That is a 5 followed by 11 zeroes.



The Yugoslavia 500 trillion dinara bank note

In 1990, Peru released 1 and 5 million *intis* notes. In 1991, 1 million intis equaled their new denomination of 1 nuevo sol.

Poland released 1 and 2 million *zlotych* in 1991-93. Bosnia and Herzegovina released 1, 5, 100 and 500 million dinara notes in 1993. 10 and 50 billion *dinara* notes were also produced, though not released. Croatia also had runaway inflation in 1993 and released a 1 million *dinara* note. They then proceeded to release notes denominated in billions of *dinara* and ended with a 50 trillion *dinara* note. In 1992 and 2002, Turkey released 1, 10 and 20 million *lira* notes. By 2005, 100,000 old *lira* was devalued and converted to 1 new *lira*.



A Croatian 1 million dinara note issued in 1993

Who wants to be a Millionaire?

(Continued from page 3, column 2)



A Zaire 5 million zaires bank note issued in 1993

In 1993, the African nation of Zaire released 1 and 5 million zaires notes. They then released *nouveaux makuta* and then *nouveau zaire* notes to replace these, but by 1996 they had to release one-million *nouveaux zaires* due to persistent hyperinflation. Angola printed 1 and 5 million *kwanzas readjustados* notes in 1995.

Compared to the countries I have mentioned, the inflation we experience and complain about everyday in the U.S. seems insignificant. With just one of these inexpensive foreign notes, you can easily become a millionaire – just not in dollars.

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Another super piece from the pen of Bill Myers, Ed.

More Club News

(Continued from page 1, column 1)

At the May 15 meeting, Show Chairman Dave Chism gave a Show Report that came up all roses. Patrons and Dealers were happy. Some dealers even donated coin and medal prizes for our YNs. Among them was Jesse Iskowitz who donated a Morgan dollar and Ancient Roman coin to the YN grab bag. Dealer Bill Lane saved the club considerable money by lending us his table covers for the duration of the show. The bottom line is the 2008 Spring Show netted the club over \$2,000, a record for a single show.

Treasurer Xavier Pique reported a new balance of \$7,560.22. **For Show & Tell** Bill Myers brought in an 1880-S MS-65 Morgan \$1.00 awarded as a prize for his exhibit at the GNA Convention in Dalton back in April. He also showed the two reverse types appearing on the 2008 silver eagle. Arno Safran displayed his 1798 year set *excluding gold* which included engraver Robert Scot's Draped Bust design on the 1798 large cent, the 1798/7 *dime (16 stars reverse)* and the two 1798 dollar small and large eagle reverse varieties for that year.

President Bill Myers presented a PowerPoint program on "Philadelphia's First P Mintmark". He started off by asking the members if they knew which Philadelphia Mint coin was the first to receive the P mint mark. Many shouted out "the 1942-P Wartime Jefferson nickel". Bill grinned, then bellowed out, "WRONG!" and proceeded to take us through a most fascinating time capsule describing the Philadelphia Mint's striking of a ten cent coin in 1941 for the Netherlands. Holland had recently come under German occupation following the Nazi's invasion on May 10 of the previous year. The reverse shows a wreath with the denomination 10 over CENTS and 1941 under CENTS. Directly below the 1 in the date is the P Mint mark slanted downward from the upper right to the lower left.



An enlargement of the 1941-P Dutch dime under the German occupation shown at right is the Queen Wilhelmina [Magnify to 200% to see the details more clearly.]

Bill's talk is also the subject of his latest article of the same name to have been published in the June issue of *the Numismatist*, monthly journal of the American Numismatic Association. Congratulations, Bill!

The prize winners at the May 15 meeting were Gene Sorrow and Joan Sienkiewicz, each winning a silver eagle. Joe Bert took the 50/50; \$82. Congratulations to all! See you all at the Pizza Party June 19 starting at 6:30 sharp!

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