



Palm Beach Coin News

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PALM BEACH COIN CLUB

www.pbcc.anacclubs.org

May 2025

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May 2025 Events

May 4

Gold Coast Coin, Stamp & Collectible Show
24th & Taylor St., Hollywood, FL

May 11

Melbourne Coin - Stamp & Collectible Show
Azan Shrine Center, 1591 W Eau Gallie Blvd, Melbourne

May 14

PBCC Meeting: Doors open at 5:00PM
Meeting Begins at 7:00PM

★*"Liberty Seated Half Dimes from 1837 to 1853"*
By Gregg Wagner★

May 18

Ft. Lauderdale Coin and Stamp Show
Volunteer Park Community Center, Plantation

May 25

PBCC Coin Show
American Polish Club, 4725 Lake Worth Rd., Greenacres

May 28

PBCC Meeting: Doors open at 5:00PM
Meeting Begins at 7:00PM

★*"Early American Medals-Comitia Americana Series"*
By Gregg Wagner ★

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Presidents Message

We had 75 club members enjoy a *Free Food Night* April 9th. The Slab Auction that night sold only 29 of 96 lots for \$3474. The club made \$222.

We received a donation of PCGS hard plastic coin storage boxes. These boxes normally sell for \$5 each but we will sell them at the club meetings for \$2 each, limited to 10 boxes per member. Membership is currently at 255 paid members with 65 delinquents. The 65 have been dropped from our rolls.

Wednesday, May 14th Gregg Wagner will speak on "*Liberty Seated Half Dimes from 1837 to 1853*". Wednesday, May 28th he will speak on "*Early American Medals- Comitia Americana Series*".

The new 2026 Red Books are in. The soft cover is still \$9.50, but the hard cover went up to \$14. See Tony at the meetings or coin show to get your copy.

Gregg Wagner is proposing a trip to New York City to visit the *American Numismatic Society*. You would fly in at midday, go to the hotel, have a group dinner, and the next day visit the ANS museum and special tour, then fly home that evening. The time frame is sometime in September or October. The cost is \$340, double occupancy plus meals and uber. Gregg would arrange everything. If you are interested, see Gregg Wagner at our meeting or at the coin show.

Our club bus trip to *Summer FUN* is on Friday July 11th. The cost is \$40 per member. We already have 18 of the 40 seats paid. See Tony to sign up.

Tony

Denny's Minutia's Coins

The St. Gaudens & Charles Barber

\$20 Gold Coin

by Denny Thostenson

The production of the working dies for the \$20 gold piece was pretty typical of coining in that era. However, many numismatists today consider the St. Gaudens \$20 gold piece the most beautiful coin ever produced by our mint.

Two of our mints most gifted artists, Charles Barber and Augustus St. Gauden, have been given credit for the popular design.

Unfortunately, Augustus died in 1907 and the involved design changes required by the Mint Director went to Charles Barber. A lot of bickering took place before Augustus passed away.

Despite that, both artists were close friends, conflict ensued. The President of the United States had to intervene.

It was Charles Barber that designed the reverse of the new coin after St. Gaudens refused to do any more work for the mint after the reverse design he had wanted had been rejected as being pornographic.

Many of the early die trials were struck in high relief. They are still around today and command a significant premium.

Production began in earnest in 1907 with a mintage of 361,667. A fairly substantial amount considering the fact that the yearly income of a home was between \$200 - \$400 and the hourly wage was around \$.22 cents PER HOUR.

The initial dates were in ordinary numerals (1907). MCMVII, the Roman numerals, were added in a few business strikes and most proofs.

Once production began in earnest, other design changes were implemented. One missing wordage that was omitted, "IN GOD WE TRUST" was left off. That omission was at the directive of President Theodore Roosevelt.

The field of the Ultra High relief was exceptionally concave.

The Proof finish of 1908 - 1910 and 1911 through 1915 were referred to as "sandblast proofs" or as we today would call them, satin finish.

As I frequently recommend to readers, if you are seriously interested in buying a St. Gaudens \$20 gold piece, DO NOT INVEST YOUR MONEY UNLESS IT'S BEEN SLABBED BY A RECOGNIZED FIRM.

Today, anyone that wants to purchase a St. Gaudens \$20 gold piece can do so at slightly over melt.

The metal composition of a St. Gaudens \$20 gold coin is 90% gold (Au) and 10% copper (Cu).

The popularity of gold coins is due to the fact that it represents a participation in Numismatics and a hedge against inflation.

Denny's Minutia's Coins

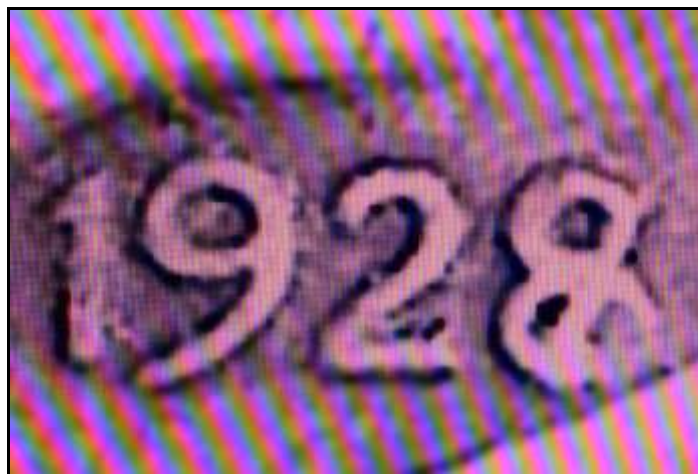
The Super Rare 1929-S 9/8

Overdate Merc Dime

by Denny Thostenson

A number of years ago, when I was living in Wisconsin, a coin dealer that I knew came up to me at a coin show and asked "What's the date on this Merc dime"?

I thought that was a strange question as I could see with a naked eye it was 1929. Even though it only graded a Fine, the date was clear.



When I flipped the coin over, I noted an "S" mintmark. I replied, it's a 1929-S Merc

dime....It's a slightly better date as the mintage was around 4.7 million.

His reply was to smile at me and then tell me to put my magnifying glass on the coin.

Once I put my 16X glass on the coin, I clearly saw what appeared to be a clear overdate. When I looked up from the coin, he had a great big smile....

Well, the nice gentleman gave the coin to me with the promise that I would get back to him when I had an answer for him.

After a few weeks, I sent the coin to Coin World's Collectors' Clearinghouse.

The Collectors' Clearinghouse was a weekly page put out by James G. Johnson and a very helpful knowledgeable staff of Marilyn Tienan, Ed Fleischmann and Annabelle Kiser.

The year was April of 1972.

I got back a very nice note from James thanking me for sending the coin. He said his staff enjoyed looking at the coin and kicking around theories about the origin.

What they came up with was not great news. It was a mischief piece that someone produced in their basement. It was NOT mint made.

Needless to say, I was disappointed. I really thought that I had found a new rare overdate.

Books on varieties were few and far between. In 1958, Dr. William H. Sheldon published a book on "an exercise in descriptive classification of early American cents- 1793-1814". It was titled, Penny Whimsy.

In 1962, the only book for major variety and oddity collecting was a booklet put out by Frank G. Spadone that consisted of 48 pages in 1962.

In 1967, Al C. Overton came out with a true reference book on Early Half Dollar Die Varieties. It consisted of 349 pages of detailed descriptions of different die varieties on half dollars from 1794-1836.

Those were very interesting times to be a Numismatist. Leroy Van Allen and A. George Mallis

had released a book on Morgan die varieties in 1971. Everybody was running around with a Morgan or Peace dollar in one hand and a magnifying glass in the other hand, hoping to find an unlisted variety.

Again, every date and mintmark listed, with photos, every variety known at that time. The Comprehensive Catalogue and Encyclopedia of U.S. Morgan and Peace Silver Dollars.

Since 1971, the "VAM Book" has been revised several times with early editions still commanding premium prices.

It opened up a totally new field of collecting where beginners and advanced collectors could seek out new and interesting varieties.

In 1981, a local coin dealer put out a book entitled The Franklin Half Dollar. Lyman Allen's book opened up an affordable series to the collecting public.

His book consisted of a date and mintmark analysis of each Franklin Half Dollar, with an issue price of \$6.95.

Today a collector can find a book on almost every series.

As I have written in the past, I believe that the finest book on United States coins is the official Red Book. A Guide Book of United States Coins, by R.S. Yeoman. It has been published every year since 1947.

Unless I'm mistaken, you can purchase a copy of the current edition (78th edition) at your local coin shows for under \$20.

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Dues are \$15 for the year

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