

The Planchet

A Publication of the
Indianapolis Coin Club

April 2009 Issue 503

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE MONDAY, APRIL 27TH 2009

The Meetings of the Indianapolis Coin Club are held
the fourth Monday of each month at the
Northside Knights of Columbus
2100 E. 71st Street in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The Meetings consist of a business session, an intermission, educational program,
and a numismatic auction. Doors open at 6:00pm, meeting will begin at 7:00pm.

This Months Discussion Topic **The economy and the coin market.**

2009 Meeting Dates:

Apr. 27th
May 25th
June 22nd
July 27th
Aug. 24th
Sept. 28th
Oct. 26th
Nov. 23rd

December is our banquet there is no meeting.

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The Monthly Planchet is the official publication of the Indianapolis Coin Club. It is published monthly in Indianapolis, Indiana. All inquiries should be sent to ICC, P.O. Box 2897, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46206.

The 2009 Indianapolis Coin Club Officers and Board Members
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Table Of Contents	
Letter From the President	Page 1
Advertisers	Page 2
Article	Page 5
Treasurer's Report	Page 4
Secretary's Report	Page 3

March 23, 2009 - Minutes of the Indianapolis Coin Club Meeting.

Open - The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Club President Matt Dinger. For the second month in a row, thirty-five people signed the attendance book. We met at the Northside Knights of Columbus Hall, 2100 East 71st Street.

Visitors – Tom Kellen and Steve Murray were introduced.

The **Treasurer's report** and the **Secretary's report** were accepted as reported in the newsletter.

Old Business – None.

New Business – Chuck Knapp reported finding what turned out to be a 1795 Cent, which he bought in a “junk box” for a very small price. It was a very rare variety (S-79) and he sold it for a very large price. Congrats!! Way to go, Chuck!

As President of ISNA, Vinton Dove read a list of upcoming Coin Shows put on by member clubs of ISNA, and encouraged everyone to attend.

Jim Goaziou, Life Member of the Club, reported that he has obtained space for the Club in the display cases of the Central Library for the months of April and May, 2009. Jim asked for members of the Club to furnish coins and other numismatic materials for the display areas to promote numismatics and advertize the Club. Several members volunteered.

The Educational Program – Joe Boling, ANA Board member and ICC member, who collects and is very knowledgeable about counterfeit notes and bills, gave a most informative talk on genuine and counterfeit Confederate States Notes and provided a large number of examples of both the genuine and counterfeit examples. He also displayed a book about Confederate State Notes, (those issued by the States of the Confederacy,) and spoke about them. Several of the Club members participated in a discussion on the subject.

After the break, the **50/50 Drawing** was run by Don King.

Auction – After the break, Joe Boling ran the Auction. It was great fun and most of the lots sold. Bob Bettcher, and Vinton Dove assisted.

The club adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Vinton Dove, Secretary

April Auction Highlights!

1996 Silver Eagle
145 Silver Certificate Wholesale Lot

If you would like to have your items included please make sure to EMail Matt at least a week prior to the meeting at matt@ldrcoins.com

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The Barber Half Dollar

By Keith Scott

Barber Half Dollar, once known as the “Liberty Head Half”, was minted from 1892 to 1915. In 1887, Mint Director James P. Kimball noted in his annual report the “inferiority of our coinage” compared to other advanced nations and that in his opinion, the coinage of the U.S. was out of date and should be changed. At the request of Kimball, Senator Justin S. Morill introduced a bill authorizing the Treasury Department to redesign coins without first obtaining the permission of Congress, as long as the current design had been in use for at least 25 years. The bill passed on September 26, 1890 and the dime, quarter and half dollar were targeted for change. The decision of who should redesign the coins eventually fell to his successor, Edward O. Leech.

Ironically, new designs were submitted by Mint engravers throughout the early 1880's but the only change that occurred was a new nickel designed by Charles E. Barber in 1883. In 1891, when there was discussion of a public competition for new designs. Barber reported to Mint director Kimball that there was no one in the country capable in assisting him in preparing original designs. Augustus Saint-Gaudens confided to Kimball there were only four men in the world competent to do such a redesign: three were in France and he was the fourth. It did not matter. Kimball insisted that rather than going abroad to find the best design talent available, it would be possible to find able designers in America. Against the advice of Barber, the Treasury Department organized a competition to produce new designs. A panel of 10 of the leading artists and sculptors of the day were commissioned to judge which would be the best designs for new coinage. The panel met and instead of discussing the competition, they instead rejected the terms of the competition as proposed by Mint officials on the ground that the preparation time was too short and the compensation woeful. The Mint director rejected the panels' suggestions and threw the competition out to the public. The results were disastrous. Of the more than 300 drawings submitted, only two received an honorable mention by a smaller judging panel. It is interesting to note that two of the judges were Barber and Saint-Gaudens.

When Leech took over as Mint director, he was well aware of the problems his predecessor had experienced. In order to get new designs into production and avoid another disaster of a competition, he simply directed Barber to draw up new designs. This is what Barber had wanted all along as he felt as Chief Engraver, he, and he alone was responsible for coin design.

The result was not much in the way of originality. That would have to wait for more than another 25 years. What Barber did was to modify the large head used on the Morgan dollar by adding a Liberty cap and cropping Liberty's hair shorter in back. She is also facing the opposite direction of the dollar. He then placed his initial B on the truncation of the neck. This was the design used not only on the half dollar, but the new dime and quarter as well.

The reverse of the coin depicts the Great Seal of the United States and shows an eagle with outstretched wings, holding an olive branch with thirteen leaves in its right claw and a sheaf of 13 arrows in its left. There is a ribbon with the motto E PLURIBUS UNUM being held in the eagle's beak and 13 stars are in the field.

The half dollar was introduced in 1892 just as the new dime and quarter were. In 1916, no half dollars were produced and the Barber coinage would give way to a whole new era of coin designs. During the total run of 24 years, just fewer than 136 million Barber halves were produced with no mint producing more than 6 million in any given year. It is interesting to note, that in the first year of the Kennedy half, over 400 million were produced, more than double in one year than the entire series of the Barber half.

Indianapolis Coin Club
Treasurer's Report for April 2009

Income:

50/50	\$47.00
Donations – Book Sale	\$17.00
Members Renewal – 1	\$12.00
Auction Slip - (\$1.00 ea)	\$21.00
Dealer Rent – 1 Year	<u>\$25.00</u>
	Total
	\$122.00

Expenses:

April Room Rent	\$50.00
P.O. Box Rental for 1 Year	<u>\$42.00</u>
	Total
	\$92.00

March Checkbook Balance	\$3,463.90
April Checkbook Balance	\$3,493.90

I.C.C. CD Balance 19075.52
@ Maturity

Respectively Submitted

Donald D. King, Sr.

