

September 2012

Crescent City Coin Club

www.crescentcitycoinclub.org

NEXT MEETING

October 17, 2012

Dinner 6:00pm

Meeting 7:00pm

Knights of Columbus
3310 Florida Avenue
Kenner, LA



Coin Auction



Members are encouraged to bring coins for auction. Coins will be auctioned toward the end of each monthly meeting. Members are permitted to set starting bid price on each coin put on the auction block. Club members are able to auction up to 5 coins each.

Stop Counterfeiting - Support H.R. 5977

The Collectible Coin Protection Act of 2012 was recently introduced. The Bill, H.R. 5977, is intended to strengthen the Hobby Protection Act of 1973 which makes it illegal to manufacture or import into the United States any imitation numismatic item that is not clearly marked "COPY." H.R. 5977 has been referred to committee and has only one co-sponsor. To become law, the Bill must be passed by the House of Representatives, the Senate and be signed by the President.

The Collectible Coin Pro-

tection Act of 2012 adds additional language making it illegal to support or assist anyone who violates the Hobby Protection Act.

This change in language would make it illegal for any person to provide assistance or support to any manufacturer, importer, or seller if that person knows or avoids knowing that the manufacturer, importer, or seller is selling counterfeit coins. The Hobby Protection Act only prohibits the introduction into or distribution in commerce any replica.

EBay has already responded to the Bill by adapting a new policy disallowing replicas even if they are clearly marked "COPY." A move that many overwhelmingly support.

The Bill also protects the professional grading companies from counterfeiting their slabs.

While the practice of counterfeiting coins is nothing new, the dramatic increase of counterfeiting grading service holders is a new trend.

Will CCCC Support H.R. 5977?

Editorial by Michael Maniscalco

I've been called a crusader by many and I admit—I am guilty as charged. But I think that supporting The Collectible Coin Act of 2012 is one fight that we as a club must join in the battle against an ever increasing surge of counterfeit numismatics.

So here is my proposal.

1. I will seek the CCCC Board of Director's approval to formally support Bill H.R. 5977.
2. I will seek the CCCC Board of Director's approval to lobby the Louisiana

House of Representative for their support of this Bill.

3. I will seek approval from the CCCC Board of Directors to fashion a formal "Memorandum of Support" by the Crescent City Coin Club and distribute the memorandum to each Louisiana Representative.

4. I will seek approval from the CCCC Board of Directors to circulate at the October Meeting a petition signed by the CCCC membership supporting the Bill.

We can't stop Chinese counterfeiting but we can stop its widespread proliferation in the US by giving the Hobby Protection Act of 1973 the legal teeth it needs to combat this cancerous disease that is crippling our science.

The Collectible Coin Protection Act of 2012 will tighten already existing legislation, but it needs our support.

Please attend the October club meeting and sign the petition.

What's Happening!

June:	Silver Coins from Ancient Siracusa
July:	Grading Morgan Dollars
Aug:	Occult Symbols on Youth Badges
Sept:	Cherry Pick by Grade for Profit
Oct:	Nomination of Officers
Nov:	Election of Officers
Dec:	Officers Installment Christmas Banquet

Welcome New Members

- Tony Richards
- Debbie Richards
- Matthew Richards

Gold Prices End Week at 7-Month High, 5 Oz Silver and Gold Bullion Coins Surge

by Bullion Prices Staff on September 15, 2012 in Bullion Coins, Bullion Weekly Prices

Gold ended the second week of August at a seven-month high and stretched its streak of winning weeks to four. Bullion prices were boosted by the Fed's new stimulus plan — announced Thursday — to buy \$40 billion in mortgage-backed securities each month until U.S. employment improves. The plan increases inflation expectations down the road, which supports gold in particular, but was bullish for all commodities.

One of the Joys of Ancient Coin

By Wayne Sayles – Ancient Coin Collecting Blog.....

Did you ever look at the image on an ancient coin and wonder, why did they choose this particular image? If the coin happens to bear the portrait of a king or emperor, the answer may seem obvious. But what about the iconography of the reverse? Does the coin promote some political program, or record some historical event? Perhaps it pays homage to a deity, or alludes to a social value. The possibilities are virtually endless, and they range from the patently obvious to the incredibly obscure.

The figural bronze coins struck in Mesopotamia during the 12th and 13th centuries are exceptional for many reasons, but foremost because they are unlike anything evenly remotely contemporary. Islamic coins struck prior to the advent of Turkish hegemony in the Jazira (Arabic for “land between the rivers”) were devoid of images—primarily due to a perceived Koranic prohibition. Why should we suddenly find not only images, but bold sculptural renderings of classical designs and themes on Islamic Turkish coins? This question haunted numismatists for over two hundred years before its secrets were exposed through a comprehensive analysis of the figures on those coins.

The first step in analyzing an image is of course to identify its components. For purposes of illustration, let's examine a coin motif that I first wrote about some ten years ago in *Turkoman Figural Bronze Coins and Their Iconography*. The coin is a bronze dirham (34mm) of the prince Najm al-Din Alpi, who ruled Mardin from AD 1152 to 1176. Alpi was not a great historical figure, and he would be little remembered today were it not for the fascinating series of coins that bore his and his cousins' names.

The undated issue catalogued as S/S 28 bears on its obverse a depiction of two diademed male busts in profile, facing each other. On the reverse, a nimbate female figure stands, facing, crowning a male figure. The prototypes for this imagery are easily recognizable to modern collectors of ancient coins as numismatic. In other words, the die engravers of Alpi's time were inspired to use the images they saw on ancient coins which they obviously had in their possession. Specifically, the obverse type recalls Seleucid prototypes and the reverse is a nearly exact replication of the reverse of some earlier Romaion (Byzantine) imperial coins.

Having identified what the images represented in antiquity, we are still left to ponder what meaning they had in the 12th and 13th century Jazira. We know what designs the artist chose, and where they originated, but what did they mean? Celators seldom produce singular works. That is, they tend to



develop themes and to think in iconographic programs. If we are to understand what the images on Alpi's coin mean, we will be helped by expanding the window of observation. In the case of Turkoman coins, this is easily done because the dynasties were fairly shortlived. The entire episode of figural bronze coins lasted little more than 200 years. Looking at a catalogue of the coins, one is struck immediately by the appearance of several unmistakable images from the astrological world. In fact, the elements of an iconographic program become more and more obvious as one examines the entire series from an astrological view.

Are there astrological parallels in the images on this type? Again, ancient coin collectors will recall that the Dioscuri (Gemini) were often represented by the Greeks and Romans precisely in the manner shown here. If Alpi's die engravers did actually intend to represent the Gemini, what then did they intend on the reverse? The scene, which clearly is copied from Romaion coins, illustrates the Virgin crowning an emperor. This was a common theme, through which the emperor bolstered his perceived legitimacy. It should be remembered that the virgin was also an important element of the zodiac. Not, of course, the same virgin as that of the Romaioi—but certainly not beyond metaphorical comparison. And, who is the male figure being crowned? A little investigation into the precepts of astrology reveals that Mercury is “exalted”, or at his height of power, while in the constellation Virgo. In the astrological system of planetary domiciles, Virgo is the night house of Mercury. And who is Mercury's day house? You guessed it—Gemini. Well, now we know what the images are, where they came from and what they meant. But why would the mintmaster of a Turkish Emir choose such remarkable western images? Perhaps the mintmaster was not a Turk at all. In fact, the historical record tells us that locally educated Nestorian Christians were used by Turkish rulers to administer their financial affairs. This opens an entire new world of enquiry, and from the image on a single coin we can find ourselves exploring the whole social fabric of a people. Who said Art History is boring?