

TNA Exhibits

If you have given an educational club presentation or have a special interest in a particular area of numismatics, consider an exhibit for the TNA show in June. The Exhibit committee will be happy to provide anyone, especially first time exhibitors, with the necessary information and recommended steps for creating a successful exhibit. Exhibits of all sizes are welcome, from multi-case exhibits all the way down to those requiring just one case. Exhibits can be entered in both Competitive and Non-Competitive categories.

Exhibit Rules, Guidelines and Applications can be found on the TNA website.

Monroe Commemorative

By 1922, the Hollywood film industry was in serious trouble. After moving from such eastern venues as Fort Lee, New Jersey, the industry had been rocked by a number of scandals. These included the mysterious shooting death of film director William Desmond Taylor, death of actress Virginia Rappe following an orgy at a San Francisco hotel and the infamous trial of actor Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle for manslaughter. These scandals led to calls for a boycott of Hollywood films.

Film moguls sought means of damage control. The Hays Code would govern how explicit a motion picture could be for decades to come. Another idea was an exposition and film festival to give good publicity to the industry, with the profits to be used for the making of educational films. Planning for this fair, to be held in Los Angeles in mid-1923, began in 1922. As other fairs, such as the World's Columbian Exposition and the Panama-Pacific Exposition, had procured the issuance of commemorative coins as a fundraiser, organizers sought a piece for the film fair.

Realizing that Congress would not authorize a coin to commemorate a film industry celebration, the organizers sought a historical event with a major anniversary to occur in 1923. The obvious candidate was the Boston Tea Party of 1773, but that event had not the vaguest connection to California, let alone to Los Angeles. A second choice was the centennial of the Monroe Doctrine, with claims that Monroe's declaration had kept California, then owned by Mexico, out of the hands of European powers. Despite this dubious connection, Congress authorized a commemorative coin with a mintage of 300,000 pieces.

In the early 1820s, the United States perceived threats by European powers to its zone of influence. First was the Russian assertion of territorial and trading rights in the Oregon Territory. Second was possible European threats against the Latin American nations, newly independent from Spain; officials feared Europe military action to restore Spain to power there. The doctrine had little practical effect at the time, as the

United States lacked the ability to enforce it militarily and most European powers ignored it.

Sculptor Chester Beach agreed to design the coin. The obverse bears portraits of President James Monroe and his Secretary of State John Quincy Adams. The reverse depicts a map of North and South America, a scroll and a quill pen, symbolizing the "Treaty" and of course, "Los Angeles" at the bottom.



The exposition was a financial failure. The coins did not sell well, and the bulk of the mintage was released into circulation. Even pieces sold at a premium and saved were spent during the Depression; hence, most surviving coins show evidence of wear. Because of the large production, mint-state Monroe halves are readily available in grades up to MS-63. Coins in MS-64 condition are quite scarce, and full gem Monroe halves are one of the great condition rarities in the entire commemorative series.

Special Meeting Activity Calendar

- April** – Quiz Night
- May** – Donation auction
- June** – Youth Night
- July** – Weenie Roast
- September** – Show and Tell Night
- November** – Veteran's night,
Officer/Director elections
- December** – Christmas party

We need volunteers to give programs in 2018. Contact Kenny Smith if you have an interest.

Upcoming Local Coin Shows

April 6-7 – Cowtown Coin Show, White Settlement Convention Center. \$3.

April 7 – Paris Coin Show, Lamar Ave, Church of Christ, Paris. Free.

April 14 – Collin County Coin Show, Quality Inn, McKinney. Free.

April 20-22 – Texas Coin Show, Grapevine Convention Center. \$3 or free with NETCC membership.

June 1-3 – TNA Coin and Currency Show, Arlington Convention Center. \$3 or free with TNA membership.

March New Members: Jason Phillips.

March First Time Visitors: Barbara and Gavin Ward, Victor Gonzalez, Daniel and Madison Schuman, Rae and Hayden Howard, Gerri Jones, Jason Ross.