

Mike Grant

One of our members, Mike Grant died last month. Mike was the immediate past TNA president. Several members attended the funeral in traditional red shirts.

Collectors Forum

A group of collectors meets on the fourth Monday of each month at the North Richland Hills Library at 7:00. This is a casual meeting with no specific format, but with a topic for each meeting and the conversation is allowed to flow freely. The next meeting is Monday, August 22nd.

This meeting is open to anyone interested, and is not associated with NETCC. There are no dues, no membership rolls, just fun. If you or someone you know is interested, contact Kevin Kell: kevinkell@1scom.net.

Pilgrim Commemoratives

Because the Pilgrims saw Christianity without things they deemed nonessential, such as bishops or Christmas, they were forced to leave England. After fleeing to Holland, they felt merely tolerated, as they were limited to manual labor. They also feared their children were straying from their language and religion. When they finally got the chance to move somewhere where they could practice their religion freely, they set sail for the New World, landing at Plymouth Rock near Cape Cod in late 1620.

The Pilgrims originally expected to land farther south (near New York City), and were ill-prepared for the severe Massachusetts climate; half of the colonists died that first winter. If not for local Indians who taught them how to cultivate corn, it's likely the remainder would have perished.

While the Post Office was preparing to issue a set of stamps celebrating the Pilgrim's 300th anniversary, a Massachusetts congressman wanted to also have a commemorative coin issued after learning of the planned Maine Centennial half dollar. Commemorative coins at the time were not sold by the government, but by a sponsoring entity which would reap the profit from sales. In this case, the Pilgrim Tercentenary Commission planned to use the profits towards financing observances in honor of the Pilgrim's arrival.

Boston sculptor Cyrus E. Dallin designed the coin's obverse and reverse and submitted designs in August. The lettering was deemed crude, but due to the tight timeline for production, there was no opportunity to make changes.



The obverse features a stylized portrait of Bradford depicted in typical Pilgrim garb, wearing a conical hat and carrying a Bible under his arm. The reverse depicts the *Mayflower* under full sail. Critics have pointed out that the ship

bears a triangular flying jib, a type of sail not used by Europeans until much later (the aforementioned postage stamp avoided this error).



200,000 of the authorized 300,000 coins were minted in October 1920. Unfortunately for the Commission, the coins were not ready until well after many of the celebrations they were supposed to help fund had already taken place. At the end of 1920, some 48,000 coins remained. The Tercentenary Commission requested that these be melted and re-coined with the new date 1921. This request was granted, and a small "1921" was added to the left obverse field. Only 80,000 coins were struck that year, but they were only able to sell 20,000 of them.

This was the first time that a commemorative half dollar had been struck over multiple years for the purpose of making numismatists buy multiple coins to keep their collections complete.

Both dates of the Pilgrim half dollar have appreciated in price over the years, with the rarer 1921-dated examples leading the way.

Legislation was introduced in July 2016 to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrims arrival at Plymouth with 2020-dated commemorative coins from Mint. It would authorize up to 50,000 \$5 gold coins and no more than 100,000 silver dollars with designs emblematic of the historic arrival of the Pilgrims.

Special Meeting Activity Calendar

September – Show n' Tell night

November – Veteran's night,
Officer/Director elections

December – Christmas party

We need volunteers to give programs in 2016 or 2017. Contact Kevin Kell if you have an interest.

Upcoming Local Coin Shows

August 13 – Texoma Coin Show, US 75, Exit 65, Denison. Free.

August 19-21 – Plano Coin Show, Richardson Civic Center. Free.

August 26-28 – Cowtown Coin Show, Forest Hill Civic/Convention Center. \$3.

September 30-October 2 – Texas Coin Show, Grapevine Convention Center. \$3 or free with NETCC membership.

July New Members: Mitchell and Matthew Miller.

July First Time Visitors: Mitchell and Matthew Miller, J.D. Foltz.