

2018 Membership Dues

2018 Membership dues are \$15.00 for Adults and \$5.00 for Juniors, and are a major support for club activities. Membership not only qualifies you for the monthly progressive door prize, but should also give you a discounted meal at the 2018 Christmas party. Jim Jeska will be receiving 2018 dues at this meeting.

Road Trip

The Dallas Coin Club is chartering a bus to Conroe to attend the Houston Money Show, January 19-20. Cost depends on how many ride (a full bus runs about \$20 per rider). Contact Dallas Coin Club if interested.

Classic Large Cents

The large, copper cents issued by the Mint during the nation's formative years underwent frequent changes in design, with four major changes in the Mint's first three years. The fourth design was introduced in 1796, but its run only lasted 10 years

US coins being issued at that time all bore designs by the Mint's chief engraver, Robert Scot: The silver and minor coins carried Draped Bust portraits of Miss Liberty, while Capped Bust likenesses appeared on the gold coins. However new Mint Director Patterson clearly didn't care for these designs, and consequently commissioned new designs for all coinage in 1807.

He first felt he needed to remove Scot, citing Scot's "advancing age" (62) made his "good health" doubtful. On that basis, he hired John Reich, a young engraver, to serve as Scot's assistant and redesign the coinage. Reich had recently come to the United States from his native Germany as an indentured servant to escape the Napoleonic Wars.

Reich revamped every coin from the half cent through the half eagle, the lowest and highest denominations then being produced. His obverse design for the cent (and half cent) was a left-facing portrait of Liberty with curly hair, tied with a headband inscribed LIBERTY. Miss Liberty is surrounded by 13 stars, with the date below her. The coin's reverse carries the statement of value, ONE CENT, within a continuous wreath. This, in turn, is encircled by the inscription UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.



Production of the new design began in 1808, with just over one million pieces struck. However, the Mint ran out of planchets the following year, and production suffered since the Mint had to rely on local supply of planchets. A new shipment of planchets arrived in 1810 from the British firm of Boulton and Watt, and production rebounded. The Mint exhausted its supply early in 1811 and production once again fell off.

This production roller coaster ride continued with the advent of war with Britain in 1812. Production was normal in 1812, but dropped appreciably in 1813 and 1814. With the British embargo on American trading, the supply came to a halt, and planchets had to be obtained elsewhere. American companies were eager to produce the planchets, but the supply was limited and overall quality low. Most of the cents dated 1814 were struck on whatever leftover planchets could be found, which had already been stored at the Mint for several years. Because of this, cents of 1813 and 1814 tend to be darker and of lesser quality than those of earlier years.

No cents were struck in 1815, as no planchets were on hand, and it took a long time until new planchets could arrive from England. The trading embargo was lifted shortly after the War ended, but it would not be until the end of 1816 that production of cents was resumed, albeit with a different design.

Classic Head cents are relatively scarce in every collectible grade, but exceptionally so in mint condition. This is partly due to the unusual softness of the inferior quality planchets.

Special Meeting Activity Calendar

April	– Donation auction
May	– Quiz Night
June	– Youth Night
July	– Weenie Roast

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

Upcoming Local Coin Shows

January 6 – Texoma Coin Show, Lone Star Convention Center, Sherman. Free.

January 19-20 – 61st Annual Houston Money Show, Lone Star Convention Center, Conroe. \$3.

January 26-27 – Cowtown Coin Show, Forest Hill Civic/Convention Center. \$3.

February 2-4 – Texas Coin Show, Grapevine Convention Center. \$3 or free with NETCC membership.

March 8-10 – ANA National Money Show, Irving Convention Center, Irving. \$8, free on Saturday, to ANA members or kids under 12.

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

December New Members: None. We ended 2017 with 109 members.

December First Time Visitors: Because of Christmas party guests, too numerous to list.