

Summer Seminars

NETCC will again be hosting an educational program in conjunction with the September Texas Coin Show. The program will be held on Saturday, September 29th at the Grapevine Convention Center. See future newsletters for more details.



Call for Articles

Every month this newsletter includes a brief articles on a numismatic-related subject – whether a coin series, currency or numismatic history.

If you have an idea for an article, or are interested in a subject not covered yet, simply respond to the e-mail that carried this newsletter to you. Better yet, write the article and we'll publish it.

Roosevelt Dimes

Franklin Roosevelt died on April 12, 1945, after leading the United States through much of the Great Depression and World War II. Within a month of his death, Congress introduced legislation to honor Roosevelt on a circulating coin; However, since the Mercury dime had been used for more than 25 years, the Treasury had authority to change designs without congressional approval, and therefore announced in May 1945 that a Roosevelt dime would be in production by the end of the year.

Roosevelt had suffered from polio since 1921 and had helped found and strongly supported the March of Dimes to fight that crippling disease, so the ten-cent piece was an obvious choice.

Despite criticism from Republicans that Roosevelt did not deserve the same status as Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln (presidents honored on the circulating coinage at that point), Chief Engraver John Sinnock nonetheless quickly prepared models. However, repeated criticism from the Commission of Fine Arts caused numerous modifications, thereby delaying production until January 1946.

The obverse of the dime depicts President Roosevelt, with the inscriptions LIBERTY and IN GOD WE TRUST. Sinnock's initials, JS, are found by the cutoff of the bust, to the left of the date. The reverse shows a torch in the center, representing liberty, flanked by an olive sprig representing peace, and one of oak symbolizing strength and independence. The inscription E PLURIBUS UNUM (out of many, one) stretches across the field. The name of the country and the value of the coin are the legends that surround the reverse design, which is symbolic of the victorious end of World War II.



At the time the dimes were released, relations with the USSR were deteriorating, and Sinnock's initials, JS, were deemed by some to refer to Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, placed there by a communist sympathizer.

Once these rumors reached Congress, the Mint sent out press releases debunking this myth. Despite the Mint's denial, there were rumors into the 1950s (during the McCarty era) that there had been a secret deal at the Yalta Conference to honor Stalin on a US coin. The controversy was given fresh life in 1948 with the posthumous release of Sinnock's Franklin half dollar, which bears his initials JRS.

Since its introduction, the Roosevelt dime has been struck continuously in large numbers. The Mint transitioned from striking the coin in silver to clad in 1965, and the design remains essentially unaltered from when Sinnock created it, except for shifting of the mint mark from reverse to obverse in the 1960s.

Without rare dates or silver content, the dime is less widely sought by coin collectors than other modern U.S. coins. However, post-1968 dimes struck without a mintmark command premiums, ranging from \$50 for a 1982 (no P) mint state business strike to \$349,600 for a proof 1975 (no S) last sold in 2011.

Special Meeting Activity Calendar

- 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

- July 20-22** – Texas Coin Show, Grapevine Convention Center. \$3 or free with NETCC membership.
- August 11** – Texoma Coin Show, Hwy 75, Exit 59, Sherman. Free.
- August 17-18** – Ft. Worth Coin Club Coin Show, White Settlement Convention Center. \$3.
- September 28-30** – Texas Coin Show, Grapevine Convention Center. \$3 or free with NETCC membership.
- October 26-27** – Cowtown Coin Show, White Settlement Convention Center. \$3.

June New Members: William Eichelberger.

June First Time Visitors: Bob Wilson.

