

Collectors Forum

A group of collectors is meeting on the fourth Monday of each month at the North Richland Hills Library. This is a casual meeting with no specific format, but with a topic for each meeting (suggestions are welcome) and the conversation is allowed to flow freely. The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 27th.

²
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.

Peace Dollar

During World War I, Germany hoped to destabilize the British by spreading rumors that the British did not have specie to back their paper currency. In response, Congress passed the Pittman Act in 1918 which resulted in 270 million silver dollars being melted and sold to the British. However, the Mint was also required by the Pittman Act to replace the melted coins.

After a 17 year hiatus, the Mint began to strike Morgan silver dollars. Famed numismatist Farran Zerbe lobbied for a circulating coin to commemorate the peace following World War I. However, legislation authorizing redesign failed to pass Congress. Nonetheless, the Treasury went ahead with redesign as the Morgan dollar had circulated for over 25 years, and President Harding had just declared an end to the war (due to Senate failure to ratify the Versailles treaty).

After a spirited competition among noted sculptors, a very young and little-experienced Anthony de Francisci was selected. His only work to date had been to convert drawings for the 1920 Maine commemorative to a finished design. Due to the short length of the competition, he lacked the time to hire a model other than his wife Teresa. She tried striking a pose imitating the Statue of Liberty, first seen by her as an immigrant child entering the country.



De Francisci submitted two reverse designs; one showed a warlike eagle, aggressively breaking a sword; the other an eagle at rest,

holding an olive branch. The latter design was selected, but with the broken sword being placed under the eagle. The new design was widely reported in newspapers, and was met with intense public outcry. The broken sword was thought to symbolize defeat. Given the carnage suffered during the war, the public was highly sensitive about its national symbols, and unwilling to allow artists any leeway in interpretation. The broken sword was skillfully removed from the master dies by Chief Engraver Morgan at the last minute.

The first Peace Dollars were struck at the Philadelphia Mint on the day after Christmas 1921, with just over 1

million coins struck before the end of the year. The 1921 coins are unique among Peace Dollars because they show exceptionally high relief. In fact, the relief was so high that it caused problems on the coining presses and it was reported (falsely) that they would not stack properly. The design was modified to give future coins a much lower relief.

The Peace Silver Dollar was minted every year until 1928 when the silver authorized under the Pittman Act ran out. Because Americans had gotten used to managing without large silver dollars and had become used to paper money, few Peace Silver Dollars actually circulated outside of Nevada gambling casinos. However, to partially fund the New Deal, President Roosevelt had the Mint purchase silver during a favorable market and coin such silver into Peace Dollars; small numbers of Peace Dollars were issued in 1934 and 1935 to use up this silver.

Special Meeting Activity Calendar

- April** – Donation auction
- May** – Quiz Night
- 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 2017. Contact Kevin Kell if you have an interest.

Upcoming Local Coin Shows

- March 17-19** – Texas Coin Show, Grapevine Convention Center. \$3 or free with NETCC membership.
- March 31-April 2** – Fort Worth Coin Club Coin Show, Forest Hill Civic/Convention Center. \$3.
- April 7-8** – Waco Coin Club Coin Show, Bellmead Civic Center, Bellmead. \$2.
- April 21-23** – Texas Coin Show, Grapevine Convention Center. \$3 or free with NETCC membership.
- April 29** – Collin County Coin Club Coin Show, Exit 40B, McKinney. Free.
- May 19-21** – Cowtown Coin Show, Forest Hill Civic/Convention Center. \$3.
- June 2-4** – TNA Coin and Currency Show, Arlington Convention Center. \$3 or free with TNA membership.

February New Members: Susanna Roberts.

February First Time Visitors: Susanna Roberts.