

2018 Summer Scholarship

The Society of Silver Dollar Collectors will be offering a full tuition scholarship to attend the class *Collecting and Investing in Morgan Dollars*, at the ANA Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs, June 23 - 28. The class is team taught by Michael Fey, John Baumgart, and Isaac Wallie, and is 4 days of intensive instruction on everything you'd like to know about collecting and investing in Morgan dollars. It is open to any member of the SSDC, except for current board members. Applications need to be received by March 31, with winner notified by April 15. Annual dues are \$22. The scholarship application is available at [this link](#).

Illinois Commemorative

The British had a desire to establish an Indian "buffer" territory in the area adjoining the southern shores of the Great Lakes. This led to their incursion into Indiana and Illinois territories during the War of 1812. This in turn pressured Congress to organize Indiana and Illinois as states shortly after the war ended in 1815. In addition, the admission of Mississippi and Alabama as slave states created the need for two "free" states. Therefore, Indiana was admitted to the Union in 1816 and Illinois in 1818.

The State of Illinois wanted a US commemorative coin to mark the centennial of its admission to the Union. However, since none of the twenty states admitted prior to Illinois had requested a commemorative issue, Congress was reluctant to authorize it. Only when the State of Illinois agreed to pay for the cost of dies and purchase the entire issue, and use proceeds to defray costs of local celebrations and help returning WWI soldiers, was the mintage of 100,000 coins approved by Congress.

The designs were prepared internally at the Mint. The obverse design, depicting Abraham Lincoln, was created by Chief Engraver George T. Morgan. He worked from a photograph of a statue of Lincoln designed by Andrew O'Connor; Lincoln is shown beardless, as he was when living in Illinois before he was elected president in 1860. The obverse also contains the mottoes LIBERTY and IN GOD WE TRUST, as well as an inscription noting the centennial.

The reverse was designed by the assistant engraver who would succeed Morgan on his death in 1925, John R. Sinnock. It is an adaptation of the Seal of Illinois, an eagle perched on a rock mound, with the rising sun beyond it. The bird holds in its beak a scroll with the state motto, STATE SOVEREIGNTY, NATIONAL UNION and it clutches the Federal shield. An olive



branch is seen, but without any arrows representing war, as seen paired on U.S. coins.

The coins were minted in August 1918, and were sold to the public for \$1 each. There was no official packaging, although a few were used in badges for the Illinois Centennial Commission. While coins were not publicized much outside Illinois, the entire issue sold.

Numismatic writers have generally admired the coin, considering it one of the more handsome American commemoratives, with many calling it the finest work Morgan ever did in his 48 years with the Mint. The reverse is deemed by some as "the finest work Sinnock ever did for a legal tender coin", including the Roosevelt dime and Franklin half dollar.

Most known specimens are in Mint State and have lustrous, frosty surfaces, typically with contact marks on the portrait of Lincoln and in the obverse field. The relief and rather complicated design of the reverse serve to protect the reverse field from such marks, with the result that it is not unusual to see a coin graded much lower on the obverse than the reverse. Certified examples are generally graded strictly on the obverse condition.

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

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

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

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.

February New Members: Zac Menerey, Cooper Broughlin, Darrell Rose.

February First Time Visitors: Dustin Reynolds, Joyce Martin, Jason Phillips.