

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 the next meeting.

Louisiana Purchase Exposition

When Napoleon came to power in 1799, he desired to reestablish a major French presence in North America. He promptly secured the return of the Louisiana territory from Spain the following year. When the Americans learned of this reacquisition, they feared that New Orleans would be closed and therefore block Mississippi River access. This led Thomas Jefferson to send James Monroe and Robert Livingston to France to negotiate a purchase of New Orleans and the lower Mississippi.

When the Americans met with Napoleon, they found his desire to sell the entire territory, much of which was unmapped and unexplored by white men. Napoleon feared that the British would capture New Orleans, meaning he would lose Louisiana with no compensation. After some haggling, they agreed on a price of \$15 million.

The Louisiana Purchase doubled the size of the United States, and today forms much of the center of the country. Desirous of honoring the centennial of the purchase, Congress passed authorizing legislation for an exposition; the bill was signed by President William McKinley shortly before his assassination. Congress also authorized issue of five commemorative stamps, with the 10-cent example depicted on the right.



The fair at St. Louis opened on April 30, 1904, a year later than originally planned. It was one of the largest World's Fairs in area, set over 1,272 acres in today's Forest Park. There were 15 major buildings and a host of smaller exhibits, and it is doubtful if many attendees saw more than a fraction of the attractions—seeing everything in the Agricultural Building alone required a walk of 9 miles.

The Exposition was well received, with exhibits of inventions such as a wireless telephone, x-ray machine and fax machine, as well as airplanes and "personal" automobiles. 20 million people attended the exposition, inspiring the popular song, "Meet Me in St. Louis".

Promoters of this Louisiana Purchase Exposition also sought a commemorative coin for fundraising purposes. Congress authorized a \$1 gold issue in 1902, with two designs to aid sales. The price for each

variety was \$3, the same cost whether sold as a coin, or mounted in jewelry or on a spoon. Although not the first American commemorative coins, they were the first in gold.

Because Congress did not specify the design, Mint Chief Engraver Charles Barber chose portraits of Jefferson and McKinley to grace the obverse of the two designs; the designs would have a common reverse. The design for the Jefferson obverse was copied from the former president's Indian Peace Medal, which Lewis & Clark gave out during their epic voyage. The McKinley obverse was copied from Barber's own design for the fallen president's medal issued by the Mint. The reverse, for both coins, contains the denomination, a commemorative inscription, and an olive branch above the anniversary dates.



Because of the relatively high issue price, the coins did not sell well, and most were later melted (an estimated 90% of the McKinley obverses). The coin prices then recovered, regaining their issue prices by 1915; examples are now worth \$500 - \$2,200, depending on condition.

Special Meeting Activity Calendar

November – Veteran's night,
Officer/Director elections

December – Christmas party

We need volunteers to give programs in 2018. Contact Kevin Kell if you have an interest.

Upcoming Local Coin Shows

October 7 – Colin County Coin Club Coin Show, Quality Inn, McKinney. Free.

October 13-14 – Wichita Falls Coin and Stamp Show, Multi-Purpose Event Ctr, Wichita Falls. \$2.

October 20-21 – Cowtown Coin Show, Forest Hill Civic/Convention Center. \$3.

November 4 – Paris Coin Show, Lamar Ave. Church of Christ, Paris. Free.

November 17-19 – Texas Coin Show, Grapevine Convention Center. \$3 or free with NETCC membership.

September New Members: None. We currently have 104 members.

September First Time Visitors: Marylee Richard, Herb Reynolds, Bob Sobel, Lee Bassinger, Joe Rhodes.