

Facebook and Website

Have you had an opportunity to visit us at one or both of the venues? These sites have wealth of information about our Club and current happenings. It also carries a library of current and past Newsletters if case you missed one.

You are encouraged to visit the sites frequently and "friend" us on Facebook. Once you have visited these sites, please tell Cheryl Rybka or Lance Parkes about things you would like to see, or how the sites might be improved.

Delaware Commemorative

During the 17th century, Sweden wanted to become a major colonizing power in the New World in the same manner as Spain, France, England and the Netherlands; for this purpose, it formed the Swedish West India Company. Its first expedition landed in the present-day region of Delaware, where Fort Christina (at the current site of Wilmington, Delaware) was erected in March 1638. The Swedes hired Dutchman Peter Minuit (known for acquiring the island of Manhattan from the Native Americans) as the first governor and the colony grew slowly over the following years. However, as a result of warfare in Europe, the Dutch seized the colony of New Sweden in 1655. Even though the Swedes retained some autonomy over the next decade any hopes of a large and prosperous colony were gone.

Three hundred years later, the Delaware Swedish Tercentenary Commission proposed the issuance of a commemorative half dollar; Congress responded by authorizing what would later become known as the Delaware Half Dollar in May 1936. The commission then held a competition to select the designer of the coins, which was won by Carl Schmitz, who was awarded \$500 as a prize.

The obverse of the coin featured a side-view of the Holy Trinity Church (more commonly known as the Old Swedes Church) in Wilmington, Delaware. Even though it wasn't built until long after New Sweden had passed the church is a lasting reminder of the Swedish presence in the area, and is located on the old burial ground of Fort Christina. Above the church is UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Directly below it are IN GOD WE TRUST and the date of authorization, 1936. Near the bottom rim is the denomination HALF DOLLAR.



The reverse featured one of the two ships on which the first emigrants came to the Delaware coast, the *Kalmar Nyckel*. Directly below it is E PLURIBUS UNUM, and

below that is LIBERTY. The dual dates 1638-1938 are found near the bottom rim, enclosed by the words DELAWARE TERCENTENARY. The words are separated by diamond-like figures, as Delaware's motto is the "Diamond State".

Even though it is dated 1936, a total of 25,000 Delaware Tercentenary Half Dollars were not struck until 1937 (commemorating an event that would not take place until 1938). Sales were less than expected, and a total of 4,022 coins were unsold and returned to the Philadelphia Mint and melted.

Sweden also issued its own commemorative coin, a silver 2 Kronor piece released in 1938. The coin featured the portrait of King Gustav V on the obverse and the *Kalmar Nyckel* on the reverse. This issue had a much larger mintage than its American counterpart, and is relatively affordable.

The Delaware commemorative is not very difficult to find in the lower uncirculated grades, although strictly-graded gems can be scarce and require some searching. MS-66 pieces are scarce and anything finer is rare, thanks in part to the ships sails on the reverse, which are prone to highlight bag marks and other imperfections.

Special Meeting Activity Calendar

November – Veteran's night,
Officer/Director elections

December – Christmas party

April – Quiz Night

May – Donation auction

June – Youth Night

July – Weenie Roast

September – Show and Tell Night

We need volunteers to give programs in 2019. Contact Kenny Smith if you have an interest.

Upcoming Local Coin Shows

October-20 – Round Rock Coin Show, 1209 North I-35, Round Rock. \$3.

October 26-27 – Cowtown Coin Show, White Settlement Convention Center. \$3.

November 10 – Paris Coin Show, 3535 Lamar Avenue, Paris. Free.

November 16-18 – Texas Coin Show, Grapevine Convention Ctr \$3 or free with NETCC membership.

September New Members: Kenneth Miller, Judy Moser and Bill White.

September First Time Visitors: Ethan Sears and Tyler Dollarhide.