

Coin Chronicles

The Newsletter of the Trenton Numismatic Club

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Personal Safety

-Nick D'Amico

Given the rash of numismatic crimes including burglaries, vehicle break-ins, and strong arm robberies that have been brought to our attention within recent years through periodicals such as Coin World, Numismatic News, and local newspapers it is clear that those of us who attend coin shows, carry cash, checks, or coin/paper money purchases are not 100% safe in our homes or when traveling to and from coin shows. Many of us who attend the larger national coin shows such as the annual Baltimore show, the now defunct Philadelphia show, or the Orlando/Tampa, FL F.U.N. show actually know dealers who have lost millions of dollars to criminals who have been bold enough to follow for hundreds of miles coin dealers such as Julian Leidman and Tom Reynolds, broken into their parked, unattended cars, and within minutes ran away with complete inventories that have taken years to be recovered, held for long periods of time by law enforcement as evidence in criminal prosecution, and in many cases, never found or fully recovered. And, because I as a coin dealer who has personal experience of loss to crime, I find it necessary, exceedingly important, to write

this article with the personal safety of the Trenton Numismatic Club in mind.

To begin with I note five general rules to which all of us should adhere regarding our personal safety and the protection of our numismatic property when carrying such belongings. These rules are:

- 1 Reduce or eliminate opportunities that may make you a target.
- 2 Increase your awareness in places where you are most comfortable. Complacency is your enemy.
- 3 Trust your instincts regardless of possibly being embarrassed by your vigilance.
- 4 Prepare your coin show schedule, or the transportation of valuables, with the utmost safety in mind. When possible travel with a friend or two to coin shows.
- 5 Never stop for lunch or dinner at a restaurant while carrying numismatic property leaving your car unattended even if your car is within your view.

To drive home the point of how important it is to not allow yourself to stop for dinner anywhere while carrying coins or paper money I allude to the story of the aforementioned coin dealer Julian's Leidman predicament. Mr. Leidman left a show in New Jersey with his entire inventory with him. He was driving back to Maryland where he resides and stopped for dinner at a New Jersey Turnpike rest area with his vehicle fully in view, or so he thought. Once he finished his dinner and walked back to his parked car he found that the vehicle had been broken into and well over \$1,000,000 in rare coins had been stolen. Much of the inventory was eventually recovered and the thieves were prosecuted, but it took Mr. Leidman years to recover fully from that loss.

To be more specific about scenarios that may be unsafe I address

safety while walking the streets to and from coin shows and driving to and from coin shows. A few years ago I was walking from a parking garage by myself with over \$5,000 in cash on me and a coin inventory worth easily \$50,000 which I planned to sell at the Baltimore, MD coins show. While walking I was approached by two street people who tried to stop me and beg for money. It was broad daylight when they tried to stop me, but it was clear that these people new the coin show was taking place as they were standing on the street very close to the Baltimore, MD Convention Center where the show takes place and who knows what their actual intentions were? Knowing that the situation was not beneficial to me had I stopped to speak with these people, I simply ignored them, did not engage in any conversation, walked with a purpose, getting the hell away from them as quickly as possible.

So, should this scenario present itself to you while carrying money or collectible coins, remember to walk in well-populated, well-lit areas. If you suspect someone is following you stay away from deserted city blocks and head for an area where other people are or head for the closest open store. Remember there is safety in numbers.

Another scenario in which we must practice personal safety and protect ourselves is when we are driving with valuables inside our cars. While approaching your vehicle upon leaving a coin show look to make sure no one is hiding in or around your vehicle, pay special attention to the back seat of your car. Also, check your tires for flats. Several years ago I used to carry a substantial gold inventory to and from the Parsippany, NJ coin show and he thieves knew it. Two months in a row when I arrived at home from the coin

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COIN SHOW SCHEDULE

By Bill Liatys

April 2016

LOCAL SHOW SCHEDULE

PARSIPPANY *April 3rd at Sunday 9 AM – 4 PM*
Pal Bldg 33 Baldwin Road Parsnippany NJ

BURLINGTON *April 10th Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM*
Burlington Mason Lodge Route 541 Burlington, NJ

TREVOSE *April 17th Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM*
Trevose Fire House 4900 Street Road Trevose, PA

TRI-STATE COIN & STAMP SHOW *April 24th Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM*
Williamson's Restaurant 500 Blair Mill Road Horsham, PA

RED ROSE COIN CLUB SPRING SHOW *April 2 Saturday 10 AM – 3:30 PM*
Farm & Home Center 1383 Arcadia Road Lancaster, PA

WHITMAN COIN & COLLECTIBLES *March 31 – April 3 Thursday – Sunday*
Thursday – Noon – 6 PM Friday – Saturday - 10 AM – 6 PM Sunday – 10 AM – 3 PM
Baltimore Convention Center One W. Pratt Street Baltimore, MD

OCEAN COUNTY COIN CLUB *April 21 Thursday 4 PM – 8 PM*
Ocean Fire House 400 Arnold Avenue Pt. Pleasant Beach, NJ

GSNA ANNUAL CONVENTION SHOW *May 12 – May 14 Thursday – Saturday*
Thursday – 1 PM – 7 PM Friday – 10 AM – 7 PM Saturday – 10 AM – 4 PM
Ukrainian Cultural Center 135 Davidson Ave. Somerset, NJ

President's Message

By Andrew Waholek

Hello to all! I hope everyone has had a wonderful month! We will be having our meeting on Monday March 28th 2016 at 7pm. Make sure to bring those new coins that you've acquired for some show and tell. This month we will have the pleasure of our own ray Williams giving a talk. The library does not have a specific room assigned to us so please check the sign as you walk in. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there!

Personal safety from Page 1

show I had a semi-flat left rear tire. I inspected the tire on both occasions and found a brand new screw had been drilled into the tire, nit in the tread, but between the treads in order to puncture the tire and leave me stranded somewhere on the road home. Once, is a fluke, but twice having a tire "spiked" tells me someone was trying to "get the best of me." Luckily, the tires on my car were built to withstand such punctures and I made it home safely.

So, when driving keep windows rolled up and keep doors locked at all times, especially when buying gasoline if you have to pump the gas yourself. Keep valuables locked in your trunk whenever possible, not on the seat next to you, and plan your route before you leave. When stopped in traffic leave enough room between your vehicle and the one in front of you so you may pass that vehicle easily if necessary. Keep your vehicle well-maintained, at least 1/2 tank full of gasoline to avoid being stranded. Should you suspect you are being followed make several turns down active streets and if the adverse vehicle continues to follow head for the nearest police station, house, or open store. Avoid driving to your house.

At this point, many of you are probably wondering where I came up with these "rules to live by." The truth is that I have been investigating property and casualty claims for the last 22 years, I am in contact with the NYPD and several other law enforcement agencies on a constant basis in my regular work day, and one of my brothers is a retired FBI agent and having been the victim of theft I have requested and obtained personal safety information from these experts. Finally, we must remember our hobby is supposed to be fun, a source of recreation and education, but the criminals are happy to ruin that for us if we let down our guard. And, simply stated, we must not allow the criminals to hurt us by ignoring our personal safety responsibilities.

Half Cents 1793 to 1797

-Harry Garrison

Half cents, the lowest federal coin denomination authorized under the Mint Act of April 2, 1792, were first coined in mid 1793 with the initial quantity being released to circulation on July 20 of that year. The total mintage for half cents in 1793 was 35,334 coins. These new half cents slipped quietly into circulation attracting little or no notice in the popular press of the era. Beyond that there was no known instances of any numismatist taking interest in the new coinage which that year also included large copper cents. The several collectors and museums who specialize in coins concentrated on ancient Greek and Roman issues, coins of Europe and metals of various nations. The mint cabinet authorized in June 1838 eventually included half cents along with other coins acquired by finding them in circulation, examining deposits at the Mint and by trading with collectors. The result was that the relatively few high-grade 1793 half cents survived mostly by chance.

The 1793 half cent featured the Liberty Cap with head facing left, a design made only in that year. Half cents in 1794 featured Liberty facing to the right with her portrait large and in high relief. This is also a distinct one year only design type, although some collectors combine it with the related smaller portrait coins of 1795 to 1797. High-grade examples can be even rarer than those of the 1793.



City Of New York

-Harry Garrison

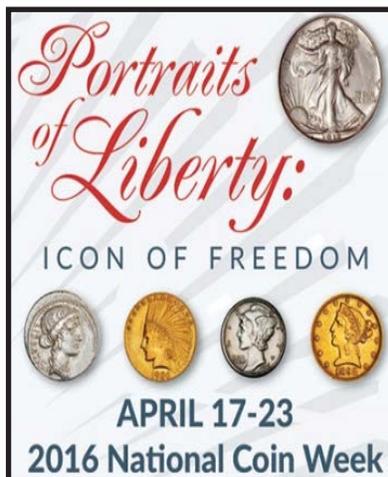
The Civil War Store cards "City of New York" was long thought to be an issue of New York City and as such had been cataloged by Fuld as NY-630-Q-1a. Recent research has identified the token as belonging to the Steamship company that operated out of Norwich Connecticut the SS City of New York and its sister ship the SS City of Boston. These ships travel from Norwich Connecticut to New York City on a regular schedule on the Long Island sound daily except for Sunday. The new steamship line included this in the oldest and most popular route between New York and Boston. The two new and magnificent boats build expressly for the line; the City of New York and the City of Boston



Trenton Numismatic Club

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Trenton Numismatic Club is members of:



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were not only the swiftest steamers on Long Island sound but were constructed with watertight compartments being the only boats on the sound with his great lifesaving improvement. Also their furniture and decorations are superb and the meals served board were in first-class hotel style. The Store Card is now properly identified as CT-345-aA-1a.

Correction

Last Month an article appeared by Howard Pitkow on the Rarity of his collection. The credit line did not print. This article was reprinted from "Penny Wise"

Did you Know?

11. The first U.S. commemorative coin was produced in 1892 and featured Christopher Columbus.
12. The Mint's original coins were made of gold, silver, and copper.
13. In 1943, the content of the cent coins was changed to zinc-coated steel due to copper shortage during World War II.
14. According to the artist, the Indian head on the buffalo nickel (1913-1938) is a composite picture.
15. The Philadelphia Mint mark appears on each of its coins except the Lincoln cent.

Articles Wanted

If you have a topic you'd like to be covered in the Newsletter... write an article or submit your idea. Don't be shy....do it. All entries are welcome. Articles will appear in the Newsletter as soon as possible and might be edited for space consideration, not editorial content.

Meeting Schedule

The Trenton Numismatic Club meets on the fourth Monday of each month at the

HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
 ONE JUSTICE SAMUEL A. ALITO JR. WAY
 HAMILTON, NJ 08619-3809

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