
COLORADO SPRINGS COIN CLUB

PO Box 10055 COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80932 COLORADOSPRINGSCOINCLUB@GMAIL.COM

Meetings: 7:00pm on the fourth Tuesday of every month except December
at the Colorado Springs Police Department Community Room
955 W. Moreno Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80905
Guests are always welcome at our regular meetings



CORONAVIRUS NOTICES

Our June 23th Meeting is **CANCELLED**. There is still hope for July, however!

When our meetings resume, you'll see some changes.

- On entering the building please maintain 6' spacing from each other if there is a crowd at the entrance.
- There will be no chairs at tables, and chairs will be spaced six feet apart.
- Everyone must wear a mask, per the Governor's guidelines, unless you have a medical reason that you cannot. (If you have a reason, please let President Ken B. know either by e-mail beforehand, or on arrival. (We are looking at buying a few facemasks for anyone who forgets.)
- Hand sanitizer provided at the registration desk, please use it.
- Bottles of water and candy bars will be provided at the registration desk, too. Please take one of each to avoid congregating in the kitchen area.
- When reviewing/inspecting lots for auction please watch your distance from others. Lots will be spread out on tables around the room.
- Please limit the amount of congregating we do before the meeting, during the intermission, and afterwards. When you do get into groups, please limit them to no more than 4 people. (This will be difficult! We like to talk to each other during those times--it's not just the meeting, it's about checking in with friends. Hopefully we can manage this as we'd like to keep things informal.)
- Each meeting is going to be a test. Please be patient, and provide *constructive* criticism. We want to succeed, while making sure everyone stays safe and healthy.
- In general, please do **not** come to future club meetings if you are feeling sick. Whatever it is you've got, it may be mild for you, but not-so-mild for the person you give it to.

The **Colorado Springs Coins, Currency, and Collectibles Show** has been cancelled.

The **ANA Headquarters, including the Money Museum**, is closed to the public until further notice.

The **ANA World's Fair of Money in Pittsburg** this August 4-8 has been *suspended*. The ANA is looking at holding the World's Fair of Money in some other location.

MAY 2020 MEETING SUMMARY

TUESDAY, MAY 26, AT 7:00PM

This meeting was not held, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

JUNE 2020 MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, AT 7:00PM

Due to the Coronavirus, this meeting has been CANCELLED.
However, we have a lot of other news for you.

2020 DUES REMINDER

IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR DUES YET, PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

Dues are \$10 for individuals, \$5 for Young Numismatists (under 18), and \$20 for Families (all adults and children in the immediate family).

We will accept cash or a check payable to “Colorado Springs Coin Club.” Dues can be mailed to: PO Box 10055, Colorado Springs CO, 80932. Or, when we have meetings, please pay at the check-in desk to either President Ken B., 1st VP Dave S., or 2nd VP Kevin L.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Even though we did not have a meeting, a Treasurer’s Report is required to be published. Treasurer Barbara T. reported the following for May:

BALANCE IN ACCOUNT 4/28/20		\$12,449.56
Monies Received		
Auction:	0.00	
Total Deposit:	0.00	+0.00
SUB-TOTAL		\$12,449.56
Expenses		
Check to Terry Carver.		
(Re: Webpage Expenses, Apr):	<u>-25.00</u>	
Total Expenses	-25.00	-25.00
TOTAL		\$12,424.56
BALANCE IN ACCOUNT 5/26/20		\$12,424.56

NAME THIS NEWSLETTER!

We really don’t have a name for this newsletter—the title is simply the name of the club. Many other clubs have snappy titles for their newsletter (for example: the “Centinel” for Central States, “Chatter” for the Chicago Coin Club, “FUN Topics” for Florida United Numismatists), and that seems like a good idea for us as well.

Please send your suggestions to our PO Box, or E-mail address (coloradospringscoinclub@gmail.com), or to Steve D., Holly S., or Ken B. At our next face-to-face meeting, there will be a vote to pick the name, and the member who suggested the name selected will receive a prize.

CONTEST ENTRIES: GUESS THE PRICE OF SILVER

We got a number of responses to our contest to see who can come closest to guessing the price of silver on the date of our November meeting (five months from now). The contest is now closed, and of course we'll know who the winner is at our November meeting. The prize is still to be determined.

Here are the entries, in increasing order of price.

Mike S.	16.85	Steve I.	19.83	Frank T.	22.17
Dale G.	18.58	Jim B.	20.05	James N.	24.10
Ken B.	19.43	Holly S.	20.32	Barbara T.	27.37
Hector R.	19.50	Dave S.	20.73	Cary R.	29.39
Mike F.	19.62	Eve B.	21.00	Cliff S.	48.20

The guesses seem to be “clumped” with almost half in the \$19-20 range and about 40 percent of the membership going even higher than that with widely-spread high guesses, one at nearly 50 dollars!

RESULTS OF THE 2020 TRIVIA CHALLENGE

Andy Dickes

Dear member clubs,

Thanks for taking part in the 2020 Club Trivia Challenge. I hope you found it fun and educational. 18 clubs achieved a perfect score, and the prize drawing came up with these results:

Grand Prize: American Eagle 2020 one-tenth ounce gold proof \$5 coin: Central Arkansas Coin Club

Second Prize: Women’s Suffrage Centennial 2020 proof silver \$1 coin: St. Paul Liberty Coin Club

Third Prize: Women’s Suffrage Centennial 2020 proof silver \$1 coin: Will County Coin Club

Fourth Prize: 2020 America the Beautiful Quarters proof set: Madison County Coin Club

Fifth Prize: 2020 America the Beautiful Quarters proof set: Metro East Coin Club

Sixth Prize: 2020 America the Beautiful Quarters proof set: Tidewater Coin Club

Other clubs with a perfect score:

Prescott Coin Club

Cupertino Coin Club

Northwest Detroit Coin Club

Cedar Rapids Coin Club

Northwest (MN) Coin Club

Huron Valley Numismatic Society

Dallas Coin Club

Northeast Tarrant Coin Club

Colorado Springs Coin Club

Metropolitan Atlanta Coin Club

Ozarks Coin Club

Nashua Coin Club

Editor’s Note: Thanks to everyone who contributed; we got a perfect score!

COLORADO SPRINGS COIN, CURRENCY AND COLLECTIBLES SHOW

CANCELLED

The latest Colorado State Guidelines for Public Gatherings continues to be too restrictive to hold a show the size of the CSCCCS. The next possible time that the Guidelines could be relaxed is on the first day of the show. This (literally) last-minute decision would be unfair to those dealers still planning to attend, so Ken B. very reluctantly cancelled the show.

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION WORLD'S FAIR OF MONEY SUSPENDED

ANA MAKING ALTERNATE PLANS FOR A CONVENTION LATER THIS YEAR COLORADO SPRINGS IS A POSSIBILITY!

From the ANA press release (emphasis is your editor's)

The American Numismatic Association (ANA) announced today the suspension of the 2020 World's Fair of Money®. The show, originally scheduled for August 4-8 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is the largest annual coin and paper-currency event in the United States.

The ANA Board of Governors has been deliberating the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on the show and whether aggressive mitigation requirements to ensure the safety of attendees made continuing with the Pittsburgh event feasible. Current State of Pennsylvania guidelines restrict indoor gatherings to a maximum of 250 people at any one time. The World's Fair of Money typically attracts upward of 10,000 people during its 5-day smorgasbord of educational offerings, live auctions, affiliated club meetings, and a bourse floor with nearly a thousand dealers and government mints from around the world.

The Board resolved in a vote on June 16 to postpone the show and to consider alternate sites and/or dates for the 2020 World's Fair of Money.

According to Jennifer Ackerman, ANA conventions director, because of Pennsylvania's restrictions on indoor gatherings, "none of the usual World's Fair of Money offerings would be possible at the Pittsburgh show. No exhibits, no educational programming, no Kids Zone, no club meetings, no banquet, and a significantly reduced bourse. Our team has been in nearly daily conversations with the convention center, but it's become evident that they are unable to fulfill their contractual obligations."

Pittsburgh World's Fair of Money Committee Chair Tom Uram noted the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists (PAN) had "anticipated a convention that would showcase the ANA and the city of Pittsburgh. But based on our analysis and review of all relevant information – the diminished show experience for attendees, health and safety issues, security, financial impact and the significant unknown outside variables – the host committee recommended that the ANA Board not hold the Pittsburgh World's Fair of Money," he says.

Since 1891, the American Numismatic Association's convention has only been cancelled twice; in 1918 during the flu pandemic and again in 1945 because of World War II.

"The decision to postpone the World's Fair of Money was very emotional and extremely difficult," says ANA President Steve Ellsworth. "The convention staff and the Pittsburgh organizing committee worked hard to make the show a reality. PAN went beyond all expectations to deliver what would have been a fantastic event, and I'm deeply disappointed that the collecting community won't be able to experience the results of their efforts. I know we will return to Pittsburgh in the not-so-distant future. In the meantime, we will pursue opportunities to host the event in another city in the weeks ahead." **Options briefly discussed include The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and the Mountain America Expo Center and Salt Palace Convention Center, both of which are located in Salt Lake City, Utah.**

"During these trying and socially-isolated times, we were looking forward to reconnecting with our fellow numismatists," says ANA Executive Director Kim Kiick. "We're disappointed we won't be seeing everyone in Pittsburgh but are working hard to create other opportunities to connect."

FUTURE EVENTS

COLORADO SPRINGS COIN CLUB MEETINGS [TENTATIVE]

- Jul 26 Young Numismatist (YN) Night is CANCELLED. We will instead have a general discussion on what members did during the “stay at home” with their collection, including sales and acquisitions. Please bring in some of your new purchases for show and tell.
- Aug 25 We will have a talk on grading a series of coins as well as tips on how to preserve your coins.
- Sep 22 White Elephant Sale
- Oct 27 (Tentative) A guest speaker to talk about their Bank Collection.
- Nov 24 My Other Hobby. Bring something you collect (or another hobby) besides numismatics.
- Dec 8 Joint CSCC and & CSNS Christmas Dinner and Party at Golden Corral, 6 PM. (This venue may have to change.)

COLORADO SPRINGS NUMISMATIC SOCIETY MEETINGS

These are on the second Sunday of every month, except December, at 2 PM. Location is the same as our meetings, at the CSPD Community Room, 955 W. Moreno Avenue. Unfortunately they too have been cancelled the last few months.

If you’ve never been to a Numismatic Society meeting, they’re a bit different. Every month, instead of a program they have exhibit talks—extended presentations by the membership on whatever they want to show.

COLORADO SPRINGS COIN, CURRENCY, AND COLLECTIBLES SHOW **CANCELLED**

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION (ANA) EVENTS

Summer Seminar, ANA and Colorado College **CANCELLED.**

The ANA *is*, however, offering two hour online classes for both members and the general public. Please visit money.org for details.

2020 World’s Fair of Money, Pittsburgh PA—August 4-8 2020 **SUSPENDED**

2021 National Money Show, Phoenix AZ—Phoenix Convention Center, March 11-13, 2021

2021 World’s Fair of Money, Rosemont IL—Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, August 10-14 2021

ADVERTISE IN THIS NEWSLETTER!

Want our membership to know about your business? You can now advertise in this newsletter. Here are the rates:

Size	Dimensions (width x height)	Rate	
		6 months	Full Year
Business Card	3½ x 2	Not Available	\$12
Quarter Page	3⅝ x 5 or 7 ⅜ x 2½	\$30	\$55
Half Page	3⅝ x 10 or 7⅜ x 5	\$60	\$110
Full Page	7⅜ x 10 (text area) or 8½ 11 (no margins)	\$150	\$275

Ads will cover that fraction of the text area, for example a quarter page ad will be half of one column on a two column page, or the bottom quarter of the text area, excluding header, footer and margins. The exception is a full page ad, which (if provided as a PDF) can “bleed” to cover the entire page.

Ads must be print-ready. They can be changed from issue to issue, by providing an updated print-ready ad at least ten days before the next club meeting.

ANA MEMBERSHIP OFFER

Based on information from Tiffanie Buschel

Are YOU a member of the American Numismatic Association? If not, here’s your chance.

To encourage individual membership within our member clubs the ANA is offering an unprecedented \$5 Gold membership (regularly \$30) for club members who are not current members of the Association.

Benefits Include:

- Online access to every issue of *The Numismatist* from 1888 to the present — a one-stop hobby reference!
- Money Museum virtual exhibits, videos, blogs, Money Talks radio archives, coin collecting tips, and the ability to join the ANA’s members-only Facebook group.
- Educational programs galore — seminars, lectures, correspondence courses, plus free lending library privileges and free admission to all ANA shows.
- Discounts on seminars, hobby publications, collection insurance, and direct submission privileges for grading and conservation services through NGC.

Club members who would rather receive *The Numismatist* by mail can upgrade to an ANA Platinum membership for only \$20 (a \$26 savings!).

Club members can call 800-514-2646 or join online at money.org/join Use code CLUB2020.



THE COIN THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

by Steve D.

The coin wasn't expensive. It cost a whole dollar. Granted that was more money on June 2, 1990, than it is today, but still not by any means a great expense. It was thirty years ago this month, and it changed my life.

I only have scans of the coin, made with it in a 2x2 holder--so this picture isn't up to my current standards. Someday I'll photograph it for real--yes I still have it.

Here it is:



1909 1/4 Kopek. Like all Russian Imperial coins denominated in kopeks, this is such an antique, it uses spelling that is out of date (the Communists reformed it in 1918). The letter Ъ was replaced with E, which had the same sound value (MUCH larger than actual size.)

I was collecting US coins, trying to build a 20th century set, at least the cents through silver dollars. So why did I even take a second glance at this dinky (much smaller than a cent) rusty copper coin?

It's a 1909 1/4 kopek, also known as a polushka. It's therefore a relic of the Tsars. A relic of a dead age, a dead empire supplanted by something far worse--the Soviet Union. That was worth a buck. And then I started seeing other similar items--it wasn't long before I had a silver ruble. Then I got curious enough to do some research.

It turns out that 1700-1917 is the time span of what we today call "Russian Imperial Coinage." That 1700 sounds like an arbitrary time--it's round enough to make someone suspicious that it's a made-up number. But in fact, that's the year Peter the Great began his monetary reform, changing a system that had relied on very crude-looking silver "wire money" with no large denominations, to one with round copper, silver and gold pieces, with a crown-sized ruble equal to 100 kopeks. Those rubles started to come out in 1704. (Yes, Russia went decimal before the US did, in fact decades before there was even a US that *could* go decimal!)

And the end year...well, everyone knows what happened in 1917. The tsar abdicated early in the year, and late in the year the world began to learn what Marxism was *actually* like.

I kept buying US coins, but I also bought Russian Imperial...mostly rather junky pieces, to be sure, but I did put a 15 ruble gold piece on layaway once for \$240, by far the most I had ever paid for a coin up to that time.

But on the whole Russian Imperial was *cheap* for how rare it was. Good! More bang for the buck! I could either spend less money, or get better stuff (guess which one I chose), either way, a challenge! I did have to suffer through people who would laugh at me for buying "that crap." (They don't laugh now.)

Fast forward to 1996. The ANA World's Fair of Money came to Denver. And two very important things happened there.

The first was the auction. I had my eye on an absolutely gorgeous Barber quarter, the reverse toned a medium blue on the field. With the stars and eagle in the design it was as if the eagle was flying in the night sky. I don't remember the year of the coin, but I do remember it cataloged at \$1200. I decided it was worth a bit more than that, maybe \$1500, two thousand *tops* thanks to the eye appeal. It would be a stretch but it would be absolutely the coolest coin I owned. After an hour waiting for the lot to come up, I couldn't even bid, because the guy with the book immediately bellowed "*Three thousand!!!*" and that was that. Well, it was a *very* nice coin. (Who said Barbers were ugly?)

But the same auction house had a few Russian Imperial lots. I had no trouble at all scoring:

- A 1777 10 kopek Siberian piece (Siberian? That's a long story which I'll happily tell you sometime), in a high AU, which I got for \$161.
- A three rouble platinum piece (APW 1/3 oz), bundled with a gold bullion coin from Chile I could have cared less about for \$460. That's the coin I sometimes wear on a chain around my neck. It's the only platinum coin that ever circulated. (There were also 6 and 12 rouble coins, but they didn't circulate.)
- And get this: an 1862 partial silver proof set, 5, 10, 15, 20, and 50 kopeks. (It was missing the 25 kopek and rouble, to say nothing of multiple copper denominations and a gold 5 rouble piece.) This was for \$700. I figured the half rouble was half the value of the set.

The message was clear: If I wanted to collect nice stuff...I couldn't afford American coins, but I *could* afford Russian Imperial coins. From that day forward until 2008, I don't recall buying an American coin...except annually from the Mint.

That was the first important thing that happened in Denver. The other was that I walked through the exhibit area. I don't recall thinking "maybe I should do this someday," but clearly the idea was planted and would germinate in only two years.



Left: 1777 Siberian 10 kopes. Top Center: 1833 3 Rubles platinum. Upper Right: 1909 Polushka Lower Center and Right: 1862 5, 10, 15, 20 and 50 kopeks/half rouble in proof. (This should be actual size if printed.)

The next important date is 1998. I took the ANA Summer Seminar class on Russian Imperial coinage. And it was taught by a dealer who had already sold me some very good material, and would continue to do so, mostly through mail bid auctions he ran (and still runs) twice a year. Thanks to him and a couple of other sources I found, my collection was already starting to take off, and a lot of the stuff I bought before 1996 started looking like, well, frankly, junk. At that year's Colorado Springs Coin Show I also scored four excellent rubles, including a 1705, almost the earliest possible date, with medieval style lettering and crude artwork looking like something a hundred or two years older; it was one of my favorite coins. That was a mere \$750.



1705 Ruble. Second year of Imperial Russian Rubles (the 1704 is much more valuable). The date is in Cyrillic numerals, running from 10-11 o'clock on the reverse. (ѠѠѠѠ) This is also the only coin I ever owned that had the word "tsar" on it (ЦАРЬ, abbreviated ЦРЬ, at 1 o'clock on the obverse), since later on in his reign Peter assumed the title ИМПЕРАТОРЪ/Imperator (Emperor) and that would be used from that point forward.

(Actual sized if printed)

I was shifting towards type collecting at this point. Clearly I wasn't going to get every date, mint mark, mint master's initials, and denomination, no matter what--that would be something like 6000 coins, even leaving out the pattern pieces and restrikes (which Russian catalogs tend to mix together with the regular issues).

Finally, 1998 was the year I took a part of my collection to the ANA World's Fair of Money, and put on an exhibit. There was supposed to be another exhibitor in that class--as it happened, the best exhibitor that ever lived. I would have been annihilated. (That first exhibit wasn't nearly up to the quality of my later exhibits. I'm actually glad I didn't have a camera then.) But Thomas Law had the shingles. I won the class by default. Of course, I wasn't even remotely close to winning Best of Show.

I tried again the next year in Chicago, with an exhibit of rubles in Class 8, Foreign after 1500 excluding Gold. And there were two other very tough exhibits in that class. But I won the class--I think it might have been my toughest class win ever. And to my surprise, I was second runner up for best of show!

Well, I was hooked. I took Russian Imperial exhibits to every show after that (except 2001 and 2004). sometimes even two exhibits, winning class with all but one of them, and accumulating two *more* second runner up awards (2002 and 2003), then in 2005 *finally* breaking through what was looking like a glass ceiling, even if a high one, winning best of show at the National Money Show, and then at the World's Fair of Money later that year with a different exhibit. Then I won the Worlds Fair again in 2006 and 2007 before calling it quits, mainly because I couldn't do anything more with the collection I had.

I'm the only person ever to win three times in a row.

Yes, I take some pride in that. (If that bothers you, well, then, it bothers you.)

So yes, that little one-dollar rusty quarter kopek put me on that road, seventeen years later I had three plaques on my wall and a lot of good memories I probably wouldn't have had otherwise. Could I have done that with the sorts of US coins I could afford? No way (and besides, it has been decades since a US Coin exhibit has won Best of Show).

To understand what happened next, we have to rewind to 2003-2004.

At that time it was starting to get very difficult to add to my collection. Bourse floors were devoid of Russian Imperial material, and anything significant in an auction went into orbit.

A couple of Russian oligarchs had become interested in Russian Imperial, and they were buying everything up and driving prices to the moon competing with each other. People would buy early bird badges, then walk the bourse floors before public hours in trench coats with the pockets stuffed full of cash, buying everything Russian and shipping it back to Mother Russia.

I struggled with this while racking up those wins, almost always with coins I had bought before 2003. Some of the more obscure provincial issues could still be had...in fact that was what my last exhibit was about.

I couldn't really move forward with the collection, and although I had a pretty decent set of rubles, it was still missing a lot of types, and lower denominations were even worse. I'd say *maybe* I was a third of the way done with a type set. And I could go no further.

Remember that 1862 partial proof set? It began what happened next.

In spring 2007 my old ANA instructor had an 1862 *uncirculated* half ruble in his auction. I thought, "That's cool, it would go nicely with the 1862 proof." So I called him a couple of weeks before the auction closed, and he told me to forget it, even two weeks out it was already at *three thousand dollars*. (Now where have I heard that before?)

I figured my proof must be more than that. And the other four coins about the same amount again.

Ultimately, that half ruble sold for a great deal more than three thousand. So by that logic, a set I had paid seven hundred bucks for looked like it might be worth...well, even pessimistically *at least* ten times more than I had paid for it.

Given that I was emphasizing business strikes (not restrikes, not patterns, not proofs) and this partial proof set that didn't even really belong in the collection looked to be pretty valuable...it started burning a hole in my pocket. So I consigned it, that fall. And it ended up selling for even more than I had expected.

I was just finishing building a house. I was up to my eyeballs in debt. Well, now at least I had my chin above the water.

I was able to move into the house the next year, and finally, something went "click." Or maybe "snap." I went, in the space of a couple of months, from being doggedly determined to keep plugging along...to deciding to chuck the whole thing--sell the entire collection, and go do something else with my free time.

I held back about a hundred coins. Not the best ones, and not the worst ones--I hung on to those from my last exhibit (which I still put on non-competitively from time to time) and a few sentimental favorites. The rest flew with me to be handed over to the auctioneer. The TSA lady at the X-ray machine asked me what I was doing with a bunch of poker chips. One of the worst accidental insults I ever received!

The auctioneer put my name on the cover of the catalog, and put my coins in one section by themselves. I remember getting the catalog, and the very first coin listed was that 1705 ruble. I read the description, then it finally hit me right between the eyes...that description was of *my coin*, and that I'd never see it, or my other rubles, or my nice platinum coins...ever again. I had spent all of my free time and money on those coins for years, and...

At 8 PM on a certain night in November, 2008 they were gone. My life had again changed, this time in an instant. I literally didn't know what I would do with myself now, but at least money wasn't a worry. And I was able to ride out a long unemployment a couple of years later, a measure of financial security I could only have imagined in 1990. No, it wasn't winning Powerball, I still need a job. But it has helped a *lot*. Enough that, ironically, I am back where I started. I've gone back to collecting US coins. I can afford them!

And this is because, one Saturday early in June thirty years ago, I bought a rusty copper coin for a dollar.

Perhaps *your* next coin purchase will change your life?