



# COLORADO SPRINGS COIN CLUB COLLECTOR



Meetings: 6:30pm on the fourth Tuesday every month except December  
at the Fraternal Order of Eagles  
1055 21st Street  
Colorado Springs, CO 80905  
Guests are always welcome at our regular meetings

PO Box 10055 COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80932

COLORADOSPRINGSCOINCLUB@GMAIL.COM

## NEW MEETING LOCATION

### Fraternal Order of Eagles 1055 21st Street

Colorado Springs, CO 80905

Please park on the west (back) side of the building and enter through that door.

## Have dinner at the Fraternal Order of Eagles before our meeting!

This month, they will serve a meatloaf dinner  
\$8.00 gets you meatloaf, veggies and a dessert  
(Drink is extra)

Enter through the front door 5-6 PM  
If asked, tell them you're a Coin Club member

## APRIL 2021 MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY, APRIL 27, AT 6:30PM. DOORS OPEN AT 6PM.

1. Introduction of guests and new members
  2. Secretary's Report.
  3. Treasurer's Report.
  4. Collector's Corner.
    - We would like everyone at the meeting to share something of interest.
    - Or bring anything you showed during one of our Zoom meetings.
  5. Old Business
    - Are there any items that the membership would like to discuss?
  6. New Business
    - Is there anything the membership would like to discuss?
  7. Intermission/Break
  8. Program: **Match the Coin to the Country**  
There will be ten foreign coins, can you guess what countries made them? Prizes:
    - 1st Prize: Canadian silver half dollar
    - 2nd Prize: Canadian silver quarter
    - 3rd Prize: A Canadian silver dime, plus all ten of the coins used in the contest.
  9. Auction
  10. Door and Membership Prize Drawings
    - Membership Prize: 1987 Prestige Set (including the Constitution dollar)
    - Door Prizes (All are silver):
      - 1964 (P) Kennedy Half
      - 1937 S Washington Quarter
      - 1949 D Washington Quarter
      - 1944 D Mercury Dime
      - 1963 D Roosevelt Dime
    - YN Prize: 1954 Canadian \$1 banknote, Uncirculated.
  11. Adjournment.
-

# MARCH 2021 MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 23, AT 6:30PM

This meeting was held at our new meeting place, Fraternal Order of Eagles.

1. Introduction of guests and new members
  - 27 members present, no guests
2. Secretary's Report.
  - Deadline to send in dues was 3/15/21 and an email reminder has been sent to all of those who have not paid yet. If dues were not received by then a new membership form will need to be filled out
  - The report was approved by the membership.
3. Treasurer's Report.
  - Balance as of 3/23/2021 is \$12,778.24 [See full report below.]
  - The report was approved by the membership.
4. Old Business
  - A dues reminder has been sent for those who have not paid.
5. New Business
  - Dave S. went over our new meeting location at the FOE. A cash bar and dinner for \$7 is available for our members. If interested in purchasing dinner, please do between 5 and 6 PM.
  - National Coin Week will be taking place April 18-24. We will send out information and the 15-question trivia contest in the near future. There will be a special to join the ANA for \$5 (electronic subscription) and \$20 (for print subscription). Bookmarks and buttons are at the registration table.
  - Thank you to Andrena and Ivy M. for bringing refreshments to the meeting
  - Tonight was the final night to enter the "Guess the Price of Gold" contest. We have 28 participants to guess the closing ask price for gold on 2/25/22. A gold coin will be awarded as the prize.
  - The Colorado Springs Coin, Currency & Collectibles Show that runs between the Summer Seminar sessions is taking place Weds., June 23 to Saturday, June 26. We have not had any updates on the show, but further information is listed in CoinZip. The clubs will have tables at the show for membership and raffle.
6. Collector's Corner
  - Due to our White Elephant Auction and time constraints, we did not have Collectors Corner. Please bring items to our April 27th meeting.
7. Other Items
  - Get well cards were signed and sent to Robert T., George M. and Jerry F.
  - We will have a contest at the April meeting to match the coin with the corresponding country.
  - The May meeting will have a speaker from the Bank Collectors Club
  - Still thinking about running our own one-day club show.
  - Steve D. and Dave S. went to the Longmont show. It was busy with 25-30 dealers.
  - The Denver Coin Show is May 6-8 at the Western Complex. Admission is \$5. 10:00-6:00 Thurs. & Friday, 10:00-4:00 Saturday.
8. Intermission/Break.
9. Program. **White Elephant Auction.**
  - There were numerous donations, and \$397 was raised.
  - Thank you to everyone who donated, purchased, and ran the auction.
10. Auction  
Not held due to the White Elephant Auction.

11. Door and Membership Prizes.
  - Membership Prize: 1988 Prestige Set
  - Door Prizes:
    - 1952 (P) Silver Franklin Half
    - 1946 D Silver Washington Quarter
    - 1946 S Silver Washington Quarter
    - 1942 D Silver Mercury Dime
    - 1964 D Silver Roosevelt Dime
  - YN Prize: 2003 US \$2 banknote, Crisp Uncirculated.
12. Adjournment

### 13. JANUARY-FEBRUARY TREASURER'S REPORT

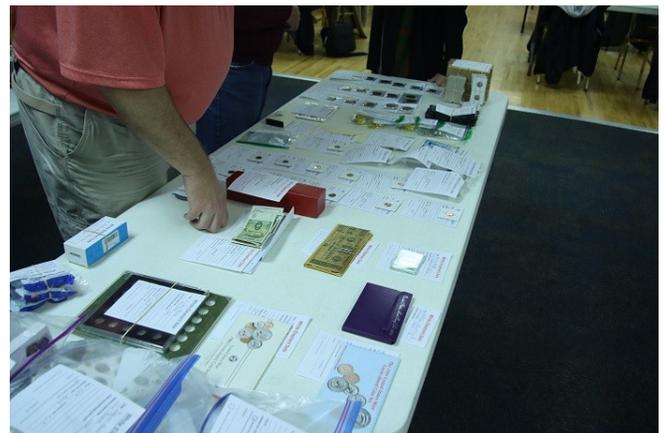
Barbara T. submitted the following February 23-March 23 treasurer's report at our February meeting.

BALANCE IN ACCOUNT 2/23/20		\$12,638.24
Monies Received		
Membership	50.00	
Membership	40.00	
Membership	50.00	
Total Deposit:	140.00	+140.00
SUB-TOTAL		\$12,778.24
Expenses		
Half of shared PO Box Rental / 6 Years	289.00	
Fraternal Order of Eagles March Meeting	75.00	
Kevin Lester, Club Webpage for March	25.00	
Frank Thomas, Door Prize Coins	45.60	
Petty Cash for White Elephant Auction	100.00	
Dave Starling, Misc. Items for club meetings	70.49	
Barbara Thomas, White Elephant Auction	48.99	
Total Expenses	654.08	-654.08
TOTAL		\$12,124.16
BALANCE IN ACCOUNT 3/23/21		\$12,124.16

### PICTURES FROM THE MARCH MEETING



*Checking Out the White Elephant Auction lots*



*White Elephant Auction coins*



Lots of stuff up for grabs



Auction in Progress. Left to Right: Frank T, Dave S, Kevin L, Dan U. Thanks to all who made the auction a success!

## JLF U. S. Coins



*Specializing in:*

- 2019-W and 2020-W quarters (year sets and singles)
- U. S. Copper
- Liberty “V” Nickels
- Buffalo Nickels
- Mercury Dimes
- Silver Comemmorative Halves
- Modern Proof Sets
- Misc. U. S. Denominations

Call Jerry to discuss  
or for dates and prices  
(719) 930-2823 [M]

Complimentary evaluations



*Legal defense for self-defense*

**WE PROTECT YOU  
SO YOU CAN  
PROTECT THEM**

In most jurisdictions, there will be an investigation if you use a gun or any other legal weapon to stop a threat. This means merely displaying your firearm, whether you pull the trigger or not. The legal system can be hostile, even if you did nothing wrong.

Because you are concerned about the consequences of doing what’s legally right, we offer comprehensive protection for both criminal and civil defense – whether it is a minor accident or major life-altering situation.

NO caps NO limits NO deductibles

Starting at only \$10.95/month

Call Jerry at 719.930.2823 for details and/or to receive a discount.



Refreshments brought by Andrena and Ivy

## 2022 NATIONAL MONEY SHOW WILL BE IN COLORADO SPRINGS

**COLORADO SPRINGS COIN CLUB AND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY WILL SERVE AS HOST CLUBS**

*Partially based on ANA press releases*

The American Numismatic Association has selected Colorado Springs for the National Money Show. It will run from March 10-12 (Thursday through Saturday) at the Broadmoor. (Wednesday, March 9 is a dealer/exhibitor setup day.)

For our members who are not in town: The ANA has negotiated very low rates for the world-renowned Broadmoor Resort (which currently holds the record for longest running AAA Five-Diamond and Forbes Five-Star awards): \$169 for classic rooms, \$179 for superior rooms and \$199 for premier rooms. In addition to that, the normal \$32 resort fee has been waived.

The leadership of both this Club and the Numismatic Society put together an offer to serve as co-host clubs for this show. We have already done much of the organizing, with the following people serving as the various chairs:

Host Chairman	Steve D.
Assistant Host Chairman	Dan U.
Honorary Chairman	To Be Determined
Ambassadors	Dave S. and Holly S.
Collector Exhibits	Steve D.
Money Talks	Jerry F.
Scout Chairman	Dan U.
Pages	Georgia W.

Please consider volunteering to help out. It's almost a year away but that's not as long as it seems.

### WE WANT WRITERS!

You may have noticed we've been including articles towards the end of the newsletter. Steve D. has done a few, and Kevin L. has contributed one as well. We've also brought in a guest writer from the Elgin Coin Club. But it would be very nice to publish things written by other club members as well. Please let us know if you have anything to share. (Text documents greatly preferred over PowerPoint.)

### ADVERTISE IN THIS NEWSLETTER!

Want our membership to know about your business? Advertise in this newsletter! Here are the rates:

Size	Dimensions	Rate	
	(width x height)	6 months	Full Year
Business Card	3½ x 2	Not Available	\$12
Quarter Page	3 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub> x 5 or 7 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> x 2½	\$30	\$55
Half Page	3 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub> x 10 or 7 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> x 5	\$60	\$110
Full Page	7 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> x 10 (text area) or 8½ x 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 change from issue to issue by providing an updated print-ready ad at least ten days before the next club meeting.

## CONTEST: GUESS THE PRICE OF GOLD

Our Guess The Price of Silver contest was a resounding success, so we are going to upgrade. This year, we will hold a guess the price of *gold* contest.

The rules are simple: Guess the price of gold as of January 25th, 2022.

The deadline for your guess was at our March meeting on Tuesday the 23rd. The following people submitted entries:

\$1,490.00	Holly S.	\$1,937.00	Jason S.	\$2,223.00	Doug L.
\$1,650.00	Matt G.	\$1,955.00	Hector R.	\$2,250.00	Steve D.
\$1,654.00	Elise P.	\$1,994.00	Debbie G	\$2,310.00	Milt N.
\$1,713.00	Dave S.	\$1,999.00	Kevin L	\$2,323.00	Chris L
\$1,785.00	Ivy M.	\$2,000.00	Austin S.	\$2,350.00	Jim B.
\$1,827.00	Steven S.	\$2,004.00	Wayne W	\$2,720.00	Andrena M.
\$1,848.10	Frank T.	\$2,047.00	Robert D.	\$2,730.00	James N.
\$1,862.00	John G.	\$2,103.00	Dan U.	\$4,000.00	Lynn M.
\$1,900.00	Nerissa L.	\$2,108.00	Dale G.		
\$1,922.50	Barbara T.	\$2,205.00	Cliff S.		

## FUTURE EVENTS

### COLORADO SPRINGS COIN CLUB MEETINGS

April 27 *An in person* meeting. The program is a Guess the Coin contest, with ten foreign coins, with prizes given to the top three people.

There are also a number of programs in the queue, including one on a bank collection.

### COLORADO SPRINGS NUMISMATIC SOCIETY MEETINGS

These are normally on the second Sunday of every month, except December, at 2 PM. **Meetings are now in-person!** The regular location is the same as our former location, at the CSPD Community Room, 955 W. Moreno Avenue. Temporarily, the meetings are occurring at Hilltop Baptist Church, 6915 Palmer Park Blvd (which is on the southeast corner of Palmer Park and Peterson Road at the light about a mile *east* of Powers Boulevard and the Golden Corral).

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.

### UPCOMING LOCAL COIN SHOWS

May: Denver Coin Expo, the largest regularly scheduled show in Colorado, other than our own Colorado Springs Coins, Currency, and Collectibles Show. **May 6-8, Thursday through Saturday.** 10 AM - 6 PM Thursday and Friday, 10 AM - 4 PM Saturday. Contact: Neal, (720) 773-1175, [denvercoinexpo@gmail.com](mailto:denvercoinexpo@gmail.com)

June: Colorado Springs Coins, Currency and Collectibles show is **CANCELED**.

Sep/Oct: Denver Coin Expo, Sep 30 - Oct 2. Same contact information as for the May show.

## AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION (ANA) EVENTS

The ANA Headquarters, including the Money Museum, is now open limited hours, 11-3 Wed - Fri.

2021 Summer Seminar has been CANCELLED.

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

2022 National Money Show, Colorado Springs CO—The Broadmoor, March 10-12 2022

# 1837 – .900 FINE: THE MINT'S JOB GETS EASIER

## ARTICLE

By Steve D., Colorado Springs Coin Club

In 1837 the United States Congress approved, and the mint implemented, technical changes to both the gold and silver coinage that greatly simplified the jobs of the people whose jobs it was to prepare the precious metal stock that was minted into coinage.

*Silver:* Our original coinage act (April 4, 1792) specified that silver coinage would be dollars and decimal fractions thereof. But where did that dollar come from? Was it something just made up on the spot?

No, it wasn't. Since Britain had this rather quaint notion that the idea of colonies was to send money to the mother country, not the other way around, they didn't provide for currency here. And, for the most part they refused to grant authority to mint coinage, so the individual colonies issued paper money. In addition to that, a lot of foreign coinage circulated. One of the most popular such was the Spanish 8 reales coin (the "piece of eight"), which was of a size very similar to a thaler, a large silver coin that had been made in Europe since 1520. We therefore called them "dollars."

We quite naturally wanted our new homemade dollars to be as much like the Spanish pieces as possible, so people accustomed to the Spanish pieces could seamlessly adopt ours. So, before this act had been written, we had assayed a number of these Spanish dollars and the average result was "baked in" to the coinage specified in the act, to wit: The act specified that a dollar should weigh 416 grains, and contain  $371\frac{1}{4}$  grains of pure silver, the rest copper.

A "grain" is  $\frac{1}{7000}$  of a pound avoirdupois—that's the pound you use at the grocery store and curse at on the bathroom scale—and therefore there are 437.5 grains in a "grocery store" ounce. A grain is also  $\frac{1}{480}$  of a troy ounce, which is what you use to weigh all that gold and silver you have socked away. (At least, I *hope* you have plenty of gold and silver socked away.) Grains are the same in both the avoirdupois and troy systems, and the mint operated in grains.

Let's look at that standard for the dollar:  $371\frac{1}{4}$  grains of pure silver in a 416 grain coin. So the silver needs to be  $\frac{371\frac{1}{4}}{416}$  fine. Well, that's an ugly fraction, so let's multiply top and bottom by four to get  $\frac{1485}{1664}$ .

This won't reduce to some saner-looking fraction. If you try, you'll find out that the top number is divisible by 3 (three times), 5 and 11, and the bottom divides by 2 (seven times!) and 13, so nothing will cancel. It's quite ugly as a decimal, too: It's 0.8924278846153 (and the 846153 repeats forever). I am pretty sure the mint workers worked more naturally in fractions, however, so they never saw that frightful number.

But that's actually not the relevant proportion. To make a melt of standard silver they needed 1485 parts of silver and  $1664-1485=179$  parts of copper, for a ratio of 179:1485. This is also a non reducible ratio (179 is a prime number which means this ratio will just laugh at you if you try).

*Gold:* By contrast, the original gold standard was a lot simpler to work with, it was 22 karat, which is to say  $\frac{22}{24}$  or  $\frac{11}{12}$  fine. Eleven parts of gold and one part of a mixture of silver and copper was quite easy to work

with. This was the government, however, so if it was easy to work with, something had to be done about that. So it was changed in 1834 as described in my previous article.

(OK, there were other very good reasons to change it.)

The 1834 change reset the gold-silver ratio to something more realistic, but the new alloy was almost as inconvenient as the silver alloy. The eagle (ten dollars) contained 232 grains in a 258 grain coin.  $\frac{232}{258}$  *does* reduce, to  $\frac{116}{129}$ . Big deal! In decimal, it's even uglier: 0.899224806201550387596 (and then that entire mess repeats itself forever). No doubt the mint workers were unhappy about this one too.

Both of these standards were very close to  $\frac{9}{10}$ , especially the gold one. Indeed, in the early days it must have been tempting to "cheat" a bit on the silver, to make 416-grain dollars of .900 fine silver. The coins would actually have *more* silver in them than required by law, and it would be easier to do. Since people were bringing in silver to be coined (this was done as a public service), they wouldn't complain, would they?

I say it must have been tempting, and I mean "must" quite literally. We *know* it was tempting because that's exactly what they did. At a fairly recent ANA World's Fair of Money, I got to sit in on a fairly long and thorough talk on a destructive (yikes!!) analysis done of 1795-dated silver coins that showed it was much more likely they were aiming at .900 fine than  $\frac{1485}{1664}$  fine. It was given at the John Reich Collector's Society meeting. (The JRCS is the specialist club for collectors of early [pre-Liberty Seated] US silver and gold.)

Unfortunately, they got caught. Large depositors were receiving fewer coins (but with the same amount of silver) than they were expecting. From that point forward the mint workers had to follow the rules.

As far as I know there was no cheating with the post-1834 gold.

Finally, these laws were revised, on January 18, 1837, to fix the fineness of both gold and silver at .900 fine. The mint must have known this change was in the pipeline, because they didn't start minting gold and silver that year until after this date.

Let's take a closer look. Instead of  $371\frac{1}{4}$  grains silver in a 416 grain coin being a silver dollar,  $371\frac{1}{4}$  grains in  $412\frac{1}{2}$  grains were to be silver. In other words, less copper was to be used, while keeping the same amount of silver, reducing the weight of the coin.

Doing the same arithmetic as before, the coins were  $\frac{371\frac{1}{4}}{412\frac{1}{2}}$  fine; multiplying top and bottom by four, this is  $\frac{1485}{1650}$  fine. Right off the bat you know you can reduce this; you can obviously divide top and bottom by 5, then a simple test will show you that you can divide by 3, and then you'll see both top and bottom can divide by 11 to give you  $\frac{9}{10}$ .

So simply by reducing our dollar's weight by  $3\frac{1}{2}$  grains of copper, we fixed a rather annoying problem with our coinage.

Of course this worked out, proportionally, for the lower denominations: half dollars went from 208 grains to  $206\frac{1}{4}$  grains, quarters from 104 grains to  $103\frac{1}{8}$  grains, dimes from  $41\frac{3}{5}$  grains to  $41\frac{1}{4}$  grains, and half dimes from  $20\frac{4}{5}$  grains to  $20\frac{5}{8}$  grains.

The same law left the total weight of the gold coinage untouched, but required that the gold be .900 fine, with the other ten percent being a mixture of copper and silver, with at most half of that being silver. So the amount of gold in an eagle increased just a bit, from 232 grains to  $232\frac{1}{5}$  grains.

Compared to the complicated ratios that previously had to be weighed out in the melting room, weighing out nine parts of gold (or silver) to one part of alloy was a breeze.

Unlike in 1834 where the gold coinage was redesigned to make the difference between old and new coins obvious, no design change happened in 1837 because the precious metal content didn't change at all for silver and changed by less than 0.1% for gold.

The situation in 1834 had huge implications for the collectors of US gold. The post 1834 coins were much more likely to survive, and are much more available now, and it's possible for mere mortals to collect them.

If you do have the money of Bill Gates and are collecting by date, though, you'll need two different 1834 quarter and half eagles, a capped head left of each denomination, and a classic head, because the weight and design change happened in mid year. (Half eagle prices from the Red Book: Capped head: \$45,000, Classic Head \$1,350 in AU-50.)

But this 1837 change means *absolutely nothing* to most collectors, because it happened at the beginning of the year. If, for example, you collect half dimes by date, you'll have an 1836 and an 1837 in your collection, and *you're covered*. Even if you get down to varieties...you're covered!

But maybe *not* if one is a type collector. This is one of those weird cases where type collecting doesn't simplify things at all. For example, the capped bust half dime series ran from 1829-1837 and, were it not for this change, one could get one coin to cover that type, like, say, this one:



1829 Half Dime, PCGS AU-58 CAC, 1485/1664ths fine, ASW 18<sup>9</sup>/<sub>16</sub> grains

But now that there's this weight change, and it happened at the beginning of 1837...one needs an 1837. It's a one-year type.

Or is it? Let's face it, most type collectors don't bother with stuff like this. There are later and more obvious composition changes they don't bother with.

But then again, type collectors almost always *do* consider the post-1964 ~~tin foil~~ clad coinage different from the prior silver coinage, even though there was no design change at all. (The only type book I've seen that doesn't is the one Jeff Garrett did. I always thought that was odd, until I realized: he's actually the only one who's consistent!)

So it's really a matter of where one draws the line. And I would maintain that since it took an *act of Congress* to change the composition, then if anything this is *more important* than a design change.

So yes, *I* needed an 1837. Covered!



1837 Half Dime, PCGS AU-58 CAC, .900 fine, ASW 18<sup>9</sup>/<sub>16</sub> grains

Things go similarly for other denominations. Capped Bust dimes and quarters went through a change, in 1828 and 1831 respectively, where they began to be struck in collar with a reeded edge. So before even considering the 1837 change, a type set should have two dimes and two quarters. But the dime ended in 1837, and the quarter in 1838. So in both cases one needs a third example, an 1837 (for the dime) and an 1837 or 1838 for the quarter.

So far none of these coins are terribly expensive, but since I was looking for a very specific coin in a high grade, it took me a long time to find them (and I'm still not thrilled with the quarter I did find). I found them all very late in my type set collecting. The side benefit was not having to pay big bucks for every single one of the last coins in the set!

With dollars, there's really no new issue here. We were experimenting with returning to the dollar coinage in 1836, struck six hundred Gobrecht dollars that year to the old standard, then again in 1838 to the new standard, but with a different design, which may really be a pattern. So if a type set actually includes Gobrecht pieces, it's already covered due to design changes.

The half dollar is where it gets a bit ugly. The Capped Bust half dollars lasted clear into 1839. So at first blush it looks like a collector can just get one from 1837-1839 to go along with the pre-1837 and be done. But no, it's a bit more complicated than that. There was a design change in 1838, and the denomination was changed from "50 CENTS" to "HALF DOL." (We Americans have had an historical aversion to numerals in our denominations for some reason—we like to spell them out.)

It turns out these two coins, an 1837 half dollar, and an 1838 (or 39) half dollar, are *very easy* to find in nice, high grades. I found mine years ago. So that's not the ugly part.

The ugly part is—well, remember I mentioned switching to strike the dime and quarter in collar? That change happened to the half dollar *in 1836*. *Very late* 1836. So "lettered edge" half dollars all the way through partway into *December 1836* were struck to the old standard, then the mint switched to the "reeded edge" (struck in collar) half dollar, *which was struck to the old standard*, then we changed to the new standard literally days later and started making 1837 reeded edge half dollars.

That 1836 reeded edge half dollar was the first regular-issue US coin to be struck on a steam press. (And that steam press is now in the ANA museum, back by the big balance beam scale, the 1804 dollar, and the 1913 V nickel.)

According to the official mint figures, they only made about 1200 of the 1836 reeded edge halves.

And if you think like me, and collect like me, you need one for your type set.

Level with me: You don't actually need **two** kidneys, do you?

OK, I jest, but they *are* deep into four figures in AU. Not quite as bad as the no drapery liberty seated half dollar, but close.

Actually, a lot of people doubt that mintage figure. 1836 reeded edge half dollars turn up on the market a lot more often than you would expect if only 1200 were made. I once saw *nine* of them in the same auction—all of them butt ugly! A lot of people who collect capped bust halves think they probably actually made five thousand or so, and some think the real number might be 12,000, and that the guy doing the paperwork dropped a zero. I suspect that since these coins were coming off the whiz-bang shiny new steam press, perhaps more of them got saved. Regardless, they're still a tough date.

And another objection comes up when you look this up in the Red Book. Right under the "CAPPED BUST, REEDED EDGE (1836-1839)" subtitle, in the fine print, it says they were .900 fine. It doesn't say the ones from 1836 were different. So maybe I'm wrong, and you don't need one of those pesky 1836 coins?

Alas, it looks like you do. I spoke with Robert W. Julian about this once, and he told me this was a mistake and he's been trying for years to get them to correct it. He believes the Mint followed the law to the letter, and if he's right, then it *is* a mistake.

There's another commonly available source to check, and that's "MEGA RED," the expanded Red Book that can serve as an elevator counterweight on those rare occasions when you're not using it. The sixth edition has in-depth coverage of half dollars. But it is not going to decide the matter, because it isn't consistent. On page 578 it states "For many years the 1836 half dollar of this type was considered a pattern. However the weight of this issue is that set under the Act of January 18, 1837." But that makes no sense. If it were struck under the standard not yet in force, that would be evidence it really was a pattern, not that it *wasn't* a pattern. So which part of the passage was accidentally said the wrong way?

On the very next page, 579, by contrast, it says *twice* that the 1836s were struck to the old standard. It seems that based on all of this, it's more likely that Bob Julian is right.

One way to know for sure is to weigh a relatively unworn raw coin, or better yet several of them just to be sure you didn't just happen to get one that was out of spec, but where would one find enough raw coins when they're this expensive?



*1836 Reeded Edge Half Dollar, PCGS AU-55 CAC, 1485/1664ths fine, ASW 185<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> grains  
(because having a spare kidney is highly overrated)*

To summarize all of this, the 1837 standard change simplified life at the mint greatly, at least for the blokes in the room where they melted the metal. Collectors can ignore it unless they're particularly strict type collectors; in which case it will make a very complicated era even more complicated. The late 1830s, after all, *also* saw the introduction of the liberty seated coinage and *that* started out with some very-short-lived subtypes!

# NATIONAL COIN WEEK 2021

*(From the American Numismatic Association)*

One hundred years ago, the U.S. Mint reintroduced the Morgan dollar after a 16-year absence. Later that year, production began on a new silver coin, the Peace dollar. And 50 years ago, minting of the Eisenhower dollar commenced.

Milestone anniversaries for these three large and iconic coins inspires the theme of 2021 National Coin Week, **Money, Big & BOLD**. The 98th annual event, held **April 18-24**, will focus on strong initiative in numismatics, and bold leadership and ideas depicted on coins and paper money.

Check [www.money.org](http://www.money.org) soon for articles from [The Numismatist](#), objects from the ANA's [Edward C. Rochette Money Museum](#) collection, video presentations, a young numismatist activity and more. Members can share their knowledge on the [ANA Member Blog](#) and answer daily online trivia questions for the chance to win new 2021 Morgan & Peace silver dollars, proof sets and other items.

ANA clubs are encouraged to register for educational & promotional materials, including the 14th Annual Club Trivia Challenge, Clubs answer 15 questions, and those that earn high scores will receive a prize and be enter into a drawing for a 2021 tenth-ounce gold American Eagle proof coin.

