



THE FRESNO NUMISMATIST

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FRESNO NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

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MEETS **THIRD** TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 7:00 PM

MEETING LOCATION: Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1084 W. Bullard Ave., Fresno CA 93711

Steve Mendyk- President

Carolyn Vance- Treasurer

Sandra Arie- Auction Coordinator

James Obler- Vice President/Editor

Tambra Eddy- Secretary

Bob Holston- Coin Show Chairman

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April, 2026 Meeting:

Redeemer Lutheran Church

1084 W. Bullard Ave.,

Fresno, CA 93711

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at Redeemer Lutheran. Our scheduled activities include a silent auction, member reports, Show & Tell, and our famous prize raffle and membership drawing. President Mendyk has obtained the following prizes for the April raffle: 1st draw, an 1865 3-cent nickel piece in XF. 2nd draw, (2) consecutive series 1934A \$5 Fed Reserve notes in crisp uncirculated. 3rd draw, an 1889-S Morgan dollar in AU. The membership prize will be a 1/4-ounce Y2K-theme silver round.

We will partake of refreshments hosted by Patrick Hemphill. Please note that we provide a cup for collecting tips; if you enjoy the

refreshments, please toss a buck or some change into the cup!

Your Editor will present an educational program on error coins. There are many different process problems that can happen at the mint and each type of problem generates a particular species of error coin. I will bring a variety of error coin examples to illustrate the program material. Hope you enjoy the show!

Last month we reported that we received a group of proof sets as a generous donation from the Novi family. Proof coins in general are a very interesting category of numismatic collectible. The proof concept was basically to produce coins of exceptional quality to confirm proper die performance, for archival purposes, or specifically for sale to collectors. Often proofs were struck to commemorate some special event or occasion.

Many countries have made proof coins over the years. The Philadelphia Mint first attempted

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proof coin production around 1818, with several examples of Draped Bust quarters and half dollars struck in proof format. One or two proof large cents are known dated 1819/8 and a few more are dated 1820 and 1821. Quite a few earlier United States coins have been identified as Specimen strikings, with higher quality than typical business strikes, but most experts agree that true US proof coins were not made prior to 1818. The famous 1804 proof silver dollars, along with proof examples of 1801, 1802, and 1803 dollars were all struck at a later date, most likely after 1832. The 1804 proof gold eagles also dated from this time, when they were struck for inclusion in sets prepared as diplomatic gifts.

Limited production of US proof coins continued from the late 1820s through the 1850s. Most proof issues of the time are known from just a handful of examples and prices for all are very high. A gradual increase in the number of coin collectors in the US eventually created a demand for more proof coinage.

The Philadelphia mint began striking proof coins in quantity in 1858. Starting that year, collectors could order individual proof coins or sets of coins directly from the mint. When new coin denominations were issued (such as 2-cent pieces, 3-cent nickels, 5-cent nickels, and 20-cent pieces), the mint also offered proof versions for most dates. Mintages for most of these classic proof coins ranged from about 300 to several thousand. Since most of these coins were preserved as collectibles, many examples remain available for modern collectors. For some issues from this era there are actually more proofs available than examples struck for circulation. In some cases, proof coins are less expensive than “ordinary” business strikes.

For many dates in United States coin series, only proof coins were made. Sometimes there was no demand for new business strike production but the proof pipeline for collectors continued to operate. Collectors who insist on having an example of every date produced within a series will have no choice but to purchase some proof coins.

Half cent production provides the first example of this situation. The 1831 Classic Head

half cent was struck in proof format. Although some circulated examples are known, most experts agree that those coins are actually proofs that went into circulation. Likewise, 1836 half cents were proof-only. The half cent design was changed to the Braided Hair type in 1840, but only proofs were struck until 1849 when business strikes were also made. Both formats were struck through 1857, except for 1852 when only the proofs were produced.

Two-cent piece business strikes and proofs were issued annually from 1864 through 1872. In 1873 only proofs were made, creating another 1-year proof-only coin. Three-cent silver coins (“trimes”) were struck from 1851 through 1873, with 1873 being another proof-only issue. Three-cent nickels were struck from 1865 to 1889. For this series, the years 1877 and 1878 were only issued as proofs. For the shield nickel 5-cent coins (1866-1883), the same two years were also proof-only.

I’m not aware of any dime series that include proof-only dates. However, the short-lived 20-cent pieces (double-dimes) were struck from 1875 until 1878. Both the 1877 and 1878 coins were proof-only, with mintages of 510 and 600, respectively. The 1827 quarter presents a very mysterious situation. Mint records state that 4,000 coins were delivered for 1827 but no business strikes have ever been certified. Most likely, the reported coins were actually dated 1828. However, approximately 9 examples of proof 1827 quarters have been certified, making this an extremely rare coin.

The 1838-O half dollar is another mystery coin. Officially no half dollars were struck in New Orleans in 1838. However, there is documentation that a few examples were struck early in 1839 to test a newly-repaired coin press. The coins were reported by Chief Coiner Rufus Tyler as being “excellent impressions”. It is likely that these coins constitute the known examples of 1838-O halves and are now considered to be branch-mint proofs. If you need an 1838-O half dollar to complete your set, you will have to settle for one of these. Hopefully you will be able to handle the million-dollar price tag.

Another noteworthy proof-only issue is the 1838 Gobrecht dollar. This very rare issue might

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be available for \$100,000 or so. The 1858 Seated dollar proof has an estimated mintage of around 300 pieces and sells in the \$10,000-\$20,000 range. The famous 1895 Morgan dollar is also only known in proof format and sells for \$50,000-\$100,000.

To discuss proofs or any other type of coin please join us at our next meeting on 04/21!

Last Month's Meeting

Our March 17, 2026 meeting kicked off at 7:13 PM and President Mendyk greeted about 40 attendees, including Mr. John Carlson who signed up as a new member. Secretary Tambra reported that about 29 FNS members still haven't paid dues for 2026; they will be dropped unless dues are paid. Treasurer Carolyn reported we had a balance of \$25,987 in checking. She has deposited \$10,000 from that into a CD so FNS can earn a little interest.

James Johnson reported he attended the Sacramento coin show with other FNS members. Noel Bantay went to the February Long Beach show. He bought some gold bullion coins and submitted some coins for PCGS grading using the in-show service. Scott and Tambra Eddy attended the Southern CA Elongated collector show.

In Show & Tell Virgil Gomez brought a 1929 Lincoln cent in PCGS MS-64RB. Steve Mendyk shared part of his first coin collection: a mostly-complete Whitman album of Jefferson nickels. Your Editor brought a homemade silver ingot that had tarnished while stored in a safe deposit box. David Hayes reported a 2025-S proof Kennedy half dollar that he found in change. Noel Bantay offered additional comments about the Long Beach show.

Arden Estes brought in a group of holed coins: 1819 and 1842 large cents, an 1866 shield nickel, and an 1836 bust half. David Josephine had an 1876-S Trade dollar in PCGS MS-61; he tried to upgrade it but was unsuccessful. Patrick Hemphill shared a 50-cent fractional note from the Civil War. Randy Clifton reported he had shared his interest in the Carson City mint with his father. Randy brought an 1891-CC Morgan dollar in PCGS AU-55. James Johnson bought a silver medal depicting Kentucky Derby winning horse "Count Fleet". He also picked up a 1-ounce comic book hero medal.

After refreshments we heard a presentation from Scott Eddy on elongated coin collecting. He started out with an assortment of elongated cents featuring the Santa Cruz beach boardwalk, San Diego Zoo, and other tourist attractions. Scott was able to connect a Bluetooth speaker to a laptop computer and the FRS projector for an audio and video presentation. We watched a program from TEC (The Elongated Collector) recorded from the World's Fair of Money in Oklahoma City in 2025.

After the presentation we had a live auction with David Josephine on the job as our auctioneer. We then conducted our prize raffle and membership drawing. The President adjourned the meeting around 9:10PM.

March Prize Winners:

1st Draw: 1955-S Lincoln Cent in MS-66+ Red.

Winner- Michael Harutunian.

2nd Draw: 1939-S Walking Liberty Half, AU-50.

Winner- avid Josephine.

3rd Draw: Series 1934 \$100 Fed note, VF.

Winner- Barry McLemore.

Membership Prize: 1959 Franklin Half Dollar in BU.

Winner: Dave Cadenasso.

Coin Show Schedule

Santa Clara Coin Show

DATE- April 24-25

LOCATION- American Legion Post 419, 958 Homestead Road, Santa Clara, CA 95050

Cupertino Coin Club Annual Coin Show

DATE- April 26, 2026

LOCATION- St. Joseph of Cupertino Church, 10110 N. De Anza Blvd, Cupertino, CA 95014

Sacramento Valley Coin Club - Spring Show

DATE- May 1-2, 2026

LOCATION- Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, 4900 Duckhorn Dr., Sacramento, CA 95834

Arcadia Coin, Currency, and Collectibles Show

DATE- May 16 & 17, 2026.

LOCATION- Masonic Lodge, 50 W Duarte Rd, Arcadia, CA 91007

Sacramento Coin Show by McIntosh Coins

DATE- May 31, 2026

LOCATION- Lions Gate Hotel / Officers Club 3410 Westover Street, McClellan, CA 95652

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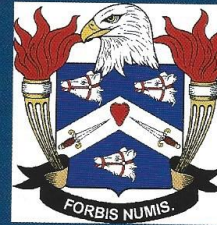
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