

Manhattan Coin Club
May 2012

President Chuck called the meeting to order on a cool May evening. Dave reported that the treasury is in good shape since the show and all bills have been paid.

Auction reports were made. Doyle had gone to Windom and reported that silver collectible coins were going for a little less than retail prices. Doyle had gone to an auction, which advertised a 1943 copper cent and was disappointed when his magnet picked up the coin!

Matthew reported on his activities as Web master. He mainly focused on the Web Page and the Forum, which has increasing activity. There were 4 entries a day in March and 7 a day in April and so far 10 a day in May. We need to work hard to keep up the 10 a day for the month. Hopefully there will be activity by local members as well as those who check in from afar. Matthew reported that Ray had made an appeal on email for more forum use and that may have been what made a spike for a few days.

Larry from the Salina Coin club presented the program on Military Payment Certificates. He believes in hands on activities rather than pictures and passed out several certificates in plastic sleeves for members to study.

Military Payment Certificates (MPC's) were used in combat zones from 1946 to 1973. Greenbacks were NOT used in combat zones during these years. Larry said that prior to 1946, U. S. Military Personnel were paid in the currency of the nation. When it was decided that this was costing an extra 500 million dollars, the nation came up with the MPC's. There were over one billion of the certificates produced.

MPC's were issued in amounts of 5 cents to 10 dollars until 1966 when the 20-dollar certificate was added. He told of the C days when everyone was confined to the base and the old MPC's were traded for New MPC's. The old ones were destroyed. These bills were used for service clubs, gambling and even were used in businesses off post.

Like all certificates, there were errors and they were also counterfeited. There were over one billion of the certificates produced during the 27 years they were used. There were 13 series issued with multiple prints. Larry provided an in-depth explanation of series, suffix, etc. It is interesting to note that out of the billion produced, there were only 3,000 replacement notes. These are difficult to find today. Certificates are lithographed rather than printed. MPC's are collected by numbers, as are regular greenbacks. The toughest ones to find are the \$5, \$10, and \$20. Designs and vignettes are borrowed from other currencies of the U. S. and foreign countries. Doyle has great interest in the topic and provided much helpful information. Doyle used the certificates when he was in the military. He also collects MPC's.

Chuck announced that Mark is running for VP for KNA. It was moved, seconded and unanimously voted to support Mark. Dave will carry this vote to the KNA meeting.

Jerry is running for the Board of Governors. Dave will do the same for Jerry.

Everyone raced home to see if they had any MPC's!

Do not forget the picnic at the June Meeting. This may be the best meeting of the year.