

# Manhattan Coin Club Minutes

## September 13, 2016

President Alan called the meeting to order at the American Legion.

There was no Treasurer's report but Dave said we are in the black. He reminded members that annual dues are up for renewal.

As we have some new members each member introduced him or herself and said what they collect.

### Old Business:

No old business

### Auctions:

Doyle announced a number of auctions that may be found on our Club [webpage](#) or on <http://kansasauctions.net/>. Doyle said that the auction in Salina on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> would have jewelry, gemstone & coins. <http://www.contentadjuster.com/october18thjewelryauction>

Many members said that the Johnson County Numismatic Society Coin, Stamp & Card show in Lenexa was great. The show takes place every October.

### New Business:

Alan said we needed a program in November and we had a volunteer. The program content is to be determined.

### Program:

Alan gave the program on United States Pattern Coins.

A "pattern" is an experimental or trial coin, generally of new design, denomination, or metal (Source; 2017 Red Book). The collecting of patterns has been a small, but significant, part of numismatics since the nation began.

References to help collectors locate, view, and understand include the book United States Pattern Coins, by J. H. Judd details over 2,000 individual patterns from 1792 onward. Pattern coins are usually given a "Judd number" to catalog them. "Restrikes" differ from patterns in that they were struck specifically for collectors, often many years later. Diagnostics, such as the use of rusted dies, easily distinguish restrikes from originals. Both are highly collectable.

Before any particular coin is minted for release to the public, it must be envisioned, created in metal, tested for striking qualities, and approved by mint authorities. In the past, mint officials have often sought design approval from members of Congress prior to minting for circulation. From its beginning until the latter half of the Nineteenth Century; patterns were sometimes created solely for government officials or collectors.

Patterns have often been struck in off-metal or special alloy substances. Examples include coins to eventually be issued in silver that were minted in copper, aluminum, nickel, or even gold. These are very rare and examples are often located in museums. Actual mintage quantities are mostly unknown for most pattern coins, with certification (slabbing) services recording population reports. Perhaps the rarest of patterns is the 1977 Fifty Dollar Gold coin, the single specimen currently housed at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC.

Well-known examples of pattern (trial) strikings include 1856 Flying Eagle Cents, Gobrecht (Seated Liberty) Dollars of the 1830's, and the Four Dollar (Stella) gold coins. Most patterns were minted, as they would later be circulated, if approved, many were proof strikings. Not officially sanctioned, some pattern coins were made for sale to favored government officials (including mint directors), dealers, and collectors. More a curiosity than an investment, most patterns ended up in either owners' coin cabinets or museum showcases. Many now reside in the National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution. Due to clamping down on past mint practices, all pattern coins dated after 1885 are extremely rare.

One source of information on pattern coins is the website operated by The Society of U.S. Pattern Collectors (<http://uspatterns.com/>), founded in 1999. Their Photo Gallery displays many pattern coins, including some unique specimens. The Society claims to currently have 250 members and membership is free.



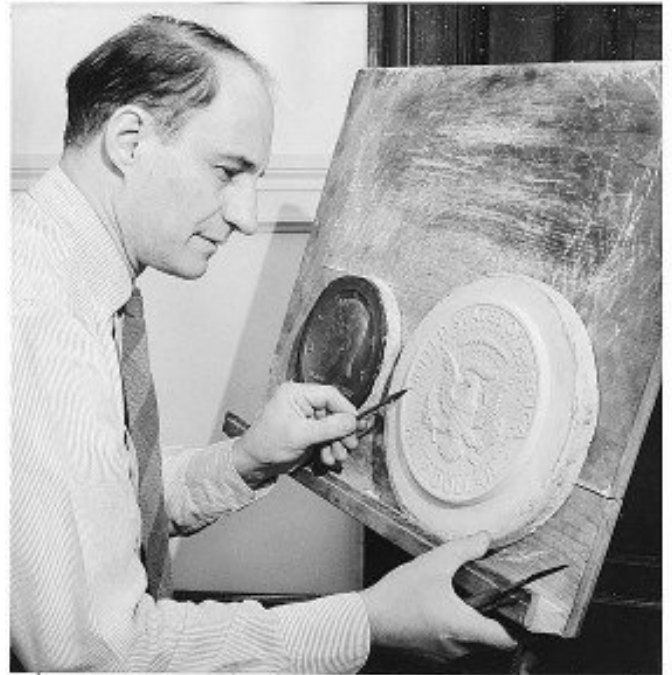
1855 Flying Eagle  
Cent Pattern MS-62  
NGC (Judd-171)



## US Mint [Chief Engravers and Sculptors](#)

Chief Engravers are the highest artists, sculptors and staff members employed at the US Mint. Throughout most of US history, Chief Engravers and Sculptors of the US Mint were directly appointed by the President of the United States. Their appointment was typically a lifetime tenureship. There were only 12 Chief Engravers in US history, many of them passed away while still in office. Gilroy Roberts was the first person to retire at a Chief Engraver in 1964 and not die in office. This appointment was first created and put into the Department of Treasury when Congress drafted the Coinage Act of 1792. Chief Engravers are in charge of designing coins and engraving the dies for all of the US Mints. The list below is ordered from the first engraver down to the most current engraver:

Joseph Wright \* (died before getting the job)  
Robert Scot (1793-1823)  
William Kneass (1824-1840)  
Christian Gobrecht (1840-1844)  
James B. Longacre (1844-1869)  
William Barber (1869-1879)  
Charles E. Barber (1879-1917)  
George T. Morgan (1917-1925)  
John R. Sinnock (1925-1947)  
Gilroy Roberts (1947-1964)  
Frank Gasparro (1965-1981)  
Elizabeth Jones (1981-1991)  
vacant (1991-2006)  
John M. Mercanti (2006-2010)  
vacant (2010-present)



### Second Engravers

The Second Engraver is an early US Mint position in a rank just below the Chief Engraver. Only one early and notable Second Engraver is responsible for designing and engraving major US coinage:

John Reich

### Chief Coiners

The Chief Coiner is another early US Mint position responsible for coining the early US coins. Again, only one person is highly notable in this Mint staff position:

Henry Voigt

### Other Prominent Coin Designers, Sculptors and Engravers

Not every designer of US coins was employed by the Mint. In fact, some coins were produced by outside artists and sculptors. Particularly, these folks are some of the most renowned and experienced artists in the country during their times. Only so many people could become chief engravers or an employee at the mint, so many of these people were just as skilled and experienced. Below is an always-growing list of highly reputable and legendary designers and engravers of US coins, ordered by their earliest works:

Augustus Saint Gaudens  
Bela Lyon Pratt  
Victor D Brenner  
James Earle Fraser  
Adolph A Weinman  
Hermon A MacNeil  
Anthony de Francisci  
John Flanagan  
Felix Schlag

Jack L Ahr  
Seth G Huntington  
Dennis R Williams  
William Cousins  
Glenna Goodacre  
Don Everhart



There was a large and active bid table.

The meeting then concluded with the silent auction and the drawing of door prizes. Chuck T. was the winner of the door prize of a collection of silver.