

Manhattan Coin Club Minutes

March 2017

President Allan called the meeting to order at the American Legion. Treasurer Dave reported a profit of \$279.44 on our coin show with a club balance of \$2,564.75.

Old Business:

There was a lengthy discussion prompted by Chris on continuing the coin show. Many ideas and opinions were shared.

The concern about continuing the show was in part based upon the amount of support members were contributing to the setting up and tearing down from the show. The group consensus was to continue the show. Ideas were talked about such as changing the date of the show and the day. There were a number of concerns expressed about having the show on Saturday and an equal number of concerns about continuing to have the show on Sundays. Having the show over spring break was also a concern and the group discussed changing the date. Concerns were expressed about the many alternative activities and shows in the area and that the time the show is presently held is to avoid conflicts with them.

Collaborating with other groups such as antique dealers or gold investment dealers was discussed.

Offering some alternative events that would run in conjunction with the show was discussed such as having an educational component or a separate room for appraisals. The rebranding to promote the appraisals during the show to be more like the Antique Roadshow was also discussed.

Phil told the group about the excitement his grandchildren had with the show and collections coins.

Chris also brought up the amount of time Dave spent contacting all the members by phone. To make it easier for him Chuck will email a reminder to the membership each month and Dave will continue to call the "older" members. No definition of "older member" was given. 😊

Larry discussed the coins that he was given to sort though in a 5-gallon milk container containing over \$1,000 in coins and a few bills. The breakdown he gave of all the coins was amazing. He said he really enjoyed doing it.



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Randy informed the group that as part of National Coin Week the display the he and Doyle put together will be on display in the Millenium Bank, 121 N Washington St., in Junction City.



The work they put into this showed. It is a great educational display.

The program for May will be Mystery Grader. Please get your coins for grading to Dave ASAP. The program for June will be our annual picnic held in Long's Park at 17th and Yuma. Details TBA.

John won the first door prize of a 1oz. silver round. Doyle won the second door prize of a 2018 Red Book. Following the silent auction the meeting was concluded.

Kids' Coins Prompted by Phil



Spain 1890 5 Pesetas with bust of the "infant king," Alfonso XIII

Very few traits of pre-democratic regimes so radically differ from today's governments as hereditary claims to rule. Before the winds of democratic change swept through Europe and its overseas empires, governing was usually a family affair. Strict rules determining succession gave rise to myriad dilemmas, with murderous disputes between family members and incestuous relations often providing the fix. One of the more curious resolutions to succession problems was the placing of a child on the royal throne.

Child monarchs were found in all parts of the world. King Tutankhamen of ancient Egypt, who ascended to the throne at age

9, and Puyi, who was less than 5 years of age when he ruled the early twentieth-century Qing dynasty, are just two well-known examples. King Louis XIV of France, the famous “Sun King”, took over Europe’s most important throne before the ripe age of 6. Though always the exception rather than the rule, child monarchs were a recurring feature in global politics before democracy replaced heredity as the preferred method of selecting a ruler.

Coins document this history in a way that can only be described as...well...cute.

King Alfonso XIII of Spain was installed on the throne at birth because his father, Alfonso XII, had passed away the year before. Although his first 16 years of “rule” necessitated the regency of his mother, Maria Christina of Austria, Alfonso XIII would sit atop Spain’s throne until 1941, when he abdicated in favor of his son, Juan.

Silver and gold coinage, beginning with the 1888 5 Pesetas (25g, .9000 Ag, .7234 ASW), bear the portrait of the adorable infant king. Facing left, the portrait is “bare”, meaning without robe or military insignia. In 1893 and 1894, 50 Centimos, Peseta, 2 Pesetas, and 5 Pesetas coins were struck with the adolescent king’s bust, still facing left, but now with a fine head of curly hair. Two other regency types (1896-1902, 1903-1905) were struck with the bust of the child king. Only the fourth type portrays the king, approaching his 16th birthday, wearing his military attire.

The same decade, the 1890s, saw the ascension of another child monarch, Queen Wilhelmina I of the Netherlands. Like Alfonso XIII, Wilhelmina’s reign would continue into the 1940s, though her legacy is far more politically sound and stamped with courage compared to that of the young Spanish king. Wilhelmina (though not without some accusations of Nazi sympathy) would be the face of Dutch resistance against German occupation in World War II. She spoke (in fluent English) before the U.S. Congress in 1942, where she linked the shared histories of the Netherlands and the United States in an effort to seal an ongoing, democratic alliance. For her courage in Europe, the United States awarded Wilhelmina a WWII Victory Medal.

Only one type from Wilhelmina’s regency period exists, which may explain its high collectability. From 1892-1898, the Netherlands issued denominations of 10 cents, 25 cents, 1 Gulden (100 cents), and a gold 10 Gulden, all with the facing-left bust of the young queen. Unlike later types with an older queen donning the royal crown, Wilhelmina appears somehow commoner-like in this regency-period bust, with a peasant’s face and the grimy, dirty blondish hair of a working-class youth. It is a startling type for this reason alone.

There are yet still other coins with the cherub faces of child monarchs. It is curious to see, as with both cases here, the aging of the monarch over long stretches of time. Many specialists in British coins have this in mind when collecting the over 60-years’ worth of “Vicky” (Queen Victoria) portraits. But while we can still appreciate these lovable faces, we should all be thankful that the age of the child monarch has come and gone.