

Manhattan Coin Club Minutes

November 14, 2017

In-coming President Randy called the meeting to order.

Old Business

Randy gave a rundown of last month's business. There was some confusion as what Programs and Events were coming up, so some dates were rearranged. The new stuff is: April will be Jess, May will be Mystery Grader, and July will be Chuck. Just a reminder that next month is the Christmas party and be sure to bring something sweet!

New Business

There was a family of visitors this month. Young Ethan is collecting foreign coins and it interested in numismatics for his Boy Scouts merit badge. With him was his brother, Isaac, sister, Irena, and mother, Kathy.

Matt talked about my preparations for the coin show including my hope to visit the Topeka coin show this Saturday from 9am-5pm at the Mater Dei school on 10th and Clay to pass out flyers and dealer applications.

Matt shared my recent experience in Tucson, Arizona and visiting shops there. The two that he visited had weeklong silent auctions. They would put items in bags and staple it with the bid sheet to a corkboard on a wall. In the case of the bigger store, it had to have 200 items in the silent auction. They would have donuts for the last minute bidders on Saturday morning.

Matt was uninterested in the auctions since he would not be around to pick up any winnings. The smaller store also was a bit quirky in that when he asked for specific items, the owner's response was always, "I just shipped all that I had to Heritage". So, this guy was using his shop to buy from people and then he would auction everything off (either in the silent auction or by an online company). He left that store dissatisfied.

Doyle talked about upcoming auctions. He also talked about the Junction City auction this last weekend where a lot of items sold high (about triple retail, example: common silver certificates that Doyle would be lucky to sell at \$1.50 was selling for \$4-\$5). Half of the lots were medieval silver coins with 10 or so per lot going for \$60-\$70. The auction was well attended by locals and people traveling from a distance.

The program was preserving coins done by Doyle. He shared examples where coins were kept in PVC or cardboard/paper and the coin tarnished or toned.

John won the adult door prize of 1 oz. silver round. Irena won the youth prize of a commemorative silver dollar. Following the silent auction with no further business the meeting adjourned.

Doyle gave a program on storage and preservation of coins. (Note: This is not a verbatim transcript of what was said but covers the areas and recommendations that he made.)

For a pot full of cents, or dozens of dimes, the next best things are inert plastic coin tubes. A glass prescription bottle may hold a handful of coins, but drop it and you'll be picking up glass splinters for days. The hard plastic holders give the coins the best possible protection. Make sure your budget includes proper storage media. Soft plastic bags, like the kind used to store food, should not be used for coin collector storage.



Next come the plastic 2 x 2 coin flips. Make sure that you get rid of the PVC plastic. Mylar flips will replace them, but can damage coins if they are moved in and out frequently, as always, be careful, especially if you are storing valuable gold or silver coins.

Plastic and paper flips should not be used for long-term storage of more than six months. Under exceptional conditions, they will protect your coins over a longer span, but the big problem is that they are not airtight.

The same is true of the cardboard 2 x 2 holders. They have a Mylar window so that you can see both sides of the coin. These can be stapled shut, again with the warning not to get the staples or the stapler too close to the coin. To keep the coin safe the 2 x 2 needs to be stapled on the three open sides. Use your pliers to flatten the staple legs so they don't damage an adjacent coin. Staples will rust, but there are stainless steel staples on the market.

Next, come coin folders and coin boards. These have holes for each date and mint, and in some cases the outstanding minting varieties, such as overdates. These are what you most likely will use to start your collection. Most folders have a paper backing, so you can see only one side of the coin. They expose the visible side to the atmosphere and any pollution, contamination or fingerprints. My recommendation is that you use them for circulated coins that will not show problems. Your uncirculated coins need special protection and proof coins should be left in their packaging. This is especially true for questions on how to store gold coins, if the coin is a proof coin, it should stay in the packaging it came in.

Album pages allow seeing both sides of the coin, usually held in place by plastic strips. This type of album should also be used for circulated coins, as the plastic strips can scratch the coins as they slide back and forth. There are also albums designed to hold the coins in inert plastic holders, such as those used by the grading companies. These of course can be used for proof coins and uncirculated grade coins.

Coin folders are the basis for many, if not most collections, because they often provide several collecting aides. There is a hole for coins for each date. Under the hole is usually the mintage figure, which tells you the relative rarity of the coin. On the flyleaf are facts about the coins, including the weight, diameter and composition, all designed to simplify beginning your collection.

Canvas mint bags are among the poorer storage media. They obviously are not immune to water or contamination. Plus, every time the bag is moved the coins rub and scratch each other, not how to store silver coins, or any valuable coins, for that matter.

At the very bottom of the list are paper wrappers and the plastic tubes used by the Mint to ship coins. The paper wrappers offer only a bare minimum of protection. They tear easily, offer no protection from water damage and are easily penetrated by contamination. The "shotgun rolls" have the two end coins exposed. The soft plastic tubes also offer limited protection, with open ends. As with the paper wrappers, they should not be used for upper grade coins.

The odds are that you may have stored some coins in aluminum foil. This is something you need to immediately change. Any moisture will result in the metal-to-metal contact corroding the coin. I learned this after digging up several rolls of Morgan dollars that had been wrapped in foil and buried in the damp dirt floor of a garage. Every coin had suffered damage that no collector would want.

If you are using a shoebox for coin storage, you are running the risk of contamination. Trade it in for a plastic bin with a tight fitting lid, which will keep out anything in the air.

Doyle recommends using Capital Plastics coin holders for coin collections of moderate to high value or for coins with sentimental value. More information may be found [here](#).