

Manhattan Coin Club Minutes

January 28, 2020

President Randy L. called the meeting to order. There was no guest in attendance. Treasurer Dave S. was absent.

Old Business

President Randy L. reviewed the past minutes. Chuck T. and Doyle R. will be presenting a program at the senior center on Friday, Feb. 28th, at 1:00 pm at the senior center on the 'History and Symbols of the Dollar Bill'.

Treasurer Report

President Randy reported last month's account balance was \$3,176.38, including coin show money, in our account.

DUES ARE PAYABLE!

Auctions

Doyle R. announced a number of auctions. In Lawrence on Saturday, January 18th 10:30 there is a large sale; <https://www.auctionzip.com/cgi-bin/showimage.cgi?lid=3388969&type=at&in=1>. In Salina there is a new auctioneer who is having a sale on Sunday, February 2nd, 2020 at 11:30; <https://kansasauctions.net/baxa/02/02/>. You may find information on auctions at: <https://kansasauctions.net>.

New Business

1. Matt O. via email wanted everyone know that he will be purchasing an ad in the Manhattan Mercury in a couple of weeks to run the Sunday before and the show and the day of. He will provide a signup sheet for people to volunteer to staff the show next month.
2. Allan T. announced the Cessna Coin and Stamp Show will be Feb 14th - 15th, 2020 at the Cessna Activity Center, 2744 George Washington Blvd., Wichita. <http://www.istampshows.com/Cessna-Coin-and-Stamp-Show>. There will a coin show in Salina on April 11th. Details to follow later.

Program:

The program this month was alternate hobbies/collections led by John P. The were two presenters, John P. on lock picking and Chuck T. on book collecting. John led off showing different locks he has acquired and talked about how a pin tumbler lock works.

These locks have six main components:

1. The Housing: The housing of the lock is essentially a fixed outer shell that holds all the functional parts together.
2. The Plug: The plug — or cylinder — is where we insert the key and rotates freely inside the shell when the key is inserted. The plug has a series of holes drilled down the center that allows small pins to enter and exit.

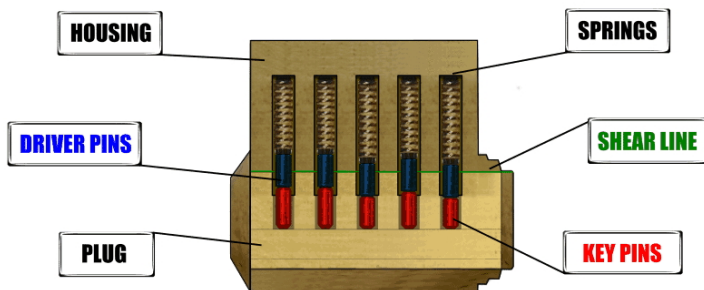


3. The Shear Line: The shear line is the physical gap between the plug and the housing. As we will see later, the shear line plays one of the most important roles in lock picking.

4. Driver Pins: The driver pins are the top set of pins and typically sit halfway between the housing and the plug. Because of this, the plug is restricted from rotating freely as any rotational force placed on the plug would result in binding the driver pins. These pins are the meat and bones of the lock and are what keep the lock... well locked.

5. Key Pins: The key pins are the bottom set of pins and do exactly as the name suggests, make contact with the key when inserted. Each key pin is a different length to match the bitting — or cut — of the appropriate key. We will see the significance of this in a moment.

6. Springs: The springs do what springs do best, push stuff. Their purpose in the lock is to force the driver pins into the plug, thus keeping the plug from freely rotating.



When the key is placed into the cylinder, it pushes the key pins flush with the shear line causing the driver pins to exit the plug. When the gap between the key pins and driver pins is exactly that of the shear line we can rotate the plug and disengage the lock.

A key works in a lock by pushing up a series of pins to a specific height.

This is the basis of pin and tumbler lock picking, to mimic the key by bumping every pin flush with the shear line and then rotating the plug.

John discussed the types of locks available and their uses in different security instances.

- A padlock is a type of portable lock that has a U-shaped shackle that will not come apart from the body of the lock unless the correct key is inserted or the correct combination is dialed. Padlocks are not recommended for high-security applications because the shackle is easily cut with a bolt cutter or hacksaw.
- Are combination padlocks as good as those with keys? The simple answer is no. The mechanism of a combination padlock is such that it cannot be as strong as a keyed padlock. A combination padlock can also be cracked over time simply by trying each code in turn.
- If you're protecting something valuable, chances are thieves or intruders will try harder to take them, so spend the money on a high-security padlock. Think of it as an insurance payment you only have to make once. If they're not so valuable, it's likely thieves won't try as hard to steal them, so a lower-grade padlock will be okay.

Chuck T. showed off some of the books he has collected. Some thoughts that he said...and others that he just thought of are:

- Collect what you love – the best book collections reflect the personalities and interests of their owners. With effort and a little luck, the hobby can be financially rewarding, but like all investments it's never a sure bet. Those who reap the greatest rewards are usually those who buy the books they love.

- Our books will in all likelihood outlast us, so it's many collectors' philosophy that they are paying not for the book itself, but the privilege of preserving it for the next generation.
- Condition is one of the most important considerations in book collecting, so buy at the best condition possible within your budget. It's generally better to have a small collection of superior quality books than a large collection of lower quality. Also make sure that you have a safe place to store your books – they should be kept out of direct sunlight, away from radiators and moisture, and not exposed to swings in temperature.
- Pick a specific collecting area. Starting with something as general as “photography books” can be overwhelming. Instead, narrow it down to “photographs of the American West” or “late 20th-century fashion photography”. You can always expand from this as you develop your collection, or stop and start over with an entirely different topic.
- Don't be afraid to be original. It's exciting to collect in a niche subject area, and you'll have less competition for material. It can also make your collection more appealing when the time comes to sell or donate.
- Look at books. The internet has made it easy to collect from home, but you should still spend as much time as possible viewing books in person. Become a regular at local rare book shops, which can be discovered via the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America, and the International League of Antiquarian Booksellers. These organizations also maintain lists of upcoming book fairs, which are a wonderful way to see books and to make connections with dealers from around the world.
- Be extremely cautious about purchasing books from online auction sites, as it can be difficult to return them if there is a mistake in the description. Dealers who are members of the organizations listed above abide by strict professional standards regarding descriptions and return policies.
- Read about books. You can start with general volumes on book collecting and book history: John Carter's ABC for Book Collectors is one of the best guides (a free .pdf is also available via ILAB), and Nicholas Basbane's, “A Gentle Madness” is a humorous, in-depth look at the hobby. For an academic approach to the history of printed books the best starting point is, “The Coming of the Book: The Impact of Printing, 1450-1800” by Lucien Febvre and Jean Henri Martin.
- Familiarize yourself with the reference material in your subject area, particularly the bibliographies, which describe important editions of books and often provide information on their publishing history, scarcity, and historical or literary importance.



There were no door prizes however John had a duplicate lock that he donated to the person who picked a number between 1 and 100 closest to what he had selected. Thanks John!

The next program will be presented by Phil W. on U.S. Paper Money. (I would like to especially thank Matt and Gena O. for their editorial assistance on my presentation's PowerPoint program.)

With no further business the meeting concluded following the close of the bid board.