

Manhattan Coin Club Minutes

March 9, 2021

President Randy L. called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The meeting was also shown on-line via 'Go to Meeting' by Matthew O. with members logged on. (It worked very well.)

Old Business:

1. There were no new visitors. Thirteen members were present in person and one person on-line.
2. Randy reviewed the minutes from the last meeting.

New Business:

1. The United States Mint (Mint) will accept orders for the 2021 American Eagle One Ounce Silver Proof Coin beginning on February 11, at noon EST. The production limit for this product is 327,440. Struck in 99.9% silver at the West Point Mint, the coin's obverse (heads) features sculptor Adolph A.
<https://www.usmint.gov/news/press-releases/united-states-mint-releases-2021-american-eagle-silver-proof-coin-with-heraldic-eagle-reverse-on-february-11>
2. Randy reminded everyone that House Bill – H.R. 3757 “1921 Silver Dollar Commemorative Coin Act” will require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the minting of the Morgan Dollar and the Peace Dollar and shall mint and issue not more than a total of 500,000 one-dollar coins of which shall weigh 26.73 grams; have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and contain not less than 90 percent silver. Coins minted under this Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof finishes.
3. Matthew passed around a sign-up sheet for the Manhattan Coin Club Coin Show. Email Matthew if you were not able to attend and would like to volunteer for the Coin Club Coin Show. Matthew reviewed the advertising for the show. For dealers, in addition to the Table fee, Lunches will be sack lunches provided for a cost of \$14.17. We have 19 tables so far have been sold with some possible tentative sales.



Auctions:

Doyle listed a number of coin shows coming up. On February 13th there will be a combined a Lifetime Collection with more from the Dick Lonski the 2nd in a series of large coin auctions this spring to liquidate this enormous collection. This sale is packed full with amazing quality and the most type coins.

<https://app.shomemoreauctions.com/auctioneer.php?i=21189>. You may find information on auctions at:
<https://kansasauctions.net>.

Treasurer Report:

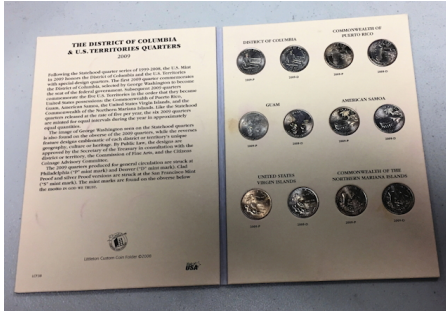
Dave gave a Treasurer's report and the treasury balance is \$3,500+. **DUES ARE PAYABLE!** Dues are \$5 a year for youths, \$10 a year for regular members, and a lifetime.

Door Prizes:

Door prize of a 1 oz. Buffalo silver round was won by won by Doyle.



Owen won the youth prize of District of Columbia and U.S. territories quarters.



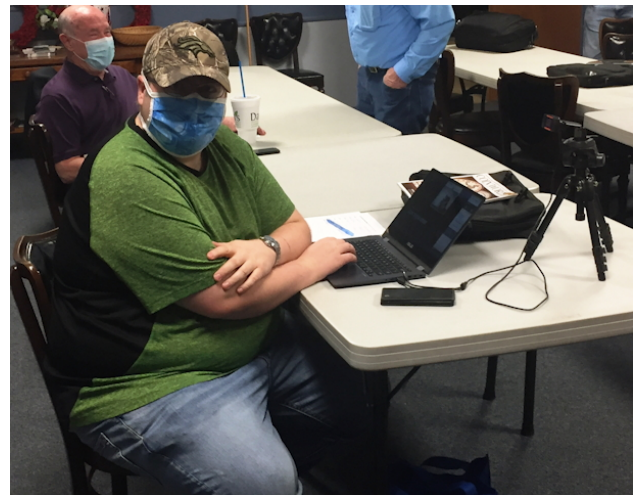
Following the program and with no further business the meeting concluded and the bid board reopened.

Program:

Coin Show Crime by Matthew J. Olson

About Me

- Member since 2010
- Collector since 1997
- Author
 - Shorts 2014
 - Dark Matter 2015
 - Alien Fear 2016
 - Gun Smuggler's Tale 2016
 - Tech Fear 2017
 - Twisted 2019
 - Flaming Curse 2019
 - Whispers Within 2021



March 21, 2021

- Coin Show!
- Why this topic?
- Dealers will be traveling with inventory and cash
- Attendees may have some pieces, but more cash
- Coin Show theft is on the rise
- Recently read an interesting article in The Numismatist

Where are thefts occurring?

- Show floor?
- Hallway?

- Parking lot?

Thieves follow a dealer/attendee home or stop them on their way home? What can you do?

- Carpool
- Be aware of anyone following you
- Don't drive directly home (take the long way)
- Get gas before the show so you don't have to stop for it after
- Go to the bathroom before leaving the hotel
- Have personal protection
- Police will not respond to suspicious activity in a timely manner unless they have nothing else going on, so don't rely on calling them.

What can you do inside your vehicle?

- Do not leave valuables in your vehicle
- Bags/briefcases/purses need to not be in plain sight (trunk, under seat, take with you, etc.)
- Lock the door (even when you are in it)
- Don't sit in the parking lot looking at phone or at new acquisitions
- Cover your cases with a drop cloth if it is visible (dealers)
- When loading your vehicle, coins in last, out first (dealers)

What can you do outside your vehicle?

- After the show, take a second and look over your windows for any hand smudges or anything off
- Check your tires for any cuts or low tires (someone let air out)
- Check under the front for radiator fluid (cut hose)
- If you can't drive all the way home on a tank of gas, pay at the pump
- If you need to use the restroom, make sure your vehicle is visible by an attendant and ask them to watch your vehicle
- If you are bumped, don't stop
- If you are carjacked, your life is more important than coins/money/vehicle

What can you do if you are being followed?

- Make an unexpected turn to make sure you are being followed
- Make a second turn to double check
- Third turn confirms it
- Don't drive home at this point
- Drive to the nearest police or fire station
- If you are on interstate, move to the left lane, turn your flashers on, and drive 45 mph until you are pulled over (though your follower should leave you in the dust)
- If you are pulled over by an unmarked car, call 911 to confirm they are a law enforcement officer

Examples

- 2015 Tinley Park, IL, dealer & employee set up their booth, took a bag back to their room before going to eat. Room broken into & only thing stolen is bag (laptop, cash)
- 2017 Dalton, GA show, 2 attendees went out to eat afterwards, their vehicles were robbed in the parking lot

- 2019 Kent, WA show, 2 dealers slept in their room(s) while \$200K in inventory was taken from their vehicle(s)
- 2019 Anaheim, CA show, followed home to Torrance (almost 30 miles) – entire inventory stolen
- 2019 Topeka dealer had a suitcase taken from him while loading up to attend the Abilene Gun Show

Firearms (Personal Protection)

- Please, take a conceal carry course
- You are responsible for your firearm at all times
- Can you use it in a theft if the robber isn't threatening you (i.e. the briefcase being taken from the Topeka dealer)?
- Research all local and regional laws
- Kansas is open carry and constitutional carry
- Sign with firearm and a slash means no open carry
- Only when there is a metal detector with security working it, there is no conceal carry
- Non-lethals (pepper spray, Taser (or knockoff), etc.)

Summary

Have a good, safe time!
It is better to be safe, than sorry.

References: The Numismatist November 2017, Numismatic Crime Information Center (NCIC)

Additional Tips:

The Manhattan Coin Club's
27th Annual
COIN SHOW
Public Welcome!!!
FREE ADMISSION
SUNDAY MARCH 21st, 2021
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Four Points by Sheraton
Fort Riley Blvd.
Manhattan, KS
BUY, SELL, TRADE
Coins, Bullion, Currency, Tokens
Club Raffle

Dealers who participate in coin shows are potential targets of numismatic predators. The following tactics and practices provide dealers and their employees with a basic safety plan that will help reduce the chances of becoming a numismatic crime victim.

Part 1 - Before You Visit a Coin Show

Are you the trusting sort or do you think that criminals will never target you? Unfortunately, there are criminals who are just criminals, and there are those people who, in desperation, turn to crime. Coin shows and their attendees can be targets for either of these types of criminals. Here are some basic security tips for when you plan to visit a coin show and improve your personal safety.

Before you ever leave home you can begin to minimize your security risk. Clean out the interior of your vehicle; don't leave anything that could be perceived as valuable within view to entice unsavory or criminal characters. Clean out the trunk of your vehicle especially if you will be transporting bulk valuables. If you have a vehicle without enclosed storage, like a van or SUV, make sure you can secure your valuables where the contents cannot be easily seen and perceived as important.

While cleaning your vehicle, make sure it is in good working order with safe tires and plenty of gas as a vehicle break down makes you more vulnerable.

If you are taking any collectible reference materials, such as show fliers, magazines, Red Books, etc., with you to the show, place them in an unmarked bag or briefcase. If you are taking any of your coins, currency or other valuables such as bullion or jewelry to sell, trade or just to show someone, put your items in an unmarked bag or box that will securely hold the weight, and not advertise the contents. Take unmarked containers (bags, boxes, briefcases) with you for items you plan to buy as not all dealers will have unmarked bags or boxes for your use.

Make sure your cell phone is fully charged and make sure you take it with you. Tell your family your plans to visit a coin show but do not share your plans with people whom you do not fully trust. If possible, take a family member or friend with you. Multiple people are less vulnerable than being alone.

Your at-home safety includes discussing your coin show plans on blogs, social networking sites or chat rooms on the internet. You never know who is lurking on the "net" - and this also applies to your emails that could be forwarded to characters who might take advantage of you.

If you take all the safety precautions and are still confronted by criminals, give the criminals your valuables. Those items may be valuable to you, but they are just things and things can be replaced. You cannot be replaced. Injury, or worse - death, cannot be justified.

Part 2 - When You Arrive at the Venue

Collectors and show attendees can be most vulnerable arriving or leaving a show. Some people will loiter outside the show's location with criminal intent. Remember these coin show security tips to insure you are careful when you arrive at the show's venue, and you can minimize being a criminal's target. If you prepared before leaving home, then take these precautions when you arrive!

Park near the entrance or near heavily trafficked areas. Do not park near a structure where people can hide from view when you return. Look for street lights or parking lot lights and be under them.

Before exiting your car, look around. Be aware of your surroundings. If you are in a parking lot, note the row number. Keep your door locked until you are ready to get out of your vehicle. Once outside your vehicle, lock your doors, keep your keys in your hand (to access your car's security system), and head toward the entrance of the coin show. (There should be nothing visible inside your vehicle nor valuables left behind.) Walk with your head up! Keep alert.

Keep your valuables close to you - and a good grip on them! If you are using a rolling cart, push the cart in front of you, when possible - if you have to pull the cart, make sure you frequently look back to verify your valuables are safe. Ask for assistance from the bourse chairman or show security if you need help securely transporting your valuables from your vehicle to the show.

If you take all the safety precautions and are still accosted by criminals, give them your valuables. Part 3 - On the Floor

Major coin shows provide security for their dealers and for the guests visiting the show. Many times, show security will be off-duty or retired law enforcement. Rest assured, an experienced officer is one of the most observant people and know many of the criminals' tricks. But even great observers cannot keep watch on every person or activity at a show.

You cannot look at a person and know immediately they have criminal intent. Criminals will walk the bourse floor, will talk knowledgeably about numismatics and maybe make a purchase or two while observing the attendees and opportunities. Some of them are great with sleight of hand and picking pockets or purses.

To enjoy the show experience, keep your coins secured at all time whether you are selling or have just purchased them. Don't lay your treasures on a dealer's table where someone could easily pick them up while you are focused on a discussion with the dealer.

Be careful of tight groups of people or several people in an aisle - they could be there as a ploy to catch you off guard and to steal your valuables. Be wary of strangers who want to join in your discussions with dealers. You don't have to be rude, just prudent. They may have ulterior motives. Should you stop and sit a dealer's table, keep your valuables between your feet or on your lap - at least touching you in some way lest someone grab them while you are focused on something else.

Suppose you need to leave the show floor, get something to eat, or even to use the restroom. Don't ask somebody you don't know - don't know well enough to trust - to hold your valuables for you while you handle your other business. If you need the ATM or something similar, ask show security or the bourse chairman what you can do with your valuables. Be alert, eyes and ears, to your surroundings and the actions of other people nearby while you are talking with dealers or fellow numismatists about your shared passions of coins, currency or other collectibles.

You are safest with your valuables on the show floor, yet not 100% safe. With numismatics, it is wiser to be overly cautious rather than to be too trusting. Remember the saying, "Just because you are paranoid, it does not mean they are not out to get you."

Part 4 - Leaving the Show

Coin show security tips are most important when leaving a coin show since you can be the most vulnerable then, especially if you have made several purchases. Some criminals meld with the other attendees at a show for the main purpose of finding the best targets. Those are people they perceive as the most vulnerable, the easiest to rob and with significant valuables. With forethought and alertness, you can minimize being a target and maximize your safety as you leave the show.

Remove your show badge or name tag as you exit the show. Ask for help getting bulk items to your vehicle from the show chairman/person-in-charge, show security or the dealer who sold you the items.

Hold your valuable items (in unmarked bags or a locked briefcase) closely as you walk to your vehicle. Don't discuss your purchases where people can overhear outside of the show. Walk with someone you know to the parking lot and all the way to your car, if possible. Remember where you parked, have your keys in hand with the alarm button readily available. Walk briskly with assurance and purpose to your car with your head up and your eyes and ears open! Pay attention to your surroundings for suspicious characters or activities.

Observe the cars around you to insure no one is hiding inside or beside them while waiting for a target. Do not remotely unlock your car until you are near and can insure no one is hiding nearby - if possible, only unlock the necessary doors. Briefly check to insure your vehicle is OK and that tires are inflated (some criminals will cause a slow leak in a tire in order to follow and stop with you when your tire goes flat)! Get into your car quickly and lock the doors. If your remote unlocks all the doors, hit the door lock button immediately after you open your door to prevent criminals from opening your passenger doors.

Make sure you are not followed as you leave the show; check your mirrors often for suspicious behavior. Vary your driving route if you frequently attend regularly scheduled coin shows. Do not stop on the way home unless you can keep your valuables safely with you - not in your vehicle.

Most important - if you take these and other safety precautions and are still threatened for your valuables, give them to the criminals. You can replace things, but you can't be replaced.

Use these coin show security tips: be prepared; be alert; be aware; and above all, be safe!