

Manhattan Coin Club Minutes

Establish April 13th, 1940

April 12th, 2022

The Manhattan Coin Club met April 12, 2022 at the American Legion, Manhattan, KS. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by MCC President Randy L. There were no visitors and 15 members present.

Old Business:

Randy reviewed the past minutes.

1. He talked about the American Numismatic Association hands-on numismatic learning opportunities through their Technical Series Seminars. <https://www.money.org/technical-series-seminars>

Treasurer Report:

Treasurer Dave S. was not present and our club's current balance was \$3,591.70. Matt O. said the amount will have changed with bills being paid.

Dave has asked that someone else assume the duties of Treasurer. The club owes a great debt to Dave for his many contributions to the club that extend beyond being the Treasurer. Justin H. has volunteered to assume Dave's duties. A motion was made and seconded to elect him. The motion passed unanimously. Justin will get in touch and make the necessary arrangements for taking over the account.

Coin Show:

1. Matt O. reviewed the results of the coin show. He and others who were at the show said that they and the dealers thought the show went very well. There were two incidents that occurred and both were handled.
2. Everyone thought that being able to drive in and setup was a major plus.
3. The setting up of tables was discussed and Randy L. said he will take care of the table setup and teardown of the tables.
4. Matt said the lunch was a disappointment as the sandwiches were not the size he believed they would be. He said he almost broke even and with the leftover chips he took home he might have been even. Randy mentioned a youth church group is always looking for a fund raiser and he will make arrangements with them for next year.
5. Allan T. made three suggestions:
 - Post a code of Conduct sign at the entrance.
 - Ask if people wanted to leave their name and address to receive a reminder card next year.
 - Provide name tags for people
6. The raffle prize was a \$10, 1929 Wamego Federal Reserve note worth \$135 that was won by Taylor from Wamego who also was at the show to assist for the armory. Randy convinced her to spend her last \$5 for tickets! Melissa from the club won a Silver Eagle along with Chris.
7. The raffle took in \$333 which is about our average.

Auctions:

Doyle R. gave a report on up-coming auctions.

1. April 30th Coin Auction - Sebree Auction LLC. This auction will have lots of gold coins. A list is attached.

2. On Wednesday, April 13th, 2022 at 6:00 PM - Topeka, KS. This auction has over 340 lots that will be sold by Internet bidding only. Bidding is now open and will begin to close at 6:00 pm CT on Tuesday, December 14th. Categories include-Bags of Indian Head Cents, Lincoln Wheat Cents, and Buffalo Nickels, bags of bulk silver Washington Quarters, Franklin and Kennedy Half-Dollars; Walking Liberty Half-Dollars, Morgan & Peace Silver Dollars; American Silver Eagles; Great Britain Sovereign gold coins, Tenth-Ounce and Quarter-Ounce American Gold Eagles; currency; albums, and mint & proof sets. <https://www.kansasauctions.net/calendar/rjsks/54932/>
3. Salina Coin Show - April 16th, 2022, 9am-4pm. VFW Post 1432, 1108 W. Crawford St, Salina, KS.
4. More information on auctions may be found at: <https://kansasauctions.net>.

New Business:

1. Randy brought up that the Federal Reserve is exploring opportunities to create a fully digital U.S. dollar, which could serve as a more stable alternative to other digital forms of money like cryptocurrency. Called "central bank digital currencies" (CBDCs), the currency would be equivalent to a digital form of paper money in the United States.
2. The United States Mint (Mint) was honored at the 2022 Coin of the Year (COTY) international awards competition with its Women's Suffrage Silver Dollar recognized as Most Historically Significant Coin.
3. The Austrian Mint coin a gold 100-euro marking "The Gold of the Pharaohs" won 2022 Coin of the Year category but also earned top honors as Coin of the Year Champion. The coin was named Best Gold Coin in the awards program's first round of competition.
4. The new Red Book is out and members can buy a copy from Dave at a discount.



Next month's program will be presented by Owen on Jefferson Coins. August will be Mystery Grader and Randy will make the arrangements.

Owen won the youth door prize and Justin the adult door prize. They will have to pick up the winnings from Dave.

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

Program:

TRANSPORTATION TOKENS - FASCINATING EXONUMIA



Many numismatists enjoy studying and collecting tokens of various types, including transportation tokens. Such individuals are known as "vecturists" and a few belong to the American Vecturist Association (AVA). The main reference for such tokens is **The Atwood-Coffee Catalogue of United States and Canadian Transportation Tokens** by John M. Coffee, Jr. Founded by Max M. Schwartz, the AVA publishes a newsletter entitled "The Farebox" and holds an annual convention.

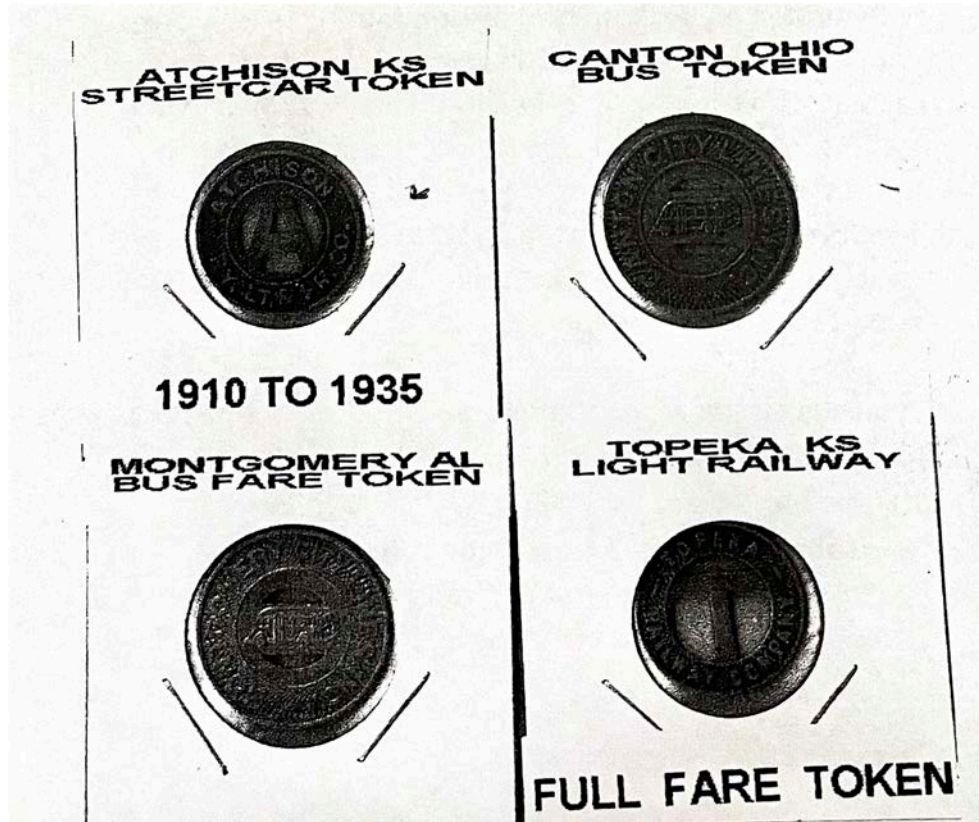
Urban public transportation allowed people to live at greater distances from workplaces, schools, offices, and places of commerce. It had a tremendous positive effect upon the

national economy, while reducing dependency on horses, livery needs, and waste clean-up. No doubt, cities would never have grown as large as fast as they did without these symbols of progress. The term "transportation tokens" may include coin-like substitutes made from metal (aluminum, brass, bronze, steel, alloys), cardboard, celluloid, hard rubber, and paper. Their use likely began in the early 1800's to pay access fees for toll roads (turnpikes) and bridges. The term transportation tokens has since expanded to include fee payments for ferry boats, horse-drawn coaches/wagons, railways, trollies, streetcars, buses, subways, and other conveyances.

Typically, drivers (or conductors) would collect payments from riders, deposited into devices known as "fareboxes." Established in 1914, Johnson Fare Box Company soon sold their contraptions world-wide. They contracted with token manufacturer Meyer & Wenthe, also of Chicago, to fill world-wide orders for compatible metallic tokens.

Transportation tokens are most commonly metallic in composition and either 16.5 mm or 21 mm in diameter. Reduced fare tokens for school children and other categories of passengers were often larger in diameter to reduce the likelihood of their loss. Token patterns have often included the mode of transportation (bus, streetcar, etc. image) or letters representing the name of the city where issued or the line's owner.

The Atwood-Coffee Catalogue lists tokens by state, assigned number, and composition. For example, "Kans 600 A" was issued in aluminum for the City and Interurban Railway of Manhattan, Kansas. Quantities of tokens manufactured were obtained from available factory production or purchase records. Token rarity depends upon condition, surviving numbers, and collector demand. Values vary from a few cents to thousands of dollars for unique pieces.



Vecturist group token collectors

By MAURICE M. GOULD

The American Vecturist Association certainly is contender for the oddest-sounding name in numismatics. Many people have never heard of this term, which applies to the art of transportation token collecting.

This highly specialized collector will go to any lengths to obtain the pieces he needs, including streetcar, bus, subway, and parking meter tokens—in fact, almost anything used in the field of transportation. Some of these pieces go back to the 1830s; the Maverick or Roxbury coaches were drawn by horses in the Boston, Mass., area, and their tokens are very desirable.

The American Vecturist Association is extremely active and its publication, *The Fare Box*, reaches into every corner of the United States, Canada and many foreign countries. Its editor, John Coffee, Jr., is one of the foremost authorities in this field, starting his hobby as a young man and continuing during his college days. His interest never waned, but gained momentum with each new discovery and find.

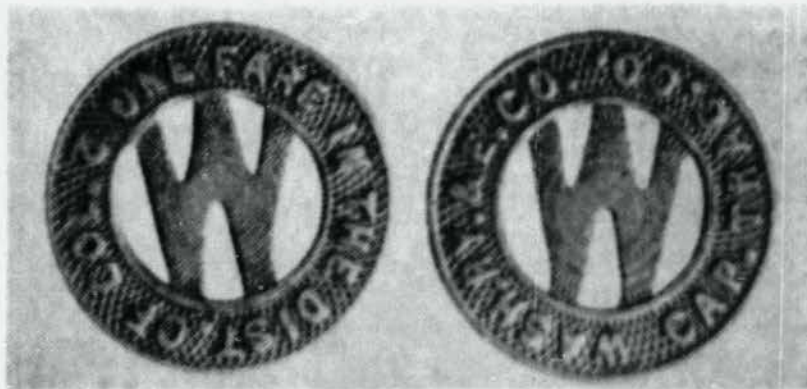
Fascinating indeed are the stories behind many of the tokens. One example is the token issued for a 15-passenger jitney bus once used on the outskirts of Omaha, Nebraska. A real estate firm, selling land in

this area, found it necessary to operate a 15-passenger jitney bus in order to make it easier for its prospective customers to reach the destination.

The bus would take the passengers from the end of the streetcar line to the proposed site, and then later return them so they could make connections with the streetcar again. Eventually the streetcar line was extended to the land site and the bus service was discontinued, but the tokens became highly prized items.

One of the newest sidelines to this interesting hobby is the parking meter token. Many parking lots now find it necessary, for a number of reasons, to issue their own tokens; there are now over 1,000 varieties known and a new book on them will be out in the future.

Not only are the relatively easily collected tokens of the United States and Canada in the limelight, but considerable research is also being done on the tokens of many foreign countries as they become more popular with collectors.



Transportation token used in Washington, D.C., popular with collectors.