

Kevin Kell, President
Kenny Smith, Vice President
Jim Jeska, Treasurer
Sam Fairchild, Secretary

**The coin club meeting is at 7PM the second Thursday of each month at:
The Mission Church, 3224 Cheek Sparger Rd., Bedford, Texas 76021**



A photograph showing a man in a red shirt standing at a wooden podium, speaking into a microphone. He is gesturing with his right hand. In the foreground, the back of a man's head and shoulders are visible; he is wearing a green shirt. To the right, two other people are seated, watching the presentation. The setting appears to be a formal meeting or conference room.

Russell Prinzing relayed his experiences when he attempted to go through airport security with a roll of Silver Eagles. Evidently, TSA agents were very wary of this “metal” tube and delayed Russell for quite some time. Other members have had similar experiences, and made the excellent suggestion that members carrying coins or bullion ask for a special private TSA screening to avoid conflict or possible seizure of your numismatic items.

2019 Membership Dues

2019 Membership dues are \$15.00 for Adults and \$5.00 for Juniors, and are a major support for club activities. Membership not only qualifies you for the monthly progressive door prize, but should also give you a discounted meal at the 2019 Christmas party.

Jim Jeska will be taking 2019 dues at this meeting.

Christmas Party

Talking about Christmas this early? Yes! Because of the success of the April donation auction, we will again be able to offer the meal FREE to all members and youth, with a \$5 fee for adult non-members. We will again have catered barbeque and fixin's, with volunteer members bringing desserts and additional side dishes.

Franklin Halves

Mint director Nellie Ross had long admired Benjamin Franklin, and wanted him to be depicted on a coin. She suggested the dime in 1941, but the decision was deferred due to the start of WWII. When nickel was declared a strategic metal in 1942, a silver half dime with a Franklin portrait was proposed to temporarily replace the nickel coin, but the Mint decided instead to change the Jefferson Nickel alloy to copper, silver and manganese.

After the war ended, Ross revived plans to place Franklin on the dime in 1946. However, Congress intervened and mandated that a Roosevelt portrait be used. This left the half dollar as the only coin without a famous American portrait, so Ross directed Chief Engraver Sinnock to design a Franklin half dollar to be minted initially in 1948.

Sinnock adapted his earlier work for the obverse. He had designed a Franklin medal in 1933 from a bust Jean-Antoine Houdon and Sinnock's work on the unrealized half dime. He based his Liberty Bell design for the reverse on the 1926 Sesquicentennial commemorative half dollar. Sinnock died in May 1947, before finishing the reverse design, which was completed by the new chief engraver, Gilroy Roberts. The small eagle on the reverse was added as an afterthought when Mint officials realized that an eagle was required on all coins of more value than the dime.

The Mint submitted designs to the Commission of Fine Arts for its advisory opinion. The Commission disliked the small eagle and felt that depicting the crack in the Liberty Bell would expose the coinage to jokes and ridicule. Despite the Commission's disapproval, the Mint proceeded with Sinnock's designs.



After the coins were released in April 1948, the Mint received accusations that Sinnock's initials "JRS" on the cutoff at Franklin's shoulder were a tribute to Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin, similar to complaints made earlier about the Roosevelt dime in 1946.

The coin was struck regularly until 1963. Beginning in 1964 it was replaced by the Kennedy half dollar, issued in honor of the assassinated President Kennedy. It's interesting to note that 1964 Franklin half dies were prepared, but no Franklins dated 1964 have surfaced.

Franklin had opposed putting portraits on coins; he advocated proverbs about which the holder could profit through reflection. Franklin might have been more upset at the having his coin associated with an eagle; Franklin proposed the wild turkey as our national bird.

A widely known variety is the 1955 "Bugs Bunny" half. This variety was caused by a die clash between an obverse die and a reverse die. The impact of the eagle's wings on the other die caused a marking outside of Franklin's mouth which, according to some, resembles buck teeth.



In this era of Registry sets, a designation of "Full Bell Lines" (FBL) is highly prized. To qualify, the seven parallel lines making up the bottom of the bell must be fully visible, and the three wisps of hair to the right of Franklin's ear on the obverse must also fully show, and not blend together. Some dates such as 1953-S are virtually unknown with an FBL designation; such FBL examples run 160 times the cost of non-FBL examples.

Special Meeting Activity Calendar

September – Show and Tell Night

November – Veteran's night,
Officer/Director elections

December – Christmas party

We need a volunteer to give the October program.
Contact Kenny Smith if you have an interest.

Upcoming Local Coin Shows

August 9-10 – Ft. Worth Coin Club Coin Show, White Settlement Convention Center. \$3.

August 24 – Texhoma Coin Show, Hwy. 75, Exit 59, Sherman. Free.

September 9-10 – Cowtown Coin Show, 8905 Clifford, White Settlement. \$3.

September 27-29 – Texas Coin Show, Grapevine Convention Ctr \$3 or free with NETCC membership.

July New Members: Jim Taylor, Hugh Hillaker, Mark Gisclair.

July First Time Visitors: Jim Taylor.