

Cupertino Coin Press

The publication of the Cupertino Coin Club



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P.O. Box 448, Cupertino, CA 95015-0448

Editor's Message

Happy New Year! Now is a time of reflection not only on the year ahead—our hopes, plans, and goals—but also on the past year. Brian D. will look ahead in his presentation in January, on “Collecting Coins vs. Investing in Coins,” exploring how precious metal prices could impact numismatics (page 4). On the other side of the scale, this month Dan S. challenges us to recollect some of the year’s biggest numismatic events in his quiz column (page 3), while I look a little further back in highlighting the *Coin Press* from January 2016 (page 2).

Next time you see them at a meeting, be sure to congratulate Art B. and Steve T. for joining the CCC Board mid-term (page 2). In 2025, the board lost two valued members in Joe Mobilia and Harold Woron, who are both dearly missed. Art and Steve will serve as their replacements until the 2026 elections (page 5).

-Cam S.

Upcoming Numismatic Events

- **4 January, 2026:** Vacaville Coin Show, Vacaville Elks Lodge, 302 Parker Street, Vacaville, CA 95688
- **16–17 January:** NorCal - East Bay / Concord Coin Show, The Concord Plaza Hotel, 45 John Glenn Dr., Concord, CA 94520
- **31 January–1 February:** CoinExpo San Jose, DoubleTree Hotel, 2050 Gateway Blvd., San Jose, CA 95110
- **13–14 February:** Redwood Empire Coin Club fifty-sixth Annual Coin Show, Sonoma County Fairgrounds E.L. Finley Building, 1350 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95404
- **27–28 February:** Santa Clara Special Weekend Coin Show, American Legion Post 419, 938 Homestead Road, Santa Clara, CA 95050

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Make sure to tell our advertisers you saw their ads in the *Coin Press*!

Club News

Upcoming Meetings and Events

9 January, 2026: General Meeting; Presenter: Brian D.; topic: Collecting Coins vs Investing in Coins

15 January: Online Board meeting

13 February: General meeting; presenter: Scott S. / David G.; topic: Morgan Dollar Grading Contest

19 February: Online Board meeting

13 March: Presenter: General meeting; Griffin G.; topic: Club Year in Review; Board elections

19 March: Online Board meeting

10 April: General meeting; officer installations; Fifty-sixth Anniversary Hot Dog / Polish Sausage & Potluck Night; board Inductions (No guest speaker)

The Cupertino Coin Club will have their general meetings in person at St. Joseph's Church of Cupertino, located at 10110 N De Anza Blvd in Cupertino. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. and presentations begin at 8:30 p.m., unless noted. Meetings feature an auction, show and tell, and drawings, as well as a speaker.

Guests and youth are always welcome!

New Board Director, Arthur B. Installed

By Suzy T.



At the December meeting, a second mid-term board director was sworn in by President Gran G. to replace the second Board Director who passed away in August of this year, Harold Woron. Please welcome Art B. He is also a member of the American Numismatic Association, American Israel Numismatic Association, International Bank Note Society, and the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee (CCAC) which reports to the United States Treasury/United States Mint. We are fortunate to be able report that our Board of Officers & Directors is now full again. The current term runs through March 2026. An election will be held at the March 13, 2026 meeting for the following term beginning April 2026. Thank you, Art, for volunteering! We look forward to working with you. Welcome!

Happy Birthday!

Happy birthday cheers go to our members with January Birthdays. Happy Birthday: Preston C., Linda G., Bill H., Mike R., and Suzy T.!

Ten Years Ago: January 2016 Cupertino Coin Press

The January *Cupertino Coin Press* (volume 10, number 2) was released ten years ago this month. Its articles noted a number of club events coming up and in the previous months, including “King Lyle’s Birthday Bash Shindig Fete Party Event” in December, the upcoming show, a “100 Grand Challenge” run by Fred and Martha D. in January, and a presentation on numismatics at Eton School’s Enrichment Day by multiple members. Notably, the silver spot price was listed at \$13.85 per troy ounce, and gold at \$1061.00 per troy ounce.

Back issues of the *Cupertino Coin Press* can be found on the Club website at cupertinocoinclub.org/newsletter and on the Newman Numismatic Portal **2** at nnp.wustl.edu.



Precious Metal for Investments



Have you seen the price of gold and silver recently?

Only on 26 December, gold was up \$54.72, silver was up \$7.92 in the past 24 hours, platinum up \$161.77, and palladium increased by \$85.38. Copper was up over 5% per pound. Crazy, right?

Recent precious metal prices per troy ounce:

- Gold \$4,547.50
- Silver \$79.57
- Platinum \$2,464.62
- Palladium \$85.38

What is fueling these skyrocketing prices? Economic uncertainty with tariffs and interest rate cuts, increased demand in manufacturing with limited supply, and geopolitical instability, according to Forbes.

Do not miss Brian D.'s presentation on "Collecting Coins versus Investing in Coins" at our January 9th meeting. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. with the presentation starting at 8:30 p.m.

December Auction was a Success!

By Don P.

The Coin Club's December fundraising Auction was a great success! We had close to fifty participants with nine being youth (a record!). And the food was amazing, due to the great variety of food the participants brought to share, and the lasagna the club provided.



A very special thanks must go to the donors and the buyers. There is no auction without the items to sell and the people to purchase. Every donation was sold this



year, along with seven of the twelve possible monthly sponsorships. Five more sponsorships are still available for 2026. If you are interested in sponsoring a meeting room (\$50) and/or a meeting's snacks (\$20) for a month, please contact Emile, our Treasurer (for more

information, refer to page 6). A huge thanks goes to our set-up and take-down volunteers.

This was our fourth fundraising auction, and the first time I was the event's chair. I love the fun we had and what we accomplished. And I want to make it better for next year. With so many youth this year I want to add in some youth only auction lots (Martha's idea) where only the youth can bid (want to make it fun for them too). I know you have other ideas. Please help me out by emailing your suggested improvements to me at with subject line "December Auction Suggestions."

Happy New Year's to all!

Time Capsule Coins

Mike Wagner & Ben Karr

timecapsulecoins@gmail.com 669-295-5543

Local in Sunnyvale - Coin club life member

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Buying Estates & Collections

Free Appraisals

Vallejo and Fairfield Joint Christmas Party

By Suzy T.



Fifteen Cupertino Coin Club members were in attendance at the Vallejo Numismatic Society and Fairfield Coin Club Joint Christmas Party on Saturday, December 13, 2025 at the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum in Vallejo (above). This was a 77-mile, 90-minute drive for most of us from the South Bay, through the East Bay, up to the North Bay. This was a sold-out event with over 100 people in attendance. After some socializing, Griffin G. led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice President, Suzy T. (left) gave the invocation. A delicious prime rib and turkey dinner was served. Following was award presentations and goody bag hand-outs, including rolls of uncirculated 2025-D and -P pennies.



Don H. received the Fairfield Coin Club and Vallejo Numismatic Society Joint Plaque in appreciation of his contributions to the hobby. Don H. and Al L. were presented with the American Numismatic Association's President Award from Tom Uram. Suzy T. was presented an American Numismatic Association Certificate of Appreciation for

continuing service to Cupertino Coin Club and support in the works of numismatics. Door prizes were passed out, next, with two drawings with multiple prizes. Don H. won the 50/50 drawing. We had a wonderful time! See additional photos on our Facebook page, facebook.com/cupertinocoinclub.



Quiz Column: 2025 Year in Review

By Dan S.

1. In December 2025, Stack's Bowers sold what noteworthy coin that was previously unknown to the numismatic community?
2. Also in December 2025, Stack's Bowers conducted an auction of the last circulating cents struck by the U.S. Mint, with 232 three-coin sets including circulating cents from Philadelphia and Denver and a 24-karat gold cent. What is the significance of the number 232?
3. What privy mark was used for the coins in these sets? Why was the mark chosen?
4. What are two unusual features of the seven 2000-W Sacajawea dollars auctioned by Stack's Bowers in September 2025 (below left)?
5. Both gold and silver had huge price gains in 2025. In percentage terms, which increase was greater?
6. What was used to engrave the extremely detailed privy marks on dies used to strike 2025-W American eagle silver proof coins (below right)?

See answers on page 7

Coins of the United States of the Ionian Islands

By Cam S.



The obol denomination is most famous for being small; most are around nine to twelve millimeters in diameter. The obol served as a workhouse denomination in antiquity, its versatility a key element of its success. While most obols circulated in a relatively small radius around their issuing cities, almost all coin-producing communities struck them, a factor in their ubiquity across the ancient world. This article highlights a more modern series of obols, which, despite their name, were different from ancient obols in almost every sense: those of the United States of the Ionian Islands (U.S.I.I.).

Board of Directors Nominations 2026

By Emile M.

It is once again time to select candidates for nomination to the Cupertino Coin Club Board of Directors. The election for 2026 will be held at the March club meeting and the new officers will be installed at the April meeting.

The elected board consists of a President, Vice President, Junior President (under 18), Treasurer, Historian, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and six Board Members. The Cupertino Coin Club Nominating Committee has already been seeking individuals to fill these positions in addition to those running for re-election.

If you are interested in filling one of these positions, contact the Nominating Committee at cupertinocoinclub@gmail.com to submit your name for consideration.

The U.S.I.I. (right) had its origins in the fall of the Republic of Venice. For centuries, the Republic had ruled the islands of Corfu, Paxoi, Lefkada, Cephalonia, Ithaca, Zante, and Kythira in the Ionian Sea, but with its dissolution in 1798 France gained the islands. However, a joint Russian and Ottoman force expelled the French from the islands in two years, placing the islands in their control. This so-called “Septinsular Republic” (“Republic of Seven Islands”) lasted until 1807, when the United Kingdom began taking control of individual islands. Between 1807 and 1815, the Septinsular Republic gradually fell at the hands of the British Empire and France, until the British gained full control of the French territories. With the Congress of Vienna in 1815, the British gained full control over the islands, and the U.S.I.I. was born.



The United Kingdom’s reign over the Ionian Islands became increasingly unsteady over the years, with the public sentiment there heavily leaning towards a unification with the Kingdom of Greece. The situation eventually turned violent, with skirmishes occurring on most islands and the British persecuting many radicals. By 1864 the radicals had won, and the islands were given to King George I of Greece as a present for



Between 1819 and 1863, the U.S.I.I.’s base unit of currency was the obol (left), equal to a British half-penny (after 1834), replacing countermarked Ottoman coins and coins made during the Septinsular period. Struck in copper at the British mint, obols could be divided into 4 lepta (also struck in copper) until 1834, after which they were ⁵ (continued on following page)

Coins of the United States of the Ionian Islands, continued from preceding page

equivalent to 5 lepta. In addition to 1-lepton coins, 2-lepta coins, obols, and diobols (two-obol coins) all struck in copper, the British Royal mint also struck 30-lepta coins of silver. In the transition between British and Greek leadership, 20 Ionian obols were exchangeable with 1 Greek drachma.



Ionian bronze coins depict on their obverse the lion of Saint Mark, a winged lion wearing a halo, its hand holding a bible with arrows emerging from either end, a motif also on its flag and the flag of the Septinsular Republic. The obverse inscription reads "IONIKO KPAΤOΣ," meaning roughly "Ionian Country." All Ionian bronze coins had no indication of their denomination as part of the design, yet they were all of different sizes. The silver 30-lepta coin, however, had the denomination as a central part of its reverse, framed by an oak wreath, with the inscription arching around the edge. All Ionian coins depict Britannia, the allegorical figure representing the United Kingdom, either on their obverses (as is the case with the silver 30-lepta coin) or on their reverses (as is the case with the copper denominations).

While almost entirely different from their ancient counterparts—ancient obols were small, silver coins seeing only contained use around their issuing cities and Ionian Islands obols were significantly larger (around 28 millimeters) copper coins, which circulated across the country—Ionian Islands obols carried on the tradition of their ancient predecessors, serving as important pieces of economic exchange in a turbulent time.

The images on the top left and bottom right of page 5 and on page 6 are by Classical Numismatic Group, Inc. <http://www.cngcoins.com>, CC BY-SA 3.0.

Thank You, 2026 Sponsors!

By Suzy T.

We would like to thank the generosity of the following club members for sponsoring our room rental for \$50 and/or refreshments for \$20 for the following months during 2026. For "open" spots, please see Suzy T. or Emile M. at a club meeting to book an available month.

Month	\$50 Facilities Sponsor	\$20 Refreshments Sponsor
January	Preston C.	Preston C.
February	Don P.	Don P.
March	Ron I.	<i>(open)</i>
April	<i>(open)</i>	Everyone: Potluck Night
May	<i>(open)</i>	<i>(open)</i>
June	Dan & Cam S.	Dan & Cam S.
July	Jevon C.	<i>(open)</i>
August	Gran G.	Gran G. & Everyone: Potluck Night
September	Martha & Fred D.	Martha & Fred D.
October	<i>(open)</i>	Blanca A. & Mateo & Diego R.
November	Jason A.	Blanca A. & Mateo & Diego R.
December	<i>(open)</i>	Everyone: Potluck Night

General Meeting Minutes from 12 December, 2025

By Steve C.

Club President **Gran G.** called our December general meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. and welcomed everyone. There were thirty-nine adults and nine youth in attendance. This meeting had our Fourth Annual Gary L. Acquistapace Memorial Donation Fundraising Auction with a Lasagna potluck dinner.

Announcements:

- **Gran G.** welcomed our guests.
- **Lyle O.** announced the upcoming coin shows:
 - January 16 & 17: Bill Green East Bay Concord Coin Show at the Concord Plaza Hotel
 - January 31 & 1 February: Coin Expo San Jose at the San Jose Double Tree Hotel.

Quiz Column: 2025 Year in Review Answers from page 4

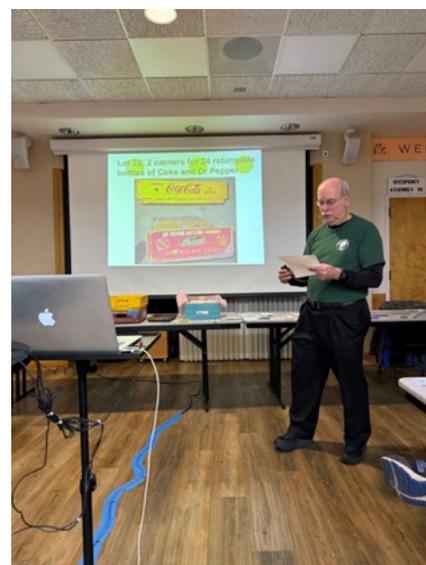
By Dan S.

1. A Class III 1804 dollar, graded PCGS Proof-65 (below).
2. Cents were produced for 232 years by the U.S. Mint.
3. An uppercase Greek letter omega, chosen because it is the last letter in the Greek alphabet.
4. The 2000-W Sacajawea dollars are made of 24-karat gold, and they flew on Space Shuttle Columbia in July 1999.
5. Silver, which increased by more than 150%. Gold increased by about 60%.
6. A laser engraving tool.



- February 13 & 14: Redwood Empire Coin Club Fifty-Sixth Annual Coin Show at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds.

- Emile M. reported on the rising cost of silver and the adjusted price for our club silver medals. Orders for club medals were due at this meeting.
- A youth drew our winning Attendance Prize ticket. Attendance prize winner: **Griffin G.** (0.999 fine 1 oz. copper round, Saint-Gaudens design)
- Club President **Gran G.** inducted **Art B.** as our newest board member.
- We wished Happy Birthday to our members present with December Birthdays. Birthday Prize winner: **Cam S.** (0.999 fine 1 oz. Aztec copper round)



Don P. thanked everyone for their donations and explained the rules for the auction, which had 45 items up for bidding. **Don P.** and **Mike W.** were the auctioneers.

Our general meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve C.

CCC Recording Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes from 17 December, 2025

By Steve C.

We had an online board meeting over Zoom. In attendance were:

- President: **Gran G.**
- Vice President: **Suzy T.**
- Treasurer: **Emile M.**
- Recording Secretary: **Steve C.**
- *Coin Press* Editor, Youth President: **Cam S.**
- Historian: **Griffin G.**
- Directors (6): **Don P., Mike W., Dan S., Mike R., Steve T.** and **Art B.**

Club President **Gran G.** called our December board meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone. There were twelve board members and chairs in attendance.

Recording Secretary **Steve C.** reported nothing new.

Corresponding Secretary **Al L.** did not attend the meeting but reported on correspondence received:

Magazines and newsletters

- December *The Numismatist* (American Numismatic Association)

Treasurer **Emile M.** gave the treasurer's report. All was well.

Historian **Griffin G.** reported that pictures will be uploaded from the December meeting.

Curator **Emile M.** reported nothing new.

Program Chair **Suzy T.** reviewed our upcoming club events.

- The January guest speaker will be **Brian D.**, on "Collecting Coins vs. Investing in Coins."
- In February we will have a Morgan Dollar grading contest presented by **Scott S.** and **David G.**
- March seventh will be a Scout coin collection Merit Badge workshop. The March General Meeting will have our Club Year in Review slide show by **Griffin G.** and **Emile M.** will be running Board elections and approval of By-Law Revisions. *Coin Press* Editor **Cam S.** would like everything for

our newsletter by 26 December.

Facebook Chair **Suzy T.** updated the upcoming events, recognized members with December birthdays, posted about Pearl harbor day, and posted about Thanksgiving.

Youth Advisor **Emile M.** reported nine youth present at the December general meeting.

Nominating Chair **Emile M.** reported that the Nominating Committee will start meeting in December. Board Members should send an email to Cupertino Coin Club email address to confirm that they will continue their position on the board by for the 2026–7 year by 26 December.

Old Business

We continued discussions about changes to the By-laws. We want to vote at the March general meeting and need to attach proposed new Bylaws to the February and March *Cupertino Coin Press* e-mail. We also need to have a final PDF of the Bylaws to the *Coin Press* Editor by 3 February. We need to create the article for 6 February *Coin Press* by 30 January.

Fundraising Auction **Don P.** reported that 45 items were donated for this year's auction. The Auction was a success with 25 bidders registered and 16 winning lots.

Show Chair **Mike W.** reported on our Coin Show status. Forty-two of forty-four tables are registered or re-confirmed and three extras are requested. Also, the ANACS representative confirmed his attendance. All drawing prizes are secured: two 1/20 ounce China gold (raw), one 1/10 ounce gold coin, ten 2025 1 ounce silver club medals, and six Franklin halves (slabbed uncirculated) for the hourly drawings. The show date is April 26, 2026.

Emile M. moved to adjourn. **Suzy T.** seconded. President **Gran G.** adjourned our board meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve C.

CCC Recording Secretary