

Cupertino Coin Press

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Editor's Message

Happy November! The weather is getting colder, the days are getting shorter, and precious metal prices are getting higher and higher! Our next meeting will be on 14 November, where Bryce B. will speak on "101 Ways to Collect Bust Coinage."



The deadline for the December issue is 28 November. Submissions are always very welcome; if you've presented recently, just completed a collection, or want to show a recent purchase, I'd be very happy to work with you to get it written up and published. Similarly, if you're a dealer or have some coins you want to sell, the *Coin Press* is a great place to spread the word in our advertisements (see page 3 for an example); rates are only \$5 for a business card-sized ad per issue.



This issue, I begin the first of a two-part series on Roman Republican History as viewed through its coins, a write-up of my presentation at the October meeting. Additionally, Keith S. points out the high prices early slabs achieved during a recent

GreatCollections sale. Check out Dan S.'s quiz column this month, on the topic of U.S. circulating coins. Make sure to let him know how you did!

-Cam S.

CCC is on the Web!

Visit our website at cupertinocoinclub.org and our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cupertinocoinclub/! There, keep up to date with the CCC's latest events and happenings. Thanks to webmaster Suzy T. for keeping them up to date!

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

Club News

Upcoming Meetings and Events

14 November: General Meeting;
Presenter: Bryce B.; Topic: “101
Ways To Collect Bust Coinage”

20 November: Online Board
meeting

12 December: Holiday
Celebration—Pasta & Potluck,
4th Gary L. Acquistapace
Memorial Donation Fundraising
Auction!

18 December: Online Board
meeting

9 January (2026): General
Meeting; Presenter: Brian D.;
Topic: Collecting Coins vs
Investing in Coins

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. Our
presentations, begin at 8:30
p.m., and meetings start at 7:30
p.m. unless noted. Meetings
feature an auction, show and
tell, and drawings, as well as a
speaker.

**Guests and youth are always
welcome!**

Dues Are Past Due!

Dues were due on April 1, 2025. Dues are only \$12 for adults
and \$6 for youth. If you would like the printed newsletter, please
add \$15 to your dues payment. To pay your dues, you may either
mail your check to the club’s PO Box address listed in the masthead
or pay by cash or check to Membership Chair Al L. at a monthly
meeting.

Happy Birthday!

Happy birthday cheers go to our members
with November Birthdays. Happy Birthday:
Jason A., Bruce B., Mark B., Ed G., Bryan L.,
Li-Miin M., Mario M., and Mateo R.!



NCNA Educational Forum!

On 15 November, the Northern California Numismatic
Association will hold its annual Educational Forum at the Vallejo
Naval and Historical Museum (734 Main Street, Vallejo). The theme
for the forum is “Women Enthusiasts for Numismatics.” Speaking
will be Lisa Dare on “Living with a Numismatist,” Charmy Harker on
“Quality Cents,” Mary N. Lannin on “Women and Water: Admirals,
Pirates, and Spies, and Christian Strayhorn on “ANA’s Educational
Rejuvenation: eLearning.”

Upcoming Numismatic Events

- **7–8 November:** Sacramento Coin Show, Lions Gate Hotel, 3410
Westover Street, McClellan Park
- **14–15 November:** South Bay/Sunnyvale Coin Show, Domain
Hotel, 1085 East El Camino Real, Sunnyvale
- **15 November:** NCNA Educational Forum, Vallejo Naval and
Historical Museum, 734 Marin Street, Vallejo
- **23 November:** Marin Coin & Collectibles Show, Best Western
Novato Oaks, 215 Alameda del Prado, Novato
- **6 December:** San Francisco International Numismatic Bourse,
DoubleTree Hotel S. Airport Blvd., 275 S. Airport Blvd, South San
Francisco

When the Plastic is More Valuable than the Coin

By **Keith S.**

In an issue of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society's *E-Sylum* from 26 October an article titled "Buy the Plastic, not the Coin" caught my attention. The Southern California company GreatCollections sold two PCGS 1.0 slabs this year for "stupid money." The first was a 1904 \$20 gold coin in MS63 for \$45,374 (the real value of the coin is under \$5,000). The second coin was an 1881-S Morgan in MS63 with a CAC sticker (right) for \$119,062 (the real value of the coin is under \$1,000) These were amongst the first 500 coins slabbed by PCGS and about 50 are known to exist. Forget about buying gold—get a nice plastic ingot instead! Who would have thunk it? The original article appeared in the *Sample Slap Update*. A subscription to the online *E-Sylum* is available for free and has something for everyone.

An advertisement for 'Time Capsule Coins' featuring a collage of various coins in protective slabs. The text reads: **Time Capsule Coins**, Mike Wagner & Ben Karr, timecapsulecoins@gmail.com 669-295-5543, Local in Sunnyvale – Coin club life member, Filling Want Lists & Special Requests, Buying Estates & Collections, Free Appraisals.

Quiz: Circulating Coins

By **Dan S.**

1. When was the first year that all circulating U.S. coins that were minted depicted former presidents?
2. What is the only circulating coin produced by the U.S. Mint that is magnetic?
3. Which of the four legs is missing in the iconic "Three Legged Buffalo" nickel?
4. What metal constitutes the greatest percentage component of all nickel 5 cent pieces?
5. What circulating U.S. coins feature eagles in flight?
6. Eagles are featured on a preponderance of U.S. circulating coin designs. What animal is the next most common?
7. What metal was added to the alloy to produce the "golden" color of the Sacajawea, Presidential (below) and American Innovation dollars?

Answers can be found on page 5



Upcoming U.S. Mint Releases

- 10 November: 250th Anniversary United States Marine Corps Silver Eagle medal
- 13 November: Wonder Woman 2.5 and one ounce silver medals, Wonder Woman half ounce gold coin
- 17 November: William H. Taft Presidential silver
- 9 December: American Innovation 2025 \$1 Coin reverse proof set
- 11 December: 2025 Morgan and Peace Dollar reverse proof two-coin set

Program Recap: Roman Republican History as Viewed Through Coins, part 1

By **Cam S.**

At our October meeting, I presented on “Roman Republican History as Viewed Through Coins.” Published here is the first part of my presentation, to be concluded in the next issue.

The story of coinage in Italy begins in around 500 BCE, a time when Rome was still an insignificant city in central Italy, built along the banks of the Tiber river. At the time, a few different groups inhabited Italy (right); the Etruscans and other Italian tribes in northern and central Italy, with groups in cities (light orange) and less settled groups (dark orange). In the south and in part of Sicily were Greek colonies (yellow), and inhabiting the rest of Sicily and part of Northern Africa was the Carthaginian empire. To the northwest was Gaul, inhabited by a number of other tribes.

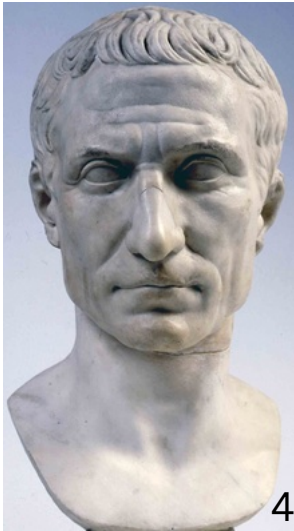
Coins came to Italy with the establishment of Greek colonies in the South, who minted copper, silver, and gold coins which circulated all the way up to northern and central Italy. Because of this and their small economy, the Romans had no need for coins. Eventually, however, Rome gained more significance with the Pyrrhic (against the Greek general Pyrrhus) and Punic (against the Carthaginian empire) wars in Sicily and Africa, as well as conquests against the other tribes of the area. By then, around 290, the Romans had a need for a larger supply of coins to sustain their growing economy. The earliest Roman coins were cast (as opposed to struck) and were all made out of copper, due to Rome’s limited supply of precious metals. To provide silver coins for international payments, the Romans hired the Greek



colonies in southern Italy to make coins for them. The problem with this arrangement was that the Roman bronze and Greek silver weight standards did not align, so they could not be used in the same transactions. By 211, however, the Republic had the resources to begin striking silver coins, based on their denomination called the “denarius.” From that time until the Republic’s end almost 200 years later, the most common coin design (left, actually 18 millimeters) depicted Roma, the allegorical figure representing Rome, on the obverse. On the reverse of these coins was a depiction of a chariot driven by the goddess representing Victory.

The most prominent Roman politician of the Republic (and the one that caused its collapse) was Gaius Julius Caesar (right), who was born 100 to a very prominent Roman family. At age 20, Caesar earned Rome’s second highest military decoration, and in 62 BCE, he was elected Praetor, a very high position in the Roman

(continued on next page)



(continued from previous page) government. He became consul, the highest office, in 59. Later, he was appointed governor of Gallia Cisalpina ("Gaul on the Roman side of the Alps"). However, when the designated governor of Gallia Transalpina (Gaul on the other side of the Alps from Rome) died, Caesar became governor there as well. During his 8 years as governor of both of these provinces, Caesar conquered the rest of Gaul beyond Gallia Transalpina.



During his wars in Gaul, Caesar's ally Lucius Hostilius Saserna, a minter, introduced coins celebrating Caesar's achievements in Gaul. One denarius (left) featured a bust of a wild Gallic warrior on the obverse. It is unclear whether the warrior is actually Vercingetorix, the leader of the Gallic forces, or rather simply an allegorical figure for the

Gauls. Many think that it represents Vercingetorix because the figure looks too much like a real person to be allegorical. The reverse of the coins feature two nude Gallic warriors fighting on a chariot. Both these once-common practices, fighting nude and on chariots, had died out by the time of the wars, but it is likely that Saserna included these designs because he wanted to make them recognizable to the public as Gauls. In other words, Saserna was using the Romans' stereotypes to present Caesar's enemies as ferocious Gauls.

The goddess Diana of Ephesus is shown on the reverse of another denarius, holding in either hand a deer and a spear. The design could be alluding to Caesar's victory at the important Gaulish city of Massalia (now known as Marseille), a city that especially venerated Diana. Or, the design could represent Caesar's ancestry, as he claimed to be descended from Diana, goddess of the hunt. The coin's obverse features a female allegorical depiction of Gaul. Behind her head is a carnyx, a type of Gallic war trumpet used to instill fear into the enemy. One other denarius (above right), this

one struck at a military mint (a mint traveling with Caesar and used to pay his soldiers, not



minted by Saserna) featured on the obverse another female allegorical figure, perhaps Clementia (the allegorical figure representing clemency and forgiveness) and a trophy of arms, a pole bearing distinctively Gaulish arms and armor, including a carnyx and a Gallic shield. The pairing of the obverse and reverse designs is particularly interesting; the coin serves to demonstrate both Caesar's military might (reverse) as well as his forgiveness.

Next issue, I'll conclude the story of the Roman Republic, highlighting specific later coins of Caesar, Marcus Junius Brutus, and Julius Caesar Octavianus (also known as Augustus).

Quiz Answers from page 3: Circulating Coins

By Dan S.

1. 1964
2. 1943 steel cent
3. The front-right leg.
4. Copper (including the "war nickels")
5. The flying eagle cents, Gobrecht dollars (although not many circulated), standing liberty quarters, Saint-Gaudens double eagles, Sacajawea dollars
6. Buffalo or American bison
7. Manganese



General Meeting Minutes from 10 October, 2025

By **Steve C.**

Youth President **Cam S.** called our October general meeting to order at 7:44 p.m. and welcomed everyone. There were 35 adult and 11 youth (including four Scouts) in physical attendance. This meeting was our youth night.

Griffin G. conducted our club auction and **Gran G.** was our auction chair. **Cam S.**, **Kaustav G.** and **Adheesh S.** were our runners. A Scout drew our winning Buyer's Prize ticket. **Sean M.** won the Buyer's Prize (0.999 fine one-ounce copper round)

Announcements: **Cam S.** welcomed our guests. **Gran G.** reminded everyone that tonight was the deadline for our October Banquet that will be held on Saturday night. **Don P.** shared a photograph of a coin and reminded everyone about our Gary Acquistapace Fundraising Auction on 12 December. We are collecting donations with a description and picture of the item. Please bring the item to the meeting. The deadline for donations is 1 December. We will also have a potluck at the December meeting. **Lyle O.** announced the upcoming coin shows: the Contra Costa Coin Show on October 10 and 11 at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, the South Bay Sunnyvale Coin Show November on 14 and 15 at the Domain Hotel.

A new member drew our winning Attendance

Prize ticket. **Lucas H.** won the attendance prize (0.999 fine one- ounce copper round)

We wished Happy Birthday to our October Birthday members. **Diego R.** won our Birthday Prize (0.999 fine one-ounce copper round, Aztec calendar design).

Cam S. was our guest speaker at this meeting and presented on "Roman Republican History as Viewed Through Coins."

Don P. introduced show and tell; **Don P.:** 2025 2.5-ounce Superman medal, **Art B.:** De La Rue Banknotes, **Monty B.** "Numismatic Child Catcher," **Al L.** Lumberjack elongated cent, **Lyle O.** Lowell W-Quarter, **Ivan L.** Pressed Penny, **Martha D.** 2015 Canada Maple Leaf, **Lucas H.** U.S. Army coin from Tripler Army Medical Center, **Paul J.** William penny, **Laurin M.** \$5 Birthday note, **Ron I.** Engelhard, **Howard W.** kilologram Silver Panda with gold, **Ken B.** CSNA silver medal collection, **Bill H.** Superman silver medal. **Cam S.** drew the winning show and tell prize ticket. **Ron I.** won the show and tell prize (0.999 fine one-ounce copper round, Barber design)

Our general meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve C.

CCC Recording Secretary



Board Meeting Minutes from 16 October, 2025

By **Steve C.**

This month was our in-person board meeting. In attendance were:

- President: **Gran G.**
- Vice President: **Suzy T.**
- Treasurer: **Emile M.**
- Recording Secretary: **Steve C.**
- Corresponding secretary: **Al L.**
- Historian: **Griffin G.**
- Board Members (4): **Don P., Mike R., Mike W.,**
- Guest club member **Steve T.**

Club President **Gran G.** called our October Board Meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. and welcomed everyone. There were nine board members and chairs as well as one guest in attendance.

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

Corresponding Secretary **Al L.** reported correspondence received; magazines and newsletters:

- October 2025 *The Numismatist* (ANA)
- Fall 2025 *The California Numismatist* (CSNA)
- September 2025 *NCNA Heads and Tails*

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

Historian **Griffin G.** reported nothing new.

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

Program Chair **Suzy T.** reviewed our upcoming club events. The speaker on our 14 November meeting will be **Bryce B.**, speaking on "101 Ways to Collect Bust Coinage." On December 12 we are having our 4th Annual Gary L. Acquistapace Memorial Donation Fundraising Auction and a potluck. The speaker on our January 9 General Meeting **Brian D.**, speaking on "Collecting Coins versus Investing in Coins."

Membership Chair **Al L.** reported applications received:

- **Peter W.**, birth month January
- **Drew P.** (youth), birth month September.

The Board members voted and accepted these two new club members.

Coin Press Editor **Cam S.** would like everything for our newsletter by 31 October.

Webmaster **Suzy T.** updated the website, and put up the redacted October newsletter.

Facebook Chair **Suzy T.** updated the upcoming events on the Facebook page.

Youth Advisor **Emile M.** was absent but **Steve C.** reported 11 youth present at the October general meeting, including four Scouts.

Banquet: **Suzy T.** reports that the caterer had a family emergency and was not be able to attend the banquet. We had to use an alternative plan and purchase pre-made pasta meals. Members discussed the final details for the banquet.

Gran G. mentioned we have two open board positions. Members voted and accepted two new board members: **Steve T.** and **Art B.**

Medals Chair **Emile M.** reported he got the medal design drawing back from BEX. Members looked at it and approved it. Members had a discussion about the price for the medals taking in account the rising cost of silver.

Don P. reported the auction update. Flyers are out and in the newsletter. The website is set up to receive photos of donated items.

Old Business: **Don P.** reported on the survey results about the Bylaws revision.

Show Chair **Mike W.** reported on our Coin Show status. Drawing prizes, tables and a variety of topics about next year's show including comparisons with other club shows were discussed.

Emile M. moved to adjourn. **Mike R.** seconded. President Gran Goza adjourned our board meeting at 9:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve C.

CCC Recording Secretary

You Are Invited!

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

'Numismatic Educational Forum'

Saturday, November 15, 2025

Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum

734 Marin, *at Capital*, Vallejo, California

Registration Opens 8:30 AM----Presentations Begin 9:30 AM

FREE ADMISSION!

'Women Enthusiasts For Numismatics'

Four Women Numismatic Advocates Enthralling and Exciting 'The World of Money'!

LISA DARE

Calgary Numismatic Society, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

"Living With A Numismatist"

CHARMY HARKER

'The Penny Lady', Irvine, California

"Quality Cents"

MARY N. LANNIN

American Numismatic Society, New York City, New York

"Women and Water: Admirals, Pirates, and Spies"

CHRISTIAN STRAYHORN

American Numismatic Association, Colorado Springs, Colorado

"ANA's Educational Rejuvenation: eLearning"

Attending and Contributing Also Will Be **Thomas J. 'Tom' Uram**, ANA Immediate Past President, and **Kimberly S. Kiick**, ANA's Executive Director. Both Would Welcome Meeting and Mingling With Attendees

Door Prizes----Possible Sample Slab----Hobby Information----Something For Youth

Museum Open To All Attendees

On Site Simple Lunch Service Or Easy Walking To Local Eateries

Moderator: Maria E. Stillwagon----Coordinator: Michael S. Turrini

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