



Florida United Numismatists



65th Annual FUN Show

January 9-12, 2020

Orlando, FL

The FUN show opened to the public Thursday morning at 10 AM with FUN President Bob Hurst at the podium, over 500 people were there. The second day, 300 were waiting to get in the show. The show had 608 10X10 dealer booths manning 960 tables, plus space for the US Mint, B.E.P., Wizard Supply, and Piedmont Gold Panners. All the grading services were there, and Abe Lincoln and Ben Franklin spoke and signed autographs. Attendance was approximately 10,000.

Dealers said it was a great show. I did not hear any negative comments.

The general chairman of the show was Tony Bonaro with his theme, "Walking with Liberty". All of the giveaway items had his theme on them. NGC had a display of toned GSA graded Carson City Dollars. They also had a white set of Peace dollars in MS-65 or better. PCGS had a complete set of Indian Cents in MS-65 or better, Full Red.

The exhibit area run by Bob Russell, had 53 exhibits from 12 states. The Obsolete Currency Sheet exhibit had over 200 uncut sheets in 92 cases. There were 245 cases of exhibits. The Best of Show award was "Halley's Comet: A Visual Record on Coins of Elagabalus" by Michael Kodysz. The People's Choice award went to Jim Zylstra for "Pack Your Bags Toward an Appreciation of African Primitive Money".

There were 14 FUN educational programs run by Randy Campbell, over three days. Attendance was up about 20% from last year, with one program drawing over 100 people. Five club buses came to the show, sponsored by FUN. Jacksonville Coin Club had 47 members aboard, Ocala had 50, Palm Beach 37, Sarasota 39, and West Hernando 37, for a total of 210 club members attending the show.

The Young Numismatist program and the Scout Merit Badge program run by Tony Bonaro, had 54 attending respectively. The Coins & Kids booth had 252 kids go through. Sam Gelbard ran the Kid's Treasure Trivia Contest. The FUN Club Get Together run by Tony Swicer, had 46 in attendance representing 27 clubs. FUN welcomes new FUN member club, Citrus County Coin Club. There were several specialty clubs meeting including the Society of Paper Money Collectors that put on four free seminars.

The adult scholarship winner was Carole Marshall of the Palm Beach Coin Club. The YN winner was Abby Zechman of the Central Florida Coin Club. The YN winner for the Calderazzo Endowment scholarship was Karla Hoffman. Steve Martin received the Polly Abbott Service Award. The Jim & Carrie Best Literary Award went to Ron Cheek for his article on "Queen Elizabeth II on Canadian Dollars 1953-1967".

The Numismatic Ambassador Award Breakfast had 51 in attendance with 5 new ambassadors being presented. They are, David Crenshaw of Georgia, Scott E Douglas of Ontario, Canada, Patrick A Heller of Michigan, Kim Kiick of Colorado, and David Menchell of New York. David Harper, retired editor of Numismatic News was the master of ceremonies.

Dealer registration run by Nancy Casey had over 1900 dealers register with 217 “early bird” badges. Public registration run by Mark Trout had over 8000 register over four days. FUN membership run by Sandy Pearl signed up 500 members, including 6 life members. Photo I.D. run by Gary Braisted had 750 new dealer I.D.’s made.

Newly elected FUN Board members for 2020-2021 are; Chris Arbutine (appointed), Gary Braisted, Steve Martin, Donna Moon, Sandy Pearl, Bob Russell.

Heritage Auctions had a massive coin & currency auction over four days. US coins brought \$41,783,861, including a 1927-D \$20 St. Gaudens PCGS CAC MS-65+ for \$2,160,000. World Paper brought \$1,742,049. US paper brought \$9,890,100 for a total of \$53,416,010. They also sold \$13 million at the New York International show.

Bourse Chair Cindy Wibker works all year long to get the show hall, set up the hotels, set up rooms for club meetings and the Heritage auction, get dealers for the show, set the bourse layout, and many other things behind the scene. Most of the credit for a smooth-running show goes out to her.

Tony S