



TNA YOUTH NEWSLETTER



★ A Publication of the Texas Numismatic Association ★

December 2008

Number Ten

The 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln will take place on February 12, 2009. Lincoln's likeness is seen on many numismatic items, including the Lincoln Cent, the 1918 Illinois Centennial Commemorative half dollar, tokens, medals and many pieces of paper money.

The Lincoln Cent was first issued in 1909 as part of the 100th anniversary celebration. For the 150th anniversary in 1959, the reverse of the Lincoln cent was changed from wheat ears to the Lincoln Memorial design. Several new coins will be issued as part of the 200th anniversary.



Four new one cent coins will be issued by the U.S. Mint in 2009. They will each represent

a different phase of Lincoln's life. The first coin will include an image of a log cabin and will represent his birth and early childhood in Kentucky.

The second coin will include an engraving of



Abe sitting on a log and reading. That coin concerns his years in Indiana when he worked to educate himself.



Lincoln standing in front of the old State Capitol in Springfield, Illinois will

appear on the third coin to remind everyone of his working years as an adult.

The last cent will include an image of the partially built U.S. Capitol dome that was being constructed during his Presidency.



The U.S. Mint will also be producing a Lincoln Commemorative Silver Dollar. The obverse will have an image of Lincoln and the reverse will include

the last 43 words of the Gettysburg Address. The Gettysburg



Address is one of the most famous speeches in our history and includes the words, "government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." The Mint will strike 500,000 of the commemorative coins.

**The Adventures of "Coins" Johnson-
"Wanda the Waitress' Tip Money"
By Guest Contributor Charlie Mead**

Herman Melville Johnson had been studying numismatics for most of his life. In fact, almost everyone called the ten-year old "Coins." Only his mother called him Herman.

Coins was reading in the family garage which contained his voluminous library and no cars when his mother walked in with another woman.

"Herman?" his mother asked. "Wanda the waitress is here to see you."

Coins looked expectantly at Wanda as his reputation as a numismatist sometimes brought townspeople over with questions.

"Hi, Coins," Wanda said a bit sheepishly. "I wonder if you would have a look at this please." She took a piece of paper money out of her pocket.

"I got this as a tip," Wanda explained. "Is it any good?"



Coins examined the note. The well-worn bill certainly looked like a regular U.S. dollar, but the printing was blue along with the customary green. Also, the words, "Silver Certificate", were along the top instead of the usual "Federal Reserve Note."

What will Coins say? See page 3 for the answer.

Numismatic Trivia Questions

- 1) What are the two dates that appear on U.S. Bicentennial coinage?
- 2) Continental Currency notes were issued during what conflict?
- 3) Is the buffalo standing on a mound or a flat plain on the first issues of the Buffalo five-cent nickel?

Please see page 3 for the answers

Images of Lincoln have appeared on many different pieces of paper money. In addition to the \$5 bills that feature Lincoln that are currently in circulation, there have been many other pieces of paper money since 1861 that have included portraits of America's 16th president. Several of the notes even have nicknames.



The large size Series of 1899 \$1 Silver Certificates are known as "Black Eagles" and they include small portraits of Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant. The central vignette is called *Eagle of the Capitol*. A vignette is a picture or engraving that tapers off gradually into the unprinted portion of the paper.



The "Porthole" notes are large size Series of 1923 Silver Certificates that feature a round portrait of Lincoln in the center of the face surrounded by the words "THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA." They are nicknamed porthole notes because the round design looks like the round windows on a ship that are known as portholes.

Numismatic Trivia Answers

- 1) 1776-1976
- 2) The American Revolutionary War
- 3) Mound

The Adventures of "Coins" Johnson- "Wanda the Waitress' Tip Money" continued

"Wanda," said Coins brightly. "This note is a Silver Certificate. They were printed by the United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing from 1928 until about 1963. There were literally billions printed. At one time, you could trade this note in for a dollar's worth of silver, but that stopped in 1968. It's still worth a dollar though if you took it to a bank. Depending upon the condition and other factors, it might be worth more than that to a collector though."

"Thanks for the good news Coins," an obviously relieved Wanda bubbled. "As for the bank, I think I'll keep this one. Pretty soon you won't be the only numismatist in town!"

Special Thanks to the following for donating the materials that were included with this issue of the TNA Youth Newsletter: Professional Currency Dealers Association and the TNA. The photos included in this issue of the newsletter are courtesy of Heritage Auction Galleries.

This newsletter was created and is edited by TNA Youth Chair Kathy Lawrence, P.O. Box 3203, Cedar Hill, TX 75106-3203. If you have any comments or suggestions for future topics, please write to the address above or send an email to kaly01@sbcglobal.net.