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Spring 2020



Genuine 1803 dollar and cast counterfeit 1804 dollar

Inside: Counterfeits - Good, Bad, and Ugly

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THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

VOLUME 56, NUMBER 2 SPRING 2020

The Virginia Numismatist, an official publication of the Virginia Numismatic Association, published four times per year is mailed from Norfolk, Virginia, at a 3rd Class Rate and cannot be forwarded so be sure to notify us of changes of address. We welcome your numismatic article submissions for publication. Please send all correspondence about membership, address changes, and payment for ads to:

Virginia Numismatic Association, P.O. Box 263, Cape Charles, VA 23310.

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¹ / ₄ Page	\$25.00	\$100.00
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VNA ONLINE: Our web site provides current information about the VNA organization, numismatic activities, events, and more information for the numismatic community. Please go to:

www.vnaonline.org

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VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

2020 VNA Membership / Renewal Application

Please select one of the following membership choices:

 Individual Membership -	\$10
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 3-year Membership -	\$25
 3-year Club Membership -	\$25
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 Lifetime Membership -	\$150

Dues are payable on Jan 1. New applications accepted between Sep 1 and Dec 31 are paid in full through the following year. Please provide your personal contact information below:

Name	
Street or P O Box	
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I do _____ do not _____ want email notification to receive electronic edition of The Virginia Numismatist in 2019 (All members will still receive the print edition via postal mail).

All personal information is kept confidential and used only for VNA business. Please send application and payment to:

Virginia Numismatic Association P O Box 263 Cape Charles, VA 23310

The VNA is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated to the educating, encouraging and promoting interest in numismatics. Founded in 1959, the VNA has a membership of over 350 individual members and member institutions with sixteen (16) member clubs. We publish the quarterly journal, *The Virginia Numismatist*, and host an annual three-day Convention, Stamp and Coin Show, which includes exhibits, educational presentations, distinguished guest speakers, a banquet, scouting, and youth activities.



Virginia Numismatic Association Officers and Directors

OFFICERS (2020)

OFFICE	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	EMAIL
President	Parry Bragg	Richmond, VA	804-652-9183	parrybragg795@hotmail.com
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Data Base Manager	Judy Pollock		540-310-0279	judithapollock@aol.com
Education Director	John Philips	P.O. Box 31752 Henrico, VA 23294	804-347-7082	john.philips@comcast.net

DIRECTORS (2020)

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George Hines	Hagerstown, MD		
Billy Hoovler		540-373-0778	rubberhook1 @aol.com
Joe Riggs	Virginia Beach, VA	757-335-9750	thebeachpainter@msn.com
Richard Schornak	Yorktown, VA	757-659-0235	rschornak@cox.net
Bill Scott	P.O. Box 31752, Henrico, VA 23294	804-350-1140	woscott1@gmail.com

President's Message

Well, a lot has occurred since my last message in *The Virginia Numismatist*. As far as I know no members of the VNA have come down with COVID-19. I can't predict the future but the VNA board is continuing to plan to hold the VNA convention in September 2020. We want to continue the excellent educational exhibits as seen last year, and maybe improve on them this year. Richard Schornak and I are bourse chairman and we will be contacting dealers for about the show. We have had some success already.

One thing I wish to emphasize to the VNA membership is that the American Numismatic Association (ANA) has cancelled all their 2020 summer session of classes in Colorado. This presents an opportunity for the VNA to increase attendance at the **62nd Annual VNA Convention, Coin & Currency Show** in September, if the VNA gets at least twenty-two attendees to sign up for and take the ANA Counterfeit Detection: Classic Fakes and Chinese-made Counterfeits Class offered in Fredericksburg. We may draw attendees that were unable to take the class in Colorado. The cost for this ANA class is \$350 for non-ANA members and \$250 for VNA or ANA members. We are still planning on the usual educational lectures, the youth auctions, Boy Scouts of America merit badge class, and homeschoolers day. I have invited a well-known numismatist to be our Banquet speaker and am waiting for a confirmation before we announce our after-dinner speaker.

So, at this point all is proceeding as planned for the convention, but everything depends on the status of COVID-19 travel restrictions and authorization to hold large gatherings. The VNA must follow direction from local, state, and federal governments as regards the possibility of having the convention. Please keep me informed about any members coming down with COVID-19 and try to stay safe.

We just learned Homer MacArthur (Mac) Cole of Cole's Coins and Collectibles in Chester, VA passed away on May 11th. Homer was a longtime member of the VNA, Richmond and Central Virginia Coin Clubs, and was well known for Civil War relics as well as coins. Stay safe and Thanks,

Parry Bragg - VNA President

Editor's Corner

All in-person VNA Coin Shows, Promoter Coin Shows, and VNA Club Meetings through July 2020 are CANCELLED due to prohibitions on large public gatherings. Please check status of events planned for August 2020 and beyond with their Points of Contact or at <u>www.vnaonline.org</u> for new cancellations.

Tom Kays - Editor

Counterfeits - Good, Bad, and Ugly By Tom Kays

Counterfeit coins circulated alongside genuine nearly as long as coins have been made. Ancient counterfeits from the 5th Century B.C. are known. Counterfeits share much the same history but often had broader circulation than their genuine counterparts. For numismatists in the 19th century, facsimiles of rare coins made after-hours and sanctioned by the Director of the Mint, would use old (sometimes rusty) dies to produce collectable rarities such as all the 1804-dated dollars highly prized today. "Good" counterfeits include these restrikes, mules, and electrotype copies of rare, sometimes fantasy designs unobtainable by any other means.

Abraham Cowley quips about "bad" counterfeits meant to deceive in 1647: FALSE COYN, WITH WHICH TH'IMPOSTOR CHEATS US STILL; THE STAMP AND COLOUR GOOD, BUT METAL ILL! (from *The Mistress*).

Half a century before the U.S. Mint opened, vast numbers of lightweight, counterfeit English and Irish coppers were dumped into colonial American commerce because they traded at or above face value. Transported too, were English convicts (counterfeiters and counterfeitresses) with hidden skill in the mechanical arts, picked up from a past life of forgery, fakery, and knavery. Local metalsmiths have long added their own imitation coppers to town commerce, turning scrap metal into spendable small change. Most village blacksmiths and every silversmith had the ability to make imitation coins or Their degree of mechanical skill mattered to the quality of the final tokens. product which varied greatly. Bogus coppers had no legal tender status as did silver and gold coin and would not convert into gold, silver, or bills of Wildly fluctuating local exchange rates for copper and silver varied credit. from colony to colony. In 1741, and again in 1789, "Coppers Panics" erupted in New York City. Bostonians and Philadelphians could make good profit by bringing coppers to New York where they passed for double face value, exchanging them for Spanish dollars to be spent back in their hometowns. Swings in the exchange rate of "imitation half pence" coppers could drop overnight down to the commodity value of the metal. A "New York shilling" formerly reckoned at between a dozen and a half to two dozen coppers each, rose in value in 1789 to five or six dozen coppers each. Merchants were unwilling to accept any more coppers than needed to make exact change.



"Thick" 1794 U.S. Large Cent versus "Thin" 1782 Irish Imitation Copper half pence with George III Portrait but with "George II" legend)

Built in 1789, the historic Mitchell-Weeks log farmhouse in Chantilly, Virginia, was located west of the intersection of what would become Lee-Jackson Highway and Lee's Corner Road. The house became a hospital during the Battle of Chantilly in 1862. During its dismantling for new development over a hundred years later, a cache of old coins came to light, scattered beneath the floorboards including genuine and "ugly" counterfeit large cents. The counterfeit cents were meticulously crafted from thin, obverse and reverse shells, pieced together with a red interior filler and an applied edge to hide the seam.



Their origin has never been fully explained. We know about unsuccessful counterfeiters through arrest and court records that document items found in their possession, entered by the prosecution against the suspect as circumstantial evidence including false coin and tools of the trade. It is unlikely the names and true accounts of "successful" counterfeiters will be even be known. Mystery still surrounds those who made these bogus cents.



Counterfeit 1827 Matron Head Large Cent from the Mitchell-Weeks House showing Obverse, the "inside of the Reverse," with red adhesive filler, and applied edge to hide the seam.

Dr. John L. Riddell was "Melter and Refiner" at the New Orleans Mint from 1839 to 1848. Riddell studied old coins deposited for re-coining. He documented hundreds of counterfeit, Mexican "Cap and Ray" eight *reales* (dollars) and eighty-seven varieties of counterfeit U.S. bust half dollars, assaying their silver content before melting, and refining the metal for use in "O" mint mark coins of the period. Dr. Riddell published facsimile images, descriptions, and assay results for impure, lightweight, and fraudulent silver coins in his *A Monograph of the Silver Dollar, Good and Bad, with Fac-Simile Figures of Four Hundred and Twenty-Five Varieties of Dollars and Eighty-Seven Varieties of Half Dollars* published in 1845, intended for bankers. Riddell counterfeit bust half dollar varieties used to be found in dealer junk boxes, but now nice examples can command prices rivalling the genuine.



Counterfeit Bust Half Dollar of 1833 marked with "X" before nose [Riddell Number 465] (left) contains just 17.5 cents worth of silver, compared with the genuine (right) per Dr. Riddell's assay findings.



Obverse and reverse of counterfeit 1831 bust dime (left images) compared to genuine dime of 1830 (right images)

Other denominations of "Riddell-era" counterfeits have had less study.



Obverse and reverse of an "Unreal, cast 1772 Eight Reales (left) and a "presumed" genuine 1778 eight reales (right)

New studies into Spanish Milled Dollars by Bob Gurney expand the work of Riddell to more series and types, finding new ways to distinguish original circulating counterfeits made during or before the Napoleonic wars, from the massive second wave of forgeries after Riddell. From 1850 to 1930 the Chinese Opium market fueled the Spanish milled dollar industry, paying a premium for older silver dollar designs. Modern fakes are still produced in China for foreign collectors. On a recent trip along the route of the old Silk Road, an American tourist found merchants at stops in the Gobi Desert would produce boxes full of modern fake trade dollars and "bogus jade" for anyone interested in taking home antiquities.

Two methods of counterfeiting are to strike coins with a hand-held hammer or coining press using a set of dies for high volume operations, or to cast coins from molten metal, using wet sand packed into a mold that takes overnight to complete. Counterfeit coins are usually backdated to fool people into thinking poor details come from long wear, not indifferent manufacture.



Struck tokens are made to order today, using hammer and anvil (left) and boxes of coin dies to be matched or muled as desired, with stacks of planchet blanks (right) used to make pewter copies of early American designs at a recent 18th Century Fair.

Whether you seek "original counterfeits" such as 1944 Henning five cent pieces or Machin's Mill coppers, modern museum copies to use as hole-fillers such as Ashmore copies of New England shillings, or fantasy pieces struck over good coin by the Moonlight Mint, why not consider owning a historic counterfeit or modern imitation coin from the dark side? Form your own "Black Cabinet" for fun and use them as a source of pocket pieces to carry around as conversation starters with folks who notice old coins.

References:

From Crime to Punishment Counterfeit and Debased Currencies in Colonial and Pre-Federal America, by Dr. Philip Mossman, Numismatic Studies 27, The American Numismatic Society.2013.

A Monograph of the Silver Dollar, Good and Bad, with Fac-Simile Figures of Four Hundred and Twenty-Five Varieties of Dollars and Eighty-Seven Varieties of Half Dollars...," by Dr. John L. Riddell, M.D., 1845.

Counterfeit Portrait Eight-Reales, The Un-real Reales by Robert (Swamperbob) Gurney et.al., Hope-Mills NC, 2014..



Typical "Black Cabinet" of modern copies of historic coins and medals. Some quite good, others bad, and a few downright ugly, yet perfect for hands-on, show and tell talks about the genuine coins and medals they represent.

2020 CALENDAR OF COIN CLUB SHOWS Free Admission to All VNA Member Shows

All VNA coin shows through July 2020 are <u>CANCELLED</u> due to prohibitions on large public gatherings.

Please check status of VNA coin shows planned for Autumn at <u>www.vnaonline.org</u> for cancellations.

September 24th – 27th, 2020 Virginia Numismatic Association (VNA) 62nd Annual Convention, Coin & Currency Show.

Dealer Setup: Thursday, 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Public Hours: Friday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Fredericksburg Expo & Conference Center at 2371 Carl D. Silver Pkwy, Fredericksburg, VA. Featuring 150 Tables. Contact: Richard Schornak, 372 Wythe Creek Rd., #E, Poquoson, VA 23662. Phone: 757 659-0235. Email: rschornak@cox.net.

Plan ahead for the 63rd VNA Convention on September 23 - 26, 2021.

October 10 – 11, 2020

Virginia Beach Coin Show/Tidewater Coin Club.

Saturday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, and Sunday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Virginia Beach Convention Center, 1000 19th Street, Virginia Beach, VA 23451. Contact John Kolos, Phone 757-331-1530. Email: john.kolos1790@gmail.com and see website: www.tidewatercoinclub.org.

October 16 – 18, 2020 Richmond Annual Spring Coin & Currency Show.

Friday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM. NEW LOCATION: ACCA Shriners Center, 1712 Belleview Avenue, Richmond, VA 23227. Email Bill Scott at woscott1@gmail.com. Phone: 804-350-1140. See www.richmondcoinclub.com.

November 7 & 8, 2020 Salem / Roanoke Valley Coin Club Show.

Saturday 9:30 AM - 5:30 PM, Sunday 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM. American Legion Hall, 710 Apperson Drive, Salem, VA. Free Admission, Free parking, Good food. Contact Will Camp, P.O. Box 283, Fishersville, VA 22939 Phone: 540-943-2267.

December 4 - 6, 2020

Shenandoah Valley Coin and Stamp Show.

Friday: 12:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Saturday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Sunday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Weyers Cave Community Center, Weyers Cave, VA (I-

81, Exit 235, two miles east on Hwy 256). Bourse Chair: Jim Lewandowski. Email: <u>svccshow@gmail.com</u>. See website: http://svccshow.info

PROMOTER SHOWS

Contact the editor to list a promoter show here and online. VNA Club Shows are advertised free of charge. The cost to advertise if you are a promoter is \$15.00 per show. If you are an advertiser in the Virginia Numismatist, you may also advertise free of charge as a paid promoter. See page 3 ad rates

All Promoter coin shows through July 2020 are <u>CANCELLED</u> due to prohibitions on large public gatherings.

Please check status of Promoter shows planned for August 2020 and beyond with their Points of Contact for cancellations.

August 1 - 2, 2020

Vienna Coin and Stamp Show.

Saturday: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Sun: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. The Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, Vienna, VA. Contact Darren Coker at (703) 444-2812, email: <u>darrencoker@aol.com</u>.

Plan for a future Vienna show on November 7 – 8, 2020

September 12, 2020

Norfolk Coin Show.

Saturday, 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM. VFW Post 4809, 5728 Bartee Street, Norfolk, VA, 23502. Free Admission. 40 Tables. Free drawings for door prizes throughout the day. Contact Rusty Williams, P.O. Box 12403, Norfolk, VA 23541. Phone: 757-363-0179.

Plan for a future Norfolk show on November 21, 2020.

September 13, 2020

Annapolis Coin and Currency Show.

Sunday 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM. The Elks Lodge #622, 2 Pythian Drive, Edgewater/Annapolis, MD 21037. Carl Ostiguy, CEO Coins, P.O. Box

92, Savage, MD 20763. Phone: 443-623-7025, Email www.ceocoins@comcast.net or visit <u>www.coinshows.com</u>

Plan for a future Annapolis show on November 29, 2020.

October 2 - 4, 2020

Ocean City Maryland Coin and Currency Show.

(Dealer Set Up Friday 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM). Show hours: Friday: 12:00 – 5:00 PM, Saturday 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM. Sunday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Ocean City Maryland Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Highway& 40th Street. 21842. Carl Ostiguy, CEO Coins, P.O. Box 92, Savage, MD 20763. Phone: 443-623-7025. Email: ceocoins@comcast.net and see www.coinshows.com.

October 2, - 4, 2020

North Carolina Numismatic Association (NCNA) Annual Coin Show & Convention.

Friday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM. Sunday 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Cabarrus Arena & Events Center, 4751 Highway 49 North, Concord, NC 28025. Contact Perry Siegel at (704) 488-4787.

November 12 - 14, 2020

Whitman Coin & Collectibles Baltimore Expo.

Thursday 12:00 – 6:00 PM, Friday and Saturday: 10:00 AM - 6:30 PM, Sunday: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM. One West Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD. 21021. Contact 404-214-4373.

November 21 & 22, 2020

Frederick Coin and Currency Show.

Saturday: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Sun: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. The Frederick Elks Lodge #684, 289 Willowdale Drive, Frederick, MD 21702. Carl Ostiguy, CEO Coins, P.O. Box 92, Savage, MD 20763. Phone: 443-623-7025, Email www.ceocoins@comcast.net or visit www.coinshows.com

December 12 & 13, 2020

Annandale Coin Show.

Saturday: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Northern Virginia Community College, Ernst Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA 22003 (I-495, Exit 52 West). Contact: Wayne Herndon, P.O. Box 221601, Chantilly, VA 20151. Phone (703) 385-0059. <u>www.annandalecoinshow.com</u>

Plan for future Annandale shows next year on July 24 - 25, 2021, and December 11 - 12, 2021.

THE MONEY \$TORE

\$50 REWARD: I am doing a DVD on the history of paper currency. I'm offering a \$50 reward for the first good, clear scan and permission to use the image of the \$20 Denomination note from the Bank of Pittsylvania, Chatham, VA. These notes are pictured in Obsolete Paper Money of Virginia, by Charles J. Affleck, Volume 2, Page 50. Do you have this note or know someone who does? Call Wesley Smith at (501) 472-3800.

VNA MEMBERS: Please provide your free Money \$tore ad (up to 30 words) to thomasakays@gmail.com or call (571) 225-5750 to reserve ad space in the next edition.

VNA MEMBER CLUBS

All in-person VNA Coin Club meetings through July 2020 are <u>CANCELLED</u> due to prohibitions on public gatherings. Please contact the Club Point of Contact for when in-person meetings will begin again.

ALEXANDRIA COIN CLUB. Contact: Brandon Guilliams at brandon.guilliams@alexandriacoinclub.org, Website: alexandriacoinclub.org

CENTRAL VIRGINIA COIN CLUB. Contact: Bob Hicks, Phone 804 520-8292, Email: hicksrg@aol.com. Website: centralvirginiacoinclub.org

COVINGTON COIN CLUB. Contact: Ken Headley, 830 White Oak Dr., Covington, VA 24426, 540-962-9491 Email: <u>kheadley@ntelos.net</u>

CULPEPER COIN CLUB. Contact: Gregg Coburn, (540) 272-1524.

FAIRFAX COIN CLUB. The May 2020 meeting went "virtual" using the Zoom application and with 40 lot, auction hosted on-line by Penny

Pincher Auctions. Club members receive access information to virtual events by email. Contact: Pat Flynn at <u>fairfaxcoinclub@gmail.com</u> Website: www.fairfaxcoinclub.com

LYNCHBURG COIN CLUB. Contact Thomas Wood, (434) 528-0488, <u>coindink@hotmail.com</u>

MONTICELLO COIN CLUB. Contact: Jackie Dean, (540) 832-0024, Email: Debomb14.aol.com

PIEDMONT COIN CLUB. Contact: Ralph Brammer, P.O. Box 418, Collinsville, VA 24078. (276)-647-7411

RAPPAHANNOCK AREA COIN CLUB. Phone: (540) 891-1341. Contact: Billy Hoovler, rubberhook1@aol.com, 540-785-7188. Website: www.racceteer.com

RICHMOND COIN CLUB. Contact: William Scott, P.O. Box 31752, Henrico, VA 23294, 804-350-1140, woscott1@verizon.net, Website: richmondcoinclub.com

SALEM COIN CLUB. Contact Emmett Yonce, P.O. Box 512, Daleville, VA 24083, 540-992-5331.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY COIN CLUB. Contact is Mark Rathke at 540 478-2105. Email: <u>SVCCSHOW@gmail.com</u> See us on Facebook.

TIDEWATER COIN CLUB. Contact Fran Ryan, P.O. Box 5247, Virginia Beach, VA 23471. Website: www.tidewatercoinclub.org or webmaster@tidewatercoinclub.org

VIRGINIA PENINSULA COIN CLUB. Contact David Kurtz, 102 Spinnaker Way, Williamsburg, VA 23185. Phone: 757-345-5559

WARRENTON STAMP & COIN CLUB. Contact: Tony Tripi, 540-347-2567, Email: <u>tripi@earthlink.net</u>.

WASHINGTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY. Contact: Simcha Kuritzky, P.O. Box 13504, Silver Spring, MD 20911 Phone: (301) 585-1029, Website: wns.anaclubs.org

WINCHESTER COIN CLUB. Contact Doug & Ginny Bowers, (540) 335-7287. Email: <u>bottles@shentel.net</u>

Not affiliated with VNA: **Ancient Numismatic Society of Washington D.C.** Contact Michael Mehalick, Phone: 301 552-2214, and Email: <u>genioavgvsti@comcast.net</u> Website: <u>http://answ.ancients.info</u>

A*R*T Coins and Treasures, LLC Coin Shop in New Baltimore, VA 5021 Lee Highway STE B, Warrenton, VA Monday – Friday 10:00 – 5:00, and Saturday

10:00 – 2:00. World and U.S. Coins and Currency, Tokens and Medals, Contact Gregg Coburn 540-272-1524.



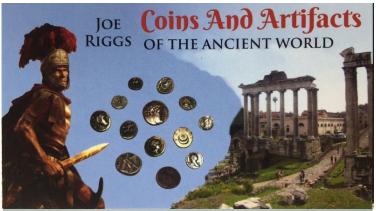


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EMAIL: ceocoins@comcast.net

ANNAPOLIS COIN & CURRENCY SHOWS Sunday, September 13, 2020, 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Elks Lodge #622, 2 Pythian Drive, Edgewater/Annapolis, MD 21037

Plan for a future Annapolis show on November 29, 2020.

OCEAN CITY COIN & CURRENCY SHOW

Friday/Saturday/Sunday October 2 - 4, 2020, (Dealer Set-up Friday, from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM) – Open to Public Friday 12:00 – 5:00 PM, Saturday 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM and Sunday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Ocean City (Roland E. Powell) Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City, Maryland 21842 (at 40th Street)

FREDERICK COIN & CURRENCY SHOW

Saturday / Sunday, November 21-22, 2020 Saturday 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM and Sunday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Frederick Elks Lodge #684, 289 Willowdale Drive, Frederick, Maryland 21702

For updates see: <u>http://www.coinshows.com/maryland.html</u>





1.800.776.0560 www.DavidLawrence.com



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