

LUNAR COIN NEWS

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Local Coin Show is busy with Silver buyers

of all types under the "moon"

Collect the Lunar's! By Robert S. Matitia

In our area, there are a couple of local coin shows a month, and each usually attracts around 30 to 45 local dealers. These local shows are usually held every other weekend or so. This past

Java, I steered the family van towards the other side of town, a mere 25 to 30 miles or so away. Once getting onto the on-ramp for the freeway, the total trip to the other side of town was about 30 minutes.

I had a limited amount of time that I could spend at the show, Through the crowd, I quickly made a beeline to the dealer that I was there to see: John Bertram of Silver-Eagle-Coins.com who deals with modern day collectible US and Foreign Semi-Numismatic coins and bullion....

*The **12-Year** cycle of the ancient **Chinese** calendar includes the following animals: Year of the **Mouse**, Year of the **Ox**, Year of the **Tiger**, Year of the **Rabbit**, Year of the **Dragon**, Year of the **Snake**, Year of the **Horse**, Year of the **Goat**, Year of the **Monkey**, Year of the **Rooster**, Year of the **Dog** and Year of the **Pig**.*

Sunday, I decided to attend one of the local shows to scope out some of the down pricing frenzy that may be abound, especially in the Silver arena with the silver settlement price being at \$16, plus I had been in touch with one local dealer who I had dealt with before, and I knew that he carried certain products that I was interested in. After, my Sunday morning constitutional and a cupful of

Not too bad, and really no traffic, considering that there was going to be a big game playing later on that day. As I pulled into the parking lot of the show, the parking lot was packed! Wow! I certainly was surprised to see so many cars already there. As I entered the show venue, it seemed as if they really had a packed house! All of the dealer table space was full and there was a frenzy on the floor! However,



John Bertram of www.Silver-Eagle-Coins.com working the show and assisting customers interested in ASEs, Perth Mint Lunar Series Coins and other Semi-Numismatic Bullion.

As I mentioned, I have dealt with John now for a few years, and he is great to deal with. While about 95% of the

dealers at the show deal only with the usual suspects of “traditional” collectibles such as: Morgans, Peace, Walkers, Franklin’s, and Mint sets, etc. In fact I observed one dealer selling to another dealer about 500 Morgans at this show, just counting them out from and into shoe boxes! I certainly have an interest in the traditional coin collecting fare, but recently my interest has peaked into the Semi-Numismatic/collector bullion arena of the Australian Perth Mint’s Lunar Series, that is one of the specialties that John carries and is knowledgeable about. The Perth Mint Lunar series is based on the 12 year Chinese Lunar Calendar which dates back to before 2600 B.C. In 1996, the Perth Mint began minting gold “Lunar Coins” and started with the “Year of the Mouse”. Then, because of their popularity, the Perth Mint added Silver coins in 1999 and then also added over time various denominations and weights. The Perth Mint offers both proof-strike and regular issue Lunar Coins, but all have limited mintages, unlike say the American Eagle Silver and Gold bullion programs. Each Lunar coin features Queen Elizabeth II on the obverse and the representative animal from the Chinese Zodiac for that year on the reverse side. The 12-Year cycle of the ancient Chinese calendar includes the following animals: Year of the **Mouse**, Year of the **Ox**, Year of the **Tiger**, Year of the

Rabbit, Year of the **Dragon**, Year of the **Snake**, Year of the **Horse**, Year of the **Goat**, Year of the **Monkey**, Year of the **Rooster**, Year of the **Dog** and Year of the **Pig**. Many of these coins, because of the limited mintages and the absolutely stunning eye appeal associated with each coin, regularly fetch prices far above the market value of their bullion content due to heavy demand. Since the Perth Mint began the Silver coins in 1999 and the Chinese

run from 1999 to 2010, beginning with the Rabbit in 1999 and ending with the Tiger in 2010. The Australian Lunar Series I set is extremely rare with approximately 52,000 mintages (due to 2009 Ox1 which has the lowest mintage of the series). To compare, the Australian Lunar Series II One Ounce Silver Coins have Mintages of 300,000 per year which typically sell out at the Perth Mint within the first few days of release. In 2008, the Perth Mint began the Lunar Series II with the year of the Mouse coin, and notably changed the one ounce coin’s diameter from the original Series I collection. 2014 is the year of the Horse and the 2015 Year of the Goats are already minted and issued. The Australian Perth Mint Series II collection will end in 2019 with the Year of the Pig. No matter your interest in Numismatics, learning and researching our country’s history and other countries history and traditions, as well as visiting a local coin show and establishing a relationship with a dealer that you can trust is always a fun and exciting endeavor.



Pictured above is a gorgeous set of the Australian Perth Mint’s Silver Lunar Series I that I took at John’s display case.



Lunar Series II Coins from John Bertram of www.Silver-Eagle-Coins.com

Lunar “cycle” began 3 years earlier, there is an overlap in the “collector’s issues”. The Silver Lunar Series I Coins