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Issue

VI

The Young Numismatist

Official Publication of the Young Numismatists of America



Meet YNA Leadership

and let your voice be heard in
the upcoming elections **p. 11**

Printed Issue

How your words be in
the hands of collectors
across the nation **p. 3**

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For young numismatists, by young numismatists

A Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

Hello readers,

This is the issue where it where I feel everything has come full circle—the first elections since the very beginning of the club, an interview with Christian Strayhorn (who has made it all possible), and even new writers joining *The Young Numismatist*. Despite the delays, the dedication is not without payoff—this may be the best issue yet.

This November issue is dominated by the upcoming elections for YNA positions. Though some positions are uncontested, read through each of the campaigns carefully to be an effective ‘citizen’ of the club and voter—you will impact its direction after all. Of course, absolutely ensure to be at the December 5 meeting where the voting will take place; there will be no other opportunities to do so.

Additionally, at next meeting, there will be an exclusive YNA auction with items donated from generous benefactors. The lots are not revealed beforehand, and that Friday is the only chance to partake—yet another reason to be involved.

This is the last call for any work to be published in the printed end-of-year issue. We will soon be hearing word back on the grant request I submitted earlier in the year which will allow for the printing. Even if denied, the club has raised enough funds to continue with the project. I strongly encourage everyone to submit to see their words in print (how cool is that!) and share their passion with the wider numismatic community, because that is really what the club and publication is all about.

Don’t hesitate to reach out to me personally if you have writing submissions, questions, or are at all interested in what *TYN* entails. Or if you just want to talk coins, I’m always more than happy to do that too.

Enjoy reading,

Nate Leonauskas



Editor-in-Chief

ynaeditor@money.org

A Letter from the Club President

Hello members!

Before we dive in, a quick announcement: we will be issuing a special, printed, “Best of 2025” issue of *The Young Numismatist* in the coming months. Keep an eye out—it’s going to be a great way to celebrate all that the YNA community has accomplished in this past year!

I’m sure it’s on our minds with the time and, for some of us, temperature change; the holiday season is often a time of gifts, both giving and receiving. I find that as a numismatist, relatives and friends often want to buy gifts that match my passions—but as many of us know, non-numismatists aren’t always the most adept at finding problem-free or relevant coins, which can sometimes create a tricky dilemma.

Here’s a thought: this year, ask for numismatic literature or, if I may say so, your ANA dues for the year. Not only will you get access to the ANA YN programming and *The Numismatist*, but you’ll also enjoy another year of membership in the YNA!

As a holiday gift from the ANA and some very generous donors (special thanks to Harlan J. Berk), the YNA will be hosting a Holiday Auction on December 4th. Each YNA who attends will receive 100 virtual St. Eligius Dollars to spend on over 60 lots, ranging from ancient silver to modern exnumia to paper money. Members—be sure to attend!

Not a member yet? Visit our website to join, learn more, or support the YNA.

Happy Collecting and Happy Holidays,

Elliot Eng

YNA President

ynapresident@money.org

www.money.org/yn-america/

The Young Numismatists of America

Proudly affiliated with the American Numismatic Association

— About —

Founded in March 2025, the Young Numismatists of America (YNA) is a national coin club solely by and for young numismatists (YNs). At the inaugural meeting, over 20 numismatists aged 13 to 17 from across the United States met to launch their new national club, which now boasts more than 85 members. The YNA is facilitated by the American Numismatic Association and strengthened by the ANA's extensive network and programs for YNs. The YNA meets online monthly and hosts presentations, talks, and discussions led by YNs. Meetings also feature distinguished guest speakers from the numismatic world, raffles, and other engaging events.

The *Young Numismatist* is the official monthly publication of the Young Numismatists of America, dedicated solely to serving the young numismatist community. Embodying the club's motto, *For YNs, By YNs*, all articles are written entirely by passionate YNs from across the United States, with the general aim of reinvigorating youth involvement in the hobby and amplifying the voices of the coin industry's next generation of leaders. *The Young Numismatist* also serves as a platform for YNs to showcase their extensive numismatic knowledge, enhance their writing and research skills, build personal literary portfolios, and bolster connections with other numismatists.

— Main Objectives of the Young Numismatists of America —

E **ducation** for young numismatists. Knowledge is power, and the YNA is committed to extending members' breadth of knowledge of a wide range of numismatic topics. Presentations during monthly meetings, discussions, and articles intend to be highly informative and act as an opportunity for members to share about their numismatic specialties. The YNA also brings in older industry professionals for educational presentations and interviews.

E **ngagement** for young numismatists. The YNA hopes to dispel the notion that coin collecting is a hobby for older generations by boosting youth involvement and visibility. Participation from a wider range of age demographics greatly benefits the entire coin community, and the YNA seeks to be a catalyst for that wider involvement. The YNA also promotes youth-based programs beyond the club's scope to support its mission.

E **mpowerment** for young numismatists. Young collectors should never feel isolated in the numismatic world. Despite often limited budgets and comparatively limited expertise to older numismatics, the YNA hopes to embolden YNs to be pivotal community members and changemakers. The sooner YNs get started, the better. The YNA also supports other YN-led coin businesses, initiatives, & entrepreneurialism as young collectors enter the market together.

See online information at: money.org/yn-america.

— Join us —

Requirements:

- Must be an ANA Young Numismatist
- Must be at least 11 years old or in 6th grade
- Complete the parental permission form

For more information or to send in completed forms, contact ANA Education Director Christian Strayhorn at cstrayhorn@money.org.



— Submitting Articles —

Members can write articles on nearly any numismatic topic they are knowledgeable or passionate about. Articles should be at least 500–700 words in length, however, the more in-depth, the better. Original, research-based articles are encouraged. Submissionists are also recommended to include photographs of their own personal numismatic pieces.

The Young Numismatist is always in need of more passionate and talented young writers. Any YNA member is free to submit articles and become a published author in doing so. Writing submissions are greatly appreciated, and they prove highly beneficial for not just the club, but for the hobby as a whole. *For young numismatists, by young numismatists:* as a club and publication, we are committed to revitalizing youth involvement in the numismatic world, and being a writer would help considerably with that mission.

Article submissions also give members the chance to receive coins directly from the ANA and earn YN dollars, which can be used to bid on items in ANA YN auctions.

For more information or to submit articles, contact Nate Leonauskas at ynaeditor@money.org.



— Board of Directors —

The team of five elected young numismatists and ANA supervisor who lead the Young Numismatists of America and publish The Young Numismatist.

Nate Leonauskas *Editor-in-Chief*

Nate has been collecting coins ever since becoming enthralled with a wheat penny at the age of five. Now, as a seasoned seventeen-year-old numismatist and small-scale coin dealer based in Chicago, Nate champions the YNA's core principles of education, engagement, and empowerment for youth in the numismatic world. As Editor-in-Chief, he aims to promote those values while leading a longstanding publication that amplifies youth visibility in the hobby. Through articles, he loves contributing to numismatic research while sharing his knowledge and passion. In 2025, one of his pieces earned the Q. David Bowers Literary Award for third place. In the past, Nate has enjoyed attending shows like the NYINC and the ANA World's Fair of Money, where he earned first place in the 2024 NGC Numismatic Triathlon in the young numismatist category. He also frequently contributes to the Numista catalog to bolster free educational resources, and he won the website's 2022 Most Popular Coin Contest. Additionally, is a graduate of Witter Coin University's Class of 2025. Nate specializes in crown-sized world coins from the sixteenth to early nineteenth centuries, particularly thalers and 8 reales.

You can contact Nate at ynaeditor@money.org or natejleo@gmail.com. Instagram: [nate_coin](#).

Elliot Eng *President*

Since diving headlong into numismatics in 2021, Elliot has benefited immensely from the ANA's educational programs and is giving back: he has been YNA President since March 2025, scheduling speakers, presiding over meetings, appointing committees, fundraising, and constantly promoting YN involvement in the hobby via print and social media. Now a 16 year old from Anaheim, California, Elliot is a Summer Seminar alum and admitted to Stacks Bower's Professional Numismatist Program. He enjoys tying his love of history and numismatics together through writing research articles for publications, including *Errorscope*, *The California Numismatist*, the ANA's *Reading Room*, and the YNA's very own publication, *TYN*. He enjoys collecting numismatic literature, Lincoln cents, and errors.

You can contact Elliot at ynapresident@money.org.

Joshua Verley *Vice President*

Joshua Verley is a 15-year-old numismatist from Minnesota. He is a freshman in high school and has written articles for many different publications including ANA's *The Numismatist* and *Reading Room*. He enjoys collecting error and variety coins, 19th- to 21st-century U.S. type coins, and copper coins. Some of his other interests are model rocketry, recreational drone flying, and soccer, and he takes pride in being an overly enthusiastic Minnesota Vikings fan.

You can contact Joshua at ynavicepresident@money.org.

Annie Davis *Secretary*

Annie has enjoyed collecting coins for five years. Her collection started with nickels: Jefferson, Buffalo, Liberty, and Shield designs. She has since expanded her collection to include dimes, paper money, and world bills. Exhibiting at the FUN Show was an enjoyable learning experience for Annie. There, she took 2nd place for a Hobo Nickel carving exhibit, a skill that she learned at the ANA's Summer Seminar. While at the FUN Show, Annie was able to work as a page, where she loved helping the dealers and getting to visit with others from all over the country. She has attended Summer Seminar the past two summers and is excited to go again this year. She loves meeting other numismatists and learning from them.

You can contact Annie at ynasecretary@money.org.

Arlo Little *Treasurer*

Arlo is a 15 year old from Nebraska. He started collecting coins in 2018 after finding a 2009 Lincoln Memorial cent in his change. Ever since, he has always been learning as much as possible about the hobby. Arlo collects just about anything under the designation of “numismatic.” He attended the 2025 ANA Summer Seminar where he was introduced to many new, interesting numismatic pieces and topics. Outside of numismatics, Arlo is a member of his high school's orchestra, student council, and cross country team. He also has a passion for football, strongly rooting for the Huskers.

You can contact Arlo at ynatreasurer@money.org.

Christian Strayhorn *ANA Education Director*

Christian Strayhorn is the Director of Education at the American Numismatic Association (ANA), where she spearheads the development and implementation of engaging educational programs, including the innovative eLearning Academy. With over 15 years of experience in education, both domestically and internationally, Christian brings a wealth of expertise to her role. She holds a Bachelor's in History from North Carolina State University and a Master's in History from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. A published author and TEDx speaker, Christian is passionate about sharing knowledge and inspiring learning within the numismatic community and beyond.

— Meeting Schedule —

Meetings are typically the first Friday of each month at 5:00pm MT.

November 7, 2025

Payton Lindeman: Ancient Coins

December 5, 2025

Holiday Fun & Games

January 2, 2026

Russ Bega: Numismatic Research and Writing

February 6, 2026

Seth Chandler: Witter Coin U

View up to date information at: money.org/yn-america

— Meeting Summary — October 3, 2025


Elliot Eng

At the latest meeting of the Young Numismatists of America, we were joined by two remarkable guests: Cassidy Stround, Youth Director of the Royal Canadian Numismatic Association (RCNA), and Jeff Howard, long-time professional grader at PCGS.

Cassidy, who leads youth outreach for the RCNA, will now serve as an adult counselor for the YNA alongside Abby Zechman. In her role with the RCNA, she organizes youth programs, coordinates show outreach, and supports young collectors across Canada. As a new YNA advisor, she'll be mentoring members, attending meetings, and offering guidance as the club continues to grow. We're thrilled to welcome her experience and leadership to the team.

Jeff Howard, whose family has been involved with PCGS since its early years, delivered a fantastic presentation on coin grading. Drawing on over 20 years of experience, Jeff walked us through the four key elements of grading: surface, luster, toning, and eye appeal. "Eye appeal is personal," he reminded us. "Everyone sees something different." He also offered tips on distinguishing wear from contact marks and shared how to approach suffixes and designations by knowing your series well.

We also heard a thoughtful research presentation on the 1909-S VDB Cents from a YNA member, exploring the coin's historical context, key diagnostics, and its lasting impact on the Lincoln cent series, sparking great discussion among members.

 Our next meeting is Friday, November 7. The YNA is always looking for passionate young collectors to get involved, share ideas, and write for future TYN issues. Learn more at: money.org/yn-america.

October Meeting Recap – Social media post,
designed by Adrian Perez



Young Numismatists
OF **America**



October YNA Meeting Recap

**Jeff Howard, Grading
Expert, PCGS**

**Big night! The YNA
welcomed Cassidy
Stround of the RCNA,
heard grading tips
from Jeff Howard,
and a YN gave a
presentation on the
1909-S VDB 1C!**

**Cassidy Stround, RCNA
Youth Director, YNA
Counselor**

Numismatic Report

The Young Numismatist • November 2025



December 2025 YNA Election Campaign Messages

“Hello everyone! Over the past month, Christian and I have gathered nominations and campaign messages. We are excited to reveal this election’s nominees: incumbent Elliot Eng and Hugo Kastle are running against each other for President. The roles of Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer are all uncontested: Adrian Perez, Arlo Little, and Treasurer are running for those respective positions. Finally, incumbent Nate Leonauskas is running on a ticket with Cam Sheirer and Clark Davis against Ari de Boer for the position of Editor of *The Young Numismatist*. Members, please review all the messages carefully as you cast your vote to determine the future leadership of the YNA.”

Elliot Eng

Young Numismatists OF America



President

The President's role is to oversee all other officers and committees, to ensure the consistency of actions taken across the club. Additionally, the President is responsible for coordinating speakers and activities and presiding over monthly meetings. Lastly, the President is in charge of facilitating effective smooth communication internally and externally, which includes writing a President's Letter for each issue of *TYN*.

Elliot Eng

Hello everyone, thank you for taking the time to read this. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Elliot Eng and I am a 16 year-old junior from southern California. When the idea of the YNA was first floated, I was extremely excited to hear of the idea and that excitement is still there. I have presided over every meeting this year and had the privilege of being elected President. No one has strived harder to create a sustainable framework for the YNA to have long term success. That being said, you all know me and what I stand for: I will let my accomplishments speak for themselves. I have or currently...

- ❖ Worked closely with the ANA staff to raise support, get the website running, start social media posts, etc.
- ❖ Booked world-class speakers most month for members to hear from.
- ❖ Grown the club from 25 members to over a hundred by the from close to 30 states & multiple countries.
- ❖ Raised over three thousand dollars in support as of this writing along with hundreds of dollars of coins, some of which will be in the December holiday auction.
- ❖ Working on raising thousands more in the coming months via grants and an end-of-year fundraising project.
- ❖ Published articles and ads promoting the YNA in publications, including *FUNTopics* and *ErrorScope*.
- ❖ Tirelessly worked to engage and help members in their numismatic journeys.

I thank you for your vote and am looking forward to how we can continue to engage collectors across the country. The YNA is truly a unique club: I believe we are doing what no one else can and I will look to lead the YNA to reach more collectors, not just young ones. Thank you for your support!

Young Numismatists
OF **America**



President

Reminder: The December 5 YNA meeting will be the only opportunity to vote

Join from 4:00 – 5:30 pm (PST/California time) that Friday, December 5, 2025 through Google Meet. All YNA members in attendance will have the opportunity to vote, and the results on all the positions will be posted in the meeting. Good luck!

Hugo Kastle

Hello guys, as many of you may know, my name is Hugo Kastle, and I am based in North Platte, Nebraska. I am 17, and I homeschool, so if I were to go to school, I would be graduating in 2027. However, since I homeschool, I will actually be graduating next year, in 2026 (that means I'll have more time to contribute to this club). In this election, I am running for president, and I would proudly like to share my vision and hopes for the future of the Young Numismatists of America. I am one of the original 20 members, and I have seen this club from the very start (since the first monthly meeting where we voted the constitution into the club) and have been a very active member. I have written for The Young Numismatist, answered all survey questions in our magazine every month, and attended every meeting. You can also find me easily on our club Padlet. I also made a logo that heavily influenced our current lamp-and-eagle logo, and I am now awaiting approval for a club medallion that I designed. From all of this, I have learned a lot about creativity, language skills, and teamwork, which are all skills I would like to put to use as president of this club. As president, I envision this club at least doubling in size to 200 members or even more. Although an ambitious goal, I think with hard work, dedication, and clever marketing strategies, it is a very real possibility. For people like me, living in small-town USA, access is a major issue. We live far from the cities (sometimes three or more hours away from the closest one), and we don't even have coin shops, shows, or clubs nearby (let alone, any shop that sells any coins). I see the YNA as an incredible opportunity to bridge that gap. With this online club, people like me can have more access to useful numismatic knowledge no matter where they are—city or outskirts, rich or poor, new or experienced. Everybody deserves the chance to learn, share, and grow through this hobby. Unlike other clubs, this one stands apart because it is proudly backed by the ANA. Let's use this club to spread numismatics further than anybody has ever imagined before and create a new generation of collectors. Thank you for your support!

Vice President

The Vice President's role includes the roles of the President when the President is unavailable: most directly in presiding over meetings in the President's absence. The Vice President has the special role of sitting on committees, assisting with fundraising, and facilitating public relations.

Adrian Perez

The first time I made the connection between history and numismatics, particularly ancient numismatics, I realized the immense significance these items carry. This connection gave me two goals: 1. To learn as much as possible and 2. To help others experience that same connection.

My name is Adrian Perez and I am a 16 year-old Junior from Rhode Island, who will graduate in 2027. Over the past few years, numismatics has become the center of my personal journey. What began as fascination with Roman and Byzantine coinage, has grown into a commitment to research, community, and youth engagement. That is why I wish to serve as the Vice President of the YNA.

As part of the YNA social media outreach team, I have strengthened the YNA's online presence by creating engaging posts that highlight the virtues of our organization and recap our monthly meetings. Beyond the YNA, I also serve as a social media manager for my local coin club: The Blackstone Valley Coin and Collectibles Club (BVCCC), where I manage outreach and have given a presentation on my numismatic work. This would include my work documenting/digitizing 25 ancient Roman and Byzantine gold coins at the RISD Museum in Providence, RI. I also recently had a submitted article accepted to be published in the December issue of the Reading Room, highlighting my experience documenting coins at RISD, and the history and significance of late Roman and Byzantine gold coinage (The Solidus).

My vision for the YNA is to further its outreach and grow its impact as much as possible. I see it becoming the most dedicated and dynamic youth numismatic connection: A place for young collectors and enthusiasts to not just attend meetings, but leave with a real impact, whether that be by leading projects, doing research, publishing, or serving on one of our committees.

If elected, my goals as Vice President are the following:

- ❖ **Expand Visibility** by maintaining consistent and creative communication on social media, drawing in new members and new contributors.
- ❖ **Develop Opportunities** for members to not only take on projects and research through ANA platforms, but to be recognized for it.
- ❖ **Support the President** by not only filling in, but helping in any way possible, particularly via outreach and building partnerships and opportunities for our members.

Yes, numismatics is about collecting and researching, but it is also about community, growth, and storytelling. With your support I hope to bring dynamic leadership and grow the YNA to its fullest potential: A network that empowers and supports every young numismatist to explore history, express their ideas, and shape the future of this hobby. Thank you.

Secretary

The Secretary's role is to record detailed meeting minutes, meeting attendance, and create meeting summaries for *The Young Numismatist*. In addition, the Secretary is to work with the ANA to track membership, document club business, and assist in elections.

Young Numismatists
OF America



Arlo Little

My name is Arlo Little, I am fifteen years old, and I am a freshman at Kearney High School in Kearney, Nebraska. I am running for the position of secretary in the YNA because I feel that I could help make the club into an even greater space than it already is. The YNA is already very organized, with officers who are great at what they are doing. However, once their term has ended, we will elect new officers to fill the empty positions. I want to make sure that these new officers step up to their position and are great leaders. One way to help ensure this is to get YNs more involved in the club. At the moment, the YNA has almost 100 members, but quite a few of these members haven't written an article for *The Young Numismatist*, run for an officer position, or regularly attended meetings. Getting people more involved in the club will make the club better, since everyone will be pitching in their part and giving their ideas.

At the moment, there is not much incentive to be involved in the club. Attending meetings will get you some YN dollars and a chance to get something from the raffle, and writing an article will award you a mention in *The Young Numismatist*. Apparently, none of these are good enough. So, I propose that we give members more incentive to be involved. Maybe being an involved club member will give you a higher consideration of being given a scholarship to Summer Seminar. Or maybe the raffle could be more advertised among the club. These are just some ideas, and might not even be viable, but they are possible options.

I believe that I am qualified to be secretary for many reasons. First off, I am a very organized person. At school, my binders are all color coordinated and my google drive has folders for everything. I am involved in many school activities including, the orchestra, student council, quiz bowl, cross country, and baseball. It has been slightly difficult balancing all of these activities with school, but last term I finished top of my grade. Finally, I am good at problem solving. Even though I have never been a secretary for anything, my quick thinking and adaptability should help me catch on pretty easily.

With all of this in mind, I am not perfect, far from it in fact, but I think I am a great candidate for your secretary. I have the skillset needed to help me get started, and amazing people in the club to help me when I'm stuck. For these reasons, I hope you will vote me as the next secretary for the YNA.

Treasurer

The Treasurer's role is to administrate and advise on all monetary business. The Treasurer is to manage finances with precision, clarity, and integrity: create budgets, keep the accounting books, and assist in fundraising.

Gryffen Atkinson

Hello fellow members of the Young Numismatists of America!

My name is Gryffen Atkinson, and I am running for Treasurer because I believe the financial health of the YNA deserves a leader who is proven, prepared, and motivated. My goal is simple: to bring my experience in managing large assets, organizational discipline, and leading teams (donors) to the YNA, ensuring our funds are handled with maturity, responsibility, and transparency.

Proven Leadership and Fiscal Responsibility

Quartermaster, Trail Life USA: I currently serve as the Quartermaster for my Trail Life USA troop, where I am responsible for maintaining and tracking over \$40,000 worth of troop equipment and assets.

Organizational Leadership: Beyond asset management, I have extensive leadership experience. I am an active JROTC Cadet, and notably, I am the first and only homeschooled JROTC Cadet in Harford County Public Schools. Achieving this status required significant motivation and persistence, including navigating legal challenges with the county and state. As a Cadet, I serve as a Squad Drill Commander and help lead the advertising department. This commitment and intensive military training instill the deep sense of discipline and precision needed to effectively navigate club paperwork, lead committees, and guide the organization toward solutions. I also serve as an Able Adventurer in Trail Life and as the Director for my church's youth ministry. Dedicated to service, I hold the troop record for service hours, logging almost 150 hours in just five months.

A Strong Financial Background for a Strong Future

Entrepreneurial Experience: Over the past two summers, I successfully established and operated lawn mowing businesses, teaching me how to manage income, track expenses, forecast growth, and understand the practical.

Financial Literacy: I have proactively built my financial knowledge by completing half of the Khan Academy Financial Literacy Course, actively having studied the core principles of sound financial management.

What I Will Provide to the YNA

With this strong financial and leadership background, I can guarantee two major benefits to our club:

Financial Growth and Stability: I will use my experience in business and my skills from the JROTC advertising department to actively seek out more donations and funding opportunities. By increasing our financial position, we can afford "cool accessories" for members, enhance our educational offerings, and grow the club overall.

Maturity and Vision: My college goal is the U.S. Military Academy at West Point (USMA). This serious ambition—which demands military-level rigor—motivates me to pursue every task with the utmost integrity. I know I can act responsibly and maturely with the club's money because I am dedicated to demonstrating the high-level leadership skills required for my future goals.

I possess the discipline, the leadership experience to guide people, and the financial background to protect our funds. Vote for me, Gryffen Atkinson, and together we will secure a thriving, financially stable future for the YNA. Thank you.

Editor-in-Chief

The Editor's role is to ensure the regular issuance of *The Young Numismatist* and ensure the publication upholds and promotes club goals. This includes engaging writers, editing and fact-checking work, and formatting.

Nate Leonauskas, Cam Scheirer, & Clark Davis

Hello numismatists, readers, and future voters,

I am Nate Leonauskas, a high school senior from the Chicago suburbs and resolute numismatist since 2013. As the incumbent Editor-in-Chief of *The Young Numismatist*, a Board position of the Young Numismatists of America, I will naturally be aging out of the club as I move toward college and my future journey, numismatic and beyond. For that reason, I am running on a 'ticket' with running mates Cam Scheirer and Clark Davis, who will in time be leading the writing / researching responsibilities and the graphics side of *TYN*, respectively. Into early 2026, I will be handling the majority of *TYN*, with Cam and Clark taking on more responsibility until they fully assume responsibilities, likely next summer.

Since developing initial concepts and iterations in March and designing the inaugural issue throughout April and May, I have held a steadfast commitment to putting one plan into action: uniting young numismatists across through a collaborative platform to share ideas. In that regard, the past six issues of *The Young Numismatist* have been a resounding success in every sense. I have led over twenty writers to make this project, which was once unthinkable, possible. I fought vehemently against suggestions of a quarterly newsletter at most, and for that, I'm forever glad I pushed back. In this position, I've promoted the "three E's" of education, engagement, and empowerment for youth in numismatics, objectives which I truly believe essential to the future of this hobby. I cannot possibly take credit for this alone; *TYN*'s amazing columnists and contributors are who have allowed it to thrive. I urge you to do one simple thing: look at what we've done.

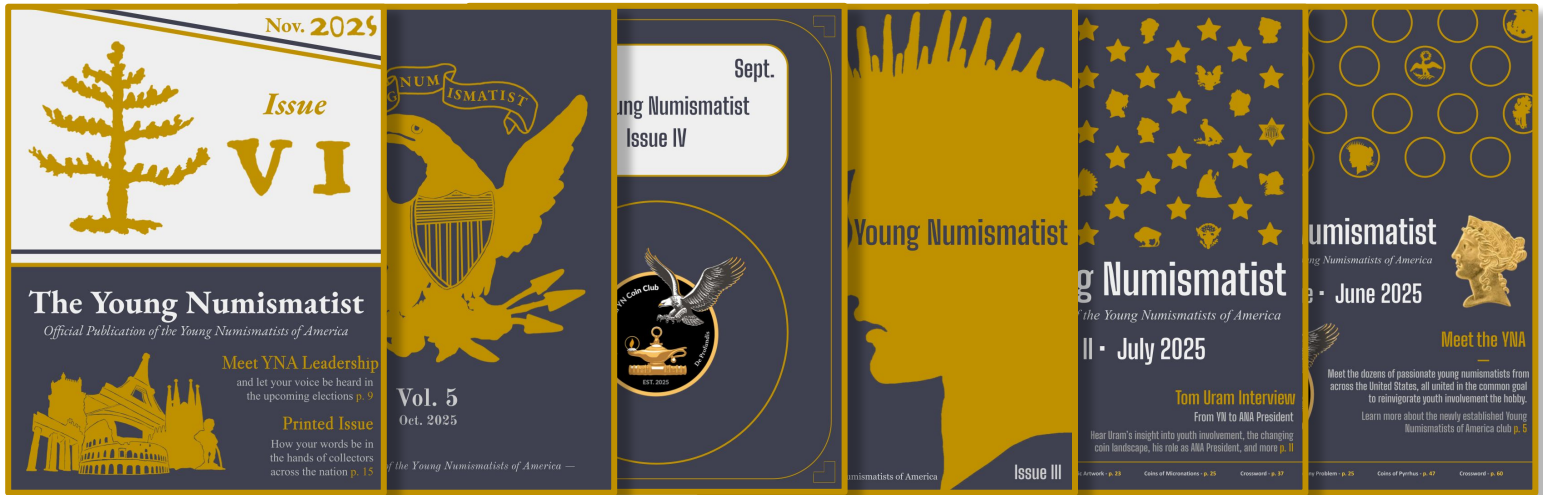
I am Cam Scheirer, a 13 year old currently in eighth grade (high school graduating Class of 2030) from the San Francisco Bay Area. I've collected for five years, greatly increasing my numismatic involvement recently both locally and nationally through writing primarily. I currently serve as Youth President for the Cupertino Coin Club, as well as editor of their monthly publication. I write a monthly column for *The Young Numismatist* (Exonomia & Paper Money), quarterly columns for the *ILNA* (Illinois Numismatic Association) *Digest* (YN Information), and for the California Numismatic Association's *The California Numismatist* (Paper Money, co-written with my father). I've presented numismatic programs regularly at Cupertino Coin Club meetings and have spoken to the public at the local library and a nearby retirement community. Recently, I attended the ANA's Summer Seminar on a scholarship, taking a class on Roman Republican Coinage. Outside of numismatics, I enjoy learning about Egyptology, visiting museums, and learning Chinese.

I am Clark Davis, a 14-year-old (Class of 2030) resident of Utah and an avid Numismatist. I love learning about numismatics and sharing my passion for this hobby in many ways, and to prove it, I've given many presentations on numismatics. I have also written many high-quality articles for places such as *The Numismatist* and *The Reading Room*. As for experience for editor: I am currently a columnist for *The Reading Room*, where I have written articles including a lengthy research paper, with an additional background of creating high-quality pieces of graphic design using professional software. I'm also the current assistant editor of *BoTales*, which means I get to work designing each issue. I have also created an ad for the YNA which appeared in *Fun Topics*.

As Editor, I've seen firsthand how Cam and Clark have demonstrated remarkable commitment, exceptional proficiency, and an overall clear fit for leading the publication. Without any doubt, I'm confident that this team will leverage their combined dedication, knowledge, and passion to guide *The Young Numismatist*'s success onward.

December 2025 YNA Election Campaign Messages

Editor-in-Chief



Ari de Boer

My name is Ari de Boer. I am 15 years old and I live in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. I am in the 9th grade and homeschooled. I would like to run for the position of editor of the Young Numismatists of America (YNA). I think that I can bring a lot of experience to the club!

I have authored articles for major numismatic magazines such as *FUN-Topics* along with some pending articles for *CONECA*. My main subject of interest for these articles has been error coins. I find this to be a fun way to educate people to check their change. I have written and edited a magazine for over 5 years called *Philatelist Magazine*.

In the publication, I write researched articles about philately, or the collecting of stamps, which is my other hobby. I enjoy article writing and think that my skills would be of use here. I could help our YN readers obtain ideas for articles to submit and help with placement.

Another writing thing that I do is serving as the editor of my local stamp club's wonderful newsletter! This is where I am able to portray clearly what is going to happen and what already has in a way that people really enjoy. (Editor's Note: outside links have been removed, but you can contact Ari if you'd like to see examples).

I also entered an article contest, and came in first place out of 25+ contestants. I spent a good amount of time researching for that one. I am skilled at researching to find what I am looking for, especially archive searches. This is something that I do thoroughly and often for composing and improving literature. I am currently in the middle of creating a numismatic book called: *A Guide Book of: Allied French Military Payment Currency of WWII*. That's an area I collect in because I love history!

An idea I have that I'd like to incorporate into this publication is that of potential ad placement. ANA member Clubs/Dealers can pay the YNA a small fee, and can have their ad placed in *The Young Numismatist*.

We have enough viewers that I think this could be considered viable for them. I would need to discuss this with the Treasurer & Christian of course. This could be, in my opinion, a great way to get some additional funds to further elevate the club! (Editor's Note: this topic was already discussed and is not currently a legal option).

In summary, if granted this position of YNA editor, I can assure you all that I will bring a new energy to the Young Numismatist Publication and the club itself! Thanks for this opportunity!

Interview: ANA Education Director Christian Strayhorn, ANA Liaison to the YNA

by Elliot Eng, YNA President

Recently, I had the chance to sit down with Christian Strayhorn and talk about her path into numismatic education—a journey that has shaped not only her own career, but also the experiences of countless young collectors. Most people know her as the person who keeps the YNA running smoothly, but her work within the ANA reaches far beyond that. In many ways, the YNA is an extension of her larger classroom, built through the ANA's education programs: numismatics has a bright future due, in part, to the Christian Strayhorn's brightest students who can be found engaged in the YNA.

Speaking personally, Christian has had a huge impact on my own numismatic journey. She's helped me build a platform for myself and for other young numismatists—many of whom you see featured in each issue of *The Young Numismatist*.

With that said, I'm excited to share my conversation with someone who has inspired so many of us: Christian Strayhorn.



What were you like as a child? Did you collect anything as a youngster?

I was a high-energy, athletic, and nerdy child. I had a passion for everything I did, which included school, part-time work, (Parks and Recreation Department in Asheboro, NC), playing basketball, and playing volleyball. I was incredibly focused and quite mature for my age. I never wasted time and at one point had 2 part-time jobs, while playing 2 varsity sports, and making straight As.

As a kid and teenager, I collected Garfield books. I would run to the bookstore any time I heard of a new release to get the newest book. When I started teaching, I brought them to my classroom to let students enjoy, so I do not have them anymore.

What made you interested in the education field?

I was born to be a teacher. I knew from a very early age that education appealed to my core. Many people in my family didn't want me to go into education, because they thought I would be wasting my gifts for little money. I am a firm believer, however, in following one's calling, and teaching was mine. I also loved history (actually my major for my BA and MA). Connecting my love of education with my obsession with history made being a history teacher a perfect fit, at least for many years. To be honest, I also wanted to be different. I loved school up until 3rd grade and then it felt like a job. It wasn't about learning anymore, it was about grades, homework, and assignments. I felt like I was part of an assembly line of education. I wanted my students to feel something different, to re-engage with the love of learning we feel when we are very young. This mission to make learning different ultimately led me.

Before coming to the ANA, you were not involved in numismatics: what did your previous experience look like?

Before applying at the ANA I was a middle-school social studies teacher for 5 years, a high school history teacher for 10 years, and then I moved abroad. I taught IB History and Theory of Knowledge in China and became a part-time school administrator. I continued to Brazil, where I taught IB History and Theory of Knowledge and continued working as a part-time administrator. In 2021, I moved to El Salvador as a full-time school Administrator. I served as the Assistant Director of the Secondary School at Escuela Americana (an American International School). In these years I was obsessed with history and was an avid collector. When I discovered the ANA had an opening for an Education Director, it felt perfect, because of my history background, teaching philosophy, administrative experience, and love for collecting.

Why is numismatic education unique when compared to other education fields?

Numismatic education is unique because of the passion. I know I have used this word a lot so far, but it is true. There is a huge difference when you are teaching something to a group of people versus teaching something to a group of people who are already obsessed about the topic. It is the easiest job a teacher can have, because the students want to learn more about numismatics.

You enjoy speaking at educators conferences: have you learned anything new about being an educator through your work in a relatively unique environment? If so, what?

I have learned a lot from my experience in numismatic education. Unlike other areas, numismatics lends itself to be self-driven and discovery-based. Numismatists love to find new information about coins and dig into the meaning behind their personal discoveries. I had an epiphany about a year ago, that the key to really teaching anything is figuring out how to present information in a similar fashion as presenting new coins to an avid numismatist. If we can find that link in any field, the passion and interest take over.

Apart from coins, do you have any other collecting interests?

Uh yea! I collect pre-1990 smurfs, Care Bears, Alvin and the Chipmunks, and Rainbow Brite. I blame it on the awesomeness of the toys of my generation! These collecting interests have led me to collect pop culture coins and commemoratives.

What type of situation did you step into when you took over the Education Department for the ANA? What changes have you made?

I stepped into the Education Department of the ANA with an updated tool kit. The previous Director did amazing work, establishing NumismaTalks and creating educational videos. I was able to add-in modern best practices for education that are inquiry-based and less test-driven. As such, I have turned the Numismatic Diploma Program into 4 self-paced online courses, revamped teacher lesson plans, contributed to the establishment of the

YNA, redesigned youth activities to provide specific opportunities, invented Ernie's Treasure Treehouse at shows, and led an amazing department to serve our audience of all ages.

What misconceptions did you have about numismatics when you first came onto staff at the ANA? Has your opinion changed?

I honestly haven't stumbled across many misconceptions on numismatics. I think the most surprising thing for me has been seeing how much research takes place. Numismatics truly goes beyond coin collecting, and I have had a front-row seat to seeing how in-depth research and study goes.

What does your day-to-day look like?

My day-to-day work life is quite diverse. I usually start with grading (online NDP courses and youth activity submissions). After processing the basics, I work on building educational experiences online through our Aristotle's Vault production and learning management systems (Blackboard/Google Classroom). Depending on the time of the year, I focus energy on show preparation, National Coin Week, Summer Seminar, etc. My days often include meetings with other departments on integrating and marketing our work to our larger audience. Each department of the ANA works like a cog on a wheel. Everything I do, I run by marketing to match branding, create a release plan, and use metrics for success. I work with the museum to process deaccessioned items and get them out to people completing projects. I work with membership to bring in new people through our YNA and NDP efforts. Basically, we all work together and communicate to make sure our members get the best experience possible.

How do you work with other departments inside the ANA?

I want to also say that I would be remiss, if I didn't mention the amazing team of the Education Department. Paul Knepper manages many of our youth programming and online programming. While Mackenna Admundson serves as our photographer. They make the education department a success, because of their dependability and high standards.

How was the idea of the YNA conceived?

The YNA idea was brought to my attention in early 2025. I was asked to attend an Outreach Committee meeting to discuss all of the efforts we have made in the past 2 years. It's a lot, and many people, even board members, are not aware of all of the amazing changes and offerings that have occurred. In that meeting I was asked about the possibility of an online coin club for YNs. Like anything, I am always willing to try out a good idea. I engaged the youth through padlet, realized we had enough interest, and you know the rest!

How much of your time is spent on the YNA? What is your favorite part about it?

The YNA takes about 5-10% of my work time. I am a highly efficient person, so that is still quite a bit of work. The good news is that the current officers and members that are highly involved are very intelligent, organized, and self-sustaining, which makes my job so easy! My biggest fear is that the enthusiasm we have now changes for a period, and I have to pick up the slack to keep the group going until the next group of great minds. The meetings and the prizes are my favorite parts. I get to feel like Santa, providing really cool items. And the YNA allows me to be present and see your faces filled with true numismatic excitement. It makes me feel like I am helping the hobby.

Thank you so much for taking the time to interview and your persistent dedication to the YNA and its members, Christian. The club truly could not function without you.

Special Mint Sets by Caleb Meier

The 1960s were among the most chaotic times in American numismatic history. Skyrocketing silver prices, widespread hoarding, and detrimental coin shortages had brought the numismatic community to heights it had never seen. The large shift in collecting forced the Mint to make unprecedented changes, and with that came some of the most intriguing Mint issues ever produced.

History

In the mid 1960s, silver prices were skyrocketing, and silver coinage in circulation was suddenly worth more than face value. As a result, people from across the country began hoarding massive amounts of circulating silver coinage. A coin shortage began hitting the country by storm, and more dimes, quarters, and half dollars were desperately needed. So, in order to make production cheaper and to limit hoarding, the Mint decided to switch the composition of dimes and quarters from 90% silver to clad, and half dollar composition from 90% silver to 40% silver. Additionally, the Mint stopped producing mint and proof sets to instead fully focus on producing much-needed circulating coinage.

To keep collectors happy, the Mint compromised by releasing special mint sets, which weren't of the same quality as proof sets, but still featured more beautiful coins than circulation strikes. Just like proof coins, special mint coins were struck with polished dies, although not as heavily polished as proof dies. They were also struck just once, mimicking circulation strike coins rather than true proof coins. The results are unique coins with a "satin" or "specimen" finish, appearing somewhere in between the finishes of proof coins and circulation coins. These sets were struck from 1964–1967.

1964 Special Mint Set

Included in the limited years of special mint set production is one of the rarest U.S. coin sets ever. While preparing for the first year of special mint set production, it is believed that the Mint experimented by first striking a few examples of 1964 special mint sets. Only an estimated 15–50 1964 special mint sets were made, making them one of the great numismatic rarities today. These are not to be confused with the much more common 1964 proof sets, which have more mirrored surfaces.

Special Mint Sets Today

Today, special mint sets remain a popular and often affordable way to obtain a unique piece of history from the chaotic 1960s. Outside of the 1964 issue, the sets are pretty common. 2,360,000 1965 sets were made, 2,261,583 1966 sets were made, and 1,863,344 1967 sets were made. The main exception to these coins' rarity are coins struck with cameo or deep cameo surfaces. Because the dies used to strike these coins were polished, some coins feature cameo fields. However, dies were not polished heavily, so cameo fields are somewhat scarce, while deep cameo fields are extremely rare. For example, about a fourth of 1965 special mint set half dollars have cameo fields, while only one in every 90 feature deep cameo surfaces. These rare and valuable examples offer collectors a way to pursue high-end coins in this short-lived series.

Another way to collect more expensive coins in special mint sets is by obtaining some of the popular varieties that have been discovered in sets. One such variety is the 1966 SMS doubled die obverse half dollar. This coin features prominent doubling on Kennedy's chin and lips, making it a popular choice for variety collectors. Also found on 1966 special mint set half dollars is the "No FG" variety. On these coins, the designer initials typically found under the eagle's left leg are missing due to extensive die polishing. They are quite rare, and are worth a substantial premium. Arguably the most unique variety found on special mint set coins is the 1966 "5 on cheek" dime. It is not known exactly how this variety came to be, but a small number of 1966 special mint set dimes feature a faint mark that looks like a five on the left side of Roosevelt's cheek. These intriguing varieties offer collectors another level of complexity when collecting special mint sets



Conclusion

Clearly, special mint sets are among the most unique Mint issues in recent times. Despite a short production time, they offer collectors a shocking degree of diversity through a wide range of rarity and variety options. These unique sets would make for beautiful additions to any collection.



Detecting Coin Counterfeiting

by Adhitri Sethuraghavan

Fellow collectors, I am going to tell you about an important topic: counterfeit (i.e. fake or forgery) coins. There are three distinct types of counterfeiting: altered coins, cast counterfeits, and die-struck counterfeits.

Altered Coins

An altered coin is a real coin (not counterfeit by itself) that is made to look like another coin. There are different ways people do this. Sometimes, the date on one coin is made to look like a different (and typically more valuable) date. For example, a 1938 coin could be made to look like a 1933. Other times, the mintmark is removed with a tool so that a different one can be put in its place, or so that the coin remains without any mintmark.

When trying to find dates that are altered, look for ‘scratchy’ tooling marks around the year or mintmark. Those can reveal if someone has used tools to alter the coin. Sometimes even ‘errors’ like missing mintmarks are simply altered coins. The best way to find out if a mintmark is counterfeit is to do thorough research about that specific coin, especially by referring to the *Red Book*.

Cast Counterfeits

Cast counterfeits are ordinary metal pieces made to look like coins. The counterfeiters take a genuine coin and put a mold around it to capture the design and details. Then, they take an ordinary piece of metal and put it inside the mold to ‘mint’ the counterfeit coin. Experienced numismatics have a ‘feel’ for the right buy and a feel for the wrong buy. Detecting the cast counterfeits is sometimes based on that feeling. Such coins might not have all the details of an actual coin. Its surface may be grainy, and its edge could have a seam. These differences help numismatists identify cast counterfeit coins.

Die Struck Counterfeits

Die struck counterfeits are the hardest ones to detect as they are made with two dies that behave as real, legal dies from an official mint. Thus, even for experienced coin dealers, detecting these types of counterfeits is difficult. However, there are two methods used to teach people to detect the die struck counterfeits. One method is to look at pictures and details of a real coin and compare closely for discrepancies. The other method is by examining samples or pictures of known die struck counterfeits which often have indicators.

Conclusion

This is what I have to share about coin counterfeiting for now. Remember to stay cautious and be on the lookout when buying. Also, there are many other books available that teach about the ways to detect counterfeits. So, learn, learn, learn!

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World & Ancient Numismatics

The Young Numismatist • November 2025



Chinese Cash Coins

by Willis Solomon Marcy

While most ancient coin enthusiasts focus on Western Europe and collect coins from the Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Empires, cash coins from China and the surrounding area are also interesting to collect. Minted from the 4th century BC to the early 20th century, these coins spanned millennia of Chinese and East Asian history, and are a fun and interesting way to trace the economic and political history of the area.

Design

Unlike Greek and Roman coins, Chinese cash coins do not feature portraits or intricate designs. Instead, they are simple circular coins with a square hole in the center. On the obverse they typically have four characters arranged around the hole, with the top and bottom indicating the reign title of the emperor in power. The other two characters, pronounced ‘*tong*’ and ‘*bao*,’ translate together as ‘circulating treasure’ and were used to indicate the monetary value of the coins. The reverse of the coins varies depending on the time period, with earlier coins having a blank reverse and later coins featuring mintmarks and other identifying symbols.

The most interesting design feature of the coins is the square hole. These holes were used to string the coins into groups of one hundred, three hundred, or one thousand, making counting much more efficient and enabling easier transportation in a time when pockets were not commonplace.

Production

Chinese cash coins, unlike their European counterparts, were cast instead of struck. Early versions of these coins were cast with clay molds, but by the 7th Century AD mints used sand casting, because it was easier and resulted in finer details.

The first step in production was making the molds. ‘Mother coins’ were pressed between two blocks of packed sand, leaving their impressions behind. Channels (also called sprues) were added so molten metal could flow into the molds. Metal was then melted and poured into the molds, creating ‘coin trees:’ long strips of metal with coins attached on either side. The coins were then carefully trimmed, filed, and polished, before being strung in groups for storage. This method of production made it easy to produce millions of near-identical coins.

History & Changes

The first cash coins were used in the state of Qin during the Warring States period (476–221 BC), after the Zhou Dynasty fell and split into multiple states. After Qin conquered the other states in 221 BC and reunited China, its coinage became the standard in Imperial China for over two thousand years, ending with the formation of the Republic of China in 1912.

During this long history, while the basic design stayed the same, some elements of the coins changed. The metal composition of the coins varied depending on which dynasty and rulers were in power. The metals used for coinage were mostly bronze, iron, and lead, but varying amounts of each were used depending on what was easily available. The political state of China also had a significant impact on the cash coins. When there was political turmoil, coins would often become thinner and lose quality. Conversely, when there was political stability, coins would become thicker and more uniform.

Throughout their use in China, but especially during the Qing Dynasty (1644–1912), coins were continually debased, with their size and purity suffering. Especially during the early 1800s, when the opium trade with Britain was at an all-time high, the size of the coins was reduced from 27mm to 24mm to save copper.

Circulation & Use

Chinese cash coins, valued at one *wen* each, were the backbone of commerce in Imperial China. They were used for everything from buying food to paying for tuition. Because of their standardized design and value, they were simple to use, and strings of coins made them easy to count and carry. Officially, the value of *wen* was tied to the price of silver, with one thousand *wen* equalling one *liang* (about 37.5g) of silver. However, the value of cash coins fluctuated a lot from decade to decade, and they were often traded for less than the official value.

Grading

PCGS has recently started grading a selection of Qing Dynasty cash coins from 1644–1850. These coins are graded on a 10-point grading scale, a change from the commonly used 70-point Sheldon scale. This follows NGC's 2023 announcement that they would begin to grade cash coins. This change will hopefully bring more attention to Chinese cash coins and make their market value more consistent.



Left: Image from NGC, of a graded Qing Dynasty piece.

Right: Image from PCGS, releasing alongside announcement of grading Chinese cash coins.

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Franco-China Relations

by Lucas Lee

I recently received a 10 euro Franco-China silver proof and a bronze medal version. Here is the historical overview of the relationship: In January 1964, France changed the course of Cold War diplomacy when President Charles de Gaulle formally recognized the People's Republic of China. At a time when most Western nations refused to recognize China, this decision was both bold and strategic. The move laid the foundation for a relationship that would expand across trade, culture, science, and politics over the following decades.

Half a century later, in 2014, both nations chose to honor this diplomatic milestone by creating both coins and medals. France issued a 10 Euro silver proof coin, struck by Monnaie de Paris, whose design incorporated the number "50." Within its digits appeared the Arc de Triomphe and the Temple of Heaven, iconic monuments that symbolize Western and Eastern civilizations. China released a 10 Yuan silver proof coin alongside a bronze commemorative medal showing the Eiffel Tower and the Temple of Heaven side by side.



Images from Numista

Exonumia & Paper Money

The Young Numismatist • November 2025



Spijkenisse's Euro Bridges

by Cam Scheirer, Exonomia & Paper Money Columnist

Numismatics is a study that, in some cases, lends itself to humor; learning about coins, exonomia, and paper money from the past can reveal historical or cultural ironies evident only from our perspective years in the future. Sometimes, the humor lies in how individuals interacted with their money—either how they used it, changed it, or were inspired by it. This month's column highlights the humorous effort of a Dutch town to attract attention—building bridges never meant to be made.



Back of the €10 note (left) and its corresponding bridge (right). Both images come from Wikimedia Commons.

Though initially launched in 1999 for electronic payments by the European Union, the first Euro banknotes weren't introduced until 2002. The designs, created by Robert Kalina of the Austrian National Bank, depict on their fronts windows and gateways, while the backs feature bridges spanning waterways. Kalina beat 40 other entries, all based on the theme "Ages and Styles of Europe." To avoid a national preference that might have arisen if the notes had featured real figures or monuments, Kalina designed the architectural elements on the notes to be completely fictional. While they are based on the architecture of distinct periods of European art, the designs are not directly drawn from individual examples. The fictional bridge on the €5 note is representative of the architecture of classical antiquity, that on the €10 is based on Roman bridges, and the €20 is like those of the Gothic Period. The bridges on the €50, €100, €200, and €500 notes represent the architecture of the Renaissance, the Baroque & Rococo periods, later iron and glass architecture, and twentieth century architecture, respectively.

In 2013, however, these fictional bridges came to life in the large Dutch town of Spijkenisse, a suburb of Rotterdam. The "Eurobruggen," as they are called, were the brainchild of designer and Spijkenisse native Robin Stam. At the time Stam, who was not an architect, resided in Rotterdam, where one day, as he put it, "I was sitting in a pizza place with the bill when I first thought of the fact that it would be amazing if these fictional bridges suddenly turn out to actually exist in real life."

Soon after, he casually brought up the idea as a joke to Spijkenisse alderman Gert-Jan't Hart. Hart, evidently, did not take the idea as a joke, and he urged Stam to pursue it, introducing him to the Spijkenisse city council. Said Stam of the meetings, "when I spoke to the city council they thought it was funny too and were enthusiastic about actually doing the project" (Allen). With the support of Hart and the city council, the idea proceeded into reality. The idea was even endorsed by banknote designer Kalina and the European Central Bank, who sent a letter of approval.

The bridges were to be built around Spijkenisse's new housing area called Het Land ("The Countryside"), serving both as a tourist attraction and a piece of civic infrastructure for the canal-surrounded development. The bridges cost €1 million (the equivalent \$1.3 million), a quarter more expensive than usual bridge sets because of their complex designs. They were constructed by pouring concrete precisely colored to match the corresponding banknotes into wooden molds around the area. Because the development needed six bridges, one fewer than the number of denominations, the €5 and €20 note bridges were made as one 20-meter wide dam, the design of one bridge on one side, and the design of the other on the other side. Each Euro bridge is marked by a sign signifying the angle from which the bridges should be viewed for a view most like the notes.

The first Euro bridges, the combination €5 and €20 bridge and the €50 bridge were opened in October 2011 by Jan Franssen, the Queen's Commissioner for South Holland. This was a particularly ironic time for the opening of the Euro-inspired bridges—there was an ongoing crisis with the Euro as a result of economic contraction and instability particularly in Greece, Spain, and Italy. Originally, Dutch Finance Minister Jan Kees de Jager was scheduled to open the bridge, but he was called to a conference in Brussels with other European officials to resolve the crisis.

Stam likes the €100 note inspired bridge best, particularly because "when you see the note, you see little shapes of angels. The little small angels on it are going to be huge, ugly abstract forms. It's going to be very weird, and I think it's going to be very pretty" (Turner), as he said before it was complete.

All the bridges were completed by September 2013, and ever since, the Euro notes have, as Hart put it, provided "every European citizen and every member of the European community who has the [note] in their hands...a link to Spijkenisse." Soon, however, the connection will end; in 2021, the European Union governing council announced that a redesign will take place, with the final designs being announced in June 2026. The new theme for the redesign will be either "Rivers and Birds" or "European Culture."

To numismatists, the story of Spijkenisse's Euro bridges reminds us not only of how individuals can engage with their money, but also that these interactions can inspire creativity beyond the world of money. In a hobby that often tends towards seriousness, it is both refreshing and insightful when individuals infuse humor, as Stam did with the project. He summed it up best by saying to Bloomberg, "I thought it was funny that me, just a regular designer, could take something that big and just claim it."



Back of the €5 note (left) and its corresponding bridge (right). Both images come from Wikimedia Commons.



Back of the €100 note (left) and its corresponding bridge (right), Stam's favorite.
Both images come from Wikimedia Commons.

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Be sure to receive your **free** YN Challenge Coin

YNA members are eligible to receive a coin from the ANA. It is first come first serve, one per person. If you have not done so already, email Christian Strayhorn at cstrayhorn@money.org to claim your reward.

Only 100 were ever minted—less than 10 are left. Feel free to share this promotion with other numismatists. And of course, be sure to receive yours right away!

1883 National Exposition of Railway Appliances Award Medal - Part I

by John Swindling

From Thursday, May 24 to Saturday, June 23 1883, the National Exposition of Railway Appliances was held in Chicago, Illinois. Mr. E. H. Talbott, the President of the magazine *Railway Age*, was the chief promoter of the exposition, held in the same city where his magazine was published. Exhibitors had the option of competing to win medals, or entering for display only. Exposition rules stated that prize medals would be awarded to the best exhibits, to be judged by a jury of experts. According to the official guide, the exhibits could be placed starting May 1 and had to be completely installed by opening day. To enter an exhibit, the cost was \$5 (about \$148.10 today), plus extra based on the amount of space needed. There was no extra charge if an exhibitor required steam power. There were over 1,000 exhibits entered! *Engraving of E. H. Talbott and the Exposition grounds published in 1883.*



The exposition must have been exciting! Newspaper advertisements from 1883 promised the oldest trains in the world and the newest locomotives at the time. Engines such as the Rocket, Arabian, Pioneer, Puffing Billy, Stourbridge Lion, and John Bull were some of the main attractions. The Rocket was the first modern steam engine, built by Robert Stephenson & Co. in 1829. It won the Rainhill Trials that same year and began passenger service shortly after. The Arabian was a “Grasshopper” type locomotive built for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in 1834. The Pioneer was built in 1837 by the Baldwin Locomotive Works and was the first railroad engine in Chicago. The Puffing Billy was built by William Hedley in 1813; it was the world’s first commercial traction steam engine. The Stourbridge Lion was built by Foster, Rastrick & Co in 1829 and was the first locomotive exported to the United States. The John Bull was built by Robert Stephenson & Co. (like the Rocket) in 1831 and was shipped to America, where it was modified by being given 2 pilot wheels, a large cowcatcher, a headlight, and a covered tender and cab. The John Bull’s longest recorded journey under steam was to the Railway Appliances Exposition in 1883. *Left: My dad and I visiting the John Bull at the Smithsonian Museum in 2023.*



One of the new inventions at the exposition was an electric locomotive known as “The Judge”. The locomotive was operated by a third rail, and was elevated above the exhibit hall. Harper’s Weekly published a picture of the elevated track in their June 16, 1883 issue. The Judge was put in operation June 19, 1883, pulling one passenger car, and carried over 26,000 passengers during the two weeks that it ran.

Brand new locomotives were being shown by train manufacturing companies. I wanted to learn more about large locomotive displays at the Exposition, such as the Baldwin Locomotive Works (one of my favorites) and Brooks Locomotive Works (the company which ultimately won a Grand Gold medal). I contacted The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania and they gave me some information about the Baldwin Display. Visitors could see all of this cool stuff at the Exposition for only 50¢ (\$14.81 today)!

The Award Medals

Present-day books, auction lot descriptions, and reference materials have differing information on the medals. There are multiple reference books about medals, including R.W. Julian's *Medals of the United States Mint*, Andrew Harkness's *Agricultural and Mechanical Society Award Medals Of The United States*, Katherine Jaeger's *Guide Book of United States Tokens and Medals*, and Auguste Moyaux's 1905 book in French about railroad medals around the world. R. W. Julian does not list the medal in his book as being made by the U.S. Mint, and Heritage Auctions does not list it as a U.S. Mint medal, but Jaeger's book and PCGS CoinFacts do. Medal sizes and varieties are listed in multiple ways. I wanted to see if I could find original information to clear up the confusion.



Images of Bronze Medal. **Copyright Ted Harkness**, used with permission. Source: "Agricultural and Mechanical Society Award Medals Of The United States, Third Edition"

The official exposition program had 470 medals on the Premium List. The July 26, 1883, issue of *Railway Age* magazine shared a line drawing of the prize medals and information about the designs. The article stated, "It is believed that both the design and the execution will be entirely satisfactory to all. The design of the Grand Gold Medal is not yet completed. It will be octagonal in shape and of a larger measurement than the one given above." Mr. Talbott was also quoted in the June 24 *Chicago Tribune*, stating that the list of awards was not ready for publication yet. Sharing why they were delayed, Mr. Talbott said that "discontent that had prevailed among the exhibitors had compelled [the judges] to change many of the prizes as many as six times." Finally, *The Inter Ocean* newspaper from Chicago published a list of medal winners in their June 28 issue, and *Railway Age* published the complete list with supplemental awards on July 5, 1883.

The June 28, 1883, issue of the *Chicago Daily Tribune* published a financial statement from the exposition, stating, "Those who have been adjudged worthy of medals will receive them as soon as they are manufactured at the Philadelphia Mint." *Railway Age* published the cost of the medals on August 2 as \$7,000! In total, 389 medals were given to exhibitors; far fewer than originally announced. Because of the current references having conflicting information, I put together a chart of all the details I think are the most correct and made a new numbering system for 1883 National Exposition of Railway Appliances Award Medals to help make it clearer. Auction records from Heritage, Stack's Bowers, and Presidential Coin and Antique Co. show that these medals don't show up often, but I tried to estimate rarity and prices. Awarded and unawarded medals are available, especially for the bronze ones.

Collected Information About Award Medals

Medals	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Grand Gold
Diameter	2¼ inches (58 mm)	2¼ inches (58 mm)	1¾ inches (45 mm)	Unknown but larger than silver/bronze
Obverse	Steam train heading towards the left foreground in a rectangular frame, with BARBER at left lower edge of the frame and MORGAN at right; with laurel branch on each side of frame. Above, American shield between two seated women representing Science and Labor. Below, the Rocket with tender. ROCKET inscribed flat against bottom left of frame; 1829 on right.		Same design, except ROCKET and 1829 are inscribed on the inner curve rather than horizontally under the frame	Unknown
Reverse	Around the top inner edge: NATIONAL EXPOSITION OF RAILWAY APPLIANCES, dots with CHICAGO 1883 at the bottom edge. Laurel and berry wreath tied with a ribbon. Inside wreath AWARDED TO with space for engraving; then FOR with space for engraving			Unknown
Shape	Round	Round	Round	Octagonal
Designer	Charles Barber and George T. Morgan	Charles Barber and George T. Morgan	Charles Barber and George T. Morgan	Charles Barber and George T. Morgan
Current Designation(s)	Moyaux-414 Harkins Nat-220 Baxter-64	Moyaux-414 Harkins Nat-220 Baxter-64 PCGS #: 615417	Moyaux-415 Harkins Nat-220 (NGC lists as Nat-221, which doesn't exist)	Not Listed
Proposed New Designations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swindling-1a (awarded) • Swindling-1b (unawarded) • Swindling-1c (gilt bronze) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swindling-2a (awarded) • Swindling-2b (unawarded) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swindling-3a (awarded) • Swindling-3b (unawarded) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swindling-4 (awarded, though currently unknown)
Medals Announced (Total: 470)	135	246	84	5
Medals Awarded (Total: 389)	123	206	55	5
Estimated Rarity	<40 surviving	<25 surviving	<10 surviving	Currently none known
Estimated Value	\$200 - \$600	\$600 - \$1,500	\$5,000 – \$8,000	\$10,000+



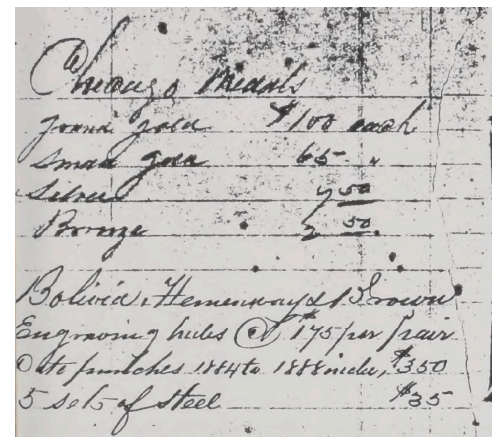
Line drawings from 1883, images are public domain. Note that inscriptions “Rocket” and “1829” appear curved like on the smaller diameter gold medal.

To find out more about where the medals were struck, I submitted a request to the National Archives, but they were unable to find any information on the medals or the dies. I also checked on the Newman Numismatic Portal to read the Mint Reports of the 1880s with no luck! The National Archives helped connect me to Roger Burdette, who shared the picture of page 4 of Charles Barber’s notebook where he listed all the medal dies he created.

Even though the *Chicago Daily Tribune* said the medals were struck at the Philadelphia Mint, official Mint records don’t exist, and the experts I talked to had different opinions. R. W. Julian thought the medals could have been made by Peter Krider of Philadelphia, who had a shop only a couple of blocks away from the Mint. He was well known at the time for making exposition and agricultural society medals, especially the U.S. Centennial medals in 1876. Mr. Burdette believes the medals could have been made by Tiffany and Co., but said they could have been made by any company with a large enough press.

The prices listed in Barber’s notebook just about match the amount of medals awarded and the total cost reported in *Railway Age*! This also means that each gold medal would have had about 2 ounces of gold, and the Grand Gold medals would have had about 3 ounces.

I tried contacting several museums and companies to try and locate a Grand Gold Medal, but had no luck. I thought it was interesting that the bronze medals are about twice as rare as the silver ones when struck, but there seems to be more bronze medals still around now. I even reached out to PCGS to fix their website listing, which had the medal issued in 1898 instead of 1883!



Part two will be included in the December issue of *The Young Numismatist*

Collectors' Challenges

The Young Numismatist • November 2025



— Coin of the Month —

by Miles Tichner

Coins of a Crown: The 1649 English Unite



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

How would you like to own a piece of a crown? Or, even better, one that disappeared centuries ago? The legendary St. Edward's crown was the crown of King Edward the Confessor of England (Image from Wikimedia Commons). Edward was one of the last Saxon kings, followed by Harold II, who was overthrown in 1066 by William the Conqueror. Edward's crown was used in coronation by most English kings until the reign of Henry VIII, making it one of the most important crowns in English history. Following Charles I's execution in 1649 during the English Civil War, all of the royal regalia was confiscated by Parliament. Finding himself short of money in the fight against the royalist Cavaliers, Oliver Cromwell ordered the jewels removed and sold and the crown to be melted down. One might think that that is the end of St. Edward's crown. However, the gold from the crown was ordered to be struck into coins by the Royal Mint!



The gold Unite was a coin struck in England from 1604 to 1663, when it was replaced by the Guinea. It was valued at 20 shillings and weighed about a quarter ounce of gold. The Unite being one of the most popular coins struck at the time, it would likely have been the denomination chosen for minting the gold from the crown. This means that there are today, among the many 1649 gold Unites struck by the Commonwealth government, several that were made from the famous St. Edward's Crown!

— Trivia —

- ❖ Although all gold coinage was ended by President Roosevelt in 1933, the quarter eagle had already been discontinued by Congress in 1930.
- ❖ The first coin to feature a turkey was a 1863 New York Civil War token.
- ❖ The oldest coin with a date on it is the 1234 Bishop of Roskilde coin from Denmark. Although earlier Roman coins had the year of the emperor's reign, the Danish coin is the first to use the familiar Anno Domini calendar system.
- ❖ The first paper money was printed by the Chinese in the 11th century, using wood from mulberry trees. To prevent counterfeiting, guards were stationed in mulberry forests.
- ❖ When the Roosevelt Dime was first issued in 1946, there were rumors that the initials "J.S." (for the coin's designer, John Sinnock) had been placed there to honor the Soviet dictator, Joseph Stalin.

— Riddle —

The first to send in the correct answer will receive 30 YN Dollars; subsequent respondents will receive 10.

Created to save the mints of the South; so small was my size that I was often lost. More used as a novelty than spent as money, soon I became obsolete. Better known today is my larger imitation, and though gold is its name, it is anything but.

Last month's answer: Shield nickels

— Survey —

What are some of your best coin finds? (Circulation finds, cherrypicks, roll searching, etc.) Send them in to be included in next month's printed issue!

Email your answers to Miles Tichner at migatic2020@gmail.com and Nate Leonauskas at yuaeditor@money.org.

Column is by Miles Tichner. Survey responses and answers to the crossword and riddle will be available in the September issue. Discuss until then.

— October's Survey Responses —

What is your favorite coin or banknote that you won from a YN Auction?

Hugo Kastle: I haven't won any coins or banknotes from a YN auction, but I have won an off-center medal from a different ANA auction. Back in December 2024, I won an off-center 2000 ANA steam press medal. The diameter of this medal is 27 mm, and a total of 2,220 of these medals were minted—2,000 in .995 copper, 200 in .999 silver, and 20 in 22kt gold. This was originally supposed to be struck at the Franklin Institute Science Museum in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on March 23, 2000; however, due to mechanical problems, the date was postponed and struck at the Gallery Mint Museum in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, instead. After they finished striking these medals, the steam press was donated to the ANA and is on display at the Money Museum in Colorado Springs, CO. I got this lot for 242 YN Dollars, and it was the most popular lot with over 20 bids.



Miles Tichner: Although it isn't from an auction, the 2024 Transformers Niue coin I won in an ANA National Coin Week contest is my favorite coin I have gotten from the ANA. It is my first ultra-rare mintage coin—I think only about 1,500 coins were minted, so it's cool to have a coin in my collection that not many people have a chance to own. The coins minted by the smaller Pacific countries seem to have a lot to offer artistically, and have a lot of novel designs. Plus, they are almost always low-mintage!



Nate Leonauskas: Though I haven't participated in any YN auctions, I did win a lot from a YNA giveaway earlier this year. The lot included a booklet of German notgeld, or 'emergency money,' issued during the period of hyperinflation following World War I. I wrote a brief article about it in the October issue ("What if Money Stops Working?"), so make sure to check it out if you're curious!

Do you think gold and silver will ever come back into use as currency in the US?

Hugo Kastle: I don't think the U.S. will ever go back to circulating silver and gold coinage (at the very least, not gold), unless something very drastic happened. Today, a \$1 silver coin would be the size of a Trime (their melt value is \$1.04 as of 11/5/25), which although technically possible, is still unlikely. Silver is very volatile, and it's just cheaper to make coins using the current composition of brass and manganese. We might see silver coins of higher denominations (such as \$5 and \$10 coins) if the U.S. ever decides to make them, but then again, using different compositions would be far cheaper. It makes even less sense if we use gold for the dollar coin; if you want a small (13 mm, vs. 17 mm for a dime) gold dollar like the ones in the 1850s, the value of the dollar would have to go up by 193 times (as of 9/3/2025). Another general factor is the increasing prevalence of digital payments. If money is tied to digital worth and nobody uses physical money, it may not be worth using precious metals for coinage to represent worth. Even if we go back to the gold standard, it is very likely that it will be more symbolic than functional. With \$2.418 trillion of coins and currency in circulation, it would be extremely difficult to back every dollar by gold and silver physically. I believe that we will never see gold nor silver in circulating coins. Digitalized money, the sheer amount of money, and the classic problem of item cost all make it improbable.

Miles Tichner: Gold has been successfully placed back into use as a currency by Zimbabwe recently, but I think if the U.S. ever reverted to the gold standard, it would have to be on a very limited scale. There is \$22 trillion in existence, and all the gold in the world is worth only \$15 trillion. Because of this, the amount of gold in coinage would have to be significantly lower than the denomination's worth. This has worked in the past, such as in 1945, the silver in a quarter was worth only 8 cents. Of course, there would always be the risk that the metal value would exceed face value, which happened in 1965.

Nate Leonauskas: No, for one main reason alone: counterfeiting. Coins of precious metals would require higher denominations, opening the door up to counterfeiters. Currently, quarters (and to some degree, dollar coins) are the highest circulating denomination, so almost no profit can be made, at least not enough to be worth the risk. That would all change (ha!) if there was say a \$100 gold coin, which can't include security features like a banknote can.

— Contributors —

Thank you so much to the wonderful work of all who contributed, especially the writers. *The Young Numismatist* would simply not be possible without the joint collaboration of so many young collectors.

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by young numismatists*

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