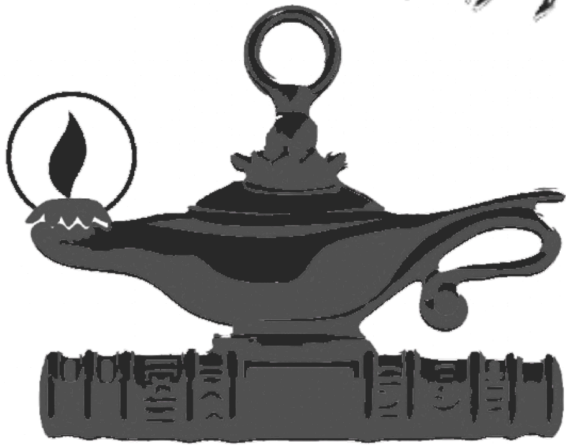


Want to join the YNA? Visit us at: <https://www.money.org/yn-america/>



THE YOUNG NUMISMATIST

APRIL & MAY 2026

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE YOUNG NUMISMATISTS OF AMERICA



– Table of Contents April & May 2026 –

The Young Numismatist

3 EDITOR'S LETTER / PRESIDENT'S LETTER 4

5 YOUNG NUMISMATISTS OF AMERICA

5 About Us

Board Biographies 7

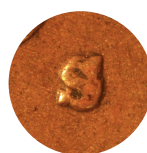
9 Meeting Schedule

Meeting Summary 10

11 NUMISMATIC REPORT



The Hobby of Numismatics
in 10 Years *Hugo Kastle* 12



Cherrypicking Your
Collection *Clark Davis* 13

14 UNITED STATES NUMISMATICS



A History of Silver Coinage in the United States
Josiah Drallette 15



A Rare Find
Lucas Lee 17



The Coinage Act of 1857
Cruz Keith 18

20 YNA BENEFITS

CONTRIBUTORS 23

A Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

Hello readers,

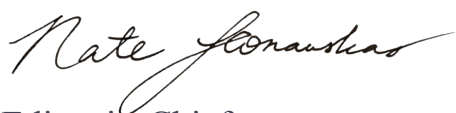
You've been reading all that *The Young Numismatist* has to offer, at least, I hope. Always online, until now. I'm proud to announce that the 200 physical copies have been printed and are now being offered to YNA members for free — no reason not to claim yours. Soon after, we will begin a fundraiser, which, besides raising money, will spread our club's mission, hopefully resonating with numismatists young and old. A giant thank you to everyone who has written for the printed issue, helped with its creation, and have donated.

For the first time, the cover design for *TYN* is not my own. Credit to this one goes to Hugo Kastle, who was generous enough to submit his proposal. May is an especially relevant time to use such a cover because, now, *TYN* has officially lasted one year, and a very successful one at that. The deconstructed club logo is arguably the centerpiece of the cover, symbolic of the community we've formed as a whole over the past year. Included in the cover are also some throwbacks to the initial cover (good eye for detail, Hugo!). Writers and contributors are the heart of *TYN*, so thank you to all who have done so. Don't hesitate to join the team (this month welcomes two new writers).

This is my penultimate issue. June will be my last. As I phase out and my time approaches its end, I'd like to note the importance of transition in general. Cam Scheirer and Clark Davis have done excellent work already and are dedicated to a forward thinking vision which will revamp the publication and incorporate newer ideas. I wish them the best and can assure the rest of you that you have a lot to look forward to.

Until then, enjoy reading.

Nate Leonauskas



Editor-in-Chief

ynaeditor@money.org

A Letter from the Club President

Available soon

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.

— Board of Directors —

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

Nate Leonauskas *Editor-in-Chief*
with **Cam Scheirer** & **Clark Davis**

ynaeditor@money.org, natejleo@gmail.com.
Instagram: nate_coin.

Elliot Eng *President*

ynapresident@money.org, elliotdavideng@gmail.com

Adrian Perez *Vice President*

ynavicepresident@money.org.

Arlo Little *Secretary*

ynasecretary@money.org.

Gryffen Atkinson *Treasurer*

ynatreasurer@money.org.

Christian Strayhorn *ANA Education Director*

cstrayhorn@money.org.

— 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 not only to the club, but to 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 Biographies —

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

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.

Adrian Perez *Vice President*

You can contact Adrian at ynavicepresident@money.org.

Gryffen Atkinson *Secretary*

You can contact Gryffen at ynasecretary@money.org.

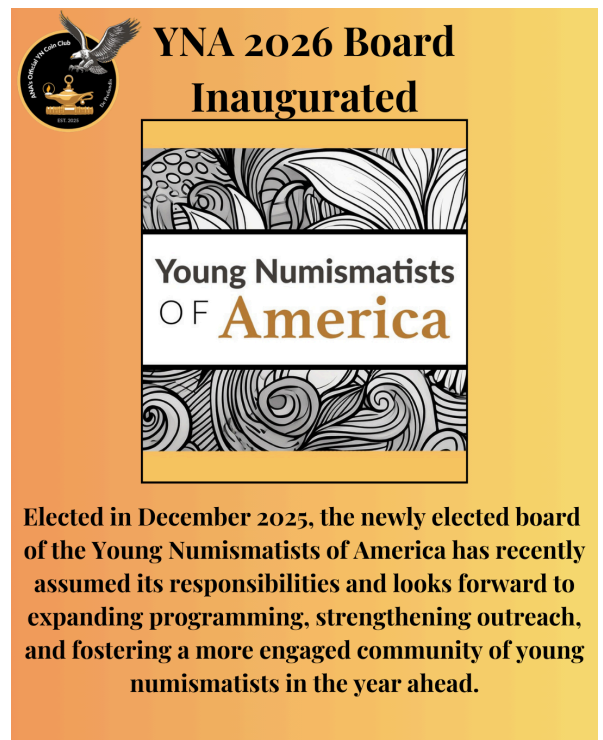
Arlo Little *Treasurer*

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.



— Editorial Board —

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](#).

Cam Scheirer *Research Editor*

Cam Scheirer is a 13 year-old currently in eighth grade (He will be in the high school graduating class of 2030), who lives in the San Francisco Bay Area. While he has been collecting for five years, he has greatly increased his numismatic involvement recently both locally and nationally through his writing recently. He currently serves as Youth President for the Cupertino Coin Club, as well as editor of their monthly publication. He writes a monthly column for *The Young Numismatist* (Exonomia & Paper Money), and 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 his father). He presented numismatic programs regularly at Cupertino Coin Club meetings, and has spoken to the public at the local library and a nearby retirement community. Recently, he attended the ANA's Summer Seminar on a scholarship, taking a class on Roman Republican Coinage. Outside of numismatics, he enjoys learning about Egyptology, visiting museums, and learning Chinese.

You can contact Cam at ynaeditor@money.org or camoftheshire@gmail.com.

Clark Davis *Graphics Editor*

Clark Davis is a 14 year old (Class of 2030) resident of Utah and an avid Numismatist. He loves learning about numismatics and sharing my passion for this hobby in many ways, and to prove it, he has given many presentations on numismatics. He has also written many high-quality articles for places such as The Numismatist and The Reading Room. As for why he should be the editor: he is currently a columnist for The Reading Room, where he has written articles including a research paper of mine. He has experience creating high quality pieces of graphic design using professional software. He is also the current assistant editor of BoTales, which means he gets to work designing each issue. He has also created an ad for the YNA which appeared in Fun Topics.

You can contact Clark at ynaeditor@money.org or clarkdaviscoins@gmail.com.

— Meeting Schedule —

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

April 3, 2026

Pamela Herrick

May 1, 2026

Akio Lis: Auction Cataloging

June 5, 2026

August 7, 2026

September 4, 2026

October 2, 2026

November 6, 2026

December 4, 2026

Holiday Games & Election



**No July 2026 Meeting*

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

— Meeting Summaries —

by Arlo Little, YNA Treasurer

April 3, 2026

At the last meeting of the Young Numismatists of America, we welcomed Pam Herrick. Herrick works with the Community College of Philadelphia where she is the curator of the Gilroy Roberts Gallery, which was the topic of her presentation. Gilroy Roberts was the chief engraver of the United States Mint from 1948 until 1964, but he continued to design coins and medals until his death in 1992. Most of the designs Roberts made were used for medals opposed to coins, but one his designs did end up on a coin, and it is his most recognized piece. This design was of John F. Kennedy, and was created by Roberts in his last year as chief engraver. The design was made to commemorate the late president, and just over a month after the assassination, the coin was already being minted. Gilroy Roberts also had around 300 other designs he made in his career, and even though most of them were used, they were mostly all used on medals, and didn't see as much popularity as the Kennedy half dollar.

After Pam Herrick's presentation, president Elliot Eng gave his report on the state of the club. The printed editions of *The Young Numismatist* have been received by the ANA, and every member of the YNA is eligible to acquire one. The Numismatic Guarantee Company (NGC) is also giving premium memberships to any club member who would like one. Any member who would like either one of these items will need to email Christian Strayhorn and request one. Nate Leonauskas also asks for more writing for *TYN*. Submissions will earn YN dollars for the writer and an opportunity to have their work published in the monthly edition.

The meeting ended off with show and tell from 4 members, a drawing, and a roundtable discussion. The next meeting of the Young Numismatists of America will be on May 1. Thank you to Pam Herrick who donated her time to speak to us.

May 1, 2026

At the latest meeting of the Young Numismatists of America we welcomed Akio Lis back to give us another presentation. Akio Lis is the manager of the library at the ANA Money Museum in Colorado Springs, Colorado. With the upcoming annual YN auction in October, Akio was gracious enough to donate his time to teach us about cataloging auction items. The three main takeaways from his presentation are to make your listing concise, list important details about the item, and not to promote your own knowledge. These tips will be helpful to anyone writing catalogs for the YN auction, the YN benefit auction, or any other auction you may participate in cataloging. Thank you Akio for sharing your time and knowledge with us.

Next, president Elliot Eng gave his report on the state of the club. Printed editions of *The Young Numismatist* are now being used for fundraising. A fifty dollar donation or more will earn the donator a free copy of the *TYN*, they are not up for sale. The Numismatic Guarantee Company still has premium memberships which any YNA member may request from Christian Strayhorn. Our roundtable discussion was moved up to be right at the end of Elliot's presentation, instead of the end.

After that, Christian Strayhorn gave a short presentation about some reminders for ANA programs. Physical YN dollars will no longer be accepted by the ANA after June 1st, instead they are being moved to virtual. Every YN needs to mail their YN dollars to the Money Museum in Colorado Springs, Colorado by June 1st to have them accepted. The physical copy of the *Young Numismatist* is no longer available for request, the only way to acquire a copy now is to make a donation of fifty dollars or more to the club, which earns the donor a free copy.

Finally, the meeting wrapped up with Editor Nate Leonauskas doing show and tell with a new item he got. We then did the drawing and closed out the meeting. The next meeting of the Young Numismatists of America will be on June 5th, thank you once again to Akio Lis for sharing his time with us.

Numismatic – Report –



**THE YOUNG
NUMISMATIST**

APRIL & MAY 2026

The Hobby of Numismatics in 10 Years

by Hugo Kastle

In 10 years, I think the hobby of numismatics will be very different compared to what we know today. I believe one of the main driving factors for this change will be the rise in use of artificial intelligence. During the span of the last 4 years, ChatGPT went from something that many people have never heard of to being the most downloaded app on the App Store. After ChatGPT came the rise of other AI models such as Claude, Grok, Google Gemini, and much more.

According to research conducted by Kapwing, 104 of the 500 YouTube shorts (~21%) they scrolled through were AI. There are other estimates that by the end of 2026, 90% of all content online could be synthetically generated using AI. If this figure turns out to be true, that means your odds of running into AI content will skyrocket. Due to this, I believe in 10 years, there will be a lot of AI written misinformation and clickbait articles about coins titled things like: "Do Not Spend This Billion-Dollar Bicentennial Quarter." Although many articles like this already exist, with AI, I believe the sheer number of these articles will be amplified due to how easy it would be to generate an article and make money out of it. I don't think all these articles will be written for malicious reasons, but rather because AI will absorb inaccurate information on the internet and rephrase the misinformation. Each time a misinformed article is released, the odds go up for that misinformation to be reused.

I know this sounds all doom and gloom, but I don't think this is all negative. Although misinformation is never a good thing, I foresee these articles introducing many people into the world of coin collecting; an interest in a get rich quick scheme could lead to interest in collecting. It is said that the more you listen to a certain genre of music, the more you start to enjoy that genre. I believe that is true with many other things. Without exposure, you wouldn't know what you might enjoy. Due to these reasons, I wouldn't be surprised if we see a surge in coin collecting for a period of time.

Although I believe AI will be a massive source of misinformation for casual collectors, I also think AI might create some of the most knowledgeable numismatists the world has ever seen. If a model is trained correctly, we will have one centralized source of information where the model will be able to pull out

only fact-checked information, serving as the best coin encyclopedia known to mankind.

I also foresee AI being integrated into coin grading. Although a controversial topic due to coin grading being seen as an art, such attempts have happened in the past. In 1991, the grading service Compugrade opened its doors to the public and allegedly graded coins using computers instead of humans. However, it soon came to light that their computer grading system never actually worked and the few coins that were submitted to them were actually graded by humans. PCGS also tried experimenting with computer coin grading in 1989, but they also failed due to technological limitations. However, technology has advanced exponentially since then, and although still not possible as of now, it may become possible in the next decade or so. Even if it's not full computer grading, nothing says it can't be partial either.

Finally, I also see the online coin market on platforms such as eBay being compromised. Although counterfeits would likely be higher quality, I see another emerging problem: AI photo editing. Although making coins look better than they actually are through photo editing is already a problem, you can usually spot them if you look very closely. However, once AI is advanced enough, they may be able to flawlessly hide scratches altogether.

In 10 years, I believe the world of coin collecting would be a lot riskier, but I also think if handled properly, we could create a golden age of numismatics. I believe much of the future would depend on how we combat misinformation and use AI. What will the future really hold though? Only time will tell...

Young Numismatists
OF **America**

Cherrypicking Your Collection

by Clark Davis, Graphics Editor

Last week, I found myself reading the most recent news and informational articles on CoinWeek. One of the articles that I was reading was titled “1909-S/Horizontal S Lincoln Cent: The Sideways Punch That Became a Small-Cent Legend.” Despite the title being a bit misleading because the 1909-S/Horizontal S Lincoln cent is not a legend, it still is a fascinating variety that warrants an article. While reading it, an idea popped into my head: are there any of these left to be cherrypicked, or more specifically, is the 1909-S Lincoln cent in my collection one of these? I decided that if it was, I would not leave it undiscovered. I soon went and dug through my boxes of coins and came across the coin I was looking for. I soon went and threw it under the microscope to take a look.

Purchase

Several years ago, I stood in the bustling excitement of the annual FUN show. I was there for several reasons, but one of the more important ones was to purchase the 1909-S Lincoln cent. It was one of the few remaining holes in my Lincoln cent collection, and I was itching to get it filled. I slowly wandered across the bourse to the budget section to see if I could possibly purchase one for the small fistful of cash I had been able to save up. I finally came across a dealer who had just what I was looking for. It was a nice, clean VG example for only \$100. It was exactly how much I had saved up. However, due to my young age, I had been able to bring the price down to \$80 and happily walked off with my prize.

Discovery

I sat there staring through the lens of my microscope. Disappointingly, it was not the RPM I was looking for. What I saw, however, was something a lot more stunning. Instead of there being the minor and not too cool-looking 1909-S/Horizontal S Lincoln cent, I saw a really strong and noticeable RPM. You could clearly see all of the doubling instead of the minor split-serifs seen on most other RPMs. I excitedly filed the coin away while I cooled down from the discovery. I was planning on coming back a bit later to take pictures and do a little research.



Attribution

I came back to the coin under study the next day. I verified that it was an RPM, took pictures, and then carefully put the coin away. I soon was on the computer doing a little research. The only other major RPM other than the 1909-S/Horizontal S was a 1909-S/S FS-1501. I carefully compared the images PCGS has of that variety to the images I had taken of mine and conclusively verified that mine was that CPG variety. I had surely gone a long way from having a 1909-S cent as a hole filler in my collection to where I had a CPG variety all in one day! I had not bought or sold any coins. All I did was read an article that gave me the inspiration to observe and scrutinize one of the coins already in my collection for something out of the ordinary.

Discovering More Varieties

I know we have all felt it—the craving to go out to a coin show and cherrypick the day away, finding nice coins in cases or dealers' junk boxes. However, it might sometimes be beneficial if you cherrypick the coins in your collection to find something out of the ordinary. There probably is some coin lurking there, just waiting for you to rediscover it in a new light. I have found a handful of unattributed varieties in my collection that have brought me enjoyment and have also made my collection a little bit neater. I am sure you can too.



United States Numismatics



**THE YOUNG
NUMISMATIST**

APRIL & MAY 2026

A History of Silver Coinage in the United States

by Josiah Drallette

Silver has been traded and used as payment for millennia, whether in coins, cutlery, ingots, or raw form, but the history of silver usage in America dates back only to around the 1500s. After Christopher Columbus became one of the first Europeans to lay eyes on North America in 1492, numerous countries, such as England and Spain, laid claim to land on the newly discovered continent, namely in the present-day United States, bringing with them their respective currencies. These coins, as well as others brought to the newly forming British colonies by the slave trade and other commercial activities, circulated in the region as legal tender even after the colonies became independent in 1776. While individual states did mint their own coins that were widely accepted, the newly formed United States did not begin to mint its own official coins until 1792, when the half disme (dime) was first produced. This began the history of silver coinage in the United States.

The first official silver coin minted in the United States was the aforementioned half disme. Thomas Jefferson personally bought and distributed thousands of these coins to spread them into circulation. After a brief respite in 1794, these coins were produced continuously until their discontinuation in 1873. It is interesting to note that several other coin varieties were discontinued throughout this year, which was a notable period of confusion and corruption under the Grant administration. The half disme's designer is unknown, but it is believed to have been Robert Birch and possibly Gilbert Stuart. Curiously, these coins were made with an odd 89.24 percent silver instead of a solid 90 percent. Interestingly, as the United States did not yet have an official mint, the early half dimes were produced at John Harper's shop, while the later half dimes were produced at the Philadelphia Mint.

In 1796, the first dimes, made from 89.24 percent silver, were introduced. Although the dime has gone through several design changes and designers, it is still around today. The dime was produced with silver until 1964, when the composition of most silver coins was changed to copper-nickel due to the rapidly rising price of the precious metal. This action was followed by many other countries, especially in 1967, when the price of silver skyrocketed. The United States still produces silver coins in proof sets and as commemoratives, as well as for collectible silver dollars, but no longer produces silver coins intended for circulation.

One coin minted from silver, albeit only for a few years, is the nickel. Made with a copper-nickel clad for most of its existence, the only exception was during World War II, when copper and nickel were needed for the war effort. Nickels were switched to 35 percent silver during 1942 and reverted to their usual composition after the war in 1946. This resulted in some 1942 nickels being silver and all 43s, 44s, and 45s being silver. Approximately 750 million of these coins were minted, so they are rather common. Amazingly, the Mint so needed metal for coins that soldiers were being sent onto the battlefield unarmed simply to retrieve bullet and shell casings to be melted down at the Mint! Some soldiers were even awarded medals for retrieving the casings!

Beginning in 1796, quarters too were minted with silver until 1965, when silver was removed from most U.S. circulating coinage. They went through several design and designer changes and ranged in silver content from 89.24 to 90 percent. Although the Mint is still producing silver quarters for silver proof sets, the days of silver quarters in circulation are gone, save for a few remaining coins that have not yet been removed for melt value.

Not to be forgotten are silver half dollars, with a silver content varying from 89.24 to 90 percent originally. In 1965, the half dollar's silver content was reduced to 40 percent, and in 1971, it was removed completely, thus ending the presence of silver in U.S. circulating coinage. Although the Mint no longer produces silver half dollars for circulation, they are still minted for proof sets and as commemoratives.

One very interesting silver coin is the three-cent, with the silver variety being commonly known as the trime. These coins were designed by James B. Longacre and first debuted in 1851. They were minted with silver until 1873, when their composition was changed to copper-nickel. An interesting fact to note is that the copper-nickel and silver varieties actually overlapped for nine years, as the copper-nickel composition began in 1865.

Last, but definitely not least, is the silver dollar. Minted with 90 percent silver, silver dollars were produced from 1794 to 1935, with a gap from 1805 to 1835. Although silver dollars are no longer produced for circulation, in 2021, the Mint began a new series of silver dollars after Congress passed the 1921 Silver Dollar Coin Anniversary Act to commemorate the 100th anniversaries of the completion of the Morgan dollar program and the beginning of the Peace dollar program. Although the new dollars are not exact copies of the original, they are very similar and are still being produced. If you are looking to buy a new silver dollar, you will want to keep an eye on the spot price of silver, as the price of the dollar may vary with it. In a recent interview published in *The Numismatist*, Paul Hollis, a longtime numismatist and the current director of the United States Mint, said that the mint may implement a pricing system for its silver coins that changes along with the price of silver.

Silver has played a huge role in United States coinage, and it will likely continue to do so. Even though the price of silver can dramatically skyrocket or tragically implode, it proves to be an asset that keeps giving and a favorite of the people of the United States.

Sources

Golino, Louis. "Numismatist at Heart." *The Numismatist*, April 2026, pp. 24-25.

Yeoman, R. S. *A Guide Book of United States Coins: 2024*. Edited by Jeff Garret, Q. David Bowers, and Kenneth Bressett, 77 th ed., Whitman Publishing, 2023.

America 250: Connecting Coins With the Land(s) They Represent

A National Volunteer Project for Students K-12

2026 marks America 250, the 250th anniversary (semiquincentennial) of the Declaration of Independence. To celebrate this once-in-a-generation milestone, the American Numismatic Association is inviting students across the country to give back to the lands we all share and earn exciting coins and commemoratives as they volunteer.

The program officially begins January 1, 2026 and runs throughout the 2026 calendar year, while prize supplies last.

For more information about the ANA YN America 250 Project, visit www.money.org/america250-project.

A Rare Find

by Lucas Lee

During a recent trip to my local bank, I was met with an unexpected find. The teller handed over a collection of original bank-wrapped (OBW) penny rolls and customer-wrapped rolls, packed with Wheat cents. The OBW rolls containing 1980s-dated cents were wrapped with Brink's and Seattle First National Bank wrappers along with several unmarked wrappers. The real surprise came when I noticed two rolls containing 1954 and 1955 Wheat cents from the San Francisco Mint. Below is a look at the history behind the three groups represented on the rolls I found.

Brink's was founded in 1859 by Perry Brink, the company beginning as a parcel delivery service in Chicago. Over the following decades, the company expanded its services, eventually focusing on the transportation of money and valuables. By the mid-1900s, Brink's had become a large company, responsible for transporting cash, coins, and valuables for banks and businesses. Brink's also became one of the largest coin-processing companies in the United States. Their facilities sorted, counted, and rolled coins for use by banks and retailers.

Seattle First National Bank, commonly known as Sea-First Bank, was formed in 1929 when three Seattle banks merged during the Great Depression. After surviving the Great Depression, the new bank grew quickly and became among the largest banks in Washington, with hundreds of branches throughout the state. In 1983, after major financial losses from risky loans, Sea-First was acquired by Bank of America, though the Sea-First name continued to appear on branches and banking materials for several years.

The Seattle Branch of the San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank opened in 1917. It became one of the currency-distribution hubs within the Federal Reserve's 12th District. The 12th District, headquartered in San Francisco, is responsible for monitoring the financial activity and supplying cash for most of the western United States. The Seattle branch played an important

role in providing banks across the Pacific Northwest with currency.

In the end, these three groups, Brink's, Seattle First National Bank, and the Seattle Branch of the San Francisco Federal Reserve, played roles in moving money around the Pacific Northwest, an interesting piece of history on these bank rolls.



The Coinage Act of 1857

by Cruz Keith

In the year 1856, the average monetary transaction looked vastly different from what it does today. First of all, prices were lower — a loaf of bread cost approximately \$0.20 and a dozen eggs \$0.17. Also in 1856, paper money was far less common, and many everyday purchases were made using coins. Cents, often called pennies, were common, but what the average American might not know is that they were larger than a quarter. In 1856 as well, one could buy a \$0.20 loaf of bread using 40 coins. This is because the half-cent coin was widely circulated. Finally, the average foreigner who immigrated to America did not have to exchange his money for American dollars, because most foreign coins were considered legal tender in the U.S. In fact, some American towns had more foreign coins circulating than American coins. This is because the U.S. Mint did not have the capacity to supply coins for the entire nation. You might be wondering why I have been discussing the specific year of 1856; this is because in 1857, many things about US coinage changed drastically. In 1857, legislators came together and discussed a plan to fix many problems that were caused by the current state of coins in the US economy. First, they reduced the size of the large cents. Second, they entirely eliminated that half cent. Finally, they discontinued the legal tender status of foreign coins.

The first problem that the Coinage Act of 1857 fixed is it significantly reduced the size of the large cent. There were two primary reasons why the large cent needed to be made smaller. First, these large coins were cumbersome and many institutions began to refuse them as payment as early as the 1840s. Second, copper was becoming more valuable and the cost to mint a large cent had surpassed the coin's face value. Mint officials began experimenting with using other metals in the place of copper but ultimately determined that the best way to reduce the cost of minting cents was to decrease their size. As outlined in the Coinage Act of 1857, the size of the cent decreased from a diameter of 27.5 mm in 1856 to 19mm in 1857. The weight of the cent decreased from 10.9 grams in 1856 to 4.1 grams in 1857.

34TH CONGRESS,
3d Session.

S. 190.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.
 JANUARY 16, 1857.
 Referred to the Committee on Finance and ordered to be printed.

AMENDMENTS

Of the House of Representatives to the bill (S. 190,) "relating to foreign coins and the coinage of cents at the Mint of the United States," viz: Strike out the words within [brackets,] and insert those printed in *italics*.

AN ACT

Relating to foreign coins and to the coinage of cents at the Mint of the United States.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*

2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*

3 the pieces commonly known as the quarter, eighth, and

4 sixteenth of the Spanish pillar dollar, and of the Mexican dol-

5 lar, shall be receivable at the treasury of the United States,

6 and its several offices, and at the several post offices and land

7 offices, at the rates of valuation following—that is to say, the

8 fourth of a dollar, or piece of two reals, at twenty cents; the

9 eighth of a dollar, or piece of one real, at ten cents; and the

10 sixteenth of a dollar, or half real, at five cents. [The said

The second major change that was brought about by the Coinage Act of 1857 is that half cents were banned entirely. The reasoning behind this was similar to why the size of the large cent was reduced. These coins were cumbersome and cost more to mint than their face value. If the mint decided to shrink these coins rather than cease production, they would be so small that they would get lost constantly. The half cent served its purpose during its time, and has become very popular among collectors today, but the decision to stop minting it was more than reasonable.



The third major aspect of monetary transactions that was changed by the Coinage Act of 1857 is that foreign currency was demonetized. Before this act was passed, a wide array of foreign currency was accepted as legal tender in the United States. This included Spanish reales, Mexican pesos, British pounds, German thalers, and others. When the Coinage Act was passed, these foreign gold and silver coins were able to be turned in at the mint in exchange for the newly minted American small cents. The foreign coins would then be melted down and recoinced. Despite this effort to achieve a government monopoly on

the production of coins, foreign coins continued to circulate in rural areas until as late as the 1890s. When establishing the US monetary system back in 1792, Alexander Hamilton wrote a law stating that all foreign currency would cease to circulate in 1795, but this deadline was reworked and pushed back several times. When foreign currency was declared illegal tender in 1857, it was the right decision which had been long overdue.

In conclusion, the Coinage Act of 1857 fixed many problems that had plagued Americans for far too long. It reduced the size of the large cent, discontinued the production of the half cent, and ended the legal tender status of foreign coins. Today, large cents and half cents alike are both very collectible and serve as a memory of early years in American history.



Sources

- David A. Martin. *The Changing Role of Foreign Money in the United States, 1782-1857*. Cambridge University Press, 1977.
- History of U.S. Circulating Coins | U.S. Mint. <https://www.usmint.gov/learn/history/us-circulating-coins>. Accessed 8 Apr. 2026.
- Martin Armstrong. *The Monetary Reform Of 1857 Ends Legal Tender Foreign Coins* | Armstrong Economics. <https://www.armstrongeconomics.com/history/americas-economic-history/the-monetary-reform-of-1857-ends-legal-tender-foreign-coins/>. Accessed 8 Apr. 2026.
- Rothans, John. "7 of the Most Important U.S. Coinage Acts." U.S. Money Reserve, 12 Feb. 2020, <https://www.usmoneyreserve.com/news/executive-insights/important-us-coinage-acts/>.
- R.S. Yeoman. *A Guide Book of United States Coins*. 78th ed., Whitman Publishing.

America 250: Connecting Coins With the Land(s) They Represent

A National Volunteer Project for Students K-12

2026 marks America 250, the 250th anniversary (semiquincentennial) of the Declaration of Independence. To celebrate this once-in-a-generation milestone, the American Numismatic Association is inviting students across the country to give back to the lands we all share and earn exciting coins and commemoratives as they volunteer.

The program officially begins January 1, 2026 and runs throughout the 2026 calendar year, while prize supplies last.



For more information about the ANA YN America 250 Project, visit www.money.org/america250-project

Young Numismatists OF America

Membership Benefits



The Young Numismatist

The magazine of the Young Numismatists of America. The Young Numismatist (TYN) is a fun and lighthearted read full of informational content and challenges. All contributions are welcome to this periodical, making it a great place to be published for your first time.

Challenge Coins

Leftover challenge coins from an ANA fundraiser go to members of the YNA for free. There are less than 10 left, so be sure to quickly request a rare specimen by sending a short email to cstrayhorn@money.org.

Sample Slabs

NGC will soon be giving away special Sample Slabs to members of the YNA. There will be a total of 150 made so be sure to request one when they become available.



Free NGC Premium Membership

As an extension of NGC's partnership with the ANA, NGC is providing YNA members with complimentary Premium Memberships (which includes a \$150 Grading Credit)

Single use codes are available upon request (only request when preparing to submit)

Do not share this info outside the YNA

Annual Saint-Eligius Christmas Auction

Every year, at the December meeting of the YNA, there is no normal meeting with a presenter. Instead, we host a variety of activities including a Saint-Eligius Auction. Everybord gets 100 free “Saint-Eligius” dollars and can bid on whatever they want. The lots are all anonymous and in a random order.



Earn YN Dollars!

By being part of the YNA, you can earn YN Dollars. You can write articles for TYN, do Show & Tells, attend meetings, and present on various topics at the monthly meetings. You can even earn YN Dollars for answering riddles appearing in TYN!

Free Memberships

You can join many prestigious numismatic orginazations for free including:

Medal Collectors of America

The Elongated Collectors

CONECA



Monthly Meetings

The YNA has monthly meetings with speakers, Show & Tells, Roundtable Discussions, and free coin drawings! They are a lot of fun, and as a bonus, you can earn YN dollars for attending!



A CAREER IN COINS CAN BE YOURS!

NGC is the world's largest and most trusted coin grading service *and we're hiring the next generation of coin graders*

- ✓ Learn how to identify, authenticate and grade coins, from mint errors and vintage US rarities to ancient coins and modern special issues
- ✓ Train on-site with our world-renowned experts at NGC headquarters in Sarasota, Florida



**Apply Today and Take
The First Step Toward
Your Future In Coins!**

**Ask About Internship
Opportunities!**

LEARN MORE AT: NGCcoin.com | [@NGCcoins](https://twitter.com/NGCcoins)



“I attended the ANA Summer Seminar as a teen, which led to a six-week internship with NGC. From there, my career in numismatics really took off. It's true that, every day, I never know what will cross my desk. Besides handling coins, I've been able to travel the world to international grading events. Working at NGC is more than just the coins. Everyone here shares the same passions.”

— Ben Wengel, Chief Grader and
Senior Vice President of NGC

— 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.

Nate Leonauskas, Editor-in-Chief

Cam Scheirer, Research Editor

Clark Davis, Graphics Editor

Miles Tichner, Collectors' Challenges Columnist

Elliot Eng, President of the YNA

Adrian Perez, Vice President of the YNA

Arlo Little, YNA Secretary

Gryffen Atkinson, YNA Treasurer

Christian Strayhorn, ANA Education Director

Josiah Drallette, Writer

Hugo Kastle, Writer

Cruz Keith, Writer

Lucas Lee, Writer