

**VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 4 | JULY 2026**

VOLUME 2 | 18

"On gold co  
on crowns and  
adorned with  
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an armed republic; the l  
these, is *Regne de la Loi*, and  
the coin, *La Nation, la Loi* &

"Copper money, on the half-pike, piercing the bundle mounted with a Cap of Liberty with a wreath of oak.—This will be an emblem of the nation every piece of money in the bit the triumph of Liberty

On Monday last, being the  
PRESIDENT of the United  
town; and on Wednesday  
to the location of the Fe

On Thursday the Pro  
off from this town for  
He goes by the way  
state, and through  
sylvania.

At a Court of  
Miner, At  
gun and in  
District of

teenth day of June, in the year of our Lord  
one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one  
and in the fifteenth year of our independence

*The presentments of the Grand Jury for the District  
of Charleston.*

WE present as a grievance of a very serious and alarming nature, the mischievous practice of duelling, in consequence of which, the state is frequently deprived of its citizens ; children

Monday being the Anniversary of the Independence of the United States of America, the day was devoted to festivity, rational and intellectual amusement. The day was ushered in with the ringing of bells, and a discharge of cannon. At 10 o'clock the Society of the Cincinnati, and the Independent and Light-Infantry Companies,



May  
2026

the commissioners appoint-  
ptions for the Bank of the  
the Bank in this city. At  
spectable gentlemen of this  
led before the doors were  
se of delivering in their  
e learn from the best au-  
ty-four thousand shares,  
n could be received.

IN GOD WE TRUST

concerns the welfare of the United States and the interests of the individuals who are disposed to become Stockholders.

It may be proper to observe here, that the number of shares limited by law is 25,000—of which the United States retain 5000, consequently 20,000 only can be subscribed for. About 24,000 were offered, but a few subscriptions only received, for the reasons above mentioned. *Mail*

# President's Message

By Elliot Eng

Hello members!

I hope you all are having an awesome summer. While it may seem like the season is flying by, there's still plenty of time to dive into numismatics. Whether you're finishing a long-term project or just looking for something new to explore, this issue includes two great opportunities to get involved.

Our first annual *The Young Numismatist* writing competition is now underway and will remain open until August 30. Whether you've been researching a favorite coin series, attended a recent show, or simply have a story you'd like to share, I'd encourage you to submit an article. You'll find all the details on page 11.

We're also accepting designs for the reverse of the YNA Mini-Mint token. This is a fun chance to leave your mark on a piece that will be enjoyed by YNs nationwide

As summer seminars wrap up, I'd also love to hear from those of you who attended. Summer Seminar is one of the highlights of the ANA calendar, and your experiences can inspire future attendees. If you participated this year, consider sharing your experience for a future *TYN*.

Finally, I'd encourage every one of you to put yourself out there. Just a week ago, I published an article in the ANA Reading Room about the importance of curiosity in numismatics. One of the greatest barriers to learning isn't a lack of knowledge—it's being afraid to ask questions. Every experienced collector was once a beginner, and our hobby is full of people who are eager to help those who show genuine interest.

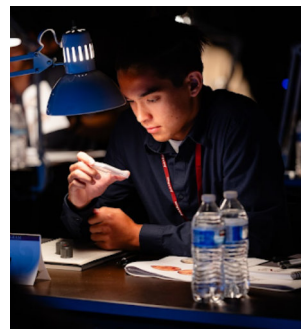
With that in mind, I've thrown around the idea of a "YNs Ask" section in a future issue, with the following general thought process: have a question about collecting, grading, history, exhibits, or anything else numismatic? Send it in! We'd work with the ANA staff to post questions (anonymously if preferred) on social media and pick the best responses to share with members in *The Young Numismatist*. No question would be too basic, and your curiosity might help dozens of other young collectors who are wondering the exact same thing. Does this sound like something you would contribute to? Let us know!

Your feedback is vital to making ideas work when rubber hits the road, so whether it be about anything I've mentioned or the YNA in general, don't hesitate to reach out to Christian, myself, or even our editorial board. Enjoy the rest of your summer. In the meantime...

Happy collecting!

Elliot Eng

ynapresident@money.org





# Passing The Torch

By Cam Scheirer & Clark Davis

Hello YNA Members!

This issue is our first issue as editors of The Young Numismatist. You probably already noticed the formatting redesign, which we will refine and work on in the coming issues. We are very, very excited to serve you all as your editors, and to provide an outlet for research and education through The Young Numismatist. Over the past year, The Young Numismatist has helped both of us sharpen our skills as writers, so we're looking forward to contributing to this publication, helping our fellow YNA members, and giving back to this club to which we are so deeply grateful for.

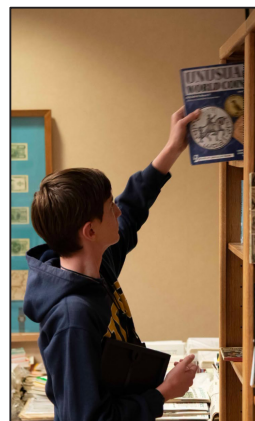
While we're excited to be taking on this new role, we're also very sad to be saying goodbye to Nate Leonauskus, the previous editor, who aged out of the club last month. Since his very first issue (a sixty page publication), Nate has produced extremely high quality newsletters, truly taking The Young Numismatist off the ground. Last January, he produced what was largely a solo editing effort in the "Best of" issue, which served as a major fundraiser for the YNA. On the personal level, the two of us are so thankful to Nate for the guidance he's given us, first as writers and then as assistant editors. Nate's certainly are big shoes to fill!

We'd like to give a brief explanation of what we'd actually like to do as editors, in the form of our four bullet points:

- We will provide an outlet to YN writers interested in sharing their ideas, collecting interests, and research through writing.
- We will broaden our support for research in the hopes of meaningfully expanding our publication and strengthening the skills YNA members
- We will build a publication focused on engaging YNA members in numismatics through writing and activities.
- We will work closely with writers and hear their feedback with the goal of creating an inclusive community centered around our publication

These bullet points form the basis of our goals as editors are. While we will do our best to uphold these, we want to hear from you in case you ever think we're not doing our best in a certain point, or if you just have more ideas about how we can do a better job at something.

In closing, we would like to appreciate the people who have helped us enter this new role: Christian Stayhorn, who over the months has worked with us closely, offering consistent support, Elliot Eng, whose leadership has built the club and let us reach such a high point; and of course, our writers whose submissions and readiness to work with us has let us build this publication.



↑ *TYN Editors  
Cam & Clark  
look forward to  
staffing TYN!*

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# 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.

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## Main Objectives of the Young Numismatists of America

**Education** for young numismatists. 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 industry professionals for educational presentations and interviews.

**Engagement** 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.

**Empowerment** for young numismatists. Young collectors should never feel isolated in numismatics. Despite often limited budgets and comparatively limited expertise to older numismatists, the YNA hopes to embolden YNs to be community members and changemakers. 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](https://money.org/yn-america).*

# YNA Board of Directors

**Elliot Eng**, President

[ynapresident@money.org](mailto:ynapresident@money.org)

**Adrian Perez**, Vice President

[ynavicepresident@money.org](mailto:ynavicepresident@money.org)

**Arlo Little**, Secretary

[ynasecretary@money.org](mailto:ynasecretary@money.org)

**Gryffen Atkinson**, Treasurer

[ynatreasurer@money.org](mailto:ynatreasurer@money.org)

**Cameron Scheirer**, TYN Research Editor

[ynaeditor@money.org](mailto:ynaeditor@money.org)

**Clark Davis**, TYN Graphics Editor

[ynaeditor@money.org](mailto:ynaeditor@money.org)

**Christian Strayhorn**, ANA Education Director

[cstrayhorn@money.org](mailto:cstrayhorn@money.org)

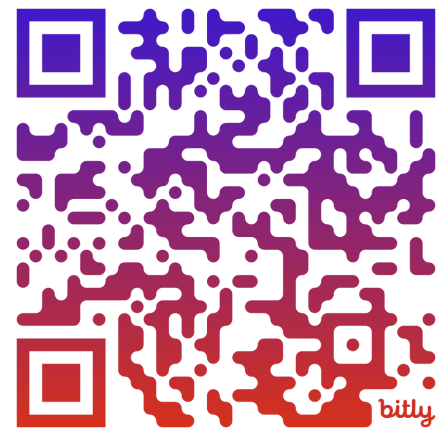
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## *Join Us*

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](mailto: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 Cam Scheirer and Clark Davis at [ynaeditor@money.org](mailto:ynaeditor@money.org).

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## 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](mailto:ynapresident@money.org).

### **Adrian Perez | Vice President**

Adrian Perez is a high school student from Rhode Island whose work centers on ancient numismatics, museum research, and youth outreach. Adrian has digitized and researched portions



of the RISD Museum's numismatic collection and authored an article for the ANA's Reading Room. His research centers on Roman and Byzantine gold coinage and its historical significance. In addition to his research, Adrian is an active youth leader in the hobby. He serves as a Youth Leader with the Blackstone Valley Coin & Collectibles Club, managing social media and giving presentations. He also developed a Middle School "Coin Connection" club locally, organizing educational programming to introduce students to coin collecting. Outside of numismatics, Adrian works at a law firm as a student intern and serves as President of his school's Global Business Club and FBLA chapter. He plans to continue expanding his work in numismatic scholarship, youth engagement, and leadership while helping strengthen the YNA's Visibility and nationwide presence.

You can contact Adrian at [ynavicepresident@money.org](mailto:ynavicepresident@money.org).

## **Gryffen Atkinson | Secretary**

You can contact Gryffen at [ynasecretary@money.org](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## **Cam Scheirer | Research Editor**

Cam Scheirer is a 14 year-old entering ninth grade, from 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 and editing. He belongs to the Cupertino Coin Club, where he served as youth president. and currently serves as editor of their monthly

publication. He writes quarterly columns for the ILNA Digest (YN Information) and for the The California Numismatist (Paper Money, co-written with his father). He has presented numismatic programs regularly at Cupertino Coin Club meetings and at the 2026 Summer Seminar, and has spoken to the public at the local library and a nearby retirement community. Prior to becoming Research Editor, he wrote the Exonomia & Paper Money Column for TYN. Outside of numismatics, he enjoys learning about Ancient Egypt, visiting museums, and learning Chinese.

You can contact Cam at [ynaeditor@money.org](mailto:ynaeditor@money.org) or [camoftheshire@gmail.com](mailto:camoftheshire@gmail.com).

## **Clark Davis, Graphics Editor**

Clark Davis is a 14 year old 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. He is currently a columnist for The Reading Room, where he has written many articles. He has experience creating high quality pieces of graphic design using professional software. He is also the current assistant editor of BoTales.

You can contact Clark at [ynaeditor@money.org](mailto:ynaeditor@money.org) or [clarkdaviscoins@gmail.com](mailto:clarkdaviscoins@gmail.com).

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## *Meeting Schedule*

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

- August 7, 2026 | Jennifer & Eric Kibbey
- September 4, 2026
- October 2, 2026
- November 6, 2026
- December 4, 2026 | Holiday Games & Election

View up to date information at: [money.org/yn-america](https://money.org/yn-america)



# Numismatic Report

## The YN Bunch

The Young Numismatist Benefit  
Auction Catalog

June 23, 2026

7:00 PM



ANA Summer Seminar Session 1



# TYN Research Competition

With the onset of summer, schedules are loosening, which means more time to spend on numismatics! In this spirit, *The Young Numismatists of America* is pleased to announce our first ever research competition through *The Young Numismatist*! In this research competition, you will get to choose a numismatic topic of your choice, research it, and then write a paper with your research. The research papers will be evaluated by the YNA Adult Advisors along with Nate Leonauskas and Elliot Eng for quality and then prize(s) will be given out to the top three winners. All research papers will be published in *The Young Numismatist*.

## Judging

- Difficulty of Research (out of 25 points)
- Use of Primary Sources (out of 20 points)
- Quality of Writing (out of 20 points)
- Use of Illustrations/Charts (out of 15 points)
- Advanced Ideas & Original Conclusions (out of 20 points)

## Guidelines

- Present a bibliographic list of sources
- Submit in Google Docs or PDF format
- Submit to YNAeditor@money.org by August 30, 2026
- Use of Artificial Intelligence is not tolerated
- Up to two submissions per author
- No previously published submissions allowed

## Benefits

- Papers will be published in TYN
- Earn \$50 YND
- Submit for a coin through Advanced YN's project or work on Currency Connectors project
- Chance to win a literary prize!

We hope you are all able to enjoy the contest, submit a couple papers, and learn more about numismatics. Best of Luck!



# Summer Seminar 2026

By Cameron Scheirer

This year, twenty-three YNA members attended the ANA's Summer Seminar from Saturday, June 20 to Thursday, 25 and Saturday, June 27 to Thursday, July 2. Held at the campus of Colorado College in Colorado Springs, "Coin College" was a great experience.

The majority of our time was spent at our classes, held at the college classrooms. Available classes ranged from focusing on technical aspects of numismatics, like grading (see page #), counterfeit detection, and coin photography, to more specialized topics like the coinage of the hellenistic world, the history of Mexican coinage from 1535 to 1821, and the production of medieval money. All the classes were taught by numismatic experts in their fields—including a few who have previously spoken at YNA meetings (Jeff Garret and Doug Mudd, for instance).

Classes were held from 9:00 to 11:45 a.m., and after the lunch break from 1:15 to 4:00 p.m. For an extra cost, attendees had the opportunity to attend one-day or two-day evening mini-seminars on Sunday and Monday, three-hour short classes on specialized topics—for example, me and Clark Davis attended a class on "How to Make a Great Newsletter." Other mini-seminars included an "MPC Bootcamp," "Collecting the 'Oddball' Denominations," and "Detection of Artificial Toning, Artificial Frosting & Reproofing Surfaces of Coins." Also available on Sunday and Monday were one-hour "bull session" presentations, delivered by attendees who wanted to



←The annual book sale attracts an excited and highly educated crowd

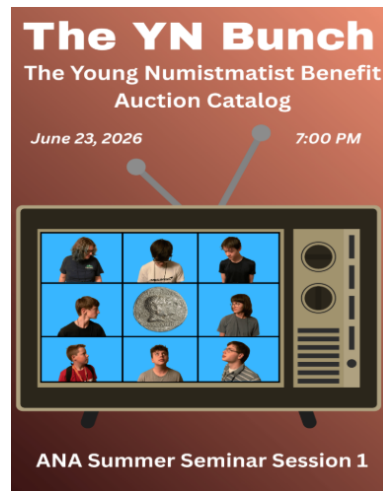
speak on their passions; I and Dan Scheirer presented on the proposed political interpretations of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, Clark Fogg spoke on the backstory of the 1925 Fort Vancouver half dollar, and Jim Stoutjesdyk and Don Bonser spoke on the coin dealing business.

Some other evening activities included visiting the nearby coin shop and the ANA headquarters. Throughout both weeks, the ANA Library hosted its annual book sale, selling nearly a room full of books and raising over \$10,000 for the Library. Also run by the Library was its research contest quiz, inviting YN and adult attendees to use ANA online and in-person resources to find the answer to a few very difficult questions. Also open during Summer Seminar was the ANA's Money Museum, which featured in its primary exhibit space an exhibit on Silk Road coinage. After classes on Monday, the counselors took us on a field trip to Hallenbeck's Coin Gallery, where the staff kindly hosted us.

If not attending any of these other activities, after dinner most YNs returned to our dorm building, Montgomery Hall, where they worked on the YN auction. Made up entirely of attendee-donated lots, the proceeds for the auction were donated to the ANA YN scholarship fund; this year, forty-three YNs attended on a scholarship over both weeks. The Week 1 YNs set a YN auction record by raising over \$40,000, with 103 lots. Preparation for the auction involved manning lot donation tables in the early part of the weeks, organizing assorted donations into separate lots, hosting lot viewings later in the weeks, and writing descriptions for each lot. Some especially generous bidders donated the lots they had won back to YNs; in the end, each YN received a lot in the auction. Following the auction, the YNs had a pizza party, including a question and answers session with special guests Kevin Kaufmann and Jim Stoutjesdyk.

The last night of Summer Seminar was marked by the banquet held after classes, held at the nearby Antlers Hotel. The highlight of the evening, however, was the trip to 7-Eleven, where the YNs had the opportunity to purchase snacks and sodas. In light of the early morning flights that most of us had to take, we were allowed to stay up all night.

In all, Summer Seminar was an extremely positive experience. Between classes, auction work, and simply hanging out with YN and adult attendees, Summer Seminar truly proved the adage that "time flies when you're having fun." Our YN counselors, Abby, Kellen, and Robin were excellent, and the work that they put into making our experience a great time is undeniable. If you've never been, I highly recommend attending Summer Seminar next year.



↑ *The YN Dorm houses YN's and YN Counselors (top) and YN Auction Catalog shows of many lots worthy of attention (bottom)*

# Grading US Coins, Part 2 Review

By Arlo Little

Last month, I was fortunate enough to attend the first session of Summer Seminar. While I was there, I met many amazing people and had a wonderful time. The class I chose to take was “Grading U.S. Coins, part 2” with Steven Feltner, David McCarthy, and Kevin Kaufman. These three instructors are all very knowledgeable in the information they provided to us, and also incredibly encouraging and kind people. The class itself was made up of eight different grading sessions ranging between forty-five seconds to ten seconds to grade each coin. Most of these sessions were with a group so that you could confer with them after everyone had seen the coin, however the test and the first day’s grading were on your own. The first couple sets of coins came from a PCGS education set and were relatively easy. However, later on the coins were taken directly from Steve, David, and Kevin’s collections, which consisted of many more pattern coins, medals, world coins, and territorial gold, which the education set had very few of. These sets were much more difficult than the United States coin sets seen on the first two days, and I got about half of them right, compared to my three fourths on the earlier sets. Overall, I really enjoyed the class and would recommend it to anyone who is looking for a class to take next year.



←Arlo Little really enjoyed this class at the 2026 ANA Summer Seminar.

# New Orleans Mint Coinage and History Review

By Cameron Scheirer

I attended Week 1 of Summer Seminar, where I took a class on the coinage and history of the New Orleans Mint. The class was excellent and I had a great time at Summer Seminar in general. My class was taught by John Frost, President and Editor for the Barber Coin Collectors' Society, Craig Eberhart, Vice President of the Liberty Seated Collectors' Club, and Len Augsburger, Project Coordinator for the Newman Numismatic Portal. These instructors were very knowledgeable on New Orleans coins, clearly a passion of theirs, and were great speakers. The class covered in depth every coin series produced at the New Orleans, including their varieties, grading, and historical background, in addition to the history of the mint and relevant engravers who made their mark on the mint. Featuring a lot of newly discovered information (in many cases presented by the people who had discovered that information!), the class gave me a great knowledge base into the topic, and set me up really well as a new collector of New Orleans coins. After covering each topic, we got to view items from our instructors' and classmates' excellent collections. Prior to taking this class, I had never had any in-depth exposure to the New Orleans mint, now I am excited to be starting out a collection of New Orleans coins. I highly recommend this class to anyone who is interested in a opportunity to examine all aspects of a series of coins, or, of course, those who simply like New Orleans coins!



↑ *This half dollar from the New Orleans mint provides hours of enjoyment and study*



# YNA Members Receive Awards

By Cam Scheirer

This Summer, two YNA members received awards from the ANA; YNA President **Elliot Eng**, who was selected for the highly prestigious YN of the Year award, and **Nathaniel Bayer Hafran**, who, along with Ryan Mizeski, was awarded the ANA's \$1,000 college scholarship.

The Young Numismatist of the Year award honors YNs for their outstanding contributions to the hobby and industry. After joining the ANA in 2021, he served as a head cataloger for the ANA's Annual YN Auctions in 2025 and 2026 and has completed several of the ANA's Currency in Connector projects. A co-columnist for the ANA's Reading Room, Elliot recipient has published over 20 articles in a variety of numismatic publications, and he earned the second place Bill Fivaz Young Numismatist Literary Award in 2022. He was the youngest-ever attendee of the Stack's Bowers Galleries Professional Numismatist Program, and he is working as a full-time intern at the auction firm this summer. Under Elliot's capable leadership, the YNA has grown to over 110 members from 30-plus states and multiple countries.

"The annual scholarship provides the American Numismatic Association the opportunity to recognize young numismatists making an impact in the world," says ANA Education Director and YNA adult advisor Christian Strayhorn, "not only in numismatics, but also in their own fields. By assisting these fine recipients with higher education, it is our hope to see them continue to excel at a high level and share their passion for collecting." "I enjoy collecting coins, as well as buying and selling coins as an amateur numismatist," said Nathaniel. "He is a member of a number of numismatic organizations and has also submitted numismatic articles to various publications, including The California Numismatist. His collecting focus is primarily early American coinage, Seated Liberty dimes, and an 1807 type set with one of each coin in a PCGS or CAC holder. Nathaniel will attend UC Berkeley as a history major.



↑ *Elliot Eng Receives YN of the Year Award (Left) and Nathaniel Bayer Hafran gets \$1000 College Scholarship (Right)*





# U.S. Numismatics





# Coins of America 250

By Josiah Drallete

## **This Year's Changes**

This year, to honor the semiquincentennial of the United States and to commemorate its founding, the United States Mint has replaced the usual designs on its coins with new designs that reflect our country's founding, such as key events in its history and important documents. The Mint has also added the dates "1776-2026" to all coins, from the penny to the half dollar. The new designs for the quarter celebrate the Mayflower Compact, the Revolutionary War, the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the Gettysburg Address, respectively. These designs are excellent choices that beautifully represent American values. Although the Mint discontinued the cent last year with the production of the Omega cents, this year the Mint is selling cents on its website bearing the dates "1776-2026." These cents will not enter circulation and can only be purchased through the Mint or through retail. The dates "1776-2026" are also prominently displayed on the 2026 nickel although it has not undergone any other changes. The new dime is quite different than it has been in previous decades, as it now features an image of "Emerging Liberty" on the obverse and an eagle on the reverse. The words "Liberty Over Tyranny" are displayed under the eagle on the reverse. The 2026 half dollar has a unique design dubbed "Enduring Liberty," which features the Statue of Liberty on the obverse and a torch being passed on the reverse. The words "Knowledge is the Only Guardian of True Liberty" appear on the reverse as well. The Innovation Dollar and American Eagles minted this year will feature the number "250" inside of a Liberty Bell-shaped privy mark, along with their usual design. Unfortunately, due to rising costs, this year's 2026 proof and uncirculated sets will cost significantly more than in previous years, but they will still be attainable for collectors. These sets will include the newly designed dollar, half dollar, quarters, dime, nickel, and, even though it was discontinued for circulation in 2025, a special 2026 cent. The Mint will also be selling new commemoratives, bulk coins, and many more items to honor this year.



## 2026 U.S. CIRCULATING COINS IDENTIFICATION CHART



## Changes in the Past

During the United States' Bicentennial in 1976, the Mint changed only the quarter, half dollar, and dollar—three denominations as opposed to the many changed and added this year. The 1976 quarter, widely recognized for its Revolutionary War drummer boy on the reverse, was the first design change for that denomination in over forty years. Unlike the quarter, the Eisenhower dollar had only existed for a mere five years before the design was adapted to reflect the “Spirit of 76” and then displayed President Eisenhower on the obverse and, on the reverse, the Liberty Bell and, in the background, the moon. Similarly to the Eisenhower dollar, the half dollar had only featured Kennedy for just over a decade when the design of the reverse was changed from the usual eagle to a depiction of Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Unfortunately, because the Mint discontinued production of commemoratives in 1954 and did not resume production until 1982, no commemoratives were produced in 1976 to honor our nation’s legacy.

## Looking Ahead

With all these awesome new designs and variations to collect, 2026 will be a year to remember for collectors and others alike. Considering the fact that the Mint changed considerably more denominations this year than in 1976, it may be reasonable to assume that that trend will continue. Which coins will change in 2076? What about in 2126? Will the Mint continue to change more coins every time an important milestone arrives as it appears to have been doing in the past decades? For the answer, we will have to wait and see. If this year is any hint, the coins to come should be as unique and creative as ever and will be something to look forward to.



# 2004-D Wisconsin Extra Leaf Low/High Die Variety Quarter

By Cruz Keith

The 2004-D Wisconsin Extra Leaf Die Variety Quarter is one of the best-known error coins in America. It looks like an ordinary Wisconsin State quarter, with one key difference; it has a line in the shape of an additional leaf on the left side of the ear of corn on the reverse of the coin. The first example of this coin was discovered by a man named Robert Ford in December of 2004. He sold three of these coins on eBay for a grand total of \$1.65. A few weeks after this sale, magazines such as *Coin World* and *Numismatic News* began to feature this coin. Prices rose up to around \$1000 per coin, but as more examples were found in circulation, prices corrected. The estimated total population of these coins is between 5,000 and 8,000. Today you can easily buy one of these coins in uncirculated condition for under \$100.

An interesting fact about this coin is that there are two different die varieties that are both called the Wisconsin Extra Leaf Quarter. On one example, the extra leaf is lower on the ear of corn than the other. Images of both coins are included below.

While coins with die cracks and extra lines are relatively common, the thought that a die crack occurred twice on the same quarter design, both in position that it could be mistaken for an extra leaf is next to impossible. The co-author of the *Cherrypickers' Guide to Rare Die Varieties*, J.T. Stanton, summed the idea up perfectly. He said, "It is our belief that the additional lines on this and the next variety were deliberately

added to the reverse dies. Apparently, a tool with a rounded edge was impressed into the working dies to create the images that were not a part of the intended design." Stanton goes on to include the following reasoning:

- The images are concentric and very similar in appearance.
- They were likely created by the same tool – it would be very easy to impress a small nut driver or other instrument into a working die
- The odds of the images occurring in an interesting place is astronomically low.
- The odds of it occurring twice on the same coin is virtually impossible.
- A similar circular mark was found near Roosevelt's ear on several 2004-D dimes. This line was likely created by the same mint worker.

In conclusion, I agree with J.T. Stanton that the 2004-D Wisconsin Extra Leaf Quarters were created intentionally by a mint worker either to celebrate retirement or purely to see if he could.

Because of this, I would not spend an exorbitant amount of money to obtain one of these coins, and there can be a case made that these are not error coins at all. We will likely never know for sure how this coin came about, but I hope this article has helped you gain insight into minting processes and learn more about how some error coins occur.



Regular



Extra Leaf High

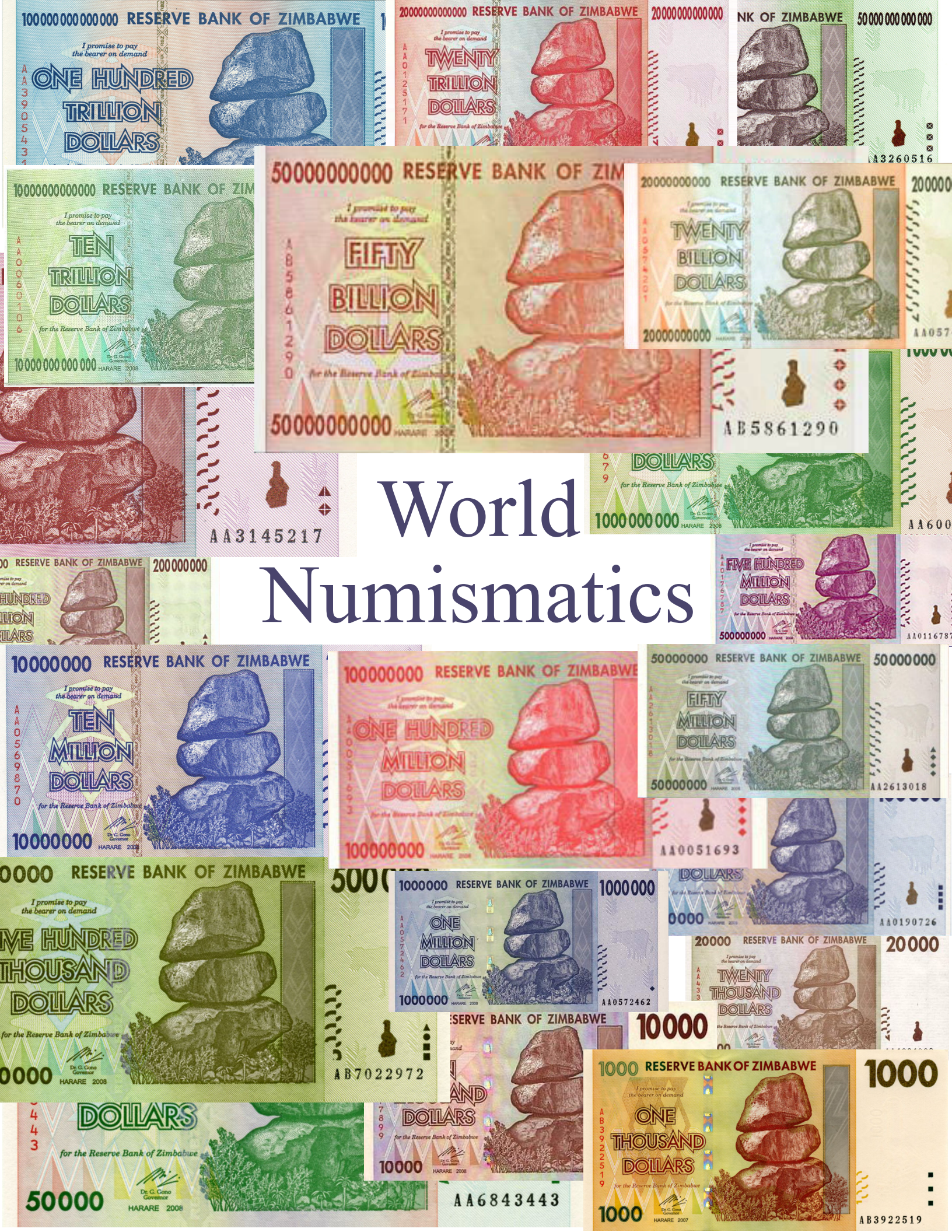


Extra Leaf Low

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# World Numismatics



# Trillionaire For a Day: Zimbabwe's 100 Trillion Dollar Note

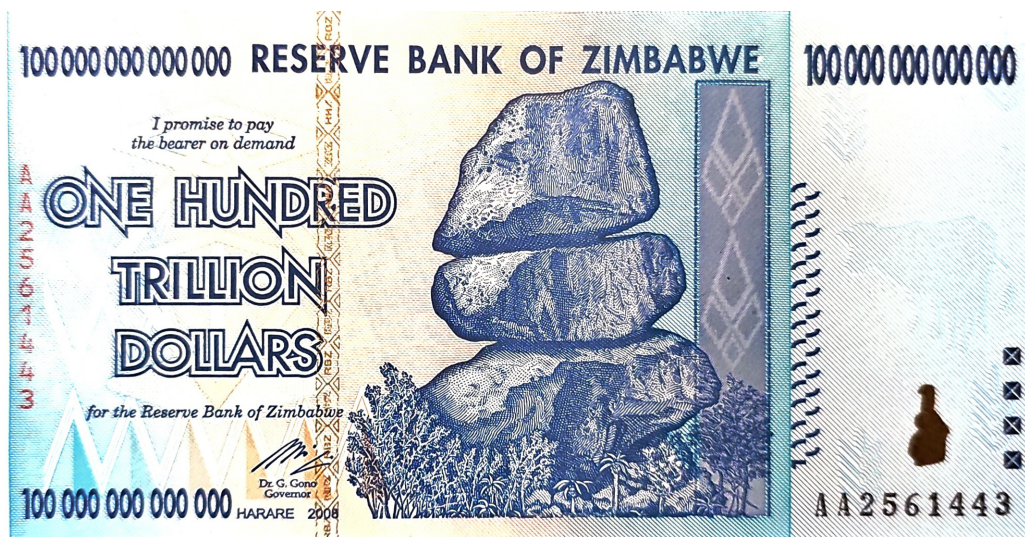
By Jaden Hong

I own a hundred trillion dollars. Every time I pull it out of my collection, some small part of me still registers a flicker of I'm rich before reality catches up. I'm not. On the day this note was printed, all fourteen zeros couldn't have covered a bus fare. I think that's what drew me to it in the first place.

This was one of my earliest banknotes, and I doubt I'm alone in that. For a lot of young collectors, the Zimbabwe 100 trillion is the note that starts everything. I got lucky with mine: eight years ago I found an uncirculated example on eBay for somewhere in the seventies, which, as I'd later realize, was a genuinely good price. The number is what hooked me. It looks counterfeit, like something borrowed from a board game, but it's entirely real. The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe issued it, and it holds a record no other note can touch: the highest denomination of currency ever printed by any central bank in

history. What genuinely gets to me is that Zimbabwe wasn't always a cautionary tale. At independence in 1980, its dollar traded roughly even with the US dollar, and the country was known as the breadbasket of southern Africa, rich in farmland, gold, and platinum. So I resist treating this note as some distant tragedy. It came out of a functioning, middle-income country, and to me that's the unsettling part.

The collapse was a matter of decisions, not misfortune. Around 2000, a rushed land reform pushed experienced farmers off their land and gutted agricultural output. The government was also financing a war in the Congo it couldn't afford, so it printed money to cover the shortfall. But printing currency creates nothing real. Each dollar buys less, people spend the moment they're paid, and prices chase themselves upward. By late 2008, prices were doubling roughly every 24 hours,,



*Front of the author's one hundred trillion dollar banknote*

,and economists Steve Hanke and Alex Kwok later estimated peak monthly inflation near 79.6 billion percent. I've stared at that figure many times and still can't hold it in my head.

The notes climbed with the crisis. Millions, then billions, then trillions, each denomination outdated within weeks. Mine appeared on January 16, 2009, worth roughly thirty US dollars that morning. Within weeks, effectively nothing. People carried cash in plastic bags and wheelbarrows, and some shops stopped labeling prices altogether. That image stays with me more than any statistic: a wheelbarrow of money that couldn't buy a loaf of bread. By April the country gave up and switched to foreign currencies, and the note that promised a hundred trillion dollars was finally worth its true value, which was nothing. I brought mine to my AP Macroeconomics class for an inflation project. Most of my classmates presented CPI charts and inflation graphs, which is the sensible approach. I passed the note around instead and let people hold fourteen zeros in their hands. Watching someone realize that a real, government-issued banknote couldn't buy a candy bar taught the lesson better than any slide I could have built. Apparently I'm in decent company, too. According to the Wall Street Journal, Congressman Paul Ryan and Stanford economist John Taylor both carried one of these notes in their wallets as a reminder of what runaway inflation does.

Here's the part I find almost funny. The

most extreme banknote ever created is also one of the easiest for a student to actually own. It was demonetized in 2015, so it's purely a collector's item now, and an uncirculated one usually runs somewhere around a hundred and fifty to two hundred dollars today, more than double what I paid. For the single largest number a government ever dared put on paper, that's still remarkably within reach. If you're a young collector wondering where to start, personally, I can't think of a better first note. That's why it isn't leaving my collection. It makes me feel wealthy for half a second, then reminds me that money is only a promise we've all agreed to trust. Zimbabwe is what remains when that promise breaks. For a hundred trillion dollars, I'd call it a bargain.

### Sources

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*Front of the author's one hundred trillion dollar banknote*



# Contributors

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- **Cruz Keith**, writer
- **Jaden Hong**, writer

*and the YNA Adult Advisors and the YNA Board.*

me to direct the whole of my present communication to your great protector, General WASHINGTON! with an intimation of my readiness to cheerfully obey any commands of his Excellency, and of doing you, also, what further services you may wish for, within the reach of, Sir, your humble servant, \* \* \* \* \*

"To Mr. John Churchman."

Translation from a Newspaper, printed at Paris

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a cock is to appear, as a symb  
on the other a bundle of rod  
the Roman Fasces, as an emb  
an armed republic; the  
these, is *Regne de la Loi*,  
the coin, *La Nation, la Loi*

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mounted with a Cap of  
with a wreath of oak.—  
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every piece of money  
bit the triumph of

GEO

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PRESIDENT  
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to the location of

On Thursday the President, with his suite, let  
off from this town for the seat of government.  
He goes by the way of Frederick Town, in this  
state, and through York and Lancaster in Penn-  
sylvania.

At a Court of General Sessions, Mayor and Ju-  
miner, Affize and General Goal Delivery, be-  
gun and holden at Charleston, in and for the  
District of Charleston, on Tuesday the seven-  
teenth day of June, in the year of our Lord,  
one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one,  
and in the fifteenth year of our independence.

The presentments of the Grand Jury for the District  
of Charleston.

WE present as a grievance of a very serious  
and alarming nature, the mischievous prac-  
tice of duelling, in consequence of which, the state  
is frequently deprived of its citizens; children

be published in the several gazettes of the city.  
John Beale, foreman Sebastian Spencer,  
John Withers, Elias Hauser,  
Daniel Roulpe, William Scott, jun.  
Jacob Saff, Robert Gibson, jun.  
I. Lockwood, Eagar Wells,  
John Reid, James Ceesler,  
John Toad, David Hamilton.  
June 20.

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thority, amounted to twenty-four thousand shares,  
—four thousand more than could be received.  
The number of persons ready to subscribe was so  
great, and the amount of their intended subscrip-  
tions so far exceeded the limits prescribed in the  
constitution of the Bank, that the Commissioners  
thought proper to adjourn, in order to form some  
rule by which to regulate the business, so that no  
preference or partiality should prevail in the es-  
tablishment of an institution that so much con-  
cerns the welfare of the United States and the  
interests of the individuals who are disposed to  
become Stockholders.

It may be proper to observe here, that the num-  
ber of shares limited by law is 25,000—of which  
the United States retain 5000, consequently 20,000  
only can be subscribed for. About 24,000 were  
offered, but a few subscriptions only received,  
for the reasons abovementioned.

Mail

for YNs, by YNs