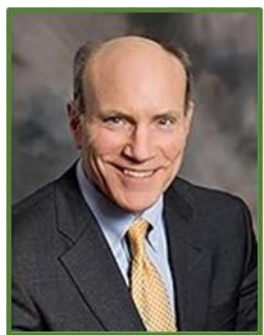


ANA WORLD'S FAIR OF MONEY

August 19 to 23, 2025

Oklahoma City Convention Center



Reflections on the *World's Fair of Money*

By Jeff Pritchard

Between August 19th-23rd, the American Numismatic Association hosted their annual *World's Fair of Money*, this year in Oklahoma City, an event that typically draws 8-10,000 attendees. For those who've never attended the annual convention, you should. At least once! Aside from dealers and collectors from every conceivable corner of numismatics gathered together and displaying their wares, the convention provides unequalled opportunities for education and fellowship. How was this year's show?

The Bourse Floor. The dealers I happened to speak with, large or small, regardless of their area of specialization, were pleasantly surprised by the volume of business during the show. Including our own Scott Loos. I frequently heard there was a better selection of high-grade material available than at recent shows. Quite a few of my collecting friends located hard-to-find items to add to their collections. While I personally hadn't planned to make any acquisitions on the trip, discovering a seated quarter I'd long sought was simply too good to pass up. 'An offer I couldn't refuse.'

Old Friends. Many of us participate in coin groups and clubs with members spread across the country – or even the globe. While 'zoom' meetings are convenient, in-person meetings give us a chance to reconnect with old friends or strengthen ties with new ones. For myself, as a resident of Seattle, it can be difficult to attend east coast shows. But *The World's Fair of Money* is "the" one show that draws collectors and dealers from every corner of the country, enabling those invaluable face-to-face conversations with collecting friends.

New Acquaintances. One of the great things about the ANA Convention is the opportunity to meet fascinating people within the numismatic community. Among the many new faces with whom I was able to visit, that included the likes of Chiara Principe, based in Rome, she is one of the world's foremost coin designers and sculptors; or Dan Hamelberg, the owner of what may be the most important numismatic library currently in private hands.

Coin Viewing. As is generally the case, both Heritage Auctions, and Stack's Bowers, provided auction lot viewing rooms above the bourse floor. Whether you're a numismatic newcomer, or a seasoned pro, lot viewing is a great way to examine large quantities of high-grade coins, across all denominations, at your own pace. Personally, I find lot viewing to be a relaxing way to carefully examine coins away from the rushed atmosphere of the bourse floor. (And it's another way to meet dedicated like-minded collectors.) I spent time at both auction company's venues.

New Fields to Explore. Some of the largest coin clubs or societies use the ANA Convention as a backdrop to conduct their annual meetings – Liberty Seated Collectors Club being a case in point (with an excellent presentation by Greg Bennick). This enables anyone to sit-in on the proceedings of new and potentially interesting areas of numismatics – or Americana, notaphily, etc. To scratch some peripheral numismatic *itches*, I attended the annual meetings of the *Medals Collectors of America*; the *Early American Coppers* club; and the *Colonial Coin Collectors Club*. Each interesting and informative in their own way.

Overall, it was an excellent convention. During the ANA's Board of Governors' Town Hall meeting, several Governors admitted they'd had serious reservations about locating the event in Oklahoma City.

Untested waters. But those same Governors admitted their concerns had been misplaced; the apparent controversy *much ado about nothing*. I couldn't agree more. I'd urge all Seattle Coin Club members to consider attending the 2026 *World's Fair of Money* to be held in Pittsburgh. You've got a whole year to plan!

Club Vice President Jeff Pritchard attended the ANA World's Fair of Money held in Oklahoma City, OK. Treasurer Scott Loos and his wife Lisa operated their booth while at the show!





Remember to pick up your free Washington State Fair Elongated Cent when you're there!

