



# The Nor'wester

2nd Quarter 2018  
April - May - June

## Robert Scot: First Appointed Chief Engraver of the United States Mint



Images by  
Heritage Auctions, HA.com  
—See ad on pp. 8-9.

See the article by Bill Nyberg on pp. 14-15.  
ANACS submissions accepted at show – See back-cover ad.

PNNA 69th Annual Convention - March 16-18, 2018  
Tukwila Community Center - Tukwila, Washington



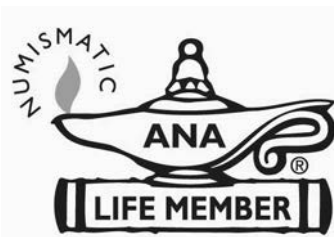
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***The Nor'wester* is published  
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PNNA is an IRS 501 c(3) non-profit educational association registered in the State of Oregon.

For membership information please see page 6, the PNNA website, or attend the convention.



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## Dues are Past Due

PNNA dues are assessed annually in January. If you have not yet paid for 2018, you will receive a reminder with this mailing, and this will be the last issue of *The Nor'wester* that you will receive until dues are paid. Individual online-only dues are \$10; family groups and clubs are \$15. Life membership costs \$200. Add \$5/year for paper copies.

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## PNNA Officers 2016-2018

**President** - James Reinders

**Vice President** - Ed Fischer

**Secretary** - Danny Bisgaard (also Past President)

**Treasurer** - Scott Loos

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**Appointed Positions**

**Dealer Director** - Dennis Reed

**Editor/Webmaster** - Eric Holcomb

*Deadline for submission of material for 3rd Quarter 2018 Nor'wester: June 15, 2018.*

Please send ad copy to Eric Holcomb (email Eric@Holcomb.com), and payment to the PNNA treasurer. Call Eric (541-647-1021) for more info.

Advertising rates (per regular/convention issue) are:

\$7.50/\$10.00 (1/8-page; business card)

\$10.00/\$12.50 (1/6-page)

\$15.00/\$18.00 (1/4-page)

\$25.00/\$30.00 (1/2-page)

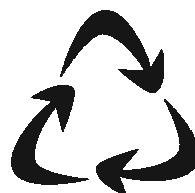
\$45.00/\$50.00 (full page)

*Color pages in the convention editions, where available, will be charged at a higher rate. See website for details.*

Web advertising rates (per year on [www.pnna.org](http://www.pnna.org)):

1-line web site listing — Free to members

\$10.00 (sponsor page ad; business card size)



Locally printed in Everett, Washington. When you are finished with this magazine, please recycle it or share it with another collector!

## Welcome to Tukwila

by General Chairman Kevin Charboneau

Welcome to the 69th annual Pacific Northwest Numismatic Association Spring Convention and Coin Show! This year's show hours are:

Friday	March 16	noon until 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	March 17	10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.
Sunday	March 18	10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Show address: Tukwila Community Center, 12424 42nd Ave. So., Tukwila, WA.

Spring is just around the corner. That means it is time for the oldest and largest annual coin show in the Pacific Northwest: The 69th annual Pacific Northwest Numismatic Association Spring Convention and Coin Show! This year's show is set for March 16-18. Dozens of your favorite local, regional and national dealers will cover 85 tables with a wide selection of numismatic and exnumia material in all price ranges. There is sure to be something to excite everybody's interest. There will be U.S. coins ranging from colonial coppers to gold double eagles and modern commemoratives. Classic Greek coins and Roman coins of the Caesars will be well represented, along with coins of all other ancient civilizations. Foreign coin enthusiasts will find dealers specializing in medieval coins, modern world coins, and everything in between. Currency collectors will find examples of colonial paper and the entire range of U.S. currency, as well as fascinating and colorful foreign bank notes. Beautiful and historic medals and interesting tokens will be on display and available for sale. People will be buying and selling all kinds of bullion throughout the show. You can also display your collection in a judged exhibit, or enjoy the displays of others. We are working on a lineup of free numismatic theater presentations for Saturday. The keynote presentation will be given by Bill Nyberg on the same topic as his article on pages 14-15.

The annual convention brings together many of our members. This is a great opportunity for our existing members to demonstrate the vitality of our hobby to the newest members of your local club. I encourage you to bring someone as your guest to this event.

I am looking for volunteers to help at the front desk. The job is simply to monitor the people going in and out of the door and answer some very general questions. In return for your one hour of time, you will receive admission for the day to the show.

Email [kcharboneau58@comcast.net](mailto:kcharboneau58@comcast.net) with the day you would like to help. I will assign you a time on a first come first-serve basis and notify you by return email.

The PNNA annual meeting on Saturday is open to all, and your comments and suggestions on how the PNNA can best promote our wonderful hobby are welcome.

*We're happy to see you – enjoy the show!*

## Additional Show Information

- Thanks to the South Hill Coin Club of Puyallup, Wa., host club for this PNNA convention.
- Parking is free, and admission to the bourse is only \$2.00 per day, \$5.00 for all three days. Children 12 and under are free. "Early Bird" admission (9:00 a.m. Fri/Sat/Sun) is usually \$30.00.
- The ANACS grading service ([www.anacs.com](http://www.anacs.com)) will have a bourse table at the show. They will accept submissions, but there will not be a grader present.
- For collector exhibit information — see page 10.
- Club table — Northwest clubs will have the opportunity to put out information about their clubs as well as have a representative if they so choose.
- There will be both a numismatic theater and club meetings. *Pick up a program at the show, or see the PNNA website spring convention page.*
- The YN program and treasure hunt will be conducted on Saturday and Sunday by former ANA president Walt Ostromecki. The program is hosted by the PNNA and by participating local coin clubs, including the Boeing Employees' Coin Club.
- Boy Scouts may earn the Coin Collecting Merit Badge on Saturday; pre-registration is required. Girl Scout "Fun with Money" patch workshop, a great troop activity, is available upon request. There is a flyer on the PNNA website, or contact James Reinders by email, [coins2018@collect3.com](mailto:coins2018@collect3.com).
- There will be souvenir elongated coins, and you can make your own with the PNNA's "penny press."
- On Saturday, there will be a PNNA board meeting at 8:00 a.m., and a PNNA general membership meeting and awards presentation at 6:30 p.m.

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David joined the Tacoma Coin Club in 1968 and served as President of the merged Tacoma-Lakewood Coin Club for 22 years.

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## PNNA President's Message by James Reinders

Coins have many stories, do not forget to share your favorites with others! I enjoyed the Boeing Employee's Coin Show in January very much, and we had a very nice PNNA board meeting too. I spent the show enjoying Standing Liberty Quarters, including collecting a few for my own.

This led to me relating the story of the change in design made in 1917 to family and friends when I got home. I've often heard the story that the breast was covered up out of prudishness, or in response to public outcry. This has entered coin folklore but appears to be an *enduring myth* and not based on fact. In his book *History of the United States Mint and its Coinage*, numismatic historian David Lange concedes that there is no evidence of outcry from the public. He suggests that the decision to change the coin was "more likely prompted by objections from the Treasury Department." It has also been suggested that the redesign was symbolism of our ability for liberty to stand up to her foes — it was during World War I after all.

Speaking of myths, I was nearly crushed when I read "The Myth of the Continental Dollar" in the January issue of *The Numismatist*. That article alone was worth my membership in the ANA in my opinion! I highly recommend this eye-opening article about the Fugio/Continental Dollar and the conclusion that it seems most likely that they were made in England, and not by the Continental Congress in the U.S. Wow! That's harder to believe than the fact that there was no large public uprising in 1917 against the new quarter design! I still want to own one someday.

March means we've elected a new board and slate of officers and have our annual membership meeting (where the new board and officers will be reported) as part of the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual PNNA Convention & Coin Show in Tukwila. Please offer the new board and officers your support and let us know your thoughts and ideas!

April will bring National Coin Week, honoring the role of numismatics in building bridges and promoting unity and reconciliation. "Connecting Cultures: From Many, One" is the theme for the 95th annual National Coin Week, April 15-21, 2018. The ANA will have opportunities to compete for some coins; see the ANA website at

<https://www.money.org/numismatic-events/national-coin-week> for more information. The ANA also has its annual Coin Week collector exhibit prize at the National Money Show coming up in Irving, Texas. I hope you will find your own way to promote numismatics — with or without myths.

**LEARN:** Consider attending the *PNNA 2018 two-day Numismatic Seminar*, Oct. 18-19, 2018, in Portland. Pencil this in!!! More details will be on the PNNA website (<https://www.pnna.org/info/education.html>) soon, including an opportunity to apply for a PNNA scholarship. Keep a look out and help us promote this educational activity. I'm expecting some local clubs will help with scholarships too. I'm expecting that this class will be quite popular, and I hope we will do something in the Seattle area by 2020. Input welcome!

**VOLUNTEER:** Sign up with Rick Schulz early, to help our annual outreach in the Hobby Hall at the Washington State (a.k.a. Puyallup) Fair, Aug. 31 – Sept. 23, 2018. You get in FREE for the day, and spend a few hours making smiles as you talk about coins! Please email Rick at [richardf53@yahoo.com](mailto:richardf53@yahoo.com) for information or to sign up.

### Upcoming Board Meeting Dates and Locations:

- March 17, 2018 at the PNNA Convention, Tukwila Community Center, Tukwila, Wash., at about 8 a.m.
- Summer meeting TBD.
- October 20, 2018 at the WCC/PNNA Portland Convention, DoubleTree Lloyd Center, Portland, Ore., at about 6 p.m. (earlier if everyone is ready).

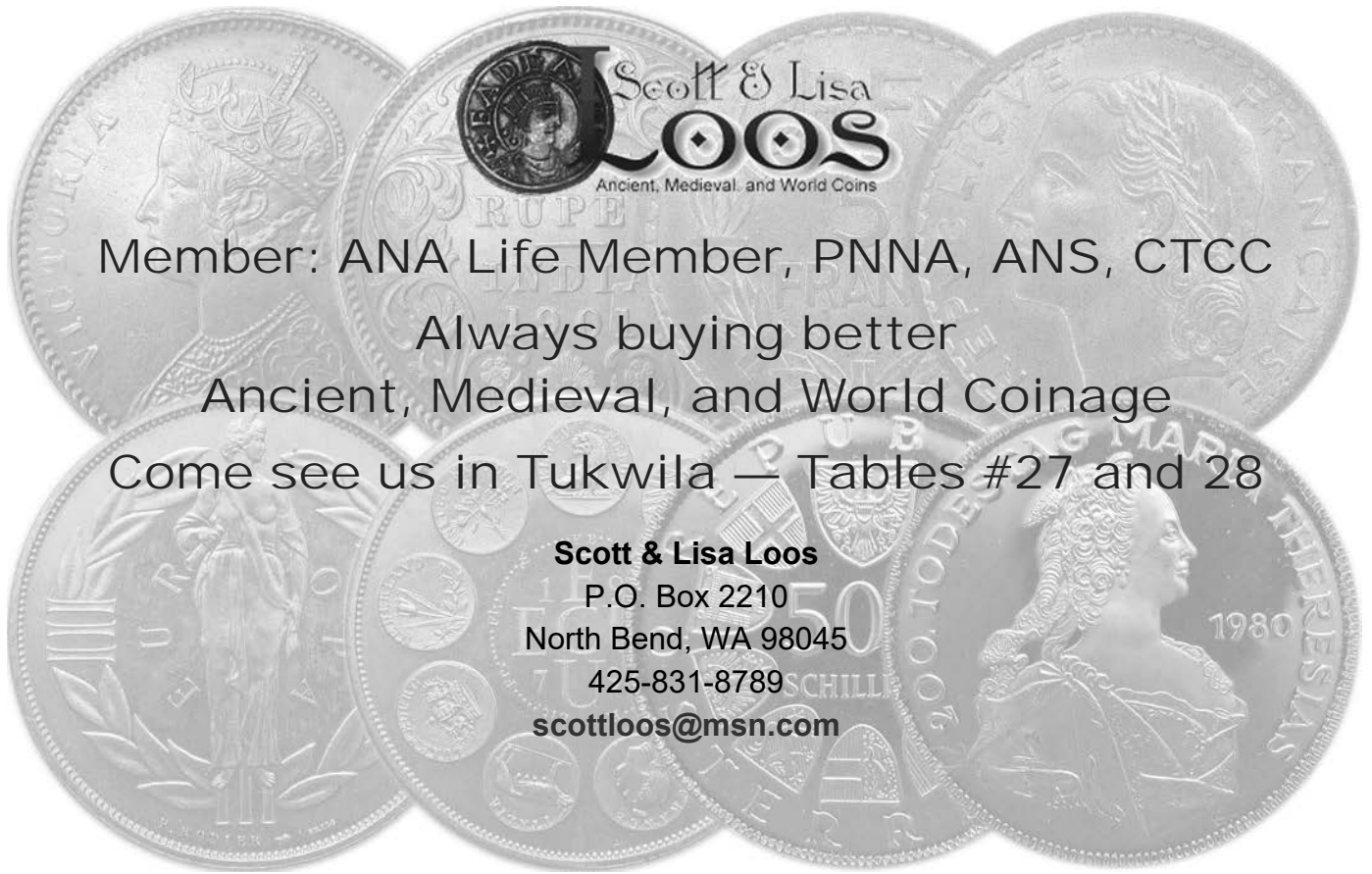
The Board and Officers serve at your pleasure — please contact any one of us with your suggestions. We want to grow this organization and we want to better educate our members on the subject of numismatics.

There are many coin shows to enjoy this spring (see <http://pnna.org/calendar.html> for up-to-date listings). What could be better on a rainy spring day than a dry coin show?

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the annual PNNA membership meeting at the Tukwila Community Center on Saturday March 17 at 6:30 p.m. (The show closes at 6 p.m.)

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**PNNA Membership Information** — If you have questions about your PNNA membership or would like to join, please contact: Eric Holcomb, 1900 NE 3rd St STE 106 PMB 361, Bend, OR 97701-3889, phone (541) 647-1021, email [eric@holcomb.com](mailto:eric@holcomb.com). Individuals, families and clubs can join PNNA for 3 years and save money! See the PNNA website memberships page for details.



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Come see us in Tukwila — Tables #27 and 28

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# CSNS2018

## Selections from our Official Central States Auction

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AU55 NGC



1839 Ten Dollar  
Small Letters, Head of 1840  
AU55 NGC



1850-O Twenty Dollar  
AU55 NGC



1851-O Twenty Dollar  
AU58 NGC



1853-O Twenty Dollar  
AU55 NGC



1881 Twenty Dollar  
AU53 NGC



1882-CC Twenty Dollar  
MS60 NGC



1891-CC Twenty Dollar  
AU55 NGC



1907 High Relief Twenty Dollar  
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### PNNA Annual Awards

Bob Everett Memorial Award — <http://www.pnna.org/awards/everett.html>

Literary Awards (Club Newsletters/Articles) — <http://www.pnna.org/awards/literary.html>

National Coin Week Awards for Clubs — [http://www.pnna.org/awards/ncw/ncw\\_awards.html](http://www.pnna.org/awards/ncw/ncw_awards.html)

Nina Nystrom Numismatic Ambassador Award — <http://www.pnna.org/awards/nystrom.html>

Presidential Award — [http://www.pnna.org/awards/presidential\\_award.html](http://www.pnna.org/awards/presidential_award.html)

Scholarship Awards — [http://www.pnna.org/awards/scholarship\\_awards.html](http://www.pnna.org/awards/scholarship_awards.html)

*The winner of the PNNA's annual Bob Everett Memorial Award, made for integrity and demonstrated commitment to numismatics in the Pacific Northwest, will be announced at the convention on Saturday, March 17. Other PNNA annual awards will also be announced at this time. Presidential awards may also be announced at the fall convention.*

### PNNA Calendar

*Just visit  
[pnna.org](http://pnna.org) and  
click on the  
"calendar" but-  
ton, or pick up a  
paper copy at  
the show!*

### PNNA Convention Collector Exhibits

*by Eric Holcomb, PNNA Chief Judge*

*See <http://www.pnna.org/exhibits/exhibits.html> for complete collector exhibit information, application form, rules and judging criteria, and past winners with exhibit photos.*

*Collector exhibitors will need to register and reserve exhibit cases in advance. Exhibits are due in place by noon Saturday, and should be removed on Sunday afternoon.*

*Not online? — Write to the address listed on page 2 of this magazine.*

### PNNA Board Meeting Minutes

*Minutes from past PNNA board meetings, including at the Boeing club show in January, are available on the website at <http://www.pnna.org/minutes/board.html>.*

### ANA Summer Seminar

*See <https://www.money.org/summer-seminar>.*

*Dates: June 16-21 and June 23-28, 2018.*

*Location: Colorado Springs, Colorado.*

*Summer Seminar is a once-a-year opportunity for numismatic scholarship and camaraderie that offers students a varied selection of courses designed for discovery or continued study. For many students, Summer Seminar is a life-changing event; it has catapulted the careers of many of the nation's most respected collectors, authors and dealers.*

*Get full information including the course catalog online to see what Summer Seminar can do for you. Consider applying for a PNNA Summer Seminar scholarship in 2019.*

### PNNA/WCC Fall Convention

*Webpage: [http://www.pnna.org/convention/convention\\_fall.html](http://www.pnna.org/convention/convention_fall.html)*

*The PNNA and the Willamette Coin Club will host their 14th annual fall convention and coin show, Oct. 19-21, 2018 at the Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel in Portland, Oregon.*

*The fall show has many of the same popular features as the spring convention — an outstanding bourse of local, regional, and national dealers, a numismatic theater, a YN program and collector exhibits.*

### ANA National Coin Week

*Webpage: <https://www.money.org/numismatic-events/national-coin-week>.*

*National Coin Week — April 15-21, 2018.*

*Theme: "Connecting Cultures: From Many, One."*

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Many thanks to the PNNA dealers advertising on this page and elsewhere in *The Northwest* for helping to make this convention edition possible. If you wish to buy, sell or trade numismatic items with the dealers at the PNNA convention, please consider carefully all of your options before making a decision.

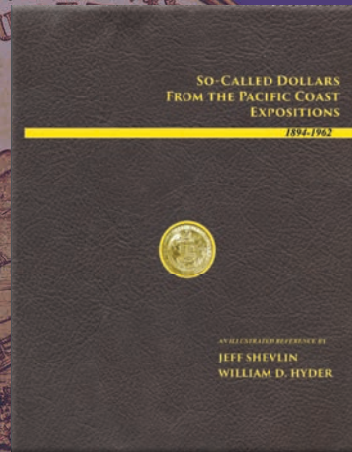
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- 1915-16 Panama-California Exposition
- 1935-36 California Pacific International Exposition
- 1939-40 Golden Gate International Exposition
- 1962 Seattle World's Fair Exposition

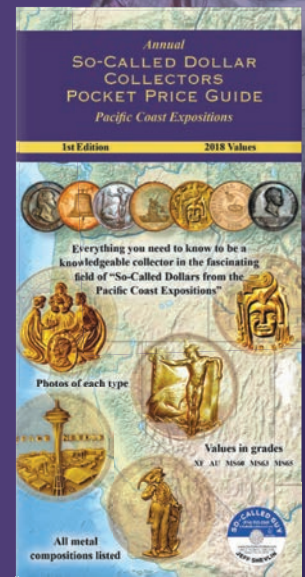
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## Robert Scot: First Appointed Chief Engraver of the United States Mint

by Bill Nyberg.

I became interested in the history of Robert Scot starting in 2003, as there had been very little information reported on his life, along with conflicting opinions written about his engraving. After many years of research and writing, my book *Robert Scot: Engraving Liberty* was published in 2015 by American History Press.

Robert Scot was the first appointed chief engraver of the United States Mint, who held that position from 1793 to 1823. Scot was born in Canongate, Scotland on October 2, 1745. His father was a baker by trade. Scot had early training as a watchmaker where he was introduced to engraving. Under the guidance of Richard Cooper, Sr., Scot improved his engraving skills at the Trustees Academy in Edinburgh.

Scot sailed to the American colonies by 1775 and settled in Fredericksburg, Virginia, where he quickly found work engraving Virginia currency, first using the Arms of Britain for the design. After the Virginia Convention of 1776, Scot engraved the radical Virginia Seal design onto the paper currency, which depicted the overthrow of tyranny. In 1780, Robert Scot engraved the Virginia "Happy While United" Indian Peace Medal under the direction of Virginia Governor Thomas Jefferson, who commented "the workmanship was extraordinarily good."

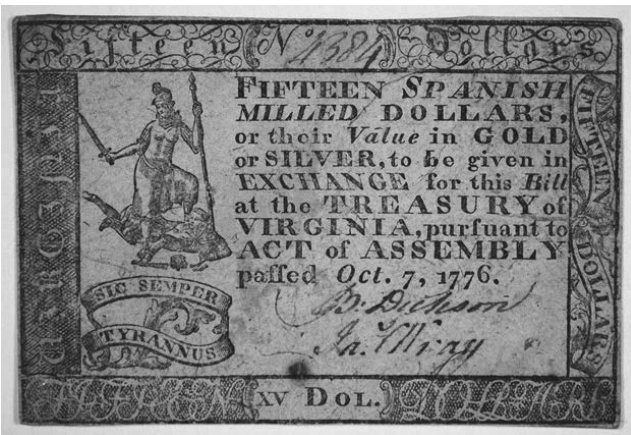


Image: 1776 Virginia Seal design paper currency note.

Moving to Philadelphia in 1781, Scot engraved important commissions for American officers during the Revolution, including a magnificent illustration of the Siege of Yorktown, dedicated to General George Washington, and a 1784 map of the United States, based on the 1783 Treaty of Paris. Scot was the primary engraver for Thomas Dobson's *Encyclopedia*, which was the first encyclopedia published within the United States.

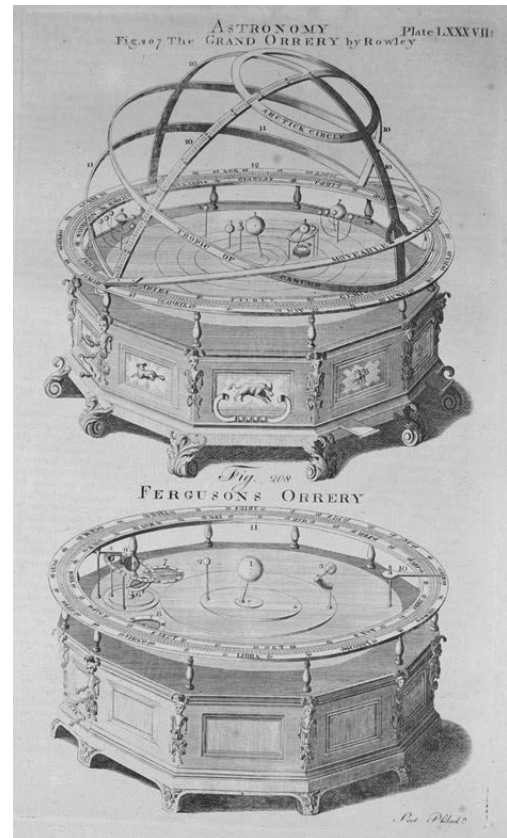


Image: Engraving of Ferguson's Orrery in Dobson's *Encyclopedia*, published in 1791.

Thomas Jefferson wrote to Robert Scot on November 23, 1793, "Sir, the President of the United States, desiring to avail the Public of your Services, as Engraver of the Mint, I now have the honor of enclosing you the commission and expressing to you the sentiments of perfect respect." The commission was signed by President George Washington, and sealed with the Great Seal of the United States. Scot was employed after the yellow fever epidemic of 1793 had taken the life of engraver Joseph Wright.

Robert Scot engraved the Flowing Hair design for the dollar in 1794, along with the same design for the half dime and half dollar. In 1795, Scot engraved the dies for the first United States Mint gold coins, starting with the half eagle five dollar coin in July of 1795. (See image at top of next page.) For the one cent copper coins, Scot continued the use of the Liberty Cap design of Joseph Wright, and also used this design for the half cent of 1794.

## Robert Scot: First Appointed Chief Engraver of the United States Mint



*Image: 1795 \$5 Small Eagle BD-1, Heritage Auctions Jan. 5-9, 2011 sale, Lot 5075.*

Scot described his engraving duties and processes to the Congressional "Committee on the Mint" in a report written in December of 1794. The key paragraph stated "It may be necessary in this remark (to the Committee on the Mint) what I think the actual duties of my office are. Viz. Engraving and sinking all original Dies, raising and finishing all Hubbs struck out of them, and raising and finishing all punches that may be requisite for the completion of Dies or Hubbs; letter punches excepted. Those may be imported or procured by those of that profession."

The beautiful Draped Bust design was engraved by Robert Scot, starting with the dollar in 1795 and continuing on all silver and copper denominations. Scot also engraved federal revenue stamps for the Treasury department in 1798 and 1800, used to raise revenue to help finance the Quasi-War with France from 1798 to 1800, and the First Barbary War from 1800 to 1805. In 1807, the Mint employed John Reich as Assistant Engraver, who engraved dies for the Capped Bust designs before resigning in 1817. Scot continued as Chief Engraver until his death on November 3, 1823.



*Image: 1803 50C Small 3 O-104, Heritage Auctions Eric P. Newman Collection Part II sale, Nov. 15, 2013, Lot 33422.*



*Image: This 1806/5 Draped Bust half dollar (attributed as Overton 104b and Tompkins T-1 varieties) indicates the problem of working die failure at the early Mint, with a large obverse die crack, and reverse edge cuds. (Author's collection.)*

Eunice Beal and Robert Scot were married in 1783, and they raised four daughters and one son. An excerpt from Robert Scot's obituary in *Poulson's Advertiser* best described his character, "With a vigorous mind, Mr. Scot enjoyed the advantage of an excellent education – through his life he was persevering and industrious, strictly moral in all his habits, and truly amiable in his domestic relations – persevering to the last his capacity for usefulness, he died in the high respect of his coadjutors, and regretted by all who had knowledge of his worth."

### Author's notes:

Bill Nyberg is employed at Boeing as an Associate Technical Fellow within Industrial Engineering, and he is a member of the American Numismatic Association (ANA), Pacific Northwest Numismatic Association (PNNA), John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS), Boeing Employees' Coin Club (BECC) and Early American Coppers (EAC).

For those who may not know, "the purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins." (See: <http://www.jrcs.org/>)

### Editor's notes:

*Articles in The Nor'wester are eligible for PNNA literary awards ... see the information on page 10.*

*Bill Nyberg will be giving the keynote talk at the PNNA convention in Tukwila, at noon on Saturday, March 17, on the topic of this article.*

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