

Pacific Northwest Numismatic Association

# The Nor'wester



4th Quarter 2023 • Oct - Nov - Dec

## Identify, Understand and Learn From Tokens

by Kevin Akin.  
See article  
on pages 7-11.

*Photos  
courtesy of  
Kevin and Ian Akin*



See back cover ad for ANACS special offer.

PNNA 18th Annual Fall Coin Show - October 6-8, 2023  
Tukwila Community Center - Tukwila, Washington





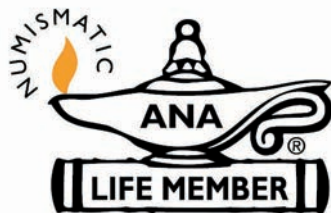
Eric Holcomb, Editor/Webmaster  
 1900 NE 3rd St  
 STE 106 PMB 361  
 Bend, OR 97701-3889  
 Phone: 541-647-1021  
 Email: Eric@Holcomb.com

[www.pnna.org](http://www.pnna.org)

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*Deadline for submission of material for 1st Quarter 2024 Nor'wester: December 15, 2023.*

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When you finish this magazine, please recycle it or share it with another collector!

## Welcome to Tukwila

*by General Chairman Kevin Charboneau*

Welcome to the Pacific Northwest Numismatic Association 18th Annual Fall Coin Show, now held for the third year in Tukwila, Washington!

This year's public show hours are:

Fri.	October 6	noon until 7:00 p.m.
Sat.	October 7	10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.
Sun.	October 8	10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

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

The spring show was a great success. It felt like everyone was well over the pandemic. Let's not let our guard down as we go into the fall. The PNNA Fall Coin Show is almost upon us. We will be setting up at the Tukwila Community Center on October 6, 7 and 8. The floor is sold out again. We are going to have our full contingent of dealers from all across the nation. You know that you can find anything you are looking for.

These are exciting times. The shows in the area are well attended and have been very successful. I have been talking to vendors and attendees. Everyone is excited about being able to attend shows. The electricity on the bourse floors is exciting. I hope we have that kind of excitement in October.

We will be sponsoring the Scout Merit Badge again and all scouts, in uniform, and their parents will have free access to the bourse floor. We are planning on having competitive exhibits. We will stream some of the lecture series from the ANA webinars in the exhibit room. You can come and go as you please.

The Saturday treasure hunt is happening for the youth. Lots of coins for everyone and a great adventure searching for the answers to the numismatic related questions. Parent escorts will have free run of the bours floor as well. (Note that the treasure hunt may end by about 1 p.m. or 2 p.m. at the latest on Sunday—please register early!)

Unfortunately, I must mention that the cost of admission is going up. Admission at the door will be \$5 for each day or \$10 for the weekend.

If you would like to volunteer to help at the front desk, if you have questions or would like more information, please send an email to Kevin, [kcharboneau58@comcast.net](mailto:kcharboneau58@comcast.net). I look forward to seeing you there. Up-to-date information will also be posted on the PNNA website fall event page at <https://www.pnna.org/wp/events/fall/>.

## Additional Show Information

- Thanks to the South Hill Coin Club of Puyallup, Wash., host club for this PNNA convention.
- Parking is free, and admission to the bourse is only \$5.00 per day, \$10.00 for all three days. Children 12 and under are free. "Early Bird" admission (9:00 a.m. Fri/Sat/Sun) is \$50.00.
- The ANACS grading service ([www.anacs.com](http://www.anacs.com)) will have a bourse table at the show to accept submissions, but will not have a grader present. They also have a special deal on certain submissions — see the ad on the back cover.
- We plan to have exhibits again this fall — see the website at <https://www.pnna.org/wp/exhibits/>.
- Unfortunately, there will not be any numismatic theater or club meetings at the fall show, however, there will be streamed webinars as noted by Kevin.
- The YN (youth and family) program and treasure hunt will be conducted by former ANA president Walt Ostromecki. The program is hosted by the PNNA and by participating local coin clubs.
- There will a scouting program at the fall show, as noted by Kevin. For information, contact James Reinders by email, [coins2023@collect3.com](mailto:coins2023@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 about 6:15 p.m., after the bourse closes.

*Say hello to Kevin  
when you see him  
at the show!*





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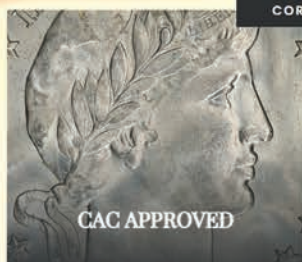




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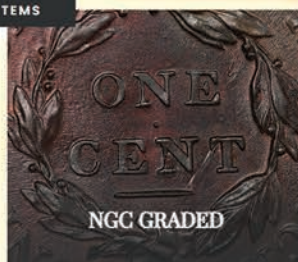


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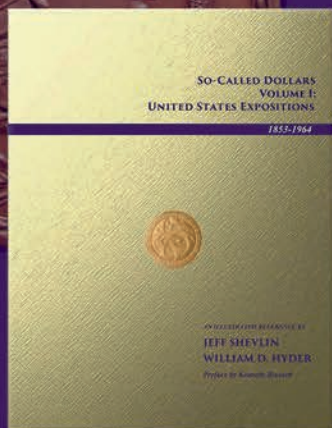
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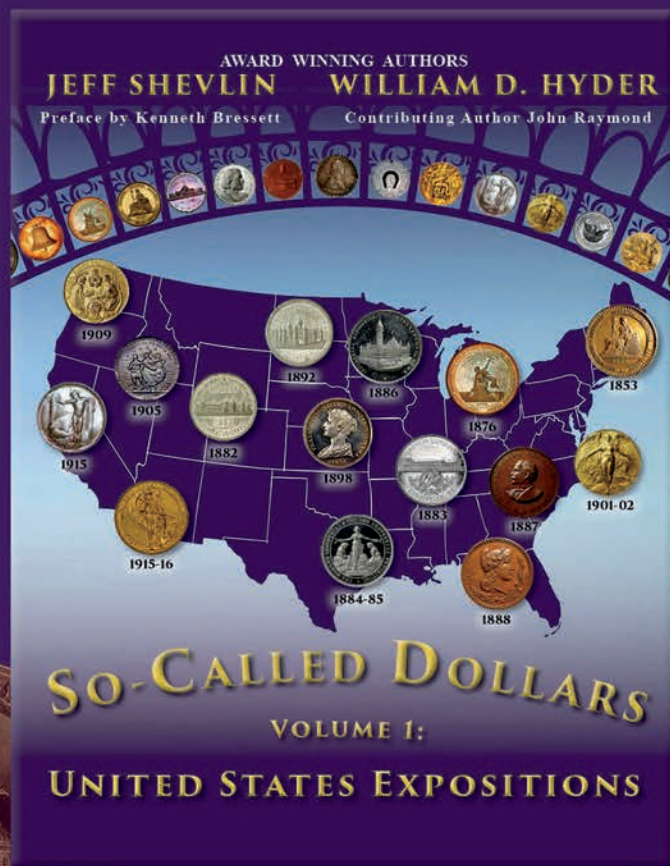
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## Identify, Understand and Learn From Tokens

by Kevin Akin

### INTRODUCTION

Tokens are a fascinating field, and at any time a token collector can pull out part of the collection and learn more about the tokens, their issuers and manufacturers, and the times and places in which they were used. This is true of many kinds of collectibles, as for example coins. But there are so many times more varieties of tokens than coins, and their origins are usually more obscure, that it is more true of tokens than just about any other field of collecting. Using some examples from the Northwest, I would like to describe some of the ways you can learn about your tokens, and go into some of their stories.

First, it is important to know what references can help you identify tokens, and start your process of discovery about these fascinating bits of metal (or wood, or plastic, or whatever). Most references lack much of the information you may want, all exclude many kinds of tokens, and most older references do not even try to date the tokens. But with access to the internet, and a healthy skepticism about what you find there, dates can usually be found, or at least a rough date range.

Despite the ready availability of information (and much misinformation) on the internet, I am like many other collectors in using printed books as the basis of my identification process. "Information" on the internet, particularly from auction sites, is very often wrong. Someone who takes a book to publication normally has a pretty good grasp of the subject, although errors always creep in. But anyone with or without a functioning brain can post things on the internet, or offer misgraded, misidentified, misdescribed, overpriced coins or tokens on eBay, and no editor or publications committee chair can prevent it. eBay is not the only source of absurd pricing misinformation, but it is certainly a leader in the field. There are some wonderfully useful sites out there, but you have to shovel through a lot of manure to uncover them. More on that later, but first let us see what books may be helpful.

### TOKEN INFORMATION in BOOKS

One of the earliest references is *American Business Tokens*, by Benjamin P. Wright. This turn-of-the-

century work was reprinted by Quarterman in 1972. It has line drawings of each token, usually well-done, but with little information about the tokens. One key thing to know about each token listed is that it must have been made before about 1900. Most of the listings are from Eastern states, but there are some from the Northwest. This classic 12-1/2 cent (one bit) token from Malad, Idaho, is an example, shown as illustrated by Wright.



A token with no information as to its place of issue is called a "maverick." Unidentified mavericks rarely go for high prices. But identified mavericks can go for much higher prices, depending of course on rarity, condition, and desirability. Buying unidentified mavericks for low prices, and identifying them to place them in the correct order in a collection, yields a collection that is worth many times what the collector paid. But monetary value is not the only thing we gain from identifying tokens. We gain knowledge. We learn history. If we have local roots, we can sometimes even make connections with family history. Your great-grandpa from Aberdeen, Washington may have used nickel-sized tokens in the slot machines at the Climax Cigar Store, even if he was associated with the store only as a customer. I identified this token from Al Ericson's *Washington State Trade Tokens* (1999).



## Identify, Understand and Learn From Tokens (continued)

Ericson's work is just one of hundreds of references listing tokens (and sometimes medals) from a single state or province. Even if you only really collect the Northwest, you should probably have some references from surrounding states, as their tokens will turn up in your area. I have on my own shelves Frank R. Schell's *Idaho Merchants Tokens 1865-1970* (1970) and James Hemphill's *Oregon Trade Tokens* (1992), and a large pile of references from other states and provinces.



As most state catalogs omit certain categories of tokens, you will also need references that list on a national or even continental basis specific kinds of tokens. For transportation tokens, the American Vectorist Association publishes the *Atwood-Coffee Catalogue of United States and Canadian Transportation Tokens*, of which a new version was just completed. It is updated every few years.

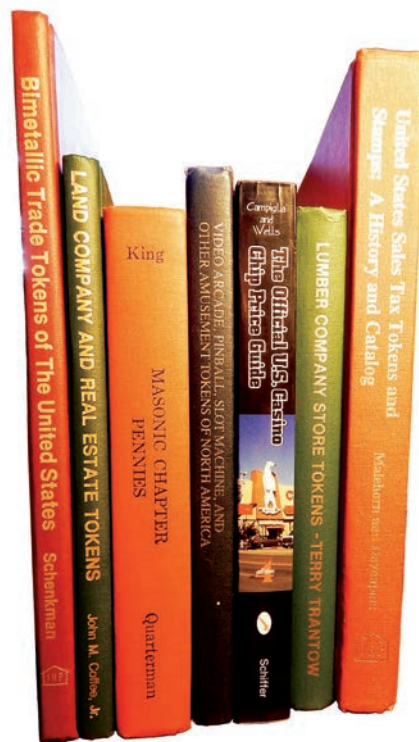
Examples of other books on specific kinds of tokens (see photo in right-hand column) include:

- Amusement tokens (Alpert and Smith 1984),
- Lumber and turpentine company tokens (Trantow 1978),
- Land company and real estate tokens (Coffee 1991),
- Military tokens (Cunningham 1995),
- Masonic tokens (King 1972),
- Bimetallic tokens (Schenkman 1990),
- Tax tokens (Malehorn and Davenport 1993).

And there are others!

### ORGANIZATIONS and WEBSITES

One advantage of a book is that when looking up your own token, you can see listings of hundreds of others from the same area, and get an idea of the types of tokens used in a particular area at a partic-



ular time. These connections may be harder to make when looking something up on the internet. But it is now possible to look up almost all the tokens listed in almost all the state references, as well as the specialized references for particular types of tokens, using a wonderful website: TokenCatalog.com. This online reference now has over half a million illustrations, and a total of more than 600,000 listings. I strongly suggest checking it out. First, look up some token that is fully identified already, to see how the listings work. Then try it out on your mavericks.

I also strongly advise joining one or more organizations of token collectors. The Token and Medal Society (TAMS) publishes a regular journal, and is well worth the dues. The same is true of the American Vectorist Association, for transportation token collectors. There are local societies, and other specialist societies for particular types of tokens, though some of them come and go.

### OTHER SOURCES – INCLUDING MEMORIES

But once the token is identified, you can learn much more by turning to other sources. Local histories, old city directories and telephone books, census records, even such things as military draft records



## Identify, Understand and Learn From Tokens (continued)

of the First and Second World Wars, family trees available on Ancestry.com and other such websites, and even the old-fashioned source of information: gossip. The dollar-sized token inscribed in stylized Chinese characters was hand-made in Seattle's Chinatown. According to a store owner interviewed in the 1980s, it was used at a gambling establishment with which his family was associated, and they were painstakingly made with a hammer and a pointed chisel by family members including his own grandmother. It was used to represent a stake of one dollar. *(Yes, this piece really is handmade!)*



Personal experience can provide a full identification and some background information, if you find a token in actual use and remove it from circulation to put it in your collection. But take notes! Memories can fade after a few decades. While shopping with my late mother and some other family members in Port Orford, Oregon in 1997, I came across this wooden token for five cents, at a shop called Myrtlewood. All the merchandise was hand-crafted from local wood. The token, too, is not made of just any wood. It is made of Oregon myrtlewood. Many of the details of that trip are a little hazy to me today, but I can clearly see the display box full of myrtlewood wooden nickels sitting on the counter, and fortunately I recorded the date on the 2x2 in which I placed the token. And now if you find one, you too will know when it was used.



### BACKGROUND INFORMATION from HISTORIANS and FAMILY STORIES

Historians have spent considerable time studying the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a Depression-era government project intended to provide jobs and improve and protect national parks and forests. So there are reams and reams of information available on the subject, or now that information no longer always comes on paper, I suppose we should speak of terabytes or some such measure. In their remote camps, many CCC units used tokens good at the camp exchange. In the case of this CCC token from Company 1744, a photo and caption from the Spokane Chronicle of October 26, 1934 even allows us to know who accepted the token across the counter at the exchange: Storekeeper E.R. Johnson. Camp F120, or "Camp Echo," was located in Shoshone County, Idaho in 1934 and 1935. The photo and caption, and additional information, can be found online with search engines.



Pickers tokens have been used in many sections of agriculture, to keep track of work product and allow each worker to be paid according to how many pounds, tons, boxes, sheaves, or buckets have been processed during the workday. Some people do not reminisce pleasantly about their work in the fields. Picking cotton, for example, is rarely described with pleasure. But berry-pickers can be a little more enthusiastic about their long-ago memories of early work. John Sulkoski (1878-1942) raised blackberries and other berries in the Puyallup area of Washington State, and he and his wife Julia also raised five sons and seven daughters. Some of their descendants are interested in family history, so voluminous information about the family is available online. Also available online are several lengthy discussions among elderly former residents of berry

## Identify, Understand and Learn From Tokens (continued)

farms in Washington and Oregon, from which it appears that a crate of berries included twelve boxes of about one quart each, though some farms did it differently. This contrasts with the crates of 24 boxes more common in the East. The reminiscing berry pickers from the Northwest remember doing the work as children when this was still legal, which may explain the smaller crates. This token for “six boxes” from the Sukolski farm is the most common, and represented the lowest quantity, half a crate. Other Sukolski tokens exist for one crate, five crates, ten crates, and 25 crates.



### SPECIALTY ITEMS: an UNUSUAL METAL and a COUNTERSTAMP

Tokens may be made from many materials, mostly metals. Aluminum has been the most common since about 1890, with copper and bronze alloys and copper-nickel common, and zinc and steel also found. But zirconium? The only common zirconium piece of which I am aware was probably a salesman's sample, distributed during the 1970s and 1980s. Zirconium (atomic number 40) is highly resistant to seawater, and thus finds uses in submarines and some other ships. This token-style piece says “Wah Chang Albany, a Teledyne Corporation,” a name used between 1967 and 1996 at Albany, Oregon, by a plant that provided the metal for use in submarines and other U.S. Navy vessels.

Some collectors have been a little cautious with these pieces, as they say “A nuclear-age metal,” but they are not radioactive! You may learn more online about zirconium, its uses, and its place on the periodic table of elements. But the detailed specifics of how it is used in nuclear submarines are only found in secret documents, and I do not recommend trying to read those.



I happened across a number of different tokens counterstamped with an “R” in a junk box, and the identical letter stamped from the same die got me looking for the reason. Turns out they were made in response to changes in local ordinances in Baker City, Oregon, during the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Slot machine gambling tokens were used in machines that became very popular by the turn of the century. They originally used coins, usually a nickel, but nickel-sized tokens with a “good for 5 cents in trade” inscription were heavily used. The machines were used in bars, cigar stores, pool rooms and billiard parlors, and in some towns in drug stores, feed stores, and just about anywhere a counter could be found on which to place one. But such gambling attracted opposition, and the inevitable crackdowns generated new games and new forms of tokens. New laws at the state, county and city level forced an end to (open) payouts in cash. In Baker City, when local officials cracked down on the use of tokens specifying a cash amount, the Richelieu obliterated the denomination on its five-cent tokens and stamped them with a large “R” for Richelieu. This is the token illustrated here.



At the same time, stock tokens with no store name were also counterstamped with the same die, to identify them as being used at the Richelieu. As Baker City had many bars and game rooms that



## Identify, Understand and Learn From Tokens (continued)

used tokens, the identifying mark kept players from winning tokens at one place and cashing them in at another. One of these days perhaps I will do detailed research into the Baker City archives, and figure out just when this happened. But you are welcome to beat me to it.

### ENTERTAINMENT: MUSIC and FILM

There are many hundreds of tokens that activated music-making machines, and paid for "one tune" or similar phrasing. But others do not specify the exact use. Player pianos, juke boxes, and orchestrions are some of the machines so operated. But an amazingly complex system thrived for a few years in the 1940s and early 1950s in the Seattle area, using telephone lines to bring music from a central studio to speakers at restaurant tables all around the city and suburbs. The token says "Shyvers" on one side and "music" on the other. Very little was automated about the system. When the customer put tokens in the machine, this would open up a phone line to the central studio in Seattle, and a young woman would ask for the customer's music selections. The music would then be played over the phone line, coming from the tabletop or bar-top speaker. Up to 100 music choices were available. Understandably, the sound quality was not wonderful, and jukeboxes provided competition that put the system out of business. There are so many collectors of the now-sought-after tabletop speakers and other artifacts of the electronic music business that considerable information is available online about this and most other pay-for-a-tune systems.



Most tokens can be dated within a decade or so. Some can be pinned down to a specific year, either through a date on the token or through research in business records of short-lived companies. But one

specific kind of advertising piece can be dated to a precise day. Actors have been shown on small medals and tokens issued as part of the publicity for films in which they star. One particular series was used around the United States as publicity for *The Eagle*, a film starring Rudolph Valentino as Vladimir Dubrovsky. The local premieres were on various days in 1925 and 1926, and each local theater had its own version of the publicity medal bearing the name of the theater. This example is from the Liberty Theatre in Roseburg, Oregon, and it was given out to each ticket-holder on the day of the film's premiere. Research in Roseburg newspaper archives should turn up the precise date, as the premieres were always heavily advertised in the local papers. All such pieces are highly desirable, as movie stars are even more popular with collectors than berry boxes and old slot machines.



This article presents just a sample of the many ways to research tokens, and if you find more interesting sources, feel free to write them up and submit them to the editor.

*Some of this material has previously appeared in Numismatic Archaeology of North America, by Marjorie H. Akin, James C. Bard, and Kevin Akin, 2016.*

*Kevin Akin, a retired steam engineer, collects coins, tokens, medals, banknotes, stamps, and books about all of these. He has designed several medals for coin clubs and community organizations.*

*He is a co-author of Numismatic Archaeology of North America (as noted above) of which his wife Dr. Marjorie H. Akin is lead author.*

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## PNNA President's Message

by PNNA President Ed Fischer

Here it is the day after my left hip replacement and I go off on a tangent of upgrades. We all do it in the numismatic community. Searching for a better grade, nicer eye appeal or finally biting the bullet of that key date we haven't purchased. What do you do with the items you removed?

I was one of the folks I called a "hoarder." A person who placed the coin in a safe place, but never came back to look at it. It wasn't until we downsized our home that I found six Rubbermaid containers took up way too much square footage. They were mostly Wheat Cents. This is when I decided to become a pocket dealer. This freed up cash to upgrade and gave access to the dealers on the show floor for filling my wish list. I became much more involved as a volunteer and board member because I decided to get more deeply involved in the numismatic community. The friends, knowledge, resources and exposure to rarities or provenance stories all proved to be valuable.

Summer months are winding down and the show season is gearing up. Here are a few of the shows and events that will have great dealers and numismatic resources:

**Washington State Fair** is a great way to give back to the coin community and meet fellow collectors. We have a booth in the Hobby Hall from September 1<sup>st</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup>. The fairgrounds are located at 1109 9<sup>th</sup> Ave., Puyallup Wash. Contact Rick Schulz at [Richard53@yahoo.com](mailto:Richard53@yahoo.com) or call him at 253-535-0690 to fill a slot. (Too late for this year? — put it on your calendar early for 2024!)

If you want to travel to southern Oregon, the **Cave Man Coin Club** has its show on September 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at the Josephine County Fairgrounds. It's a good-sized regional show.

On October 6<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> is our very own **PNNA Fall Coin Show** located in the Tukwila Community Center at 12424 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave S., Tukwila, Wash. It

features many dealers from out of town with QUALITY material. The PNNA board meeting is on the show weekend and everyone is welcome to sit in. We are always looking for fresh ideas.

The **Polk County Coin Club** is having a great one-day show October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Polk County Fairgrounds, Bldg. B, 520 S. Pacific Hwy., Rickreall, Ore.

The **Willamette Coin Club** is hosting their show November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at the Monarch Hotel at 12566 SE 93<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Clackamas, Ore. Last year was their first time at this location. I attended and the bourse floor was rocking.

My home club, the **Salem Numismatic Society**, is having its annual show on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Oregon State Fairgrounds. Columbia Hall is located at 2330 17<sup>th</sup> St NE, Salem, Ore. This a huge building with lots of coin and stamp dealers.

The next planned PNNA Board meeting will be at the **Boeing Employees Coin Club** show, January 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> held at Kent Commons, 525 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. N, Kent, Wash.

See <https://www.pnna.org/wp/events/event-calendar/> for a complete list of all the shows and contact information. The list includes private shows, non-member clubs and some shows outside our region. Lots of opportunities to hoard and collect.

You can also find clubs on the PNNA and/or ANA websites. Find a club and get involved.

Whether it is a coin, a car or a hip. We can take pride in upgrading the parts of our lives. The improvement can entail the search and discovery of new collectables that come with stories that enrich our lives. I'm not sure how many groupings I have collected, finished, sold and moved on to another interest that was piqued along the way. History is fascinating and usually travels side by side with numismatics. Collecting and fellowship in the numismatic community is full of enrichment.



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## Commemorating the Tacoma Smelter: A Medal is My Most Prized Possession

by *Phil Iversen*

The first four years of my life were living in Tacoma, Wash., in the Baltimore Park section of the city not far from Point Defiance Park where my mother would take my sister and me for wonderful visits.

Along the northern edge of town adjacent to Commencement Bay on a 67-acre site was a smelter in an area called Ruston. It started out in 1888 as a lead-refining facility built by investor Dennis Ryan. Two years later it became the Tacoma Smelting and Refining Company under the ownership of William Rust.

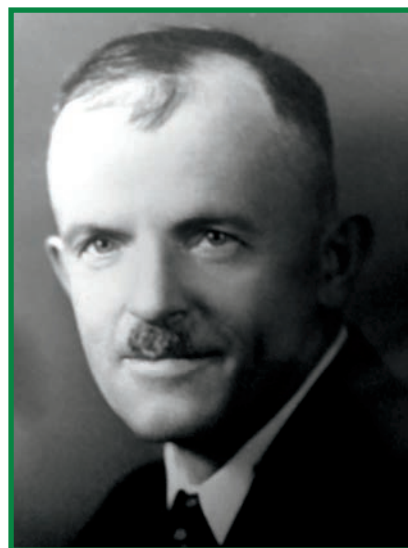
He sold the plant for \$5.5 million in 1905 to the American Smelter and Refining Company (ASARCO). Nearby residents complained of the noxious fumes so a 307-foot smokestack was built. In 1912 the smelter was converted into a full-time copper smelting and refining plant to make a higher profit.

The first smokestack was later demolished and in 1917 a new smokestack 571 feet high was built using 2.5 million bricks and 5,000 pounds of mortar becoming the highest in the world. The smelter produced 10,000 tons of copper a month and had up to 1,700 employees working around the clock.



*Photo: An aerial view of the smelter and stack.*

One of those employees was Joseph Bartolatz, my mother's father. He worked at the facility as a supervisor in the assay department where the ore was examined to determine if either gold or silver was in it. The smelter produced thousands of ounces of gold annually, including gold from Canadian ore imported by train.



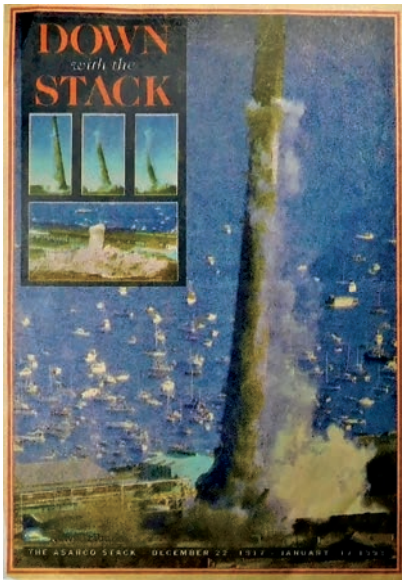
*Portrait of Joseph Bartolatz.*

Over the its many years of operation the smokestack spread arsenic and lead contamination all over the Puget Sound area in all directions landing on both soil and water in the surrounding area. Additionally, many people living in the approximate vicinity incurred health issues from the harmful and toxic air pollution.

The plant was eventually shut down in 1985 after years of low demand for copper and environmental concerns for many years. The site was listed in 1983 as one of the country's most polluted Superfund sites and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) allocated almost \$50 million for the cleanup that included demolishing structures and excavating contaminated soil at the site along with hundreds of homes, parks and schools that were affected—the most within one square mile of the smelter. Another \$95 million from ASARCO's 2005 bankruptcy settlement was also used for cleanup.

Years of litigation between ASARCO and all the governmental agencies involved slowed down the process to remedy what needed to be done. The one major issue needing immediate attention was the demolition of the towering smokestack. A contract was awarded to Invirex Demolition of Huntington Station, New York, along with Controlled Demolition, Inc., for a collapse of the structure.





*Image: "DOWN with the STACK"*

*Credit: Tacoma News Tribune. This is part of the memorabilia exhibit on display at the old smelter site. (If you visit, look for a small courtyard.)*

Around 100,000 people gathered both along the shore and in boats on the water and watched as the plunger was pushed at 12:40 p.m. on Jan. 17, 1933, and saw this iconic landmark come crashing down in eight seconds. When the smokestack hit the ground a large plume of gray dust wafted into the crisp winter air and the crowd gleefully cheered its timely demise.

Cleanup at the site still continued for many years. A dear cousin who lives in the area would send me letters with newspaper clippings about the progress during this entire time including color photos of the demolition. She continued sending me information as to what was happening with the property. In 2008 a big development company started to build a retail complex on the site with condominiums, apartments, shops, a movie theater, a grocery store, an 11-acre park and hotel. Much has been built since then and people are living there now.

What remains of this historic smelter are some relics housed in an history exhibit on the old site. To me, however, the most important one is a 27-mm copper medal of unknown origin that is dated 1934. The pristine example I own has a rarity rating of 7 (9-11 examples known). One side depicts

the smelter and the other side shows Mount Rainier and you can still see small glimpses of original luster on both sides.

This example was certified by NGC as MS 65 BN, and much to my delight and surprise I have recently found another nice example with more original copper color that I will submit for grading.



*Photos: Iversen's souvenir Tacoma smelter copper medal, dated 1954. It's a very sentimental and special reminder of his wonderful grandfather and the ARASCO smelter that are now both gone but not forgotten.*

*This article originally appeared in The California Numismatist (editor Greg Burns), Fall 2021. Thank you to Phil Iversen and Greg Burns for giving permission to republish.*

#### References:

Erickson, Al, *Washington State Trade Tokens*.  
Orting, WA: Heritage Quest Press, 1998.

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<https://www.tacomadailyindex.com>

<https://www.thenewstribune.com>

## PNNA Spring Convention Report

*As reported by the South Hill Coin Club*

The PNNA annual convention and spring coin show was held at the Tukwila Community Center April 14-16, and once again South Hill Coin Club was honored to be the host club. Thank you to General Chairman Kevin Charboneau and to Rick Schulz, who spearheaded a fantastic show, and to all the volunteers who put in a lot of work! This year the show saw a record 1,137 visitors pass through the doors which made the dealers all very happy! Our club received \$750 dollars to set up and tear down the show and to staff the entry booth and the entrance door. Until we again start having our own show, this is our only source of club income since we do not collect dues!

Below are some pictures from the show: (photos courtesy of Ray Fiorini)



*(L to R) Tony Kalt, Eric Holcomb, and Kevin Charboneau in charge of front door operations.*



*Lisa and Scott Loos having a good time at the show!*



*Jeff Shevlin, the So-Called Guy from Carmichael (Sacramento), Calif., had a very busy show!*



*Dennis Reed from Lacey Rare Coins at his table.*



*And finally, all those show-goers needed some really, really great food!*

For another report and video, see the blog post at: <https://www.pnna.org/wp/2023/04/2023-pnna-convention-report-video/>.

For PNNA awards, see links on page 21.



## Schulz Wins ANA Award

During the recent American Numismatic Association's (ANA) World's Fair of Money, hosted in Pittsburgh, Pa., members who have contributed to the hobby in profound ways were recognized during ANA events. On August 10, the Member Awards and Donor Celebration provided the ANA the chance to bestow awards including this year's Glenn Smedley Memorial Awards.

Seven exceptional ANA members were recognized with the **Glenn Smedley Memorial Award**. These highly involved hobbyists demonstrate a strong commitment to elevating numismatics among collectors and the general public.

One of the Smedley award winners was PNNA board member **Richard "Rick" F. Schulz**.

For the past 13 years, Rick has coordinated the Pacific Northwest Numismatic Association's exhibit and activities at the Washington State Fair – a herculean task that requires many hours of dedication. He is also the tireless custodian of the club's penny press, which travels around to local shows for demonstrations.

We also recognize PNNA treasurer **Scott Loos** for being randomly selected Charter Member 1 of the Dr. George F. Heath Society, the ANA's new donor recognition guild.



*Say hello to Rick when you see him at the penny press at the fall coin show, or at the Fair!*

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## PNNA Annual Awards

*Please see the PNNA website for more information about these awards.*

Bob Everett Memorial Award — <https://www.pnna.org/wp/awards/everett-award/>

Literary Awards (Club Newsletters/Articles) — <https://www.pnna.org/wp/awards/literary-awards/>

National Coin Week Awards for Clubs — <https://www.pnna.org/wp/awards/ncw-award-for-clubs/>

Nina Nystrom Numismatic Ambassador Award — <https://www.pnna.org/wp/awards/nystrom-award/>

Presidential Award — <https://www.pnna.org/wp/awards/presidential-award/>

Scholarship Awards — <https://www.pnna.org/wp/awards/scholarship-awards/>

*The winner of the PNNA's annual Bob Everett Memorial Award, made for integrity and demonstrated commitment to numismatics in the Pacific Northwest, is usually announced at the spring convention, along with most other PNNA annual awards. This year there were both Everett or Nystrom awards again. Please consider nominating someone for 2024.*

## PNNA Calendar

*Just visit [pnna.org](https://www.pnna.org) and click on the "Calendar" link under "Events," or pick up a free paper copy at the show!*

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

## PNNA Convention Collector Exhibits

*by Eric Holcomb, PNNA Chief Judge*

*We plan to have exhibits again this fall and next spring — see the website at <https://www.pnna.org/wp/exhibits/> for complete collector exhibit information, application form, rules and judging criteria, and past winners with exhibit photos.*

## PNNA Board Meeting Minutes

*Minutes from past PNNA board meetings, including at the annual convention in April, are available at <https://www.pnna.org/wp/info/pnna-governance/minutes/>*

## ANA Summer Seminar (completed)

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

*Dates: June 17-June 22 and June 24-29, 2023.*

*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 2024.*

## PNNA & WCC Fall Shows

*Webpage:*

*<https://www.pnna.org/wp/events/fall/>*

*The PNNA and the Willamette Coin Club will host separate fall coin shows again this year: Oct. 6-8 in Tukwila, Wash. (PNNA) and Nov. 11-12 in Clackamas, Ore. (WCC).*

*See p. 3 for the fall PNNA show welcome message.*

*The fall shows have many popular features — 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>.*

*Information about the 2024 National Coin Week, the 101st annual, will be announced this fall.*

### Eric visits Carson City *by Eric Holcomb*

Would you like to see three nice large pieces of Philadelphia history without travelling “back east?” If so, then look no further than Carson City, Nevada! *The Nor'wester* Editor Eric Holcomb made the visit on Saturday, June 24, and also encountered longtime Reno Coin Club President David Elliott, greeting visitors in the lobby of the Nevada State Museum.

Numismatists often visit Carson City to see the old mint, which minted U.S. coins from 1870 to 1893, before becoming a U.S. assay office until 1933, and the original Nevada State Museum after that. The museum has expanded, but the original sandstone mint building (photo 1) is still the museum’s “heart and soul.”

Before entering the museum (photo 2), you might notice a replica of Philadelphia’s famous Liberty Bell outside (photo 3). Although this replica was one of 53 cast in France in 1950, we’ll nonetheless count it as the first of the three pieces of history I mentioned.

But the Liberty Bell was not why I visited Carson City. The second piece of history is the Morgan & Orr Coin Press No. 1, made in Philadelphia, and shown in photo 4 during the coining demo given on Saturdays. The ANA also has one of these coin presses on display at the Money Museum in Colorado Springs, but the one at the CC Mint is the only one believed to still be operating—running again after some recent repairs.

The press was converted to electric operation in 1967, and runs much slower than it originally did (with steam power), both for safety reasons and to preserve the equipment. Since the recent repair, the press is only used to strike commemorative half-dollar-size medallions, in relatively soft 1/2-ounce, .999 fine silver, at a cost of \$75 each (photo 5—note the CC mintmark).

On the day I visited, the design struck commemorates the *USS Nevada*, the only battleship to get underway during the attack on Pearl Harbor. And, conveniently located in the room next to the press, is the beautiful silverware set originally donated by the people of Nevada to the U.S. Navy, and later returned (photo 6).

There are other attractions at the Nevada State Museum besides the mint. For example, there are exhibits pertaining to Nevada history, geology and minerals, mining, a Native American Heritage “Under One Sky” exhibit, and more.

But, to see the third and largest piece of Philadelphia history, you’ll need to travel about a mile south on Carson Way to the Nevada State Railroad Museum. There you’ll find two 1870s-era Baldwin Locomotive Works steam engines! (One is shown in photo 7).



*Photo 1: Original CC Mint building.*



*Photo 2: Nevada State Museum.*



*Photo 3: Replica of the Liberty Bell.*

#### Websites:

Nevada State Museum, Carson City:

[carsonnvmuseum.org](http://carsonnvmuseum.org)

Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City:

[carsonrailroadmuseum.org](http://carsonrailroadmuseum.org)

Nevada Northern Railway, Ely:

[nnry.com](http://nnry.com)



Of course railroads were instrumental in opening up the west to easy access, especially after completion of the transcontinental line marked by the “Golden Spike” in Utah in May 1869. There were several branches off of the main line, including the Nevada Northern Railway lines near Ely (pronounced EE-lee), Nevada, opened in 1906. Although the NNRY stopped transporting copper ore 40 years ago, the White Pine Historical Railroad Foundation still runs tourist trains for short distances out of the East Ely station, and I had the opportunity to take one of these rides on June 22, two days before visiting Carson City. Photo 8 shows the historic Hotel Nevada in Ely, built in 1929, where I stayed, as seen from the train.

Over six days, I stayed in four Nevada cities—Winnemucca, Elko, Ely and Carson City.

Of course things don't always go as the tourist folks and the locals might like. We're not talking about the casinos or even the road construction on the interstate—instead we're talking about Mormon crickets! A plague of these insects in northern Nevada, especially around Elko, was reported in national and international news stories shortly before my visit. See for example *Smithsonian Magazine's* online “smart news” story for June 23 on their website, smithsonianmag.com. The insects don't fly or bite, but they can cause crop damage and slick roads. Their name comes from Mormon migrants around the Great Salt Lake, who experienced invasions of the crickets into their crops.

By the time I visited Elko, there were no crickets to be seen in the section of town where I stayed. However, I travelled for a number of miles on a gravel road north-east of Golconda (a small town east of Winnemucca) and encountered a lot of crickets on the road! Not wanting to continue for many more miles on this road and crush numerous crickets, I returned to the interstate (I-80) where there were no crickets. Later in the week, smaller patches of crickets were encountered on Highway 50 near Austin, in the middle of the state. The stretch of Highway 50 from Ely to Fallon is sometimes called the “Loneliest Road in America,” although during the summer there is significant tourist traffic, including the occasional group of bicycle riders.

Getting back to the Nevada State Museum, Reno Coin Club President David Elliott staffed a club table in the lobby of the museum. The club typically does this outreach activity on the last Saturday of each month. David had a display case of some personal items, including some ancient coins, but also modern U.S. Mint coins, for example. *This article first appeared in the ANA Club Rep publication MintMark. See the ANA website for that article including a photo of David at his table.*



*Photos 4 & 5: Coining press demo on the Morgan & Orr Press No. 1, and struck medallion depicting the press.*



*Photo 6: Silverware from the USS Nevada.*



*Photo 7: Baldwin Locomotive Works steam engine.*



*Photo 8: Hotel Nevada in Ely as seen from the train.*



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