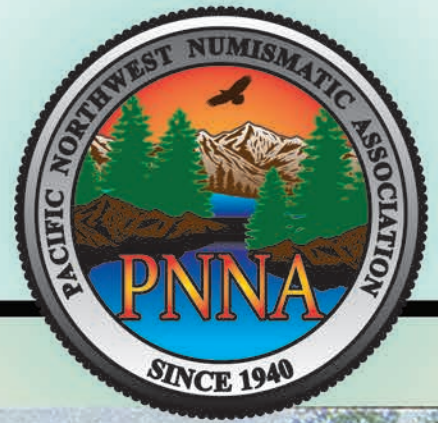


# The Nor'wester

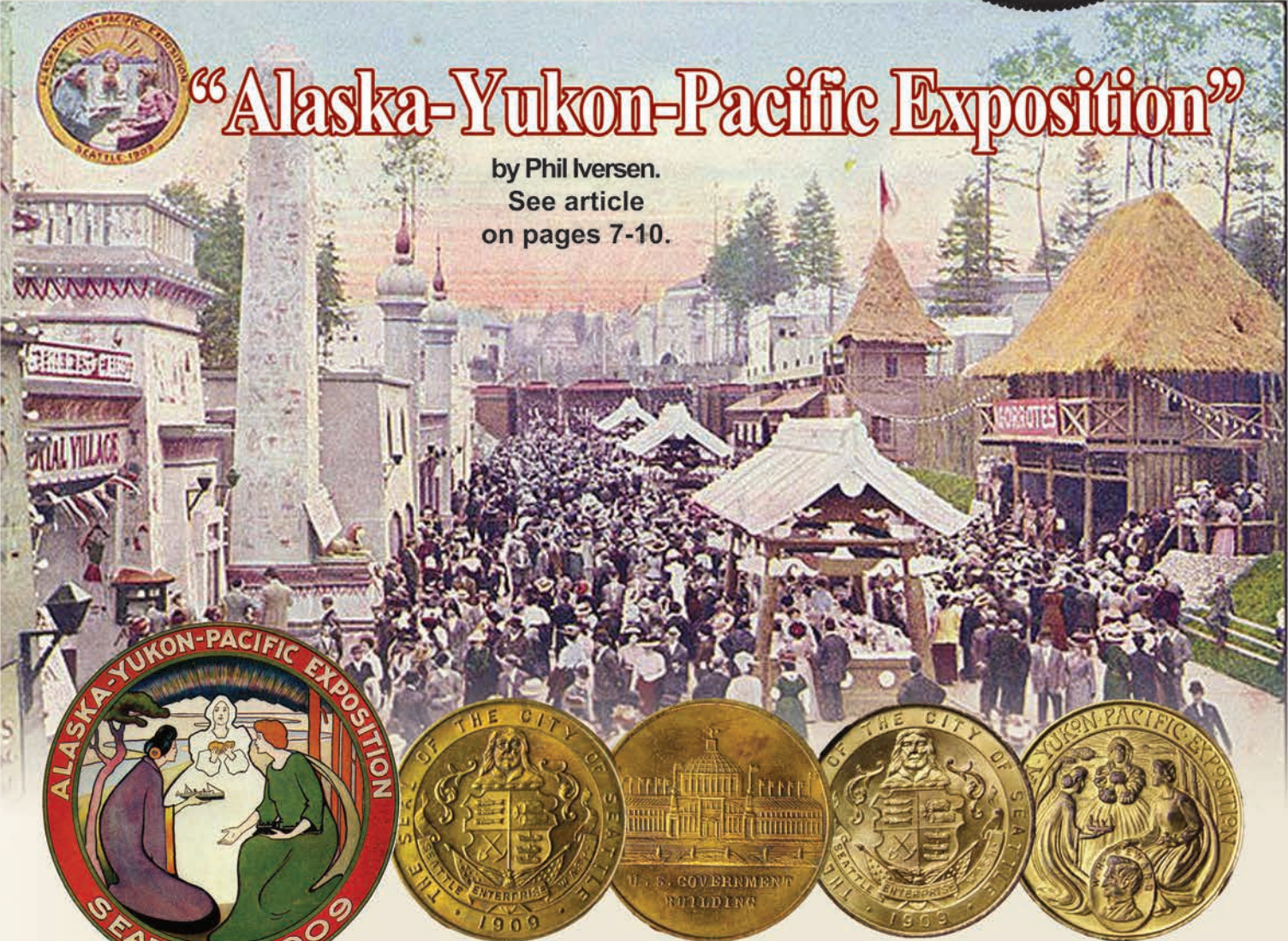


4th Quarter 2024 • Oct - Nov - Dec



## “Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition”

by Phil Iversen.  
See article  
on pages 7-10.



Photos courtesy of Jeff Shevlin. See ad on page 6.  
See back cover ad for ANACS special offer.

PNNA 19th Annual Fall Coin Show - October 4-6, 2024  
Tukwila Community Center - Tukwila, Washington



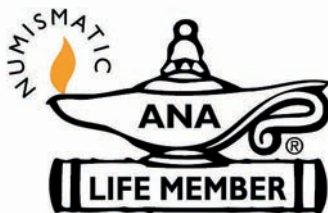
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## PNNA Dues

PNNA dues are assessed annually in January. If you have not yet paid for 2025, you will receive a reminder with the next edition of *The Nor'wester*, unless you have a PayPal subscription. Individual online-only dues are \$10; family groups and clubs are \$15. Life membership costs \$200. Add \$5/year for paper newsletters. For more information about memberships, please see <https://www.pnna.org/wp/join/>.

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## PNNA Officers 2024-2026

**President**—Rick Schulz

**Vice President**—Kevin Charboneau

**Secretary**—Danny Bisgaard

**Treasurer**—Scott Loos

**Directors**—James Bard, Brian Deren, Ray Fiorini, Mark Gruner, Tony Kalt, Lisa Loos, Gawain O'Connor, James Reinders, Dan Vornbrock, Ed Fischer (past president)

### Appointed Positions

**Dealer Director**—Dennis Reed

**YN Director**—Braxton Moller

**Editor/Webmaster**—Eric Holcomb

*Deadline for submission of material for 1st Quarter 2025 Nor'wester: December 15, 2024.*

### Inquiries

Email inquiries to [info@pnna.org](mailto:info@pnna.org).

### Advertising

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### Privacy Policy

The new PNNA Privacy and Data Usage Policy, adopted by the board in July 2018, is available online at <http://pnna.org/info/privacy.html>.



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 19th Annual Fall Coin Show!

This year's public show hours are:

Fri. October 4 noon until 7:00 p.m.  
 Sat. October 5 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.  
 Sun. October 6 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

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

I went to the ANA World's Fair of Money® this August. Now I really have something to aspire to when it comes to getting ready for a show.

The PNNA Annual Fall Coin Show is almost upon us. We will be setting up at the Tukwila Community Center. The floor is sold out. 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. I have been looking at ancients and I was surprised by the selection.

These are exciting times. The shows in the area that I have attended have been very successful, based on the comments of the vendors. The electricity on the bourse floors is exciting. I hope we have that kind of excitement in October.

We will be sponsoring the Boy Scout Merit Badge clinic again and all scouts, in uniform, and their parents will have free access to the bourse floor. There will be competitive exhibits. You can come and go as you please.

The Saturday and Sunday treasure hunt is happening for the youth. Get your trivia question sheet at the registration area. Lots of coins for everyone and a great adventure searching for the answers to the numismatic-related questions. (The treasure hunt may end by about 1 p.m. or 2 p.m. at the latest on Sunday—please register early!)

If you would like to volunteer to help at the front desk, or have questions or would like more information, please email [kcharboneau58@comcast.net](mailto:kcharboneau58@comcast.net). It has been announced that I need help with the chairperson functions. I have not heard from anyone as of yet. I will not be physically available at the

show for about half of the show. Let me know if you can help out. You just need to be the person who is available to help with all the little things that come up during the show. I have all the prep done. 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 may be some educational and club items available.
- The YN (youth/family) program and treasure hunt will be conducted by Tony Kalt. 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, [coins2024@collect3.com](mailto:coins2024@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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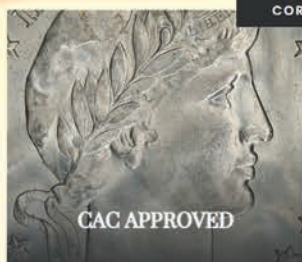


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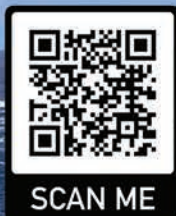
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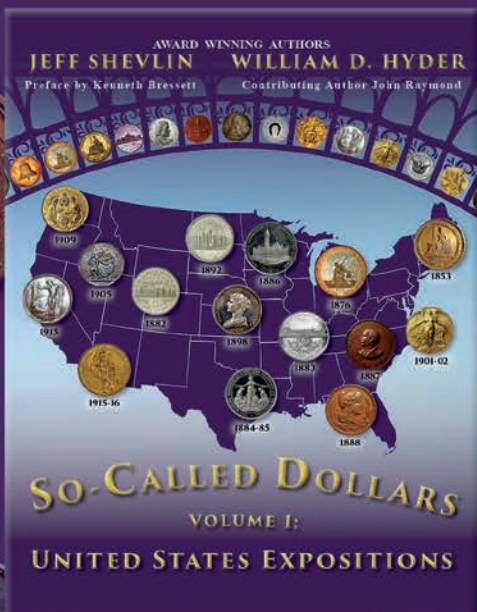


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## Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition

by *Phil Iversen*



*Official emblem of the exposition shows allegorical figures of the named regions sharing their wealth.*

When William Seward, secretary of state under President Andrew Johnson, proposed in 1867 to buy from Russia the expansive Alaskan Territory, did anybody ever think of the potential for this scenic wonderland, much less a national exposition including its name many years later?

It all began in 1905 when Governor Brady of Alaska had authorized Godfrey Chelander, then secretary of the Arctic Brotherhood in Seattle, to collect an exhibit and forward it to the Lewis and Clark Exposition being held in Portland, Oregon that same year. It soon became apparent that there was insufficient time to prepare an adequate display so Mr. Chelander suggested that an Alaskan Fair be held during 1907 in Seattle (which was named after the local popular Indian Chief Sealth).

The businessmen and local newspaper in Seattle supported this great idea and in early 1906 at the old Hotel Washington a group of 50 civic leaders and bankers passed a resolution with the scope of the fair to promote the natural resources of Alaska and those in the great Pacific Northwest region. The articles of incorporation for the Alaskan-Yukon Exposition were filed on May 6, 1906, with an authorized capital stock of \$500,000, but later amended

to \$800,000 and to also incorporate the word "Pacific" in the title as the project had now gained such a grand scope.

Since the Jamestown Tercentennial was scheduled for 1907 in Norfolk, Virginia and 1908 being a presidential election year, it seemed that 1909 was suitable enough time for all of the necessary required planning and erection of the buildings on the site.

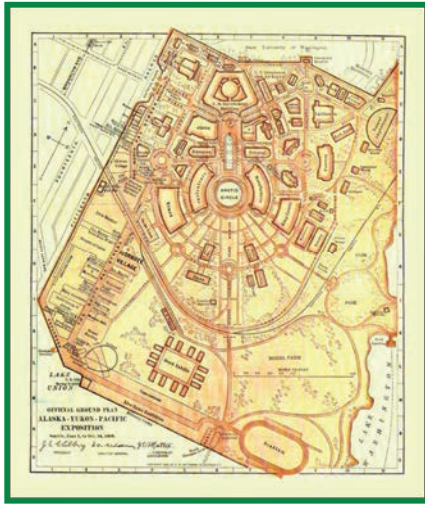
The site that was selected by Edmond S. Meany, a professor at the University of the State of Washington, was 250 acres on a gently wooded slope at the southern end of the University campus with Lake Washington to the east, Lake Union on the south and just a short distance north from the downtown business district. The University at the time had only a handful of buildings so the State Legislature authorized \$1,000,000 for the exposition of which \$600,000 was to be used for seven new permanent buildings that would revert back to the State University after the exposition was over.

After the ground-breaking ceremonies were held on June 1, 1907, with 25,000 people in attendance, work then commenced on the various buildings under the supervision of the Olmstead Brothers firm in Brookline, Massachusetts. Roads were built, flowers planted, fresh-water lines installed and all the electricity was put underground so as not to interfere with the scenic beauty of the exposition grounds.



**AYPE President J.E. Chilberg** holding a shovel at the ground-breaking ceremony, with **Washington State Commissioner Henry McLean** and **Alaska Governor Wilford B. Hoggatt**, on June 1, 1907.

## Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition (continued)



*Map of the final exposition layout.*



*This "authorized birds eye view" was printed as both a postcard and a poster. Compare it to the actual photograph below.*



*This aerial image was captured from a tethered balloon 1,500 feet above the crowds.*

Finally, the big day arrived and on June 1, 1909, at 12 noon, Seattle time, President William Howard Taft pushed on a telegraph key in Washington D.C. that sent a signal for the exposition to open. A band played music as the first of over 91,000 people started coming through the entrance that day paying admission of \$.50 for adults and \$.25 for children. The hours of the exposition were from 8 a.m. (1 p.m. on Sundays) until midnight as there were many decorative bright lights and people stayed to see the fireworks display after dark in the evening several times a week.

The United States Government appropriated \$600,000 and was the largest building at the head of Cascade Court. Outside the main entrance was a series of small waterfalls that carried water southward down along Rainer Vista emptying into the 100 foot wide Geyser Basin, and from here visitors could see majestic Mt. Rainer towering over 14,000 feet high just 80 miles away in the distance.

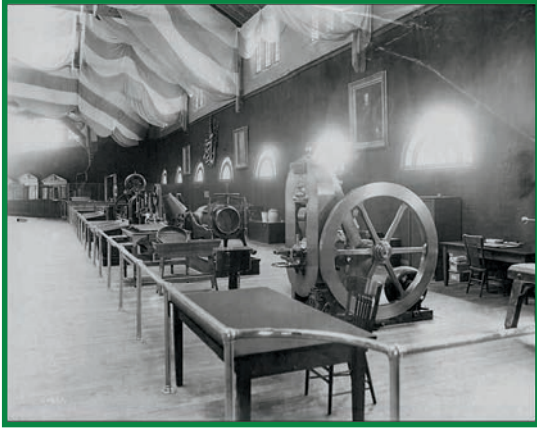
On the main floor of the Government building the Post Office Department housed in wall mounted display cases a complete collection of postage stamps, postal cards, plus there was a model post office used for receiving and distributing mail on the exposition fairgrounds. The office of the Treasurer of the United States had a display in gilt frames showing National Banknotes, bonds and other financial securities plus an old cutting knife and punching machine used from 1863 to 1899.

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing exhibit had a printing press in full operation with workmen showing how items were made from steel plates. There were also exhibits of bonds, notes and they showed the process of how they were made from the blank paper to the finished product. The exhibit at the Bureau of the Mint comprised of machines used in the coining of money.

One of the largest presses in operation, and a person from the Philadelphia Mint, showed the minting operation of a variety of medals (So-Called Dollars) which were made and distributed. For the first time ever at an U.S. exposition, there was an assay office where deposits of gold were actually melted and assayed in the presence of visitors.

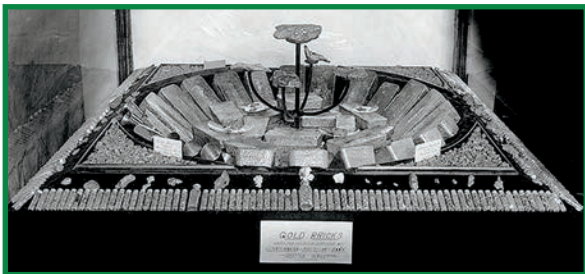


## Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition (continued)



*The U.S. Mint had an exhibit in the U.S. Government Building showing various production processes relating to the manufacture of our coinage.*

The Alaska Building located just to the southwest of the Government building showcased the many natural resources such as fishing, lumber and fur trade long before its oil and gas deposits were discovered. However, the most spectacular site on display was the pile of ore, nuggets and 70 gold bricks with a value at that time of \$1,250,000. It was housed in a 6' square glass enclosure protected by a steel cage and at night it was lowered into a specially built concrete and steel vault with walls 8 inches thick with an alarm system. There were always several guards on duty both during the day and night for safety precautions, but luckily never pressed into service.



*An exhibit of gold bricks was displayed by the Scandinavian American Bank.*

To the southeast of the Government building was the Hawaii Building filled with exhibits of tropical fish, native flowers, fruits, and the sale of fresh

pineapple and coffee to visitors. There were large photos of the hot molten lava at the volcanic crater at Kilauea plus others showing the island paradise, surf boarding, and outrigger canoeing. Visitors came back many times to listen to the enchanting music, especially the song "Aloha Oe."

Canada, China and Japan had the only foreign buildings and Japan even sent two navel training ships, the *Aso* and the *Soya*, to visit during the exposition.



*Our Sino neighbors were well represented by the Nikko Cafe, the "Streets of Tokio", and other popular attractions.*



There was the Washington State building along with 19 other state or county buildings erected and many displays from over 26 other foreign countries as well. Possibly the most impressive structure was the Forestry Building that was 122' wide and 304' long made from massive tree trunks weighing up to 20 tons each and 5' in diameter. Inside was a pair of dice each 5' square and a single piece of timber 18" square and 143' long that were both part of the exhibits.

The amusement section on the western side of the exposition along "Pay Streak" had attractions such as the Eskimo Village, Oriental Streets of Cairo, House Upside Down, *Monitor* and *Merrimac*, and a large Ferris wheel. In addition there was a large pavilion on the shore of Lake Washington where spectators could watch daily life saving demonstrations and where various sports events were held.

## Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition (continued)



*Pay Streak souvenir.*



*The Eskimo Village was an exotic destination for many exposition attendees.*



*This "Alaska Theatre of Sensations" display includes a row of replica gold dollars at the top. The Theatre was one of the "Pay Streak" attractions.*

Like many other expositions various organizations had their convention in Seattle on conjunction with the exposition and there were specially designated days during the entire time. One of the most notable days was on September 30th when newly elected President Taft visited and participated in various social functions at the exposition.

Like all good things the exposition came to an end all too soon on October 16th, exceeding the expectations anticipated by J. E. Chilberg, President, I.A. Nadeau, Director General, other officers and the more than 3.7 million people who attended.

On the final night there was a spectacular grand finale fireworks display, the band played "Gloria Washington" (the official song) for the very last time, then the lights were eventually turned off after the last people left taking with them many fond memories and a plethora of hundreds of many different kinds of souvenirs sought after and still collected today as we remember the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, 115 years ago.



*AYPE Postcard.*

*This article originally appeared in The California Numismatist (editor Greg Burns), Summer 2009. Thank you to Phil Iversen and Greg Burns for the images and permission to republish. The original title included "Centennial" since 2009 was the 100th anniversary of the Exposition.*

*Photos/images are as used in the original article, except the AYPE emblem/logo is a somewhat different version, scanned by the Seattle Public Library and now in the public domain.*

*See [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alaska-Yukon-Pacific\\_Exposition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alaska-Yukon-Pacific_Exposition).*

*Front cover: So-Called Dollars SH 16-1 and 16-3 GP (gold plated). To learn more, the Shevlin-Hyder book advertised on p. 6 is recommended.*

## PNNA President's Message



by PNNA President Rick Schulz

Hello once again everyone. This issue of *The Nor'wester* highlights the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual PNNA Fall Coin Show, which runs October 4-6, 2024. For those of you who have a chance to read this before the start of the show, I hope you can join us. This show is one of the largest in the Pacific Northwest, drawing 85 to 100 dealers from across the country and the Northwest. For those of you who've picked up this copy at the show, welcome! Our goal here at the PNNA is to support local clubs and collectors and to spread the joy we get from our hobby to the public. This fall show is one of the events we sponsor to do just that. We put on another show and convention in the spring, April 11-13, 2025. Mark your calendar.

There is a lot going on at the show. Across the hall from the show's entrance is a room devoted to collector exhibits. This is a great way for collectors to share their knowledge and take pride in their collection. I encourage everyone to examine all the exhibits. You might just learn something new. And don't forget to vote for your favorite exhibit. Also, I'd encourage anyone to put together their own exhibit for display at future shows. Competitive exhibits are judged and awards are given by category. For information on exhibiting click on the "Exhibits" drop down menu on [pnna.org](http://pnna.org).

ANACS, a grading service, will be at the show taking submissions for grading and slabbing. There will not be a grader on site. ANACS offers special show pricing (see back cover). If you have coins you'd like authenticated and graded, check them out.

Kids are always welcome at our shows. On Saturday and Sunday they can participate in a treasure hunt on the bourse floor. As families move up and down the aisles of dealers, sharp-eyed kids look for special stickers identifying one of ten treasure hunt stops where they can claim the treasure, something to add to their collection.

Scouts have their own program. We offer a BSA coin collecting merit badge workshop on Saturday where scouts can satisfy requirements for their badge. For more information about our workshops go to "Scouting" on the [pnna.org](http://pnna.org) YNs drop down menu.

The PNNA has a penny press for making elongated coins. A new design is created for every PNNA show. These squished pennies make great show souvenirs that include the date and location of the show. If you are a collector of elongated coins, talk to us about other collecting opportunities.

PNNA shows are always a lot of fun. They are opportunities to find new items for your collection, meet people who share your interests and reconnect with friends. If you are not currently a collector, don't be shy. There is history at every table, and folks on both sides of the tables willing to explain the significance behind most every piece. In fact, if you are a collector and plan to attend the show, bring a friend or relative along. The coin collecting mojo in the room can be catching.

Have a great time at the show and, if you happen to see me (I'll be there all three days), please say hi, I'd love to meet you. And, as always, happy collecting

*There will also be a PNNA board meeting at the fall coin show after the bourse closes on Saturday, October 5.*

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1916 Cent  
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1922 No D Cent  
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MS64 Red and Brown PCGS. CAC



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## PNNA Spring Convention Report

*Thanks to the host South Hill Coin Club and to Ray Fiorini for supplying some of the photos.*



The **73rd Annual PNNA Convention and Spring Coin Show** was held April 12-14, 2024, at the Tukwila Community Center in Tukwila, Washington, and was a huge success! Convention Chairman Kevin Charboneau (photo above) reported a three-day public attendance of over 1,000, and many dealers with tables at the show reported excellent business.



**ANACS** was once again present at the show to accept grading submissions. **Bill Coburn**, shown here (at left) receiving a PNNA presidential award from **Ed Fischer**, was the ANACS rep.

In other spring convention activity, **James Reinders** reported that the **BSA coin collecting merit badge workshop** held on Saturday was highly successful, with 36 scouts participating. The youth "treasure hunt" was held in a simplified format, with local volunteer **Tony Kalt** filling in

for **ANA Past President Walt Ostromecki**. There were three judged **collector exhibits** and four noncompetitive exhibits, for show visitors to view from Friday afternoon through Sunday. All of the exhibits were interesting and educational!

Congratulations to **Bob Everett Memorial Award** winner **Gawain O'Connor**, announced at the Saturday evening general membership meeting. Gawain has served the PNNA in various capacities, including as board member and numismatic theater chairman. All awards information has been updated on the PNNA website.



Also at the Saturday membership meeting, **Rick Schulz** (left in photo) was installed as the new **PNNA president**, and received a ceremonial gavel from outgoing president **Ed Fischer**. Thanks, Ed, for your service!

Thanks to all who attended the convention/coin show, to all the dealers, and to all who helped including especially the **South Hill Coin Club** volunteers.

See the **blog post** at <https://www.pnna.org/wp/2024/04/2024-pnna-convention-report/> for more photos and links.

The **PNNA 19th Annual Fall Coin Show** in Tukwila is scheduled for **October 4-6, 2024**.

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## ANA Summer Seminar Reports

### ANA Summer Seminar Experience

by Dylan Wexler



I want to start off by saying that I had a wonderful time at the 2024 Summer Seminar. Before I talk in depth about my outstanding experience, I want to recommend the ANA Summer Seminar to numismatists of all ages and levels of expertise. The seminar offers an unparalleled

opportunity to gain knowledge on a diverse array of numismatic subjects. I am a Young Numismatist, so I was able to stay in the YN-only dorm this year. It was great to hang out and talk coins with many other kids who share the same passion as me.

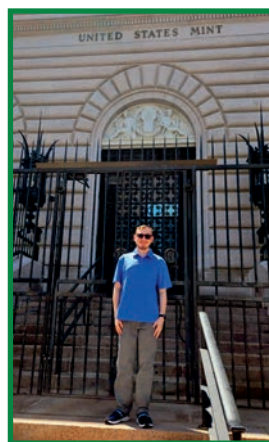
This was my first experience, and I was lucky enough to attend both sessions. I started off with “Grading United States Coins, Part 1” with instructors Don Bonser, Jim Stoutjesdyk, Wade Spencer, and Kyle Eppley. I thought I knew a lot about grading coins until I took this class. I learned so much information that will definitely benefit me when I grade coins in the future. I had the opportunity to hold and grade several American rarities such as the 1895 Proof Morgan Dollar and Double Eagles. They taught us the importance of a good grading setup and having the right tools for maximum accuracy. Part of the YN experience is working on the YN Benefit Auction each session. I was glad to see it raise over \$15,000 for more scholarships to Yns and adults to come back next year.

In between the two sessions, I attended the Denver Mint Tour and the Colorado Springs Coin Show. It was amazing to see the history behind the coins we handle every day that are produced at this mint. In addition, I saw many of my old friends at the Colo-

rado Springs Coin Show and was able to purchase nice numismatic items for my collection.

During the second session, I took “Grading United States Coins, Part 2” with the knowledgeable Tom Hallenbeck and Jerry Bobbe (commonly known as Tom and Jerry). This class took me into the depths of grading that weren’t discussed during Part 1. We graded all types of U.S. coins as a team and individually to score ourselves. With each day, I was able to see positive progress in my grading skills.

I learned more about “Exonumia” from Ray King during session two. This bull session was exceptionally enlightening, broadening my understanding of tokens and medals. The second YN Auction outperformed the first to raise over \$20,000 for additional scholarships, a testament to the generosity of the participants. I would recommend that anyone attending Summer Seminar visits the ANA Money Museum on campus to see many significant pieces of American numismatic history.



*Photos: Dylan at the United States Mint in Denver (left); The Americana Gallery at the ANA Money Museum, during ANA National Money Show® in March (below).*





## ANA Summer Seminar Reports (continued)

### My First Summer Seminar

by *Mat Garriott*

Each year the ANA puts on the Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs, which is an opportunity to learn from respected experts, make new friends who have a shared interest in numismatics, and gain exposure to parts of numismatic collecting you may have never given attention to.

Thanks to a scholarship awarded from the PNNA, I attended the second week of this year's Summer Seminar, which ran from June 23-26. During the day I was in the "Grading United States Coins, Part 1" course and got to learn from two phenomenal PCGS graders. In the evening, I took a course called "Let's Get Weird," which discussed error coins and Conder Tokens.

During the grading course, the instructors emphasized the process of using a single point of light for viewing the coin being graded. By rotating the coin under a single point of light, the original mint luster, wear or problem areas could be best seen. This process is used by professional graders. The second concept the instructors wanted the class to know and practice while grading, was the thought process of asking yourself four key questions:

"Is this coin a business strike or proof?"

"Is this coin a 'problem' coin?"

"Is this coin circulated or uncirculated?"

"If this coin is circulated, then how much wear does it show?" or "If the coin is uncirculated, then consider the 'magic' of the coin."

The 'magic' includes strike quality, planchet defects and eye appeal. Eye appeal is always going to be subjective, but there are certain qualities that are favorable in the market. A consistent rainbow toning will bring a higher resale value generally than a darkly toned coin.

Other factors in the 'magic' are, if a series or year and mintmark combination are known to be weakly struck, then a coin will not be as harshly graded as a series that is commonly known to have strong

strikes. The impression I got from the instructors about the 'magic' was that it is something learned over time from experience and fellow graders. The asking and answering the four questions is how a coin receives the grade printed on the slab's label.

For the actual grading practice during the course, the instructors gave us one minute to look at each coin, write down how we thought the coin would grade and pass that coin on and begin to work on the next one. We worked on a group of 20 coins before the class listened to the instructors explain what the grade of the coin was and why it was given that specific grade. By the end of the course, I had graded at least 250 coins, ranging from half cents up to a gold \$50 slug.

The large surface area of the Morgan dollars made looking for mint luster easier than it was on Mercury dimes, but the Morgans also had so many other potential issues that needed to be considered, such as, "Was this coin a weak strike or is it common wear?" Another question we had to ask when grading a coin was, "Are those lines from the coin being cleaned or are those lines from the planchet before the coin was minted?" Looking at my grading from the first round of 20 to the last, I could see considerable improvement.

For my last 20 coins, I got nine exactly right, nine within one point of the grade, and two completely wrong. I was happy with my improvement, but what I felt was more important was the new way I looked at coins and the questions I asked myself while grading.

A great part of the seminar was the shared enthusiasm for numismatics. Nearly everyone I spoke with had a vastly different interest in what they collected than I did, but we could all share in our knowledge.

I met and spoke with Joe Boling, an expert in Military Payment Certificates and co-author of *World War II Remembered, History in Your Hands*. During our conversation I showed him pictures of a short snorter, and he could tell me where each note came from, when it was used and other interesting facts.

## ANA Summer Seminar Reports (continued)

Another interesting collector I met was Ryan and his approach to completing a type set. He has a plastic Capital brand type set holder that he wants to hang on his wall when the set is complete. But what made his collection unique was that he wants coins with a beautiful obverse and a bad reverse. Since he would only be looking at the obverse of the coins, he could spend less money and get better quality coins since he did not care about the reverse!

The hands-on practice with instructors who gave good feedback and examples to questions made for the perfect learning environment for me. And when you combine that with meeting new individuals from all parts of the country who share my interest in numismatics, it is not a matter of whether I will be returning to the ANA Summer Seminar, it is a question of what classes I will be taking next.



*One of the original galvanos used to make Eisenhower Dollars.  
Author's photo from Summer Seminar 2024.  
This is part of "The Medal in America" display at the ANA Money Museum.*



*1899 United States hand-signed \$5 Silver Certificates on display inside The Americana Gallery at the ANA Money Museum.  
Author's photo from Summer Seminar 2024.*



*Entrance to the ANA Headquarters building, which contains the ANA Money Museum, library and gift shop, vault, mini-mint, offices, etc.*

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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 and Nystrom awards again. Please consider nominating someone for 2025.*

### 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 16-19 and June 23-26, 2024.*

*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 2025.*

## 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. 4-6 in Tukwila, Wash. (PNNA) and Nov. 9-10 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 2025 National Coin Week, the 102nd annual, will be announced this fall.*

## What Happened to the Three Gold Centennial Commems?

by *Mark Benvenuto*

The United States Mint has without a doubt produced some amazing coins in the past few decades, and has come up with some neat ideas for commemorating one event or another. In 2009 for example, the Mint produced an ultra-high relief \$20 gold piece, supposedly as close to what designer Augustus St. Gaudens envisioned as possible. It is a stand alone piece, but doesn't suffer for that – it's undoubtedly beautiful. More recently, the Mint came out with three gold commems, all honoring the centennial of the unveiling of three now-classic circulating coin designs, the Winged Liberty dime, the Standing Liberty quarter, and the Walking Liberty half dollar. What has happened to them, now that the dust is long settled, and the hubbub surrounding their release has abated?



### 2016-W Winged Liberty dime

Back in 2016 the three gold centennial pieces were released one at a time. The first of the trio to see the light of day was the gold Winged Liberty or Mercury dime, the design work of Mr. Adolph A. Weinman. The little gem comes in at 0.1 troy ounces of gold, is a 24-carat item, advertised as 0.9999 fine, and was available on the 21st of April 2016 – for a few minutes. It might be fair to consider the moments a person could buy one on the Mint's website as a feeding frenzy. Even today, sources indicate that the 124,885 which were sold all disappeared within a few minutes.

With the passing of eight years, the price of gold metal has gone shooting up. This does not automatically equate to some price rise for these little gold pieces, or for the two larger ones we'll look at, but it does give us a baseline. If gold is trading at \$2,300 per ounce today, each of these golden Mercury dimes has \$230 worth of the precious metal. Of late, it seems that one of them will run about \$350. That's not all that much above the baseline price. The trick might be finding one that someone wants to sell.



### 2016-W Standing Liberty quarter

The gold version of Mr. Hermon MacNeil's famous quarter design was released later in 2016, on the 18th of September. Back at the time it came out it cost an interested collector \$485 to get his or her hands on one. Folks didn't go quite as crazy for this second offering in what would become a centennial trio, with only 91,752 of them being sold. They too are 0.9999 fine, and each contains 0.25 ounces of gold. The total coined make this a fairly rare modern offering from the United States Mint – although we can claim that several more modern \$5 gold commemoratives saw far leaner numbers.

Repeating the same math we just did for the smallest of these three, with  $\frac{1}{4}$ th of an ounce of gold, \$575 ought to be the lowest we'll see anyone ever offer this for, and that's if they are just thinking of the gold value. The price lists generally peg this at about \$900, which once again is not really all that much higher than the gold value (a bit more than 150%, really).

## What Happened to the Three Gold Centennial Commems?



### 2016-W Walking Liberty half

The biggest of this trio was released the latest in the year, and is by far the least common, with only 65,509 on the official lists in the reference books. A third time this is a 0.9999 purity issue, this time weighing in at ½ ounce of gold. It came out on 17 November, 2016, and cost eager buyers, be they collectors or speculators, \$865 per coin – and there was a limit as to how many one person could buy.

What does this big sibling in the family of gold centennial pieces cost today? Well, it seems that \$1,300 is the general asking price. A third time, when gold is \$2,300 per ounce, this is really not all that bad, since ½ ounce will run \$1,150.

What do we get – for SP-70?

In taking this look and making these comparisons, it's fair to ask just what we are getting for our money – or, for the lucky on the days of sale, what they got then. It seems that the prices we have just listed are not all that much more than the price of the gold metal needed to make these three glittering gems. Going not to the standard price lists, but to the folks who are selling on eBay, we find that the prices for what are called SP-70 pieces are pretty much in line with what we have seen. That's not too bad for those of us who wish to buy.

That being said, let's add in the idea of this unusual grade, the SP-70. The Mint did not advertise any of these three commems as proofs, and yet they are indeed special, and one that grades to technical perfection still gets the number 70.

This definitely sounds wonderful; but we need to keep in mind that all of them were made to such a high standard that it will probably be much harder to find one graded something like SP-65 than it is that SP-70. We might as well use the SP-70 as some kind of minimum or expected grade when it comes to any example we might buy.

Thus, when we ask just what happened to these three special issues, it appears that they have kept their value, yet not really rocketed up to anything spectacular. Folks who own any of them will not lose if they opt to sell. And it also appears that the Mint proved it can do a very good job of making a gold commemorative that is just, plain perfect.

Credit: U.S. Mint images.

See “2016 Centennial Gold Coin Program:”

<https://www.usmint.gov/learn/coin-and-medal-programs/centennial-gold-coins>

Many thanks to Mark for continuing to write interesting articles for various numismatic publications including *The Nor'wester*.



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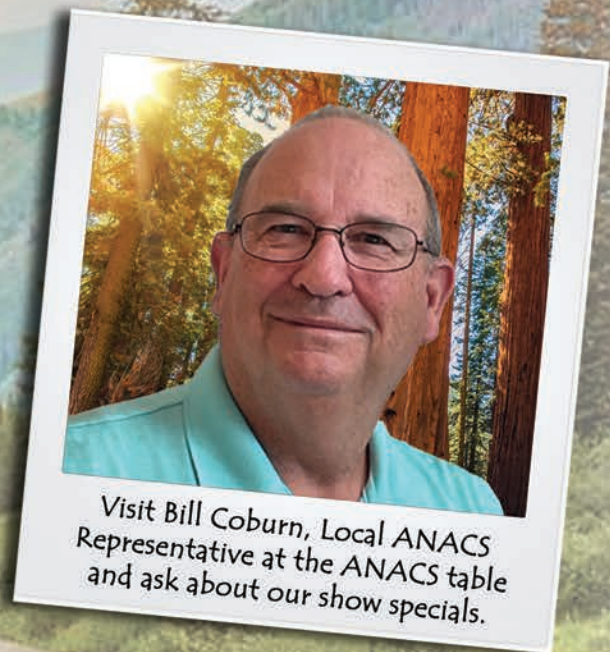
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