

The SJ CSRA CC of Aiken, SC meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at the Aiken Public Library

CSRA Coin Club of Aiken  
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Volume 18, No. 1

the Stephen James CSRA Coin Club, Founded in 2001  
Monthly Newsletter

January, 2019

**Our first meeting of the new year is on Jan. 3 at the Aiken Public Library**

## An Unusual coin type Find can Heighten one's collecting interest

### 2019 Club Meeting Schedule

Jan. 3	Apr. 4	July 11	Oct. 3
Feb. 7	May 2	Aug. 1	Nov. 7
Mar. 7	June 6	Sept. 5	Dec. 5

### Cundinamarca Coinage of Colombia



#### An 1813 silver *Real* from Cundinamarca, Colombia

This dime sized coin shows a primitive aborigine chief with crown on the obverse with a pomegranate on the reverse.  
[Magnify page to 200% to view details of coin more clearly.]

One of the most exciting aspects of coin collecting is coming across a numismatic item that arouses one's curiosity. During the 1990s the author used to attend a number of regional shows held in a convention center located near Cherry Hill, NJ. They were sponsored either by the GSNA (*Garden State Numismatic Association*) or GENA, (*Greater Eastern Numismatic Association*) which attracted dealers and collectors from Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York. It was at one of these big shows that the author came across a curious Latin American silver *Real* which had a totally different design from the standard portrait silver coinage featuring the Spanish monarchs then in power. The writer became attracted to Latin American coinage around 1992 when he discovered after acquiring a 1798 Draped Bust Heraldic dollar graded VF-30 for \$650 a Latin American *peso* with the same date and grade was priced at only \$40. It displayed a portrait of King Charles III of Spain on the obverse and a royal crown, coat of arms and twin pillar design on the reverse. The odd looking coin he came across at the regional show had none of these characteristics yet it was struck in Colombia, which was still technically a part of the Dominions of Spain. After doing research on his new find, he discovered that the coin was struck in Cundinamarca, the hub of Bogotá, Colombia's capital and consisted of five denominations, the most common being the dollar sized 8 *reales*, the less common 1 *Real* and the seldom seen quarter size 2 *Reales*, a distant third. He eventually acquired all three.

### Collecting the Affordable US Coins of 1829

By Arno Safran



#### The obverses of the collectable portion of an 1829 year set The silver half-dollar, dime and half-dime over the copper large cent and half-cent

[Magnify page to 200% to view details of coin more clearly.]



Andrew Jackson

In the recent article that appeared two months ago in the Nov. 2018 issue of the newsletter on *the US Coins of 1828*, there were also five US denominations shown (*excluding the gold pieces*) but they weren't exactly the same. During this era, silver was hard to come by and more often than not, specific denominations were omitted in favor of the Latin American silver coins of similar value, which circulated freely in the United States. In 1829, no quarters were produced but after a suspension of 24 years, the striking of the silver half-dime was resumed with John Reich's Capped Bust obverse and spread-eagle reverse design slightly refined by the then current chief engraver, William Kneass.

After losing the election of 1824 to John Quincy Adams in a cabal with Henry Clay trading his electoral votes to Adams for the Secretary of State job, Andrew Jackson won a solid victory in 1828 and on his inauguration held March 4, 1829 uttered the now famous cry, "To the victor go the spoils."

## The Collectible Affordable US Coins of 1829

(Continued from the previous page)



**The reverses of the collectable portion of an 1829 year set**  
**The silver half-dollar, dime and half-dime over**  
**the copper large cent and half-cent**  
 [Magnify page to 200% to view details of coin more clearly.]

The mintages for the 1829 coins shown above were all fairly common, so a collector on a middle class discretionary income desirous of completing circulated examples of the five should have little trouble finding specimens between the grades of Fine-12 and VF-20. at modest prices. For those who yearn for coins with greater eye appeal, the grade of VF-30 to XF-45 will cost somewhat more but not nearly as much as those grading AU-50 and uncirculated.



**An 1829 Classic Head half-cent graded XF-45**  
 [Magnify page to 200% to view details of coin more clearly.]

The reported mintage for the 23.5 mm diameter 1829 Classic Head half-cent was 487,000 with only one known die variety. It is considered a common date that was less used at the time which resulted in no 1830 dated half cents being minted. The specimen shown is an early die variety. An XF-45 example is still very reasonably priced. The coin was acquired at a local coin club meeting back in 1988 when it was not uncommon to see a few dealers set up around the meeting room.



**An 1829 Matron Head large cent, N-8, R1 graded XF-45**  
 [Magnify page to 200% to view details of coin more clearly.]

The reported mintage for the 1829 Coronet large cent

was 1,414, 500. There are nine known varieties for the date. Of these, six come with the more common larger letters in the legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA on the reverse and three with slightly smaller letters which are much scarcer and more costly. At that time the cent was 28-29 mm in diameter The coin shown was acquired away back in 1991 at the Metropolitan Coin Show held in New York which was only 65 miles from the author's home near the Jersey shore.



**An 1829 Capped Bust half-dime, LM-13, R1 graded AU-58 by NGC**  
 [Magnify page to 500% to view details of coin more clearly.]

After a hiatus of 24 years, the silver five-cent the half-dime was resumed. Robert Scot's previous Draped Bust type struck from 1796 thru 1805 was thinner with a diameter of 16.5 mm. Chief engraver, William Kneass used John Reich's Capped Bust design from the dime making slight changes such as reducing the diameter to 15.5 mm while thickening the planchet to compensate. The reported mintage for the 1829 issue was 1,230,000 and it is considered a common date. The first three varieties came with three gules, *the vertical lines on the shield under the horizontal lines*, but these did not strike up well and from variety four on, there are just two vertical gules on the shield. There are eighteen die varieties for the 1829 issue and the LM 13 shown is considered one of the common ones and modestly priced thru AU-58, the grade of the coin shown above.

The short series was coined from 1829 thru the first part of 1837 inclusive with most dates over a million struck each year. Only the 1832 with 965,000 and the first part of 1837 with 857,000 struck fall below those figures. Later in 1837, a the Liberty Seated *no stars* design replaced the Bust type.



**An 1829 Capped Bust dime, JR-12, R3 certified XF-45**  
 [Magnify page to 500% to view details of coin more clearly.]

The reported mintage for the 1829 Capped Bust *disme* was only 770,000 but with the exception of one particular die variety, is considered a common date and affordable in most circulated grades. The type, originally designed by Asst. Chief Engraver John Reich, was first released in 1809. Later in 1828, a closed collar device was attached to the striking press that was intended to allow each coin of a specific denomination to retain the same diameter. The 1829 dime issue was the first year US dimes would have the identical width which had been reduced from 18.8 mm to 18.5 mm, so slight as to hardly be noticeable. Three different pinches were used regarding the 2 in the date, the curved neck, the straight neck 2 and the extremely scarce curled base 2, a variety discovered around forty years ago which is like the 2 shown above on the 1829 half-dime. The 1829 dime shown is reasonably priced thru XF-45.

(Continued on page 3, column 1)



## The Collectible Affordable US Coins of 1829

(Continued from the previous page)



**An 1829 Capped Bust half-dollar, O-104a, R3 graded XF-45 by NGC**  
[Magnify page to 200% to view details of coin more clearly.]

The 1829 lettered edge Capped Bust half-dollar had a reported mintage of 3,712,156 pieces and is considered a common date. The coin type was 32.5 mm in diameter.

After the silver dollar had been suspended in 1804, the half-dollar became the highest silver denomination intended for circulation with the result that banks and investors began to put away large amounts of the denomination as specie, (i.e. hard-money) with which to back their investments such as loans and land purchases. During the period between 1807 and 1836, the lettered edge capped Bust half-dollar was struck in the multi-millions every year except 1807, the first year of issue, also in 1815, the key date with only 47,150 struck and in 1820 when 750,122 coins were made. Every other date in the series was struck from slightly over one million starting in 1808 all the way up to over six million in 1836, the final year of the series.

Since a half-dollar had the purchasing power of \$13.60 during this period, most Americans seldom needed one as prices for basic goods were well below what they are today and the smaller change in circulation was sufficient. As a result, the contemporary collector can acquire most dates of the Lettered edge Capped Bust half-dollar series at modest prices.



**An 1829/7 Capped Bust half-dollar, O-101a R1 graded AU-50**  
[Magnify page to 200% to view details of coin more clearly.]

During the life span of the series there were many over dates struck and the 1829/7 is one such example. That said, this overdate is not as recognizable as the 1818/7 or the 1819/8 are, so it requires a certain amount of magnification to see it on the 1829/7 issue. The over-date coin was acquired back in November, 2005 at the Augusta Coin Club show. It is not scarce but less common than the normal date issue for that year.



## The Uncollectible US Coins of 1829



**An 1829 Classic Head reduced diameter \$2.50 quarter eagle, BD-1, R4 certified MS-63 by PCGS**  
**The example realized \$41,125 at a Heritage Auction**  
[Magnify page to 200% to view details of coin more clearly.]

Only two gold denominations were coined in 1829, the \$2.50 quarter eagle and \$5.00 Half eagle, the \$10.00 eagle having been suspended after 1804. In 1829, the \$2.50 quarter-eagle was reduced in diameter from 20 mm to 18.2 mm. The dates, letters and stars were also reduced in relation to the smaller diameter while the Bust of Liberty on the obverse was changed slightly. The reported mintage for this date was just 3,403, the lowest of the run (1829-34) but is the most common of the short series because most were saved. Despite those facts, the coin is relatively expensive in all grades starting with a retail value of \$10,500 in XF-40 according to PCGS' *COINFACTS*. The exquisite example of the coin shown above was graded MS-63 by PCGS and sold for \$41,125 in June, 2013, presumably at the Long Beach, California convention.



**A "Gem" 1829 large size \$5.00 half-eagle graded MS-66+ by PCGS**  
**The coin realized \$763,750 at the Brent Pogue sale held by Stacks, Bowers and Sotheby's in May, 2016**  
[Magnify page to 200% to view details of coin more clearly.]

There were two sub-types struck in 1829 for the \$5.00 gold half-eagle, the large size and reduced size. The reported mintage for the large size is listed at 25,375 but only five business strikes are known, four of which are uncirculated and one, a worn down to VG jewelry piece along with two proofs. The date is actually rarer than the 1804 dollar of which 15 pieces are known. There is zero likelihood that anyone who is not a billionaire is likely to afford one and even members of that fraternity will have to wait until another specimen surfaces.



**An 1829 reduced size \$5.00 gold half-eagle graded MA-61 by PCGS**  
**The coin realized \$431,235 at the Heritage Auction held at the FUN Show January, 2012**  
[Magnify page to 200% to view details of coin more clearly.]

Despite a reported mintage of 32,576 for the 1829 smaller-size \$5.00 Half-eagle, only 10 to 12 are known to exist. Chief Mint engraver, William Kneass revised the sub-type by narrowing the Bust and reducing the date, stars and lettering. All of the 1829 coins shown are beautiful but extremely rare.

# A HISTORIC NIGHT!

© Stephen Kuhl, December 23, 2018

Silver Round Winners:

- Arno Safran*
- Brent Usry*
- Chuck Goergen*
- Crissy Kuhl*
- Jerry Lipsky*
- JJ Engel*
- John Kolmar*
- Kathleen Wallis*
- Linda Amey*
- Linda Kolmar*
- Liz Goergen*
- Marion Engel*
- Peggy Bailey*
- Steve Kuhl*
- Typhany Nordeen*
- Willie Simon*

The 2018 SJCSRACC holiday gathering was, in a word, HISTORIC! Thirty-one members and guests celebrated not only the holiday season, but also the awarding of a Life Membership to Mr. Arno Safran, in recognition of all his many contributions to our Club. Here is a recap of that fantastic evening.

Guest began arriving at The Red Pepper restaurant in Aiken, SC promptly at 6 p.m. (they are a punctual set, these Club members!) Once all the guests had arrived President Steve Kuhl welcomed everyone and offered a prayer of thanks for the fellowship and the holiday season.

Following this, each attendee received an original work of origami by member Robbie Ogden. Robbie generously folded crisp new one-dollar bills into several shapes – shirts, bow ties, hearts, sailboats and even a fighter jet! These were true works of art, and we are very thankful to Robbie for spending so much time making these party favors for the members who attended the celebration, they added a unique and personal touch to the party!



L to R: Phyllis Hutto, Marion Engel, Typhany Nordeen, JJ Engel



Robbie Ogden and several of his Origami creations

Next up was a very special recognition of Mr. Arno Safran, to thank him for all his contributions to the SJCSRACC. Following opening comments by Kuhl, special guest Mr. Arnold Miniman

spoke of Arno.



Arnold Miniman shares memories of Arno Safran

Mr. Miniman was in the same New Jersey coin clubs as Arno in the 1990s. Mr. Miniman spoke in glowing terms of Arno’s demeanor, character, and contributions during those times. It was very clear from Miniman’s remarks that New Jersey’s loss was South Carolina’s gain! The audience was sincerely appreciative of Mr. Miniman’s contributions – photos and background on Arno, his sharing of memories, and of course the time and expense he and his wife incurred to travel from the South Carolina coast to help us celebrate. Their presence made the evening extra special!

As the ceremony continued, a slide show containing over 100 photos of Arno through the years was shown in the background for the audience to enjoy. This slide show contained reminders of the many events in which Arno has gifted us with his energy and knowledge - his awards, achievements, and articles; images of members past and present, and Club activities he was instrumental in. It was heart-warming to walk down this particular “memory lane”!

**In Recognition of our Mentor**

**Mr. Arno Safran**

**Thank you for all your support to the members of the Stephen James Central Savannah River Area Coin Club!!**



President Emeritus Willie Simon provides the audience with his recollections of Arno Safran.

President Emeritus Willie Simon then provided comments reflecting on his first encounter with Arno back in 2001, just a few months after

the Club’s founding. Willie expounded on Arno’s constant willingness to share his knowledge and experience with fellow Club members. Willie’s remarks concluded with his personal appreciation of all that Arno has done to help him grow as a numismatist.



Following this, President Kuhl showcased some of the many awards, accomplishments, and accolades that Arno has received through the years, such as being named Numismatist of the Year by both the Garden State Numismatic Association and the South Carolina Numismatic Association. As Editor of our Club's newsletter

Arno has won third place in the American Numismatic Association's annual North American Outstanding Local Publication Contest four times – 2008, 2010, 2011, and 2012. Steve continued his remarks by noting that the SJCSRACC is a small Club, and while it can't compete with all the high tributes Arno has received, he noted the Club certainly could express its heart-felt gratitude to him for all the love he has shared via his many programs and writings.

#### Some of Safran's Accomplishments

- Concurrently President of two state numismatic organizations - The New Jersey Numismatic Society and The Garden State Numismatic Association
- President of the Watchung Hills (NJ) coin club and of the Ocean County (NJ) Coin Club.
- Vice-President of the Stephen James CSRA Coin Club.
- The American Numismatic Association's prestigious Glen Smedley Memorial award
- New Jersey Numismatic Society's highest honor - the Nettleship award.
- Numismatist of the Year for the Garden State Numismatic Association.
- South Carolina's Numismatist of the Year.
- ANA's Educational Award for his YN program on Hard Times Tokens.
- Six-time Top 3 finish in the ANA's



Arno Safran and Steve Kuhl

certificate and holder plaque were designed and assembled by Club Secretary Jim Mullaney.

Next Arno was presented with two numismatic items chosen especially for him, and which melded his musical talent with his numismatic interests. Perhaps you are not aware that in addition to his numismatic excellence, Arno is an award-winning musical composer and was a faculty member of the

First Arno was presented with a Certificate of Honorary Life Membership in the Club. He is only the fourth person to receive this distinction, and he joins the ranks with Dr. Tony Chibbaro and Jim and Helen Barry. The elegant



Secretary Jim Mullaney and President Steve Kuhl Present Certificate of Honorary Life Membership to Arno Safran

music department at Trenton State College, which is now known as The College of New Jersey.

You may recall that Arno once brought in a medal honoring Jean Sibelius for the Show and Tell portion of a Club meeting. For those of you who might not be familiar with this name, Sibelius was a Finnish



composer and violinist and he is widely recognized as his country's greatest composer. He is also one of Arno's favorite musicians, and in recognition of this the Club gave Arno two items from Finland commemorating Sibelius: A 1986 100 Maarka Note and a 1999 100 Maarka silver coin with an excerpt from the musical score of Finlandia depicted on the reverse.



With these tokens presented, the audience provided a resounding and well-deserved round of applause for our very own Numismatist Extraordinaire, Mr. Arno Safran!! This was a very special moment for the SJCSRACC, and was well-deserved of Arno!



ANA Executives present Arno Safran with ANA's Third Place Award for Outstanding Local Numismatic Publication. Pictured left to right: Walter Ostromecki,

To that end, Steve and Secretary Jim Mullaney presented several tokens of appreciation to Arno - reminders of our gratefulness and recognition of his leadership and contributions.



Jim Sproull holding winning token for Silver Round

Following the completion of the recognition ceremony the attendees were served their meals, which was a choice one of the following entrees: Cobb Salad; half-pound Burger; Herb Roasted Chicken; Mahi-Mahi or a Hanger steak. The food prepared by The Red Pepper was excellent and the service provided by KD and Aubrie was well-done! During the course of the meal, Club Sergeant-At-Arms Jim Sproull began drawing for gifts. Sixteen members of the Club were the lucky winners of silver rounds – American Silver Eagles, Canadian

Maple Leafs, and Britannias from the United Kingdom – all provided by Secretary Mullaney. For those that did not win one of the silver coins,

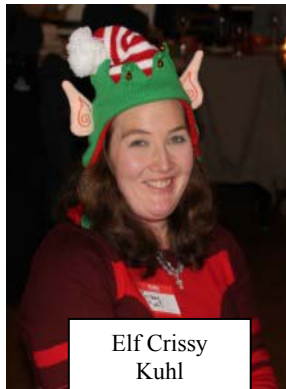


Steve Kuhl with his "Belgian Waffle"

consolation gifts were provided through the efforts of Club Vice President Pat James. Pat obtained a number of waffle coins – coins which were intentionally defaced by the US Mint to prevent their release to circulation because of serious minting errors. Pat provided some information regarding an emerging collectible market for waffle coins, noting these types of coins are increasing in value. One special "Belgian Waffle" was given to President Kuhl.

amount – 157 nickels! For his prognostication skills John walked away with \$7.85!

Another tradition of these gatherings is the 50-50 drawing, where the winner gets half the pool of cash and the rest goes to the Club treasury. Having sold tickets all evening, Club Treasurer Chuck Goergen oversaw the selection of the winning ticket, assisted by member Jerry Lipsky. The lucky winner was Walt Kubilius – he won \$45!



Elf Crissy Kuhl

This holiday dinner was a truly historic occasion, and an excellent time was had by all. This event could not have been so successful had it not been for the help of Club's Officers Pat James, Jim Mullaney, Jim Sproull, and Chuck Goergen. Special thanks are also due to member Crissy Kuhl, who performed and documented all the comparative market research of possible venues, which was used by the Club's Board to down select to the Red Pepper

restaurant. She also completed the logistics and coordination with the restaurant's staff in order to hold the event, and she even developed the order form used by the members to reserve their meals. We are grateful to Crissy for her contributions to this wonderful event! Hopefully you were able to attend this extraordinary evening, and in reading this article it brings to you fond memories of that. If you were unable to attend this year, we missed you and hope you are able to make next year's celebration!



Willie Simon ventures his guess at the nickel jar, while John Attaway looks on and Jim Mullaney cogitates on his entry.

Also courtesy of Pat James was the traditional nickel "guess jar". Pat brought a jar full of nickels, and attendees were allowed one guess each as to how many were in the jar. The winner would be the person who came closest to the actual number without going over (Price Is Right™ rules!) This year's winner was John Kolmar, who guessed the exact



L to R: Linda & David Amey, Ken Bailey, Marion Engel, Steve Kuhl



Chuck Goergen (L) watches as Jerry Lipsky verifies Walt Kubilius' winning 50-50 ticket



Bow Tie Origami from Robbie Ogen





Marion Margaret Sproull  
with prize



Sally and Jerry Lipsky



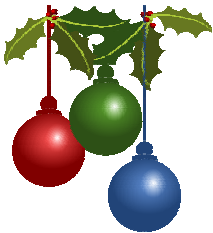
Crissy and Steve Kuhl



Marion Engel and Liz  
Goergen



Arno Safran and Arnold Miniman



L to R: Walt Kubilius, Willie  
Simon, Brent Usry, Sally  
Lipsky, Pat James, Marion



## A Call for Nominations

Dear Fellow SJCSCRA Coin Club Members,

You may recall that each March the SJCSCRA Coin Club holds Officer elections for the coming fiscal year (April 1 to March 31). This is required by the By Laws, which state: *“At the March monthly meeting Officers shall be nominated and elected for the following year.”*

The current slate of Officers (Pat James, Jim Mullaney, Chuck Goergen, Jim Sproull, and myself) has served in their respective positions for a very long time. While I cannot speak for the rest of the Officers, I find that for me it is time to step down, so that I can develop and pursue a second career while still devoting an appropriate amount of time to numismatic pursuits.

Following my heart requires that I step down as President of the Club at the end of this fiscal year. Additionally, I have decided to not serve as Bourse Chair for the 2019 Annual Coin Show.

I plan to continue contributing to our Club in several capacities - I will serve as a Director for the coming year; I will gladly assist a new Bourse Chair in coordinating next year's show; I will continue to write articles for our newsletter; and perhaps I will finally give a presentation (in all these years I have yet to actually give a presentation to our Club....)

Now you are presented with an opportunity to lead, to bring our Club to another level, to influence its character and style. I ask each of you to search your heart and decide: are you willing to serve your Club in one of these positions? If you are, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Steve

Dear Fellow Club Members,

After much thought and careful consideration I have made the decision to step down as an Officer of our Club at the end of this fiscal year.

I am grateful and honored to have been able to serve you and the Stephen James Central Savannah River Area Coin Club as President for nine years, and for having the opportunity to manage seven successful coin shows. I have met many wonderful numismatists and have learned a tremendous amount over the past decade. I could not have succeeded without your trust and support over these many years, and you have my utmost thanks.

We have made great progress over the eighteen years since the Club was chartered in 2001. Much of the progress, and certainly the foundational groundwork, was completed by Willie Simon. I am thankful for his leadership and vision, and for positioning the Club such that the transition to my tenure was seamless. I am also appreciative that he was willing to grant me a respite from my Presidential duties in 2014.

I would be remiss to not also thank all the Officers—current and past—who have helped shape this Club and me, as well. I am indebted to them: Jim Mullaney, Pat James, Chuck Goergen, Jim Sproull, Glenn Sanders, Sharon Smoot, Jim and Helen Barry, Arno Safran, and John Meinhardt.

I recognize this announcement may garner some angst among Club members. Please know I did not arrive at this conclusion lightly or quickly. This Club has only had two Presidents since Chartering. After eighteen years it is now time, perhaps past time, to have new leadership, someone who will infuse new vision and ideas to take our Club to a new level. It is time for me to step aside to allow the next phase of the Club to begin.

While I fully intend to remain an active member of this Club, assisting where I can bring value, I wish to devote more time to pursue other interests—both numismatic and non-numismatic—things which are important to me and my family but for which I have not devoted sufficient attention or time.

I am truly beholden to all the members who, over the years, have supported me and the Club in the many activities in which we engage.

With warmest regards,

Steve



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#### Consumer Alerts

ANA Consumer Alerts and Bulletins:

[Archived Consumer Alert Columns](#) by Kenneth Bressett

[ANA/FTC Consumer Alert: Investing in Rare Coins](#)

eBay [Buyer](#) and [Seller](#) Tips

**PROTECT YOURSELF. PROTECT YOUR COLLECTION**

Keep a detailed inventory of your collection

Keep [insurance coverage](#) up to date and adequate

Create and implement a security plan

**IF YOU DO EXPERIENCE A LOSS:**

Do not alter the crime scene

Call the police and file a report

Call your insurance company and file a report

Contact [ANA Loss Alert](#)

## AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION NEWS



Welcome to Video Vignettes, produced by the American Numismatic Association!

These short (3 to 5 minutes) videos are designed to help you become a smarter, more informed collector. Check back regularly as additional videos will continue to be added. Visit [www.money.org](http://www.money.org)

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### American Numismatic Association Launches New Blog ANA Coin Press Offers Original Numismatic Content

Today, the American Numismatic Association (ANA) launched a new blog! A project that has been in the works for over a year, the blog features exclusive articles for beginning and intermediate collectors, stories that previously ran in *The Numismatist* (the ANA's monthly hobby publication), articles highlighting specimens and collections from the ANA Money Museum and more. Both ANA members and non-members can access the blog.

The name "ANA Coin Press" was selected for the new blog after the Association ran a naming contest. Members were asked to submit blog name ideas for the chance to win a prize valued at \$100. The winner for the contest is Jake Miller, who received an MS-65 1881-S Morgan dollar as the grand prize.