

Madison County

Coin Club

of Huntsville, Alabama



Volume 26, Issue 1

January 2026

**Our next meeting
will be at the
South Huntsville Public Library
7901-L Bailey Cove Rd SE
Huntsville, AL 35802
On
January 26, 2026
from 6:00 – 7:30
Doors Open at 5:30**

**Chad Thrasher
presents
*My Collecting Journey and What I
Would Tell My Younger Self***

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 3** [President's Message](#)
- 6** [For the Future for the Hobby We All Love](#)
- 8** [The Omega Cents](#)
- 9** [Can You Identify this Coin?](#)
- 11** [Members' Notices](#)
- 20** [Club Information](#)

Membership Renewal



Membership to the club is open to all persons with an interest in numismatics. (The membership form for new members can be found at our website <http://mccc.anaclubs.org>). The club is financed by an annual subscription which is due in January each year. To renew, your dues can be paid at the next meeting, or if you wish, you can send your check to:

**Madison County Coin Club
P.O. Box 12242
Huntsville, AL 35815**

Please make check payable to Madison County Coin Club.

Please support MCCC by promptly renewing your membership.

President's Message

Let me start by saying I'm excited for the new year and the next meeting. That month off seems like an eternity. I hope everyone was able to enjoy their time. The Semi-quincentennial year is upon us, and it should be a fun one for the hobby.

I recently read something that has me thinking: "When is enough, enough?" This thought was prompted by a post on Facebook recently, to paraphrase a gentleman who had a high grade 1878 Morgan with a DMPL designation in an Old Green Holder or OGH. His question was should he consider trying to get a CAC sticker and one of the responses really stuck with me. The responder cited the CAC sticker as being worthwhile by adding \$4,000 in value to the coin. He then went on to add that he should visit VAM world to attribute the variety followed by sending the coin VAR slab for stickering depending on the results. By my count that's a total of 3 grading/stickering services. I found some humor in this because on one hand I can see myself doing all these things with a high-end coin. My dark shadowy sarcastic side however can't help but think: "How many coin graders does it take to change a light bulb (or grade a coin)?" If I can choose to have it my way, a PCGS Gold Shield or OGH holder with a CAC sticker would probably be my choice, what is yours?

Nate

Madison County Coin Club Website Update

Our club's website (<http://mccc.anaclubs.org/>) has two links that will give you access to all our previous newsletters dating back to 2005. We also have a link to programs that are presented at club meetings.

Read our previous newsletters at: <http://mccc.anaclubs.org/newsletters/>

View our previous presentations at: <http://mccc.anaclubs.org/programs/>

For the Future for the Hobby We All Love

By Michael S. Turrini

As member of all known northern California local coin clubs----*where the rubber hits the road, as 'Bob' Fritsch says*----many newsletters and bulletins cross my desk. Each report provides announcements, with the usual reminders of the next meeting or future meetings, plus an appeal to pay dues!

One monthly newsletter is the GOLD STRIKE of the Stanislaus County Coin Club of Modesto, California. Its President, Nicholas D. Lopez, has a column in each issue.

What raised my eyebrows and caused me to pause, and to share this with NUMISMATIC NEWS readers, was his comment to the Club's members, "your involvement strengthens our shared mission to preserve and celebrate the history and culture of numismatics."

He reviewed the 2025 year, expressed gratitude to all members, and reminded those attending about Show 'n Tells, or as other local coin clubs call it, 'member sharing' or 'numis-mania', inviting "looking forward to whatever you decide to share."

He mentioned trekking to Vallejo, California for the December 2025 Joint Christmas Party of the Vallejo Numismatic Society and Fairfield Coin Club, encouraging Club members to attend the 2026 Party since "it is a great way to connect with fellow collectors and celebrate the Holiday Season."

His reflections and thoughts are common and surely have been published and spoken at many local coin clubs across our nation and even into Canada.

Ending, he, with sincerity, appeals to Stanislaus County Coin Club members "to continue building a strong future for the hobby we all love."

Nicholas closes with "I look forward to another year of discovery, connection, and shared passion." Discovery. Connection. Passion.

NUMISMATIC NEWS readers those three nouns summarize our 'world of money'.

Discover, Connect, and Share Passion of our 'world of money'.

Editor's Note: Michael S. Turrini has been a long-time member of our club. He is avid coin advocate in northern California and had served three terms as California State Numismatic Association (CSNA) President. He can be reached at EMPERORI@juno.com and welcomes comments.

"Numismatics, like some aspects of astronomy and natural history, remains a branch of learning in which the amateur can still do valuable work, and it is on the great collecting public, or rather on that part of which is interested in the subject at a scientific level, that the progress of numismatic science largely depends."

Philip Grierson - Professor of Numismatics, University of Cambridge

Why not bring a friend to the next meeting?

Visit us on the web at <http://mccc.anaclubs.org/>

The Omega Cents

By Stephen D'Angelo

The one cent coin, commonly called a penny, was first authorized by the Coinage Act of 1792 and has been minted in various forms since 1793. 2025 marks 232 years since that first large cent (233 years of production).

One cent coins were initially much larger (26.5mm), but the Mint shifted to the current penny size (19mm) in 1856 partly because the cost of minting the large copper cents was too high. In 1982, the Mint adjusted the composition of cents from 95% copper / 5% zinc to 97.5% zinc / 2.5% copper for the same reason. As we entered 2025, the cost of minting the Lincoln cent had reached 3.69 cents each and was losing the mint \$58 million a year. Following the recommendation of the Treasury Department, President Trump signed an order on February 9, 2025 to end production of the one cent coin and in May 2025, the Mint announced they placed their final order for one cent planchets.

On November 12, 2025, there was a “final strike” ceremony at the Philadelphia Mint. These “final strike” coins have an omega privy mark on them and were minted in zinc with no mint mark (Philadelphia), zinc with D mint mark (Denver), as well as in 0.9999 fine gold with no mint mark.

Omega Cents in Zinc and Gold



The 232 lots of omega cents were put up for auction at Stacks & Bowers on Thursday Dec 11, 2025. Each lot contained a matching set of three omega cents already graded by PCGS. I signed up as a bidder and engaged in bidding online, but the bidding was energetic, and prices eventually went well above what I was willing to spend.

The first set (#1 of 232) closed at \$200k and it was the most expensive of the regular sets. The next 230 sets ranged from \$48k to \$180k with the higher-grade coins earning the higher closing bids. The average closing bid for the first 231 sets was \$70k. The final set (#232 of 232) also included the actual dies used by the mint and closed at an astounding \$800k!

The auction had some technical difficulties and took over 4 hours to complete, but eager buyers and interested observers like me, were tuned in and watching online as the auction proceeded.

Representative Image from the Auction



With only 232 of each of the three coins, they are over 2,000 times rarer than the famous 1909-S VDB cent, and the auction prices show that these coins will never be in the hands of any but the most determined and/or wealthy collectors.

While the auction generated a lot of press for the Mint, I believe it was a bad decision to strike such a small number of coins. The purposeful rarity of these coins has no equal in the modern era and generated some bad feelings among collectors in an era where a run of 100k can become a speculator's item (as seen with the 2025 Army Privy Silver Eagle) and a run of 10k is a hard-to-find chase item. Striking a larger quantity and then auctioning slabbed coins certified from the end of the run would have allowed more collectors to participate while also having some uniquely certified coins to auction for publicity.

So what happens next? The Treasury has announced that they are not phasing out the penny at this time. There are over 300 billion pennies in circulation with 3.2 billion being minted in 2024 alone. They do not anticipate a shortage in the near term with so many coins and fewer and fewer transactions being in cash.

The decision to stop minting pennies has also been made in other countries. Australia saw the rising cost of minting and stopped releasing one cent coins in 1992. They shifted to all purchases being rounded to the nearest 5 cents by 1995. The United Kingdom still has a penny coin but chose not to mint any business strikes in 2018, 2019, or since 2024. They are on a similar path to remove the coin.

Semi-Quincentennial Design



The Lincoln cent is not dead yet. The U.S. Mint has announced plans to continue striking the coins in limited quantities for collectors, such as for proof sets. Exactly how they will release the coins and for how long has not been announced yet, but they have released an image for the 2026 semi-quincentennial design. Perhaps the penny will live on for collectors like the Kennedy Half Dollar has since it was moved to collector-only status in 2002.

Can You Identify This Coin?

In this section each month a new coin will be pictured, and your task is to see if you can identify it. Can you step up to this numismatic challenge every month? Email your answer to the [newsletter editor](#) and we will publish the names of winners in our next newsletter.



Last month Mike Campbell, Aaron Wells, Jonathan Deller, and Wayne Koger were able to identify the mystery coin, a \$10 coin from Singapore.



Members' Notices

Rules for users of the member notice page: All notices are free and should be directed to the [newsletter editor](#) of the Madison County Coin Club newsletter. The person entering the notice must answer all responses to notices. Preference will be given in the following order to research notices when the page is oversubscribed in a single month:

1. Research Notices
2. Wanted Items
3. Trades Offered
4. For Sale Items

World Coins, Tokens, Jade, Relics, etc. for sale

Contact: [Steve Young](#), P.O. Box 8031, Huntsville, AL 35808, 334-300-5409.

Buying Tokens

Contact me if you want to buy or sell tokens, medals, pinback buttons, encased coins, etc.

Randy Partin
P.O. Box 276
Scottsboro, AL 35768
AUBRPARTIN@GMAIL.COM



A Collection for Collectors at Heart!

I have a collection for collectors at heart! It includes: 1) 21 sets of 12 uncirculated \$1 gold clad presidential coins, 2) 22 single disk (wrapped) uncirculated \$1 gold clad presidential coins, 3) a handsome 18" by 11" walnut case (pictured.) Produced by Danbury Mint. That is Washington through Chester A. Arthur/Grover Cleveland, a total of 274 uncirculated coins. For sale at \$1000 OBO and can deliver to MCCC meeting. Contact Sara Baldwin 205 217 3221.





Selling Alabama (Huntsville) Innovation Coins



If you are interested in acquiring the 2024 Alabama Innovation \$1 coin, please contact me. I'm selling them for \$3 each. These are the Philadelphia mint version, and I will bring them to the next Club meeting. If you want any via mail, there would be an additional shipping charge.

Please contact me at: VanHut32@gmail.com .

Thanks, Todd

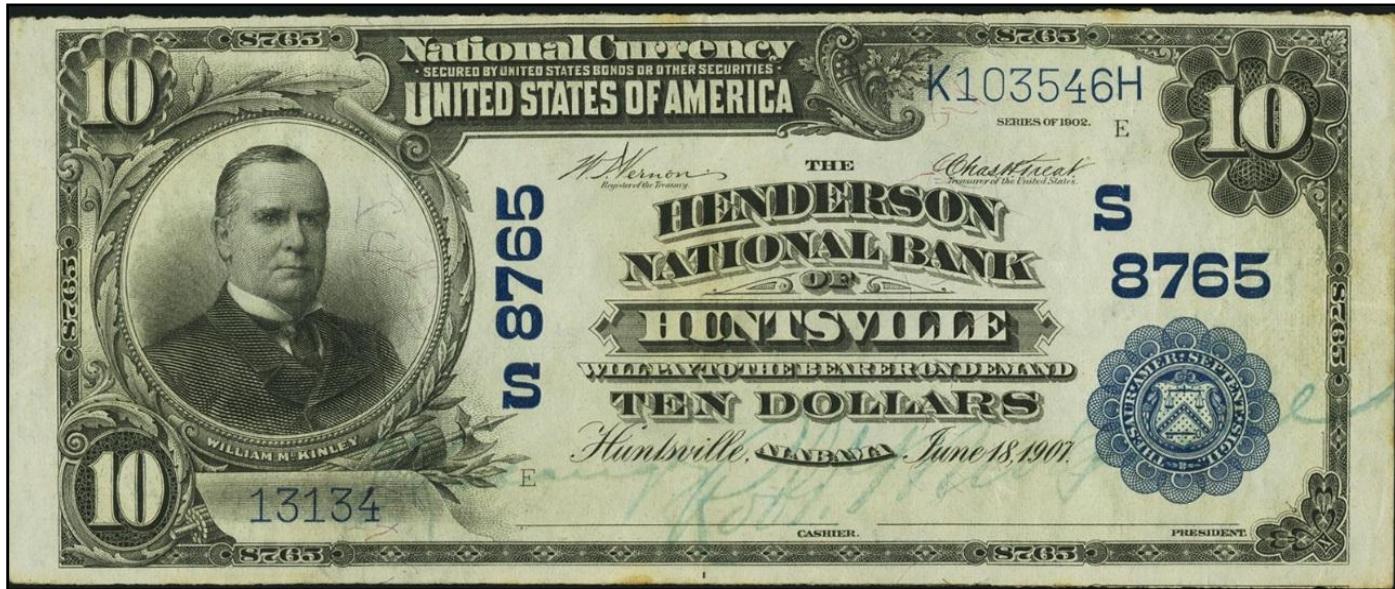
Looking for Alaskan Medals and Tokens



Contact: [Richard](#).

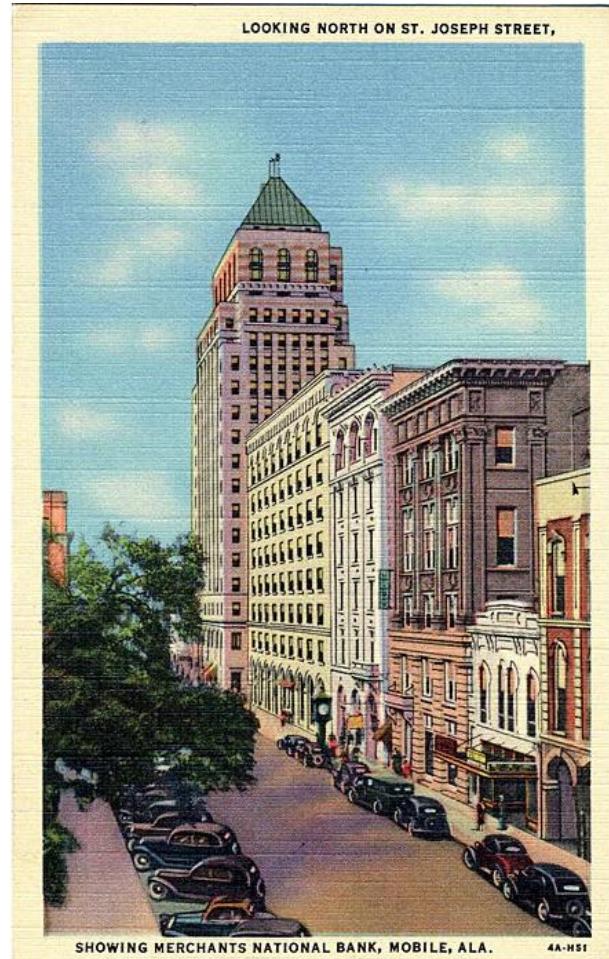


**Wanted Alabama Large Size National Banknotes and better
Alabama Obsolete Banknotes**



Also, postcards portraying Alabama Banks.

Call David at 256-468-5891.



2026 Madison County Coin Club Program Refreshments and Programs Schedule

Meeting Date	Refreshments	Program
January 26	Harold Fears	Chad Thrasher <i>My Collecting Journey and What I Would Tell My Younger Self</i>
February 2		Everyone <i>Show and Tell</i>
March 16	Provided by the Club	Richard Jozefiak, Mark Lighterman, and Donna Moon, an ANA Governor <i>The Club's Past and Future</i>
April 6		Stephen D'Angelo <i>TBD</i>
May 18		
June 15	Potluck, Bourse Night, and Auction	
July 20	Aaron Wales	Aaron Wales <i>TBD</i>
August 17		Everyone <i>Show and Tell</i>
September 21		David Hollander <i>The Wonderful World of Banknote Collecting</i>
October 19		
November 16	Thanksgiving Potluck, Bourse Night, and Auction Election of Officers	
December- NO MEETING		

2026 Coin Shows Within 3 Hour Driving Distance from Huntsville

Date(s)	Area	Show & Location	Contact Info	Richard's Rating
Mar 6-8 Nov TBD	Chattanooga, TN	Tennessee State Numismatic Society Camp Jordan Arena I-75, Exit 1 Chattanooga, TN Fri & Sat 10 am – 6 pm Sun 10 am – 3 pm	Bob Hurst 321-427-6474 forum@comcast.net www.tsns.org	++
April 17-19	Dalton, GA	62nd Georgia Numismatic Association Coin Show Dalton Convention Center I-75 exit 333 2211 Dug Gap Battle Road Dalton, GA Fri- Sat 10 am – 6 pm Sun 10 am – 3 pm	Steven Nix 706-267-9602 fleetwoodcoins@hotmail.com www.gamoney.org	+++
Jun 6-7	Huntsville, AL	HUNTSPEX 2026 Stamp, Postcard & Coin Show Jaycee Community Building 2180 Airport Road, SW Huntsville, AL 35802 Sat 10 am – 5 pm Sun 10 am – 3 pm	Mike O'Reilly 256-527-4601 mcoreilly@yahoo.com	+
July TBD	Bessemer, AL	63rd Alabama State Coin Show 1130 Ninth Ave SW Bessemer, AL Bessemer Civic Center	Corbitt Chandler 205-616-9385 jcolyn@aol.com	++

		10 am – 6 pm		
Aug 5-8	Dalton, GA	67th Blue Ridge Numismatic Association Coin Show Dalton Convention Center I-75 exit 333 2211 Dug Gap Battle Road Dalton, GA Fri-Sat 10 am – 6 pm Sun 10 am – 3 pm	Ronda Leeper 678-232-6982 ronda@leeper.biz www.brna.org	+++

Richard's Rating: Small coin show, no educational programs- +
 Medium/Large coin show, no educational programs- ++
 Large coin show, educational programs and/or exhibits. Worth the drive- +++

Visit us on the web at <http://mccc.anacclubs.org/>

Madison County Coin Club

For over twenty-five years, the Madison County Coin Club has served the north Alabama community by bringing numismatists together for the love of coin collecting. The Club strives to impart knowledge to its members through presentations and personal experiences. Through the sharing of knowledge and experiences, it enhances and enriches coin collecting for the numismatic community. Speaking of our members, we have a vast group of collectors who collect all types of United States coins, as well as foreign coins. Many of our members collect coins from a certain era (19th century, for example), while others collect strictly modern coins. We also have members who collect only a certain type of coin (Seated Coins, Morgan Dollars, and Commemoratives, to name a few). Some members focus solely on foreign coins (for instance English, German, and Chinese) which can span many centuries. This diversification makes our club dynamic, providing something for every type of collector.



Members of the club enjoy several benefits: Monthly lectures, covering a range of numismatic topics.

- Access to the club's extensive numismatic library.
- Monthly notices via email of club events.
- Able to purchase club medals.

We are keen to encourage anybody with an interest in numismatics to join the club. We provide a warm and friendly welcome and are very keen to

encourage those new to the study, collecting of coins, tokens, or banknotes.



The club is a member of the American Numismatic Association (Member #C-195870 Region 20, AL & GA), Alabama Numismatic Society (ANS), Georgia Numismatic Association (GNA), and the Florida United Numismatists (FUN).



The Club's Mailing Address

Madison County Coin Club
P.O. Box 12242
Huntsville, AL 35815

Club Officers

President: [Nathan Burrows](#)

Secretary: [Keith George](#)

Board Member: [Kurt Springfield](#)

Board Member: [Todd Hutto](#)

Newsletter Contact: [Harold Fears](#)

Vice President: [Wayne Koger](#)

Treasurer: [Mike Campbell](#)

Librarian: [Ann Fulmer](#)

Membership Info: [Mike Campbell](#)

Club's YouTube Channel

You can subscribe to our YouTube Channel at [MCCC Meeting](#). There you will find links to both upcoming and past meetings.

Join the Club

The membership form can be found [here](#) on our [website](#).