

Madison County Coin Club

of Huntsville, Alabama



Volume 26, Issue 9

September 2026

Our next meeting will be at the

South Huntsville Public Library
7901-L Bailey Cove Rd SE
Huntsville, AL 35802

Monday September 21, 2026
from 6:00 – 7:30
Doors Open at 5:30

David Hollander
Presents
***The Wonderful World of
Banknotes***

Wanted: Submissions for the newsletter!

Please consider submitting something for print. It need not be elaborate; it can be something as simple as a short note on a favorite coin, variety, neat find, happening at a coin show, or something at auction, etc. If you are interested in it; rest assured, others will be too!

Sharing information is the goal of this newsletter and you need not be an experienced writer to submit material of interest to others. "This is your monthly digital publication. It is what you make of it!"

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NANCY by Bushmiller



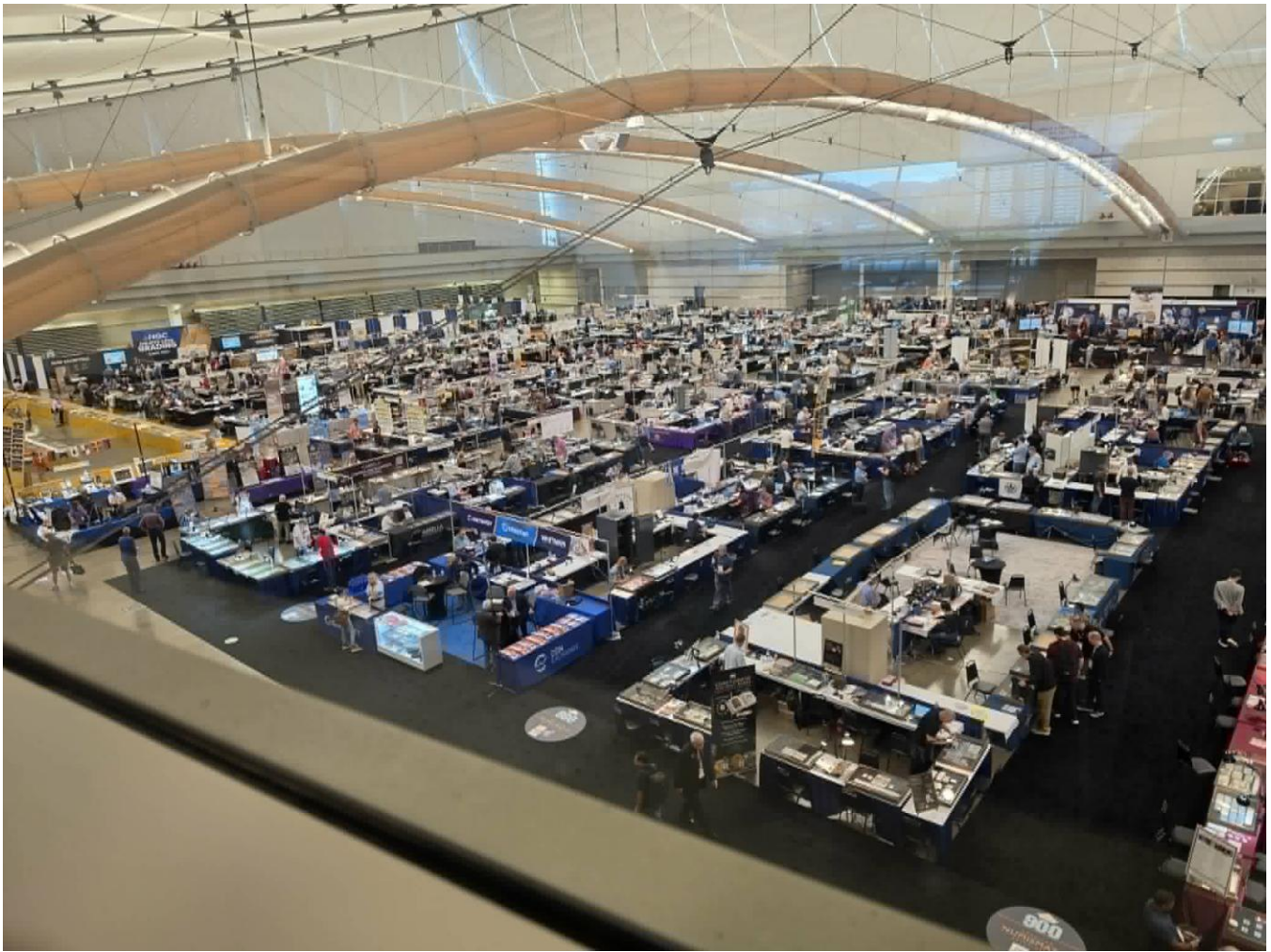
Madison County Coin Club Website Update

Our club's website (<http://mccc.anacclubs.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.anacclubs.org/newsletters/>

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

Members Attend the ANA World's Fair of Money



The 2026 ANA World's Fair of Money coincided with the United States' Semiquincentennial (250th anniversary). Features included a display of all 11 government-owned 1933 double eagles, the "Progression of Liberty" exhibit, and rare items from the American Numismatic Association



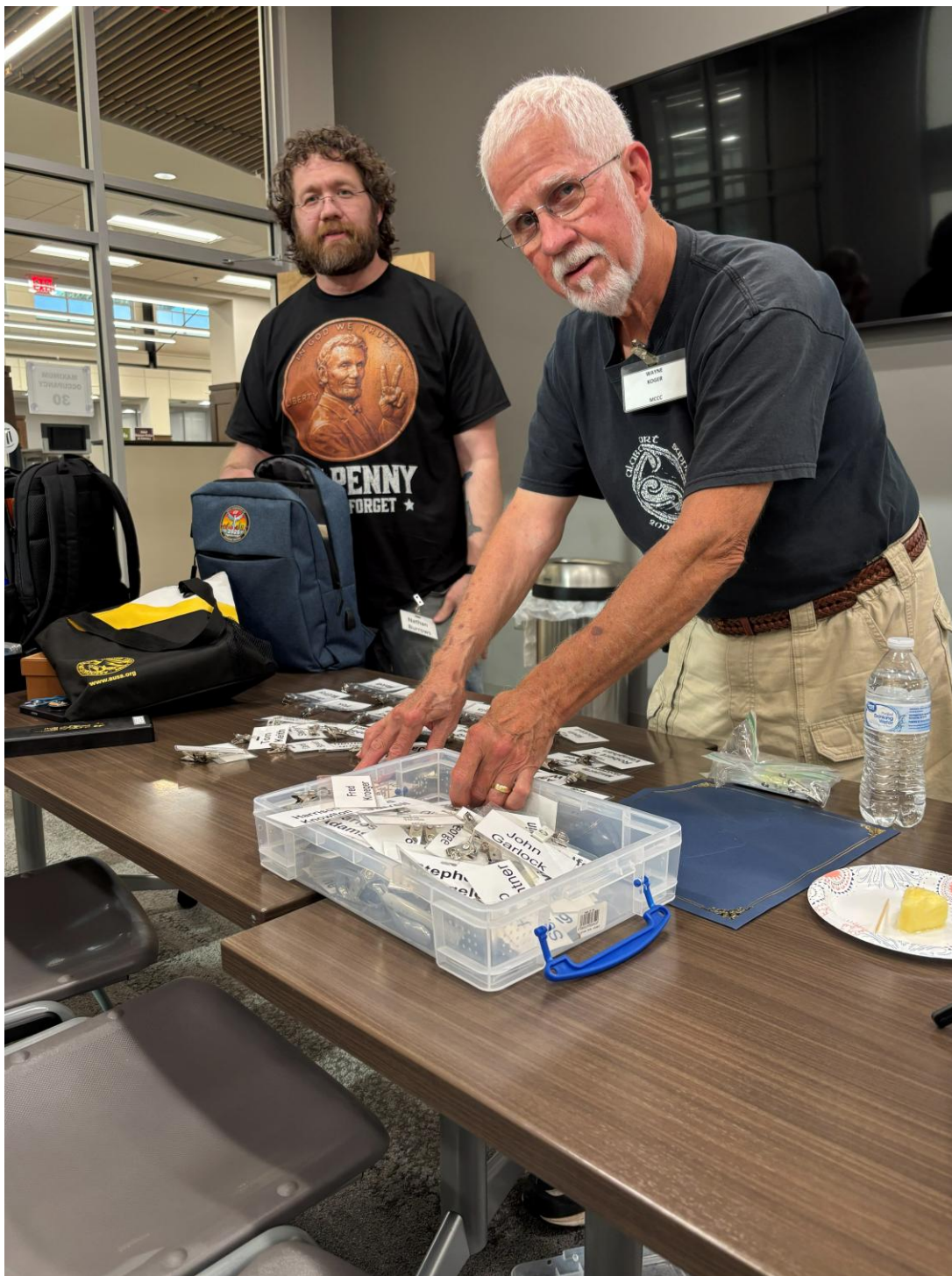
Harold Fears and Richard Jozefiak received the club's 25th Anniversary Award

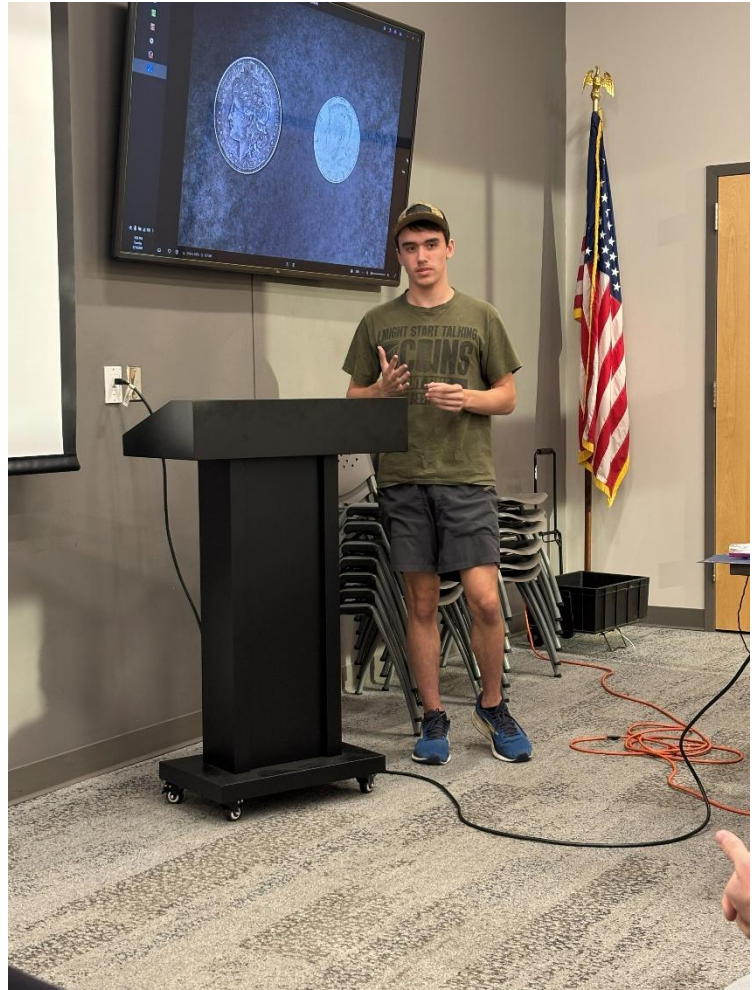


Richard receives the 2025/2026 Top ANA District Representative



Some Scenes from our last Meeting









Last Meeting's Door Prizes



Each meeting the club gives away several door prizes. The winners at our last meeting were:

First Prize:	Aaron	Silver Eagle
Second Prize:	Stephen	Two 1/10-ounce silver eagles
Third Place:	Steve	Alabama Innovation Dollar
Challenge Coin:	Chad	Dolly Madison Dollar

The Money Museum Kansas City

By Aaron Wales

This summer my family traveled to Kansas City. Located there is The Money Museum at the Kansas City Federal Reserve. Admission is free and visitors go through a security screening. Photos are allowed in all areas with the exception of where the cash vault is located. The highlights included the Truman Coin Collection, a gold bar you can attempt to lift, a short film regarding the Federal Reserve, several interactive areas for photos opportunities, and observing money being processed for shipment to banks.



The Truman Coin Collection was gathered through a nationwide campaign to create a replacement for a similar collection that was stolen in 1962 from Truman's treasury secretary, John Snyder. The collection brings together nearly one coin of each denomination issued by the U.S. Mint during every presidential administration beginning with George Washington. About 170 coin enthusiasts, coin clubs, and donors participated in a nationwide campaign to replace the stolen coins. On May 6, 1964, Snyder and Joseph Stack, a New York coin dealer who led the restoration campaign, presented the collection to Harry S Truman Library representatives. Currently there are more than 450 coins in the collection. Many are displayed at the

exhibit in the Kansas City Federal Reserve Money Museum. Notable coins in the collection are:

- 1796 Quarter: Early coins of the United States were minted with high copper, gold, or silver content; the minting of coins was determined on the availability of these precious metals. Periods of scarcity, along with the prevalent use of foreign coins, contributed to the inconsistency of certain denominations during this era. Consequently, this was the last quarter minted until 1804. Only 5,894 of the 1796 quarter are known to exist.



- 1836 Seated Liberty Silver Dollar: Due to a silver scarcity, silver dollars were not minted between 1805 and 1835. This rare coin marked the return of the silver coin. The non-traditional engraving of a seated Lady Liberty was unpopular at the time of its release; however, many modern collectors consider it a stunning example of coin art. This design has been featured on the half-dime, dime, quarter and half dollar. Only 1,000 of these coins are known to exist.
- 1907 Saint-Gaudens Double-Eagle: Considered by collectors to be one of the most beautiful coins ever minted by the United States, the Saint-Gaudens 1907 High Relief Double Eagle \$20 gold piece features a significantly higher relief than standard coins. President Theodore Roosevelt commissioned Augustus Saint-Gaudens, a highly renowned 20th century sculptor, to design the coin. Only 11,250 were produced. The remarkable beauty and limited quantity minted make it one of the most valuable coins in this collection.



- 1909 Abraham Lincoln Small Cent: Abraham Lincoln's image was the first face on a U.S President to be engraved on a circulated U.S coin. This portrait, designed by Victor David Brenner to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of Lincoln's birth, has been featured on every small cent since its introduction.

- 1913 Buffalo Nickel: The Buffalo Nickel was created in 1913, based on designs from artist James Earl Fraser. The portrait on the front is a composite of three American Indians who posed for Fraser: Chief Iron Tail of the Sioux, Chief Two Moons of the Cheyenne, and a third unknown individual.

One of the most popular exhibits at the Money Museum is the real gold bar. The gold bar is the only one housed at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. On loan from the U.S. Treasury, this bar was cast in 1959 at the U.S. Mint in San Francisco. The gross weight of the bar is stamped on its top face as “ozs 389.27” (troy ounces), which is about 27 pounds. The gold bar on display is placed in a case that allows visitors to lift the bar and feel how heavy it is.

The bar on display is on loan to the Kansas City Fed from the New York Fed. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York is the only Bank in the Federal Reserve System with a gold vault in their facility. None of the gold in their vault belongs to the New York Fed or the Federal Reserve System. The New York Fed acts as the guardian and custodian of the gold on behalf of the account holders, which is the U.S. government, foreign governments, other central banks, and official international organizations. No individual or private sector entities are permitted to store gold in the vault.

A short film is available for viewing which discusses the Federal Reserve and its role. The Fed is the central bank of the United States and provides financial and payments services for the nation and banking institutions. The Federal Reserve System has a decentralized structure, meaning the central bank includes regional Reserve Banks that monitor the country’s economy and keep inflation under control. Kansas City is one of 12 sites.

The Federal Reserve:

- Conducts monetary policy, the policy regarding the supply and flow of currency in the economy.
- Supervises and regulates state-chartered member banks and bank holding companies in our region.
- Provides financial services, including the distribution of new coin and currency from the U.S. Treasury.
- Once bills are printed at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and coins are minted at the U.S. Mint, they travel to the Federal Reserve to be distributed to regional banks.
- Currency is processed and stored inside the vault. Money that is too worn, torn, or dirty for circulation is shredded. Shredded currency can be used to create insulation, compost, and to fill souvenir shred bags.

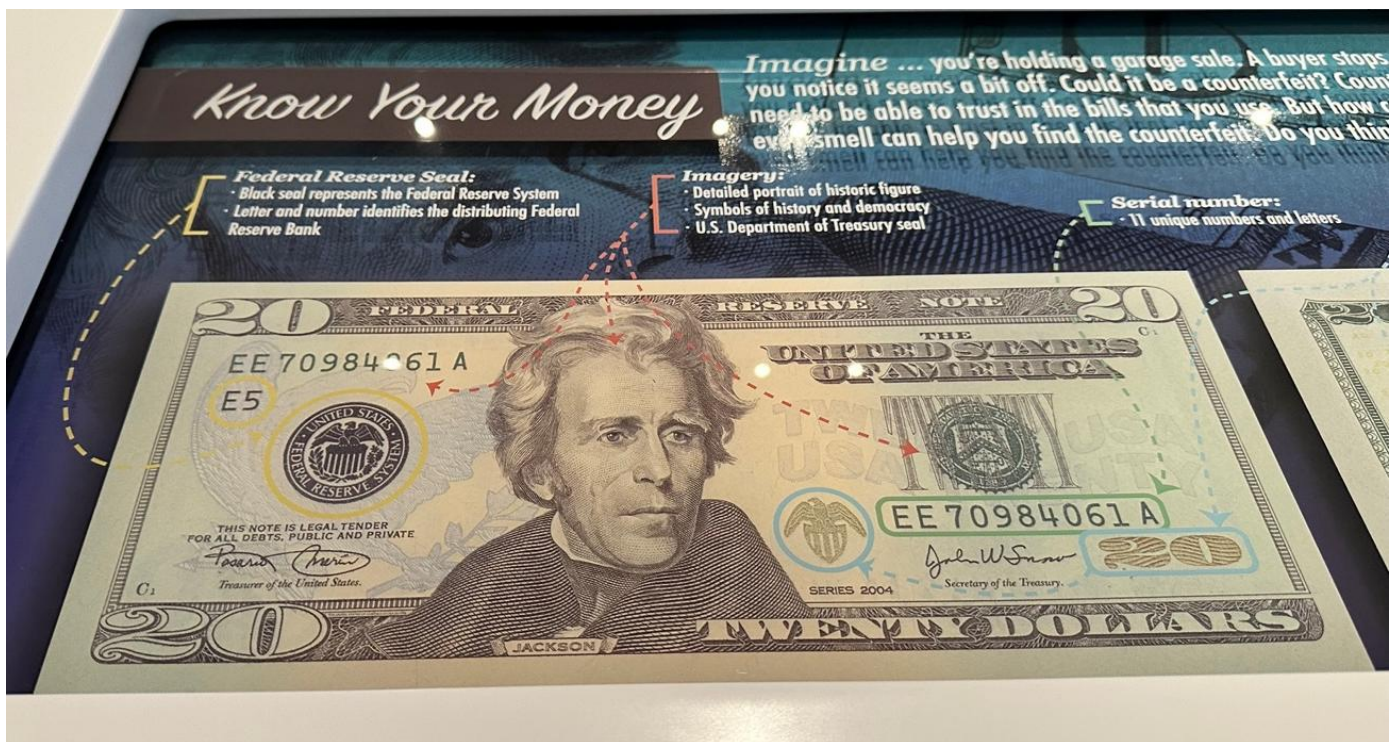
The souvenir bags in Kansas City each contain about \$83 in shredded currency.



There is an area dedicated to identification of counterfeits. It outlines the Federal Reserve Seal which is the black seal of the Federal Reserve System along with a letter and number identifying the distributing Federal Reserve Bank. How to read the code. In the example in the photo is E5.

- District Letter: E stands for the 5th district (Richmond)
- District Number: 5 corresponds to the letter E.

The serial number is a unique combination of eleven numbers and letters. The first letter of the serial number corresponds to the series year. Printing is another area to examine when trying to identify counterfeits. The paper should be $\frac{1}{4}$ linen and $\frac{3}{4}$ cotton with red and blue security fibers.



The Museum also has several interactive opportunities for photos such as this one where it looks like my dad and I are attempting to steal items from the vault. Don't worry as there was no stealing involved during our trip. That being said, we were allowed to take a souvenir of shredded money with us.



Spotlight on Coins: The 1915 Serbia 1 Dinar

By Claude Fears

The 1915 Serbia 1 Dinar is one of the most historically significant small silver coins of the First World War — struck in Paris for a government whose capital was under enemy occupation, for a king retreating through the Albanian mountains in winter, for an army that had chosen to fight on rather than surrender. In terms of historical gravity per gram of silver, few coins of the twentieth century come close.

SPECIFICATIONS

Denomination	1 Dinar
Country	Kingdom of Serbia
Year	1915
Monarch	Peter I Karađorđević
Catalogue	KM# 25.1 – 25.4
Metal	Silver .835 fine
Diameter	23 mm
Weight	5.0 g
Edge	Smooth (plain)
ASW	0.1342 troy oz
Mint	Paris — Monnaie de Paris (a)
Varieties	4 (see below)

Silver content: $5.0 \text{ g} \times 0.835 = 4.175 \text{ g}$ pure silver = 0.1342 troy oz · *All numismatic premiums sit above the bullion floor. Verify current silver spot price before transacting.*



Map of the Kingdom of Serbia in 1914

HISTORY & CONTEXT

Serbia and the First World War

The First World War began, in a direct sense, with Serbia. Austria-Hungary's declaration of war against the Kingdom of Serbia on 28 July 1914 — in response to the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo on 28 June — was the trigger that activated the European alliance system and plunged the continent into four years of catastrophic conflict. Serbia, a small nation of some 4.5 million people, found itself fighting the Austro-Hungarian Empire from the very first day, then later Germany and Bulgaria as well.

The Great Retreat, November 1915

In October 1915, the combined forces of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Bulgaria launched a coordinated invasion of Serbia on three fronts simultaneously. Vastly outnumbered and outgunned, the Serbian Army — with King Peter I, aged 71, among its ranks and refusing to abandon his men — made the decision not to surrender but to retreat across the Albanian highlands to the Adriatic coast. This mid-winter march through the "Prokletije" (Accursed Mountains) became one of the most devastating military and civilian catastrophes of the war.

Of approximately 400,000 people who set out, an estimated 77,455 soldiers and 160,000 civilians died of cold, starvation, disease, and enemy raids. Just 130,000 soldiers and 60,000 civilian refugees reached the Adriatic coast alive. The survivors were evacuated by Allied ships to the Greek island of Corfu, which became the seat of the Serbian government-in-exile.

Historical note: *Peter I famously picked up a rifle in 1915 and fired at enemy soldiers during a visit to the trenches. At 71 and in failing health, he was carried on a litter through much of the Albanian retreat.*

A Coin Struck in Wartime Exile

The 1915 1 Dinar was struck at the Paris Mint — not in Belgrade, not in Serbia, not even at a point when Serbia controlled its own territory in any meaningful sense. The order for the coins was placed in Paris because the Monnaie de Paris had been Serbia's preferred foreign mint since the 1870s, and because France was Serbia's principal ally. It is one of the most dramatically contextualized coin issues in 20th-century European numismatics.

Numismatic parallel: *The 1915 Serbian dinar and the 1916 Austrian 1 Corona share the same silver standard (.835), the same weight (5g), the same diameter (23mm), and the same engraver — Stephan Schwartz. Enemies on the battlefield; numismatic twins.*

Peter I Karađorđević (1844–1921)

Peter I was the founder of the Karađorđević royal dynasty. Born in Belgrade and exiled as a child, he studied at Saint-Cyr in Paris, fought as a volunteer in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870–71, and participated in the Herzegovina Uprising of 1875–77. He came to the throne in 1903 following the assassination of King Alexander Obrenović and was known for his constitutional approach to government and deep respect among his troops. He survived the Great Retreat and became the first King of the newly proclaimed Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (later Yugoslavia) in December 1918. He died in 1921, aged 76.



Peter emerging from St. Michael's Cathedral on horseback following his coronation

The 1915 Serbia 1 Dinar is not just a small silver coin. It is a coin struck in Paris for a government whose capital was under enemy occupation, for a king retreating through the Accursed Mountains in winter, for an army that chose to fight on rather than surrender. In terms of historical gravity per gram of silver, few coins of the 20th century come close.

DESIGN

Obverse

The obverse presents the right-facing head of King Peter I, modelled by Stephan Schwartz (1851–1924) of the Vienna Mint — the same engraver whose portrait of Franz Joseph appeared on the Austrian 1 and 2 Corona of the same period. Schwartz signed his work on the truncation of the bust as SCHWARTZ; the presence or absence of this signature is the primary distinguishing feature between the four die varieties of 1915.



Reverse

The value 1 appears centered in the field, within a laurel and oak wreath, with ДИНАР (Dinar) above and 1915 below. The wreath is tied with a ribbon at the base. The Paris Mint privy mark (a) — the torch mark of the mint director Edmond-Émile Bazor for this period — appears in the reverse field. This privy mark is the definitive confirmation of Paris origin and the primary authentication identifier.



Physical Character

At 23 mm and 5.0 g the 1 Dinar is identical in size and weight to the French 1 Franc and the Austrian 1 Corona — by design, as Serbia had adopted the Latin Monetary Union silver standard. The plain (smooth) edge is standard across the series. Schwartz's rendering of Peter I has a vigorous, martial quality — capturing a king who had spent years as a soldier before ascending the throne.

THE FOUR 1915 DIE VARIETIES

All four varieties share the same obverse and reverse design. They differ in two attributes: (1) whether SCHWARTZ appears beneath the bust truncation, and (2) the die alignment — medal (↑↑) or coin (↑↓). Identification takes thirty seconds with a loupe:

Step 1: *Hold the coin with the obverse portrait upright.*

Step 2: *Rotate 180° around the vertical axis. Medal alignment (↑↑): reverse text is right-way up. Coin alignment (↑↓): reverse text is upside down.*

Step 3: *Examine the bust truncation under a loupe for the word SCHWARTZ.*

Variety	Signature	Alignment	Scarcity	Notes
KM# 25.1	SCHWARTZ	Medal ↑↑	Common	Standard type; 1904–1915 date range
KM# 25.2	None	Medal ↑↑	Uncommon	1915 only; signature omitted mid-run
KM# 25.3	SCHWARTZ	Coin ↑↓	Scarce	1915 only; noted as "a scarce variety" by Baldwin's
KM# 25.4	None	Coin ↑↓	Scarce	1915 only; least common combination; PCGS MS-65 examples known

MINT & PRODUCTION

Paris Mint — Monnaie de Paris

The Paris Mint had been Serbia's principal foreign mint since 1875, when the first modern Serbian silver coinage was struck there. The relationship survived wars, occupations, and the Great Retreat itself. The Paris Mint's privy mark (a) on the reverse is the primary authentication identifier, confirming the coin was struck under French mint authority.

The Latin Monetary Union

Serbia had participated in the Latin Monetary Union since 1875, adopting the 5.0 g / .835 silver standard for the 1 Dinar — exactly matching the French 1 Franc and the Austrian 1 Corona. This meant Serbian dinars could circulate throughout the Union at face value, and the Paris Mint's production was both a practical and a monetary arrangement.

VALUATION

Collector demand is driven by both WWI thematic collectors and Balkan/Serbian specialist collectors. The standard variety (KM#25.1) is modestly priced in circulated grades; coin-alignment variants (KM#25.3/25.4) command meaningful premiums; certified MS examples of all varieties are scarce and sought-after.

Variety Premiums over KM#25.1 (same grade)

Variety	Scarcity	Premium (circulated)	Premium (MS)
KM# 25.1 With name / Medal ↑↑	Common	Base	Base
KM# 25.2 No name / Medal ↑↑	Uncommon	+20–40%	+30–50%
KM# 25.3 With name / Coin ↑↓	Scarce	+40–80%	+50–100%
KM# 25.4 No name / Coin ↑↓	Scarce	+50–100%	+75–150%

COLLECTING NOTES

Attribute the Variety First

Before assessing grade or value, establish which of the four varieties you have. An unattributed 1915 dinar in EF is worth \$20–45; the same coin correctly identified as KM#25.3 in EF is worth \$30–70. This test takes just a few seconds.

What to Look For

Key grading points: (1) Peter I's beard and whiskers — individual hairs define EF from VF. (2) The laurel wreath on the reverse — individual berries and leaf-tip definition at EF and above. (3) The Paris Mint privy mark — should be legible under a loupe above F grade; its presence is an authentication marker. (4) The SCHWARTZ signature (KM#25.1/25.3 only) — small but sharp on EF examples.

Problems to Avoid

(1) Cleaning — silver dipping or mechanical cleaning is widespread in Balkan coins; check for directional hairlines or over-bright surfaces. (2) Variety misattribution — many dealers list all 1915 dinars as "KM#25" without checking alignment or signature; verify before purchasing. (3) Counterfeit concerns — check the Paris Mint privy mark carefully; genuine examples have crisp, well-defined marks. (4) False "rarities" — coin-alignment variants are genuinely scarcer than medal-alignment but not rare at circulated grades.

Collection Contexts

The 1915 Serbia 1 Dinar fits naturally into: a Balkan silver collection; a World War I combatant coinage thematic set (Serbian, Austrian, German, French, British 1914–1918 silver); a Paris Mint foreign coinage collection; a Peter I Karađorđević type set (1904–1918, all denominations); or an all-four-varieties specialist set of the 1915 issue specifically.

Related Coins

Companions: the 50 Para 1915 (KM#24 series — same four-variety structure, same Paris Mint, same year); the 2 Dinara 1915 (KM#26 — same varieties, larger module, 10 g / 27 mm); the 5 Dinara 1915 (KM#27 — large crown-size silver); and for broader context, the 1916 Austrian 1 Corona (KM#2820) — the enemy coin sharing the same specifications and the same engraver.

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 Jonathan, Wayne, and Mike were able to identify the mystery coin, a 1981 New Zealand Commemorative.



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



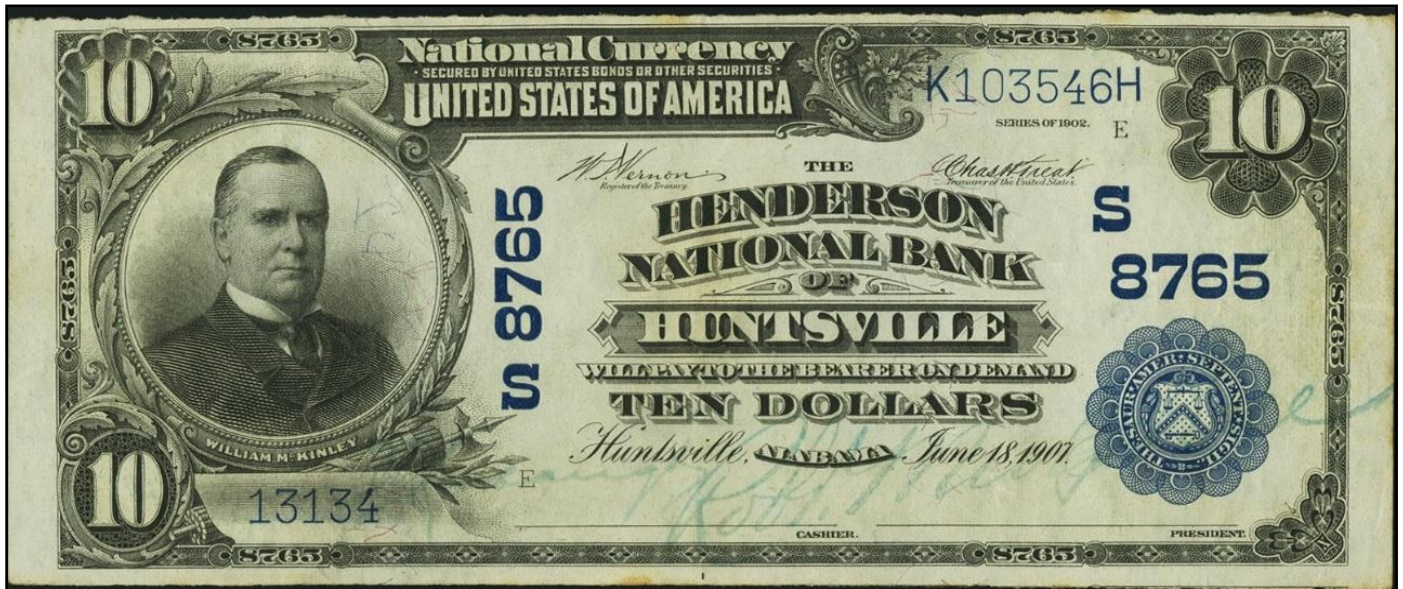
Looking for Alaskan Medals and Tokens



Contact: [Richard.](#)

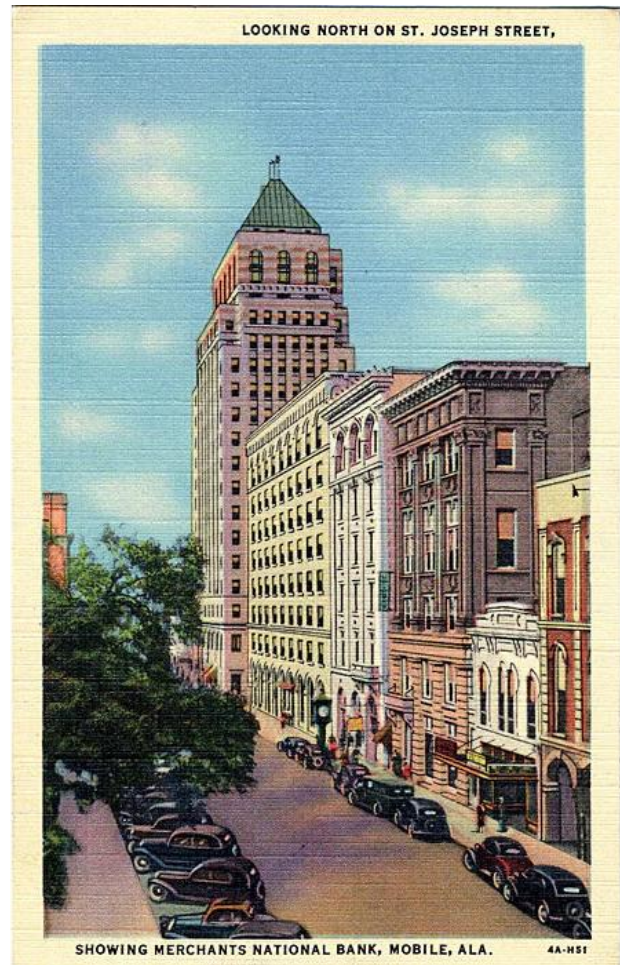


Wanted Alabama Large-Size National Banknotes and better Alabama Obsolete Banknotes



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	Meeting Cancelled	
February 2	Harold Fears	Everyone Show and Tell
March 16	Provided by the Club	Richard Jozefiak The Club's Past, Present and Future
April 6	Wayne Koger	Stephen D'Angelo <i>Odd Denominations</i>
May 18	Ann Fulmer	Kurt Kelley <i>Collecting Seated Liberty Half Dimes 1837-1873</i>
June 1	Potluck, Bourse Night, and Auction	
July 13	Aaron Wales	Aaron Wales <i>2-5-0 What to Know</i>
Tuesday August 18	Chad Thrasher	Everyone Show and Tell
September 21	Nate Burrows	David Hollander The Wonderful World of Banknote Collecting
Tuesday October 20	Keith George	Chad Thrasher My Collecting Journey and What I Would Tell My Younger Self
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
Nov 13-15	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	++

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 B.](#)

Vice President: [Wayne K.](#)

Secretary: [Keith G.](#)

Treasurer: [Mike C.](#)

Board Member: [Kurt S.](#)

Librarian: [Ann F.](#)

Board Member: [Todd H.](#)

Membership Info: [Mike C.](#)

Newsletter Contact: [Harold F.](#)

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](#).