



# MONEY TALKS

Presentations by numismatic experts inform and inspire collectors.

**M**oney Talks are free 30- to 45-minute educational presentations by some of the hobby's most noted authorities. Programs are offered Thursday and Friday, August 12-13, in Room 6 of the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center.

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 12

### 9 a.m. How to Get & Keep Your Child Interested in Coin Collecting (Abigail Zechman)

This talk provides a few ideas for getting the kids in your life into collecting. The discussion will include tips for when you take youngsters to a show or local coin club meeting and options to explore if your kids really aren't interested in the hobby.

*Abigail "Abby" Zechman has been heavily involved in the numismatic world since she was 10 years old. She is an award-winning exhibitor and has written articles that have appeared in magazines such as FUN TOPICS and PCGS's YOUNG COLLECTORS CORNER. She is a hobo nickel carver who travels to local shows demonstrating her craft and sharing the hobo story. In 2018 Zechman was recognized as the ANA's Young Numismatist of the Year. She is currently pursuing a degree in education and wants to become a numismatic educator so she can continually encourage kids to get excited about coins and help them grow a passion for collecting.*

### 10 a.m. German Notgeld: The World's First Art-Backed Currency (Jesse Goplen)

While multimillion-dollar sales of art-backed non-fungible tokens (NFTs) have been grabbing headlines, the concept of art-backed currency is hardly new. A hundred years ago, issuers of German *not-*

*geld* had speculators running wild for their tokenized art too! This presentation examines the similarities between the two movements.

*Jesse Goplen has been active as a dealer, researcher and translator of German notgeld for nearly a decade. He also is active in the non-fungible token field and regularly speaks about music NFTs.*

### 11 a.m. Virtus & Victoria: Coins Relating to the Severan War Against the Tribes of Caledonia (Michael A. Kodysz)

This talk discusses coins related to the war conducted from A.D. 208-211 by the Roman emperor Septimius Severus against the tribal inhabitants of Caledonia. This presentation covers coins issued during the conflict that illustrate the concepts of Virtus and Victoria within the context of the war.

*Michael A. Kodysz was born in Cleveland, Ohio. He has collected ancient Roman coins for 20 years. In 2019 he won the Steven J. D'Ippolito Award for Excellence in Numismatic Exhibiting and the Howland Wood Memorial Award for Best-of-Show Exhibit at the ANA National Money Show® and World's Fair of Money®, respectively. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Akron in Ohio and a master's degree from Sotheby's Institute of Art in London. He currently teaches visual communication courses at Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland.*

### 12 p.m. Evolution of a Collector: A Personal Numismatic Journey (Robert F. Fritsch)

No collection winds up the same way it started. Each evolves over time depending on a collector's changing interests. This discussion details Robert Fritsch's numismatic journey of

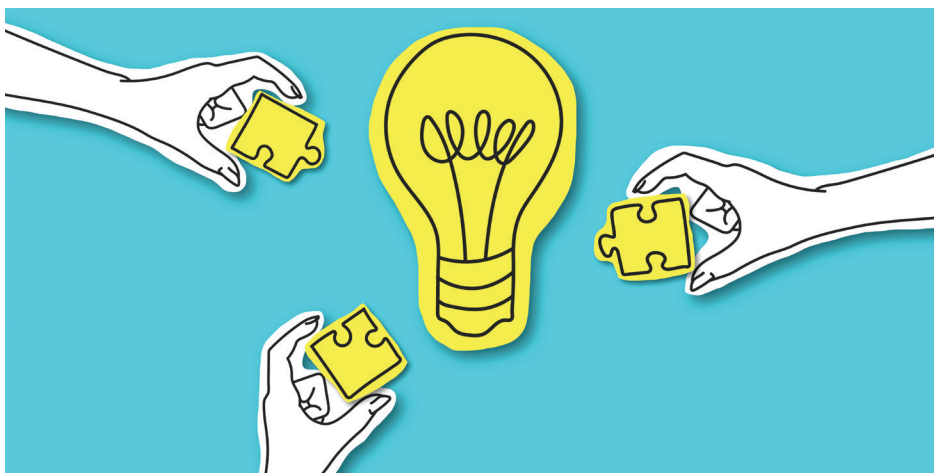
over 50 years, from a young sailor in Japan collecting pocket change to an accomplished collector today.

*Robert "Bob" Fritsch started collecting in 1968 when he was stationed in Japan with the Navy. Subsequent assignments in Germany, Scotland and Spain, along with several Mediterranean cruises, added to his core collection of circulating coins from the countries he visited. After he retired from the Navy, Fritsch started collecting New Hampshire town medals, New England Numismatic Association medals, elongates, woods, Hard Times tokens, Mardi Gras doubloons, ancients, state quarters, U.S. "classic" commemoratives, polymer bank notes and select European art and historical medals. Fritsch is a member of 55 coin clubs, several of which he's served as a board member and 6 of which he's served as president. His best collection of all is his numismatic friends.*

### 1 p.m. Fire & Coin Preservation: A Reflection (Dr. Ron Brown)

The night of September 9, 2020, the now infamous Bear Fire of Berry Creek and Oroville, California, killed 17 people and decimated more than 1,300 homes, including Ron Brown's. All his belongings, along with two cars and his numismatic holdings, were destroyed. This talk relays the harrowing times that Brown experienced as well as preservation and storage advice from the harsh lessons he learned.

*Ron Brown is a retired M.D. and Ph.D. He is a disabled service-connected veteran and life member of the ANA and Florida United Numismatists (FUN). He also is a member of CONECA and a die variety specialist on U.S. and Canadian coins. Brown writes a column for FUN TOPICS magazine called "FUN Vari-*



ety Topics” as well as the column “Treasures among Treasure” for CONECA’s *ERRORSCOPE*.

**2 p.m. Assembling a Major Paper Money Collection: Kentucky National Bank Notes (Tony Swicer)**

After 18 years of collecting Kentucky National Bank notes, Tony Swicer now has one of the largest Kentucky collections ever assembled, totaling 560 notes. This talk discusses how he assembled the collection through auctions, coin shows, dealer contacts and more. It also details the importance of using the right reference books; knowing when to buy and when to say “no” to a prospective purchase; deciding what minimum grade to collect; and understanding how much money is involved.

*Tony Swicer serves as vice president of the Florida United Numismatists (FUN). He has presented at local clubs and at ANA and FUN shows. He is an exhibit judge for both the ANA and FUN and has served as president of the Palm Beach Coin Club (PBCC) for 38 years. Swicer runs a monthly 50-table coin show and writes the PBCC monthly newsletter. He also serves as an ANA district representative and has earned several Association honors, including the Medal of Merit, the Glenn Smedley Memorial Award and a Presidential Award. He also has been named a Numismatic Ambassador and has received recognition from the Numismatic Literary Guild.*

**3 p.m. The Romanticizing of the American Indian as Shown in Designs Chosen for U.S. Coinage & Currency (Robert Bair)**

This presentation examines a historic panorama of white American attitudes toward American Indians over several

centuries, concluding with a romanticized admiration for the “then-vanished Americans” that was expressed through U.S. coinage and currency design.

*Robert “Bob” Bair has been involved in numismatics since 1956, first as a collector, then as a coin dealer starting in 1987. As a boy growing up in northwestern Wisconsin in the 1950s, he began collecting coins that he received from his newspaper route, and a lifelong passion was born. Bair holds master’s degrees in U.S. history (1970) and educational administration (1994). He taught in Wisconsin from 1969 to 1997 and served as a school principal in Louisiana and Colorado until he retired in 2010.*

**4 p.m. Solving the Mysteries of the Gaku Ichibu (Lianna Spurrier)**

The Gaku Ichibu is a rectangular coin from Japan minted in 1599. The first of a 250-year series of rectangular gold ichibu, this presentation will chronicle Lianna Spurrier’s research into the piece with many new insights. Plenty of background information will be provided, so no prior knowledge of the series is required.

*Lianna Spurrier began collecting at age 11 and is now the creative director of Numismatic Marketing. She’s also done work for the Newman Numismatic Portal, CoinWeek and the ANA, in addition to independent research on Japanese bar money. The enigmatic rectangular pieces caught her attention in early 2019, and she’s in the process of conducting research so she can eventually publish a book covering them in detail.*

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 13**

**9 a.m. Demure Maiden to Wild Child: Saint Barbara, Protector of Those Who Use Explosives (Helen-Louise Boling)**

This presentation discusses a variety of medals and “challenge coins” that illustrate the role of Saint Barbara as the patron saint of those who work with explosives, particularly miners, firefighters, and military artillery and Explosive Ordnance Disposal units. This presentation details the symbols found on these numismatic items. Multiple pieces will be available for examination.

*Helen-Louise Boling is a numismatic dilettante, wandering the bourse at shows looking for whatever catches her eye—whether it be an interesting historical medal, folk jewelry incorporating coins, military exonumia or something else entirely. She became interested in Saint Barbara medals because of her association with explosives. She has attended the ANA Summer Seminar multiple times and has taken a variety of courses. She is a member of several numismatic organizations and serves on the board of Women in Numismatics.*

**10 a.m. The Visigoth Gold Tremisses Series as Illustrated via Collectable Forgeries (Dr. Jeffrey A. Amelse)**

The Visigothic Kingdom occupied what is now southwestern France and the Iberian Peninsula from the 5th to the 8th centuries. Its prolific coinage consisted mainly of small gold *tremisses*. About 800 varieties of bonified *tremisses* and over 500 forgeries are known. It would be impossible to put together a set of real coins from all rulers today because of cost and scarcity. Jeffrey Amelse discusses his collection, which consists of over 50 of these collectable forgeries and represents the majority of the rulers.

*Jeffrey Amelse received a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from Northwestern University in 1980. In 2017 he retired after 35 years at BP Amoco Chemical Company Petrochemicals Technology and currently works as an invited associate professor of chemistry at the Universidade de Aveiro in Portugal. Amelse began collecting coins in the 1960s after his father brought home an 1883 “No Cents” Liberty nickel from work. Around 1982 Amelse began collecting U.S. large cents, and he holds top 100 collections of early, middle and late dates. His passion for copper led him to collect Byzantine bronzes by die variety, and he has one of the best holdings in private hands. He is a member of the Chicago Coin Club.*

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**11 a.m. Pan-Mediterranean Coinage (Douglas Mudd)**

From the earliest times, water has been the cheapest and easiest way to transport goods and people. For the peoples of the Mediterranean littoral, this fact has been both a blessing and a curse. The spread of coinage use provides primary evidence for the study of the Mediterranean basin and its associated regions as a single economic trade unit. While coinage spread rapidly along the coastal regions of the Mediterranean, it took much longer to circulate inland among the landlocked peoples of Europe, Asia and Africa adjacent to the Mediterranean basin. Learn about the coins that provided the backbone for commerce in this region for over 2,500 years!

*Douglas Mudd is the curator and director of the ANA's Edward C. Rochette Money Museum and a former collection manager for the National Numismatic Collection in the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History. He holds a master's degree in American history and wrote ALL THE MONEY IN THE WORLD, published by HarperCollins in 2006.*

**12 p.m. Strategies to Dispose of Your Collection (Rod Gillis)**

Many numismatists do not know what will become of their collections after they pass on. Often, a hobbyist's spouse and/or children are not familiar with numismatics, nor are they the least bit interested. If a collector dies without a specific strategy, then their family is left with a big mess. Should you sell your collection before passing? If not, how can you help your relatives liquidate your collection upon your demise? This talk answers these questions and more.

*Rod Gillis earned a bachelor's degree in history and education from the University of Maryland. Prior to joining the ANA staff in 2006, he taught at Lin-Wood Public School in Lincoln, New Hampshire. As the Association's education director, Gillis creates videos and activities for the ANA's website; teaches a course for educators called "Coins in the Classroom"; develops workshops and educational programs; and works with young numismatists to promote interest in the hobby.*

**1 p.m. Why a Three? The U.S. 3-Cent Coin, That Is (Dr. Walter Ostromecki)**

Discover the intriguing history regarding

the issuance and collecting of U.S. 3-cent coinage of 1851-89. There is far more behind the reason for its issuance than the widely known explanation that it was struck "for the 3-cent postage stamp." In fact, the concept for an American 3-cent coin originated in 1849 as a result of the California Gold Rush!

*An ANA past president and professional educator for 38 years, Walt Ostromecki is a prolific collector, writer, speaker and youth/family activities educator. He has received numerous top numismatic honors, including NUMISMATIC NEWS's Numismatic Ambassador distinction (1988) and the ANA's Farran Zerbe Memorial Award for Distinguished Service (2020).*



**2 p.m. What's New at the Newman Portal? (Leonard Augsburger)**

The Newman Numismatic Portal (NNP, [newmanportal.org](http://newmanportal.org)) is an online community repository of numismatic books, periodicals, auction catalogs and archival materials. The portal went live in 2016 and today hosts over 50,000 documents in addition to biographical, image and dictionary databases. The NNP further contains the Eric P. Newman research papers and a video library of several thousand items. This presentation covers recent additions to the Newman Portal and provides a road map of the project's future.

*Leonard "Len" Augsburger serves as project coordinator for the Newman Numismatic Portal, which is operated through Washington University in St. Louis and underwritten by the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society. Augsburger has written widely in the numismatic field and has won three Book of the Year awards from the Numismatic Literary Guild. He is a member of many numismatic organizations,*

*vice president of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society and president of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club.*

**3 p.m. The Gun Money of James II (Mark Wieclaw)**

James II was king of England, Scotland and Ireland from February 1685 until he was deposed in the Glorious Revolution of 1688. Determined to regain the throne, he sought assistance from both France and Ireland. An assistant suggested minting brass coinage with the promise of exchanging the pieces for silver coins after he was once again seated on the throne. Any available brass objects (such as pots and candlesticks) were melted. This also includes decommissioned cannons, thus the term "gun money." This talk details the issuance of the various denominations minted for regular use between 1689 and 1690.

*Mark Wieclaw started collecting coins in 1975, and in 1981 he shifted his focus to ancient Greek and Roman money. He has entered and judged educational exhibits and spoken at local, state, regional and national conventions since 1981. Wieclaw is a life member of the ANA, Central States Numismatic Society, Illinois Numismatic Association and Chicago Coin Club. He served as the assistant general chairperson in 1999 and 2011 for the ANA's World's Fair of Money® (WFM) and as the general chairperson for the 2013 WFM. He is a recipient of two ANA Presidential Awards (1999 and 2013) and was named a Numismatic Ambassador in 2001.*

**4 p.m. Varieties of the \$25 Defense & War Savings Bonds (James A. Downey)**

The \$25 Defense and War Savings Bonds were the most popular denomination issued. Unsurprisingly, they also have the most varieties. This presentation examines the obvious and subtle differences available to collectors.

*James Downey has been a military numismatic collector for over three decades. He is a frequent contributor to military numismatic publications and a four-time recipient of the Robert G. Olson Award at the MPCFest. Downey is a coauthor of a volume on United States Defense and War Savings Bonds. He also is a member of the International Bank Note Society and serves as its legal counsel.*

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