



American Numismatic Association  
818 North Cascade Avenue  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903  
[ana@money.org](mailto:ana@money.org)  
719-632-2646

## Your Newsletter March 2007

*Your Newsletter* is an electronic publication of the American Numismatic Association dedicated to serving Young Numismatists by publishing their articles and related items of numismatic interest. To subscribe to the free *Your Newsletter*, email [YourNewsletter@money.org](mailto:YourNewsletter@money.org) and ask to be placed on the list. Permission to copy, distribute, and publish any information in *Your Newsletter* is granted to all.

**Editor:** Max B. Spiegel

Thank you to our contributors and readers! If you have an interesting numismatic article, website, or other item of interest that you would like published in *Your Newsletter*, email [YourNewsletter@money.org](mailto:YourNewsletter@money.org).

### Editor's Notes

I would like to begin by apologizing for the very short February issue. Two problems contributed to this: apparently the [YourNewsletter@money.org](mailto:YourNewsletter@money.org) email address had stopped working, and I had mistakenly sent the old version to the ANA to be published. By the time you read this, however, a new February issue should now have been published. Everything is now back in order, and the email address is working, so if you sent in any articles that have not been published, please resend them—it means that I have not received them, not that they aren't going to be published.

In other news the ANA has put the Summer Seminar course schedule online, so I encourage everyone to check out what courses are being offered; I'm sure there is something that interests you. As I've said several times before: if you're serious about numismatics, you have to come to the Summer Seminar at least once. I will be working at Stack's in New York City this summer, and hopefully I'll have a chance to make it to Colorado Springs for a week. In the meantime, we East Coasters will enjoy the warm weather that has suddenly been sprung upon us.

## Coins in the Classroom

*(Young Numismatists version)*

By Alexandra Troxell

Have you ever gotten stumped at school when a teacher asks you to pick a topic for an essay, paper, project, or report? It happens to everyone once in a while. Having free reign of any topic you want to research or write about can be very intimidating, but there's an easy solution to that dilemma: numismatics.

Collecting coins is your hobby; you enjoy it. So why not transfer that joy to your schoolwork. You can write a story about how you got started in the hobby or research a country through its coinage or make a project out of part of your personal collection. The possibilities are endless! Plus, whatever research you do for school can be put into an article for a numismatic newsletter or an exhibit at a local show.

Once you have your topic all it takes is a trip to your local numismatic book store, a little internet surfing, or, if there's a coin show or club meeting coming up, an interview with a knowledgeable collector or dealer who specializes in the subject you've chosen. As a numismatist, you'll have limitless resources right at your fingertips.

Numismatic research topics can be a way to make school a little fun for once and further your numismatic knowledge at the same time.

## The Coins of the David R. Cervin Ancient Coin Project

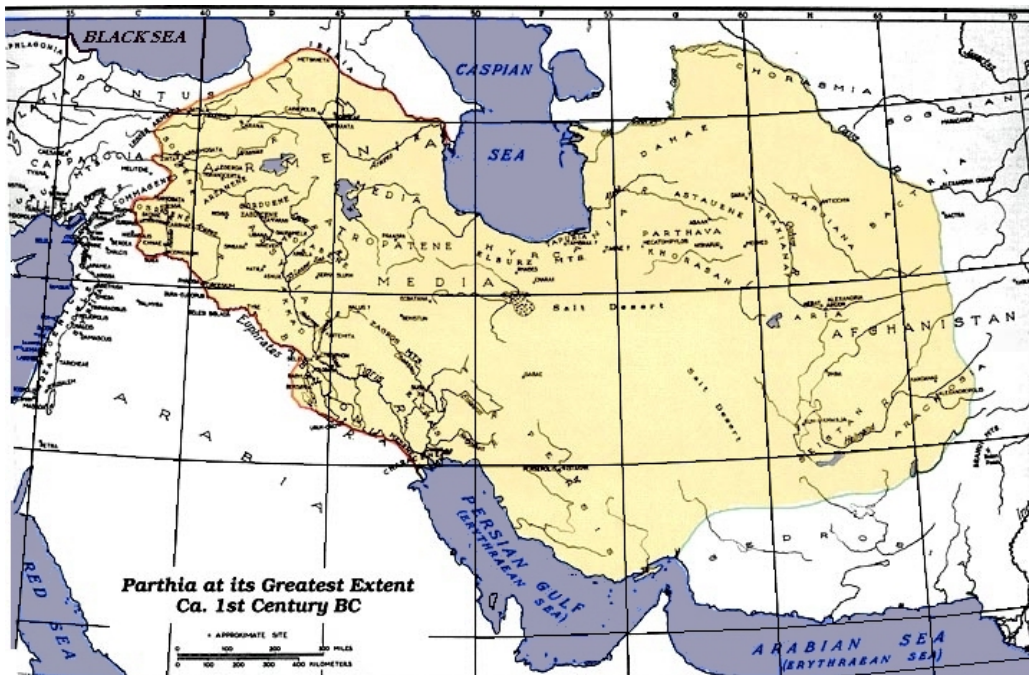
### Part 7 of 8: Tetradrachm of Gotarzes II

By Sam H. Spiegel

The ANA David R. Cervin Ancient Coin Project is a project open to all young numismatists who are members of the American Numismatic Association (ANA). The coins are earned a number of different ways, such as giving numismatic related talks, publishing articles, completing an ANA correspondence course, or a course at the Summer Seminar. There are a total of 8 coins available in the project. However, to earn the eighth, one must exhibit the first seven. The coins in the project are a great addition to any collection, representing civilizations as far-reaching as Gaul (modern-day France) all the way to the Mauryan Empire (India). They also range in time periods from the fourth century BC to the third century AD. That's 700 years of history! So, if you are a beginner, and looking at an ancient coin for the first time, or are a veteran collector, this is a great project that will add many memorable coins to your collection. In this series of articles, I will showcase a series of coins that I have received (and you can too). This month is the seventh coin in the series; a tetradrachm from the Parthian king Gotarzes II.

Gotarzes II was recognized intermittently as king of Parthia from 40-51 AD. The original Parthian kingdom was just southeast of the Caspian Sea. The Parthians, being originally a

nomadic people, were known throughout the ancient world for their skill with horses and their famed horse-archers (which caused the Romans much trouble on several occasions). It was not until the reign of Mithradates I in 171 BC that the Parthian empire rapidly expanded. He was able to conquer most of the Mesopotamian Peninsula, and by the end of his reign, his empire stretched from the Euphrates River to the Hindu Kush in India. His nephew, Mithradates II, extended the empire even further when he succeeded his father (brother of Mithradates I).



Map of the Parthian Empire, ca. 1<sup>st</sup> Century BC.

(Photo: Smithsonian National Museum of American History, National Numismatic Collection,

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/numismatics/parthia/frames/pargeo.htm>)

Mithradates' II coins have a less Greek and more oriental style to them. About midway through his reign, he adopted the famous title, which had been used in Asia for centuries before him, "Great King of Kings." After this, his coins became more elaborate, notably portraying him with an enormous tiara embroidered with stars, moons, and other designs. The coin I received was of the king Gotarzes II, who ruled intermittently from 40-51 AD. Actually his brother, Vardanes I, succeeded their father, but Gotarzes rebelled, believing he should have been named the successor instead. However, Vardanes was assassinated in 47 AD, and Gotarzes was finally acknowledged by all as king. An interesting aspect of his coins is that, in addition to the regular titles that Parthian kings took, he also put the term philhellene on them, meaning "friend of the Greeks" or "admirer of the Greeks."

In the early days of the empire, the Parthians were only able to mint coins in several cities in Mesopotamia that were inhabited by Greeks. The obverses all depicted the Parthians in their customary clothes and style, but the reverses were much more like Greek coins, especially the tetradachms. The inscriptions of the coins generally were in Greek, but towards the decline of their empire in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, the inscriptions were changed to fit

the Parthian language because people were not as familiar with Greek as they once were. An interesting aspect of Parthian coins is that they have dates on them according to the Seleucid calendar. The coin shown here has the date BET, which means 362, which translates to 50/51 AD. Since the Parthians did not leave many written records, their coins are an extremely important tool in finding out about the history of their kingdom.



To earn this coin, you have only one option, of publishing an article at least 500 words in length in any ANA, ANA member, or regional publication. Obviously, the article must be numismatic-related. This is the penultimate step in the project; with the last step exhibiting the first seven coins, in order to receive the last one. Good luck!

Next Time: A tetradrachm of Antiochus VII (The request form says you would get a stater from Pamphylia, but when I sent the request form away, I received this coin instead).

***Money Talks*** was a radio project began by the American Numismatic Association in October 1992 as a series of daily national radio programs. In 1996 the stories from Money Talks' first year were collected in a book published by the ANA. The following is a broadcast excerpted from the book, "Money Talks."

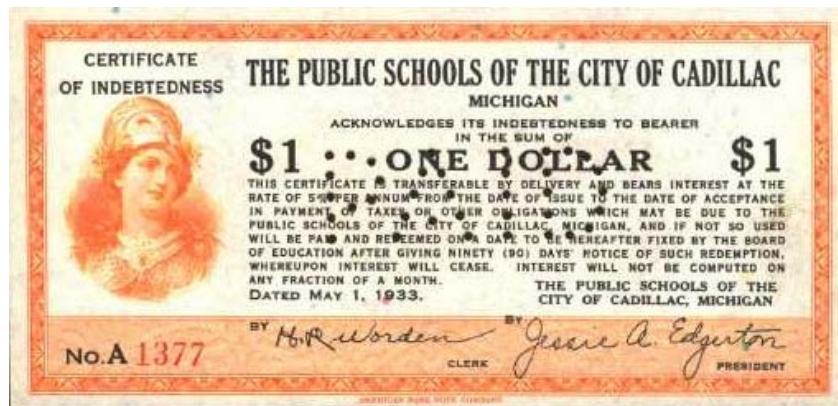
### **Depression Scrip** By Lawrence Korchnak

What do you think would happen if the schools in your community ran out of money? I mean, really ran out of money. Well, that's exactly what happened to many school districts during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

This is “ANA’s Money Talks.”

Nearly 25 percent of the American people were out of work during the Depression, and at least as many were underemployed. Tax revenues dried up, and investments in failed or faltering financial institutions cut school revenues even further. To make matters worse, the money on hand was often mismanaged by trusted school officials. A fair number of superintendents, business managers and school board members lost their positions—and some were even arrested! Many school districts were forced to make a decision: either find money, or close their doors to the children and their futures.

Since money was scarce, many school districts issued certificates of indebtedness, or scrip. The scrip circulated as legal tender by promising to make good its face value in cash at a later date. Teachers were paid with these “promises” and local merchants usually accepted the scrip as a good-faith commitment to their customers and community. But some businessmen weren’t so supportive or patriotic. They refused to accept the notes, fearing the school district would never have the resources to redeem them later. Some local governments even refused to accept their own school districts’ scrip for taxes. A teacher’s life was made even more complicated when neighboring towns refused to accept the scrip. They were literally economic prisoners to their own communities!



A Certificate of Indebtedness from the Public Schools of the City of Cadillac, Michigan. It has since been paid.  
(Photo: Heritage Auction Galleries)

Thousands of these notes were produced by school districts across the country—and because of them, the schools remained open. Scrip became the money that preserved education for millions of youngsters during the Depression.

## Young Numismatists Programs

The ANA has many programs to encourage Young Numismatists to be active in the hobby. The 2007 ANA Summer Seminar will be held in two sessions during the last week of June and the first week of July. Summer Seminar is an opportunity for numismatic scholarship and

camaraderie, offering students a wide and varied selection of week-long courses suited for anyone, from the curious beginner to the most advanced numismatist. Young Numismatists (YNs), ages 13 to 22, stay in a Colorado College dormitory with experienced chaperones and mentors. For more information about Summer Seminar, go to the ANA website ([www.money.org](http://www.money.org)).

Two great ways for Young Numismatists to learn and earn spectacular coins and other prizes are the David R. Cervin Ancient Coin Project and the Early American Copper Coin Project (select "Young Numismatists" from the "Explore the World of Money" pull-down menu on the ANA website). By completing hobby-related activities YNs can also earn auction dollars to spend at the ANA World's Fair of Money convention each year. To see how to earn these auction dollars, there is a form located on the Young Numismatists page of the ANA website.

If any other clubs have programs or events for Young Numismatists, please send the information to [YourNewsletter@money.org](mailto:YourNewsletter@money.org).

#### Legal Information

It is understood and agreed that the information in *Your Newsletter* is for the personal use of the participants and is not for commercial distribution; however, permission to copy, distribute, and publish any information in *Your Newsletter* is granted to all. Please note that the opinions expressed in *Your Newsletter* are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the ANA. Please forward this newsletter to Young Numismatists, clubs, or YN advisors you feel might be interested. To be included on (or deleted from) the list, email your request to [YourNewsletter@money.org](mailto:YourNewsletter@money.org). Feel free to send any comments to that link.

*Your Newsletter* is an online newsletter published free of charge by the American Numismatic Association, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903.