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## Your Newsletter January 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

Happy New Year! I hope everybody had a joyous holiday season, and got some great presents. My brother Sam seems to have received a good one. Last month it was announced that he was the 2006 Young Numismatist of the Year. Congratulations to him and Daniel "Tiny" Cross, the Adult Advisor of the Year. More information can be found on the ANA website at [www.money.org](http://www.money.org). Click on "Press Releases" from the "Communications" dropdown menu.

This is a very busy time of year, so that's why *Your Newsletter* is coming out a few days late. It also probably explains why there is a dearth of article submissions this month.

I was just looking at a recent issue of *Numismatic News*, which I have been missing out on because I don't forward it to college, and I took a look at the new First Spouse gold coins. I think it's a great idea to include all of the first ladies on 24-karat gold coins while their husbands appear on the dollar coins. My first question – and a lot of you were probably wondering the same thing – was what happens when the president served without a first lady. In this case, which happens almost immediately with Thomas Jefferson, the mint will choose a depiction of liberty to replace the image of the first lady. I think it's a little odd that they chose to officially call it the "First Spouse," but I suppose that's the most politically correct way of putting it.



Incused edge-lettering on the new Presidential dollar coins.  
(Photo: U.S. Mint)

The President Dollar Coin series is also very interesting, with the date, "E Pluribus Unum," and "In God We Trust" appearing as incuse edge lettering. I was wondering how long it would take for the letters to wear off, but I suppose that's why they chose to make them incuse. It's also interesting that unlike all other circulating coins, the motto "Liberty" does not appear on the dollar coins, rather the Statue of Liberty, which is "emblematic of liberty," appears. Although I think that the President dollars and the First Spouse gold coins are very interesting and fairly revolutionary among American coins, I doubt this will cause the public to start spending dollar coins. In fact, I think they are so interesting that everyone who comes across one would rather save it than spend it! I know I will be collecting the Presidential dollars (I wish I could afford their First Spouse counterparts), and I hope you will take the time to look at them when they start coming out this year.

## Announcements

### **ANA Announces 2006 Recipients of Young Numismatist of the Year and Adult Advisor of the Year**

The American Numismatic Association congratulates Sam Spiegel, recipient of the 2006 Young Numismatist of the Year award; and Daniel "Tiny" Cross, recipient of the 2006 Adult Advisor of the Year award. The winners, announced Dec. 1, were chosen for their uncommon dedication to strengthening the future of numismatics through accomplishments and youth outreach initiatives.



Spiegel, a resident of Brooklyn, N.Y., has been collecting coins since he was 5 years old. A devoted attendee at ANA conventions and Summer Seminar, his accomplishments in numismatics belie his age of 15. In 2005 Spiegel received the Abe Kosoff Memorial Literary Award for his paper, "Introduction to the Coinage of Alexander the Great." He has published papers and presented talks on Three-Cent Pieces, Mercury Dimes, Ptolemaic Coinage, and the Four Essential Freedoms, to name a few.

Spiegel has served as auction head at the YN Benefit Auction during Summer Seminar, and his talent as an exhibitor has led to numerous awards at ANA conventions. He is a member of the ANA, the Young Numismatists of America, the Westchester County Coin Club, the Garden State Numismatic Association, and the Ocean County Coin Club.

Cross, president of the Ozarks' Coin Club in Springfield, Mo., has led several initiatives to promote numismatics to the children of central Missouri. He has arranged for youth to attend ANA Summer Seminar, led field trips to the Gallery Mint in Eureka Springs, Ark., and organized involvement in paging at several conventions.



Cross has served as a mentor by teaching classes and helping youth prepare numismatic exhibits and educational presentations. Coin clubs such as the Central States Numismatic Society and the Missouri State Numismatic Society have called on his guidance while developing their education programs. The ANA can count on Cross to participate in meetings and pass out youth education literature at Summer Seminar and conventions.

The ANA Young Numismatist of the Year award has been given annually since 1968. Many past winners are now prominent professionals in numismatics and other endeavors. The ANA Adult Advisor of the Year award has been presented annually since 1972.

## Summer Seminar

### YN Scholarship Applications Online

The American Numismatic Association seeks applications from young numismatists ages 12 to 22 for scholarships to attend the annual Summer Seminar educational conference in Colorado Springs, home of the ANA Edward C. Rochette Money Museum and the Dwight M. Manley Numismatic Library.

Scholarship recipients will attend a week-long class of their choice, stay in a Colorado College dormitory with experienced chaperons, and participate in seminar programs and special events. Dates for the two one-week sessions in 2007 are June 24-29 and June 30-July 6.

YN Scholarship applications are available on the ANA website at [www.money.org](http://www.money.org) (click on "Young Numismatists" from the "Explore the World of Money" drop-down menu) or by calling the ANA Education Department.

Applications are due February 16, 2007 and will be reviewed by a selection committee. Scholarship award recipients will be announced in March.

For more information, call the Education department at 719-482-9869 or e-mail [education@money.org](mailto:education@money.org).

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

### Part 5 of 8: Bronze Coin from Smyrna, Ionia

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 coins. 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 fifth coin in the series; a bronze coin from the city of Smyrna in Ionia.



Map of Ionia. (Photo: UNC Classics Department Interactive Ancient Mediterranean Project, <http://iam.classics.unc.edu/index.html>)

Smyrna was a prosperous city in Ionia (modern-day Turkey). It was originally settled sometime in the early 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium BC. The name "Smyrna" comes from the sap or "myrrh" of a plant which grew in abundance in the area. The resin was important for liniments, perfume, and embalming, and thus helped the city grow to be a major trading power. It grew to prominence in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries BC, as it was one of the homes where the legendary poet Homer supposedly grew up, and it was situated in a prime location for trade. But in the early 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, the Lydian king, Alyattes III, conquered the city and sacked it. It was believed that for several centuries no city existed on the site, but there is strong evidence to say that some small settlement remained in that location until the time of Alexander when he decided to rebuild the ancient city and restore it to its former glory. This was actually carried out, however, by his successor Antigonos, and continued by Lysimachos after him. After its rebirth, Smyrna rose to become a very important cultural and economic center in the East. Lysimachos actually renamed the city Eurydikeia, in honor of his daughter, but the Smyrnians switched it back to their old name after his death. Today, it is the modern city of Izmir, Turkey.



On this particular coin, the obverse depicts the Greek god Apollo, god of music, light, and medicine. On the reverse is the poet Homer, sitting down holding a scroll. This shows how the Smyrnians took pride in their cultural heritage. All Greek coins were minted at the city for which they were made, so unlike Roman coins, they usually do not need to have a mintmark. They do, however, often times have the mint magistrate's name on the coins (such as on the reverse of this one). Another interesting aspect of this coin is that it has a monogram to the left of the magistrate's name. This could stand for many things, but most likely it is the engraver's initials. The reason the magistrate had his whole name on the coin and the engraver only had his initials was simply because the magistrate was more important than the engraver. By knowing the magistrate who was in charge while the coin was minted, you can then determine a pretty accurate date as to when it was minted.

To earn this coin, you can do any one of three options. You can recruit five people to join the ANA, complete a correspondence course, or (my personal favorite), complete a session at the ANA Summer Seminar. If you do decide to recruit members to the ANA, have them mark down on the membership form that they were recruited by you. Or, if you decide to attend the Summer Seminar, remember that scholarship applications can be found on the ANA's website, and are due by February 16, 2007. Have a Happy New Year!

Next Time: A bronze coin from Apulia, Arpi

### ANA's Money Talks

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."

# **Your Beard ... Or Your Money**

By David Vagi

We sometimes complain that many of the taxes we pay are ridiculous – but what about a tax on beards?

This is “ANA’s Money Talks.”

At the dawn of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Czar Peter the Great came to power in Russia. His dream was to harness the resources of his great nation and turn Russia into a world power. He was confident Russia was wealthy enough in land and people, but he also realized his nation would have to modernize and adopt Western ways if it was to fulfill its destiny.

Peter moved Russia’s capital from Moscow to a more western city, which he renamed St. Petersburg. Through the windows of his palace, Peter gazed westward – imagining a new Russia, and the power she would wield.

Peter’s reforms were vast, and often cut into the most sacred of Russian traditions and customs. He called for Russians to dress like Europeans, and even wanted Russia men to be clean-shaven like the men of Western Europe.

Naturally, not everyone accepted so drastic a change. The nobles and merchants resisted the measure with great passion, while others said a bearded man was the image and likeness of God. Peter was forced to compromise. Instead of shaving, a man could pay a tax that would exempt him from shaving his beard.

The tax was different for each social class. Merchants were taxed most severely, while serfs – or really, their masters – paid just one kopeck each year. When the beard tax was paid, a token was given as a receipt. Check points were set up around towns and if a bearded man was questioned, he simply presented his beard token as proof of payment.

Beard tokens were either round or square, and almost all were made of copper. They date from 1698 to 1725. They were a treasured possession, and were carried by beard-wearers everywhere they went. These intriguing tokens are quite rare today – and when they are found, they’re usually well worn.

## Young Numismatists Programs

The ANA has many programs to encourage Young Numismatists to be active in the hobby. Next year’s 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 the Seminar, go to the ANA website at [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.

### 2007 Young Numismatist and Adult Advisor of the Year

The American Numismatic Association is now accepting nominations for the 2007 *Young Numismatist of the Year* and *Adult Advisor of the Year* awards. These awards were established to honor young collectors and adult mentors for their outstanding contributions to the hobby and numismatic community at large during the **2006 calendar year**. Information regarding the nomination and application criteria may be found at [www.money.org](http://www.money.org) in the *Members Only* section of the website or by submitting a request to [mcmillan@money.org](mailto:mcmillan@money.org). ***The nomination deadline is January 16, 2007.***

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

### ANA Press Releases

If you would like to receive ANA press releases e-mailed directly from ANA, go to [www.money.org](http://www.money.org) and login to the "Members Area" and check the "Press Releases" box under "Edit My Profile" > "Member Info" > "E-mail Subscriptions." If you need a login name and/or password, please e-mail [membersonly@money.org](mailto:membersonly@money.org). You can also ask to receive press releases by calling the Membership Department at 800-514-2646.

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