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Your Newsletter December 2006

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 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.

Editor's Notes

On my way home for Thanksgiving I was reading an article in *Rolling Stone* magazine which was vaguely numismatic. It was about the British rapper Lady Sovereign. Her name comes from wearing a British gold sovereign from her birth year. In Britain, apparently, it has become a popular style among Hip Hop artists and rappers to wear a sovereign from his/her birth year. The British sovereign was first minted in 1489 by Henry VII, but was discontinued in 1604 (having been replaced by unites, then laurels, then guineas.) Minting was resumed in 1817 and the reverse had a depiction of Saint George slaying the dragon. This design (although replaced during certain reigns) has continued to be used up to the present, with an interruption from 1932 to 1957.

I thought that was interesting, because I don't know of any American rappers who wear gold coins, possibly because the U.S. Mint only began minting bullion coins in 1986. There is not much else to report, so I will finish by wishing everyone Happy Holidays and a great New Year.

The ANA Summer Seminar

By Alexandra Troxell

Saturday, July 1st, was one of the longest days of my life. I woke up at 3:45 to spend an hour getting through security at the airport and miss my plane. After I checked in at the front desk and my dad paid to walk me to my gate, the Delta attendant told me that I had missed my flight. The plane hadn't left yet, it was still on the ground, and they were still boarding passengers, but because I was there at 6:52 and not 6:50, they had given away my ticket. I'm an unaccompanied minor, they know that I'm in the airport, and they give away my ticket.

Needless to say, my trip started out a little differently than I had hoped. Everything turned out fine though, and they put me on a flight that left at seven o' clock that night. It was great because the flight was straight through (no layover in Salt Lake City) and I was in first class, but the thirteen hours I spent in the airport waiting for that three hour flight was not so wonderful. Once I finally made it to Colorado Springs later that night, I was exhausted! I was up from 3:45 Georgia time to midnight Colorado time, twenty-two hours!

Going that long on five hours of sleep was tough, but somehow, I have no idea how, I managed to stay awake through the entire YN meeting. I met all three chaperones, Scott, Greg, and Ginger, and the mentors, Cameron (who I already knew from the Atlanta ANA Show) and Amanda (who turned out to be my roommate). I also met the other 15 YNs attending the Seminar that week. Everyone seemed very nice, and I knew I was in for a great trip.

I was really tired after that meeting, but before I went to bed I tried to get a feel for my surroundings. I did a little navigating to figure out where things were. I got a map and figured out where the Loomis dorms were and how to get to Worner Center. I knew pretty much where I was and how to get where I needed to go. My dorm was on the second floor of Loomis, my class was upstairs in Worner, and meals were on Worner's main floor. Once I knew where I was, I was ready for bed.

On Sunday, I skipped breakfast to catch up on my sleep. When I finally did get up, I unpacked my things and settled into my room. There was nothing much to do until lunch, so I went down and took a look at the book sale at ANA. I got some great books, and I got a look at the ANA Headquarters. It was an amazing place. I didn't really get to look around too much, but from what I saw the whole building was filled with coins and collections and infinite information. There were museum exhibits and collections on display, a library filled with books, and many knowledgeable staff members on hand. I couldn't wait to get a better look.

There was no time for a better look because lunch was only an hour away, and I wanted to get a better look at the campus. I had a little bit of time on Saturday night to figure out where things were, but it wasn't until Sunday morning that I got a chance to really look

around and explore. There were pool tables downstairs in Loomis and Worner. Plus, there was a book store, a computer lab, a grand piano, and a mail room in Worner; all of which were useful to me.

Lunch snuck up on me quickly, though, so I put all my stuff in my dorm and rushed off to eat. The cafeteria food was pretty good, and so was the company. I got to talk to some of the other YNs and some of the chaperons. They were all great people. We had some interesting, and funny, conversations. I really did enjoy being in their company.

Class started at one o' clock, right after lunch. I was taking "Feisty Women in Power on Coins and in Art." It was a very interesting class. Prue Fitts, ANA Governor and President of WIN (Women in Numismatics), was my instructor; she was very nice and very interesting. Equally interesting were the two other people in my class. Phyllis was a little bit older than YN age, but she had just returned from a trip to Israel a few weeks ago. Throughout the week, I learned that she and her husband used to run marathons up until a few years ago, she's seen all seven continents, and she recently retired from being a school teacher. Liz was the other woman in my class. She was a younger lady, a newlywed. She wasn't really into coins, but she came to the Seminar with her husband and this looked like the most interesting class to her.

The class did turn out to be genuinely fascinating. We learned about many women, from prehistory to Egyptian Pharaohs to the Empress of China to Maria Theresa to Joan of Arc and Isabella of Spain, and many, many more. We study their influence on history and on coinage, and their reigns in power. It was a great class, and I learned a lot.

I also learned a lot outside of class – things like dorm life and the value of air conditioning. The first night was *really* hot, and there was no air conditioning. Each room did have a fan the window, but that's not much air. After that first 24 hours, things cooled down a little. Warm to hot mornings with showers in the afternoons became the daily routine. So it had usually cooled off significantly by dinner.

Before dinner on Sunday, while it was still raining, there was a 'wine and cheese' reception for the Intaglio Engraving students to display their art. It was really nice, and there was some gorgeous art. Christopher Madden (designer of the reverse of new ten dollar bill) and his son Matt both had artwork displayed. I found out that Katie, who had helped show me around campus, was a great artist. She had a few stunning pieces on display. There was also a man named Jerry who wasn't a student in the class, but a musician. He brought his cello and played some terrific music.

After that magnificent evening and after dinner of course, I went to work on one of my committees for the YN auction. The night before, I had signed up for two committees, cataloguing and finance. Cataloguing started on Sunday night and went on to Monday night. Sunday we were up until after eleven. On Monday, we proof-read everything and did last minute additions to the catalogue. We ended up moving back to Loomis after ten thirty, but that night we were up much later, and after twelve thirty in the morning I started to go a little crazy. Luckily, by one thirty I was upstairs eating ice cream and calming down for bed.

On Monday morning, I missed breakfast *again*, not wanting to get out bed. Actually, the entire week I think I only made it to breakfast once. Most mornings, I bought a muffin at this little café called Jazzman's. It was pretty good. Another advantage to grabbing something there was that it was quick and easy. I was so late getting up one morning that I had to eat breakfast in class.

By lunch I was always pretty hungry. They gave us so long of a break though, that once you finished eating you were bored if you didn't have someone to talk to. One afternoon, Amanda and I went down and played an entire game of pool before class started.

On Monday afternoon, my class went to the money museum. I got a chance to get a better look at the exhibits that were there. First, we went down and saw The Faces of Money. Then, we got to look around upstairs. I got a 'passport' from the front desk and looked at the Money of the World Today. I really liked that exhibit, but I could have spent weeks reading everything on those posters.

On Monday night I also went to Pike's Peak. I was not used to the altitude, but it wasn't that long of a trip, so it wasn't very bad. Going up the mountain I got some great pictures. When we got to the top, however, it was so cold and so there was so much fog everything looked white. So, I went inside the gift shop and got lots of change for squishing pennies. It was a little disappointing because I had heard so much about the great doughnuts, and then I no money to buy any. I guess I'll have to try them next time.

Tuesday was the Fourth of July, and there was an outdoor barbeque to celebrate. We had chicken and ribs and corn and biscuits. It was a good meal. It wasn't as good as the lunch I had on Wednesday, though.

Every year, Susan McMillan makes an Elizabethan Feast for Prue's class. We drove to her house for one of the most amazing meals of my life. She made deviled eggs that looked like doves, and carved radishes like mushrooms. We had gorgeous place settings with fine china and crystal glasses. There was chilled carrot soup and a wonderful salad with the best vinaigrette dressing I've ever tasted. For the main course we had Cornish Game hens baked in Puff pastry and Spinach tart. It all tasted wonderful and authentic. We ate so much, that we walked more than two miles uphill back to ANA to work off our meal.

Wednesday night was the YN Benefit auction. I was on finances, so I sat in the corner most of the night, waiting for people to pay. I played poker with a few other people on the committee for a while, and then I got to work the credit card machine. The auction went well considering the small crowd. We raised over eight *thousand* dollars. Part of it was from Katie's artwork, part was from Amanda playing and not playing the bagpipes, and part was from some vegemite we sold. Oh yeah, and we did sell a few coins, too.

After the auction, there was a torrential downpour, and no one wanted to get soaked running back to the dorm. A few people went back to Loomis on the golf cart, but the rest of us sent for Scott to come rescue us in the van. He picked us up at Worner and dropped us

off at Loomis. I volunteered to be the last one out and close the doors. I made the mistake, though, of jumping out of the van. Of course, I landed in a huge puddle that soaked me to the bone. I didn't really care though, because I ran inside, threw off my shoes, and had some Subway sandwiches. It was a good night.

The meeting ended at 6:30 because the banquet was starting soon. None of the YNs wanted to go, but we were strongly urged to attend. No one forced us to go, but Ginger said that we really needed to go, especially if we were there on scholarship. They were going to announce all the scholarship recipients and have us stand up to let others know who we were and show our appreciation. So reluctantly, we headed over to the cafeteria for dinner. A few YNs, including myself, were a little late, so we missed the actual meal, but that wasn't that big a deal because we were ordering pizza later anyway. What really bothered me was that they never recognized the scholarship recipients. Oh well, I guess they forgot that part. Hopefully I can enjoy the closing banquet more next year.

The banquet was over by nine, and pizza was delivered for the YNs around ten. Everyone socialized and said their goodbyes. I don't think anyone got more than a few hours of sleep (if they slept at all). I stayed downstairs talking until 2:30/3:00 am; then, I went up to talk to Amanda and Ginger for a little while. We were sitting on her bed talking when I decided to lie down. I was listening, but apparently I was also sleeping. Ginger had to tell me to stop snoring about three times before she made me go to bed around 3:15.

I fell asleep almost as soon as my head hit the pillow. When my alarm went off at 7:45, I got up...to off the alarm, and then I went right back to sleep. Later, I woke up to realize that it was light out. I had slept until 9:30, and my aunt was going to be there to pick me up at 10! I hadn't even finished packing yet. I hurriedly started to throw things in my bag. Ten minutes later my aunt called saying she was there, so I threw everything in my bag as well as I could make it fit and went to say my last good-byes. Then I turned in my keys and left the Seminar.

I had a few trials and tribulations on the way, but all in all I had a great trip. It was a lot of fun. I learned a lot, not just about coins, but also about women, and people in general, and Colorado, and the ANA and its staff. It was a wonderful experience, and I can't wait to go again next year.

I want to thank the Georgia Numismatic Association (GNA) again for sending me out to Seminar. I am more grateful than you know, and I will remember this experience for the rest of my life!

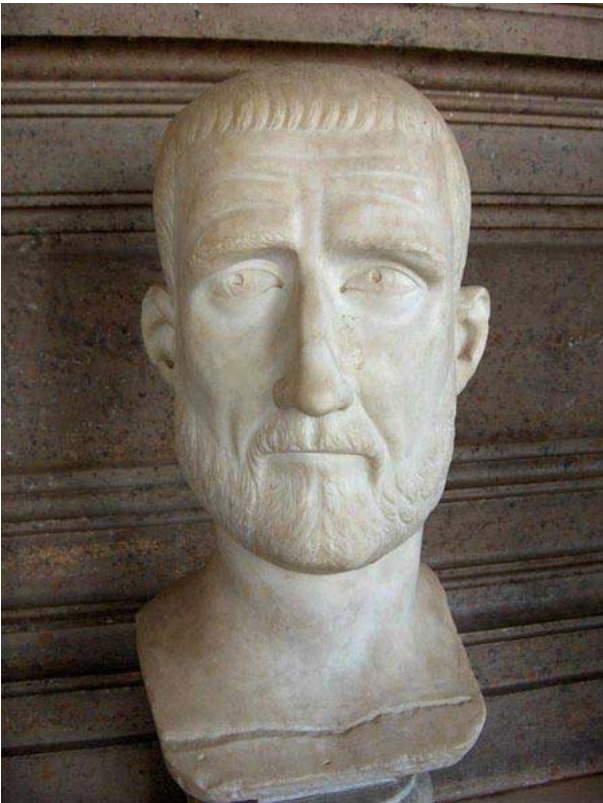
[Note from the Author: The ANA Summer Seminar is a great experience for any YN who has the chance to attend. Many of your local coin clubs, as well as many other numismatic organizations, give out scholarships to YNs to attend the Seminar. All it takes is an application and a recommendation and you can be on your way to Colorado Springs this summer. So visit your local club or organization today and apply for a scholarship opportunity; you'll be glad you did!] [2007 YN Scholarship Applications to attend Summer Seminar 2007 are now available on the ANA website on the "Young Numismatists" page under the "Explore the World of Money" drop-down menu. The submission deadline is February 15th, 2007.](#)

The Coins of the David R. Cervin Ancient Coin Project

Part 4 of 8: Antoninianus of Marcus Aurelius Probus

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 the coins that I have received (and you can too). This month the featured coin is the fourth coin in the series; a very interesting coin from the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius Probus (usually referred to as just Probus).



A bust of Marcus Aurelius Probus.
(Photo: Capitoline Museum in Rome)

Marcus Aurelius Probus was born in 232 AD. He was an esteemed and well-respected general of the emperor Aurelien, who ruled from 270 to 275 AD. There was much turmoil in the Roman Empire in the 3rd century, but Aurelien did a good job of restoring much of the peace, by regaining many of the lands that were rebelling from the Empire. This was put to an end, however, when he was murdered in 275 AD. He was succeeded by a man named Tacitus, who was supposedly selected by the senate, but died of "unknown" circumstances after a 9 month reign. His half-brother Florian succeeded him, and had a very uneventful (and short) reign. The 4th Century historian Eutropius summed him up as an emperor "who did nothing worth remembering." A few weeks after Florian was confirmed emperor, Probus's troops hailed Probus as emperor. He was a military genius, and instead of engaging Florian in battle, he simply allowed discontent to spread through Florian's army, and just waited until Florian was "taken care of" by his own troops.

This military prowess would come in very handy throughout his reign, as he spent much of it traveling his empire, putting down rebellions and stopping invasions from barbarians. Soon after the death of Florian, in the fall of 276 AD, the Senate gave its consent to name Probus emperor. He was the fourth emperor in about the

space of one year. Probus finished many of the projects that Aurelien had started, such as returning prosperity to many of the regions that had been ravaged during all of the rebellions, and completing a wall around the city of Rome. In 282 AD, tired of their leader's iron discipline and his constant civilian projects, Probus's soldiers turned on him and killed him. He was succeeded by his praetorian prefect, Carus, but he was killed after about only a year of ruling. Contemporary sources say he was struck by lightning, but modern historians think that he was, ironically, also murdered by *his* praetorian prefect.



The coinage of Probus is very complex. The obverse designs are unusually ornate, and often with a military theme. Because Probus traveled extensively during his reign, protecting his borders, there are many different and complex mintmarks. The mintmarks are generally found on the reverse of the coin. On this particular coin, the mintmark is a T found in exergue (the small space underneath the figures on the reverse). This T most likely stands for the mint Ticinum, a town in northern Italy. Above the exergue line is a star. This star most likely stands for the first *officina*, or workshop. To indicate which workshop the coin was made in, sometimes they would also use a letter, such as P for *prima*, which means first. In the provinces that spoke Greek, they might also use the Greek letter equivalent. The XXI (The "I" is rubbed off on this coin") is a very common mark found on silvered antoniniani after Aurelien reformed some of the currency. The reason many of the coins were silvered was because over the years, the purity of the antoninianus became less and less, until they eventually had to silver-plate it to show that it was worth as much as a silver coin, even though the actual metal was worth nowhere near what the coin was worth. Some scholars believe that the XXI means that it is 20 parts copper to one part silver. So by putting XXI on the coins, Probus was advertising that the economy of the empire was doing better, and he did not need to reduce the silver concentration of the coins as much as his predecessors. The letter after that is a T. This stands for the Latin word *tertia*, which means third. This means it was created in the third *officina*, or workshop. Since it uses the Latin letter, rather than the Greek letter Γ (Gamma), one can assume it was made in the Western, less-Hellenized (less influenced by the Greeks) part of the Empire.

This coin can be earned by any YN by either completing an ANA correspondence course or a course at the ANA Summer Seminar. I have been to the Summer Seminar several times already, and so I can speak from personal experience that it is much more fun and

informative to take a class with experts in the field rather than doing a correspondence course. There are two, one-week sessions, with a wide variety of classes you can take. If you are interested in several subjects, and can't choose which class to take, you can choose one as your main class, but also go to Evening Talks and Mini-Seminars. Log on to the ANA's website for information on the Summer Seminar and how to apply for a possible scholarship. I hope to see you there next year!

Once you have completed the correspondence course or a class at the Summer Seminar, print and fill out the request form found at the ANA's website under "Young Numismatists."

Next time: Bronze coin from Smyrna, Ionia featuring the poet Homer on the reverse.

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. For more information, visit www.money.org (select "Education" or "Young Numismatists" from the "Explore the World of Money" drop-down menu).

The American Numismatic Association is a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to educating and encouraging people to study and collect money and related items. With nearly 33,000 members, the Association serves the academic community, collectors and the general public with an interest in numismatics.

The ANA helps all people discover and explore the world of money through its vast array of programs including its education and outreach, museum, library, publications, conventions and seminars. For more information about the ANA, call 719-632-2646 or visit www.money.org.

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."

Military Payment Certificates

By Matthew Rockman

Most people have little experience with play money—except for an occasional game of Monopoly. But for the millions of U.S. servicemen and women stationed overseas between 1946 and 1973, play money was a regular part of life.

This is "ANA's Money Talks."

Military Payment Certificates, known to collectors as MPCs, were frequently called funny money by the soldiers, sailors and airmen who used them. The MPC system was designed to prevent the illegal use of currency, which cost the government millions of dollars each year.

Until 1946, American servicemen were paid in the local currency of the country they served in. Through a combination of circumstances—mostly questionable—the United States was redeemed far more currency than was being disbursed. To remedy the situation, the MPC system was adopted. Only U.S. personnel could use the special currency and only in official transactions.



A Series 692 \$10 replacement Military Payment Certificate.
(Photo: www.papermoneyworld.net)

The first series of Military Payment Certificates was issued in September 1946. To discourage illegal use, series were changed without warning. These conversions, called "C days," were unannounced and strictly controlled. Personnel were restricted to their compounds, and only authorized users were allowed to convert their MPCs into regulated amounts. If a serviceman had more money than he should, he was detained for questioning.

After "C day" the old series was destroyed. MPCs are rare today, and most of those available to collectors are the result of black-marketeers who held MPCs illegally and couldn't convert them – or servicemen who kept a few notes as souvenirs. Thirteen different series of MPC notes were issued between 1946 and 1973, when their use was discontinued.

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, the numismatic highlight of the year, go to the ANA website (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.

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