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## Your Newsletter September 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](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

And finally, 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

The ANA World's Fair of Money® has come and gone, but not without leaving many lasting memories. My first ANA convention was back in 1997 when it came to New York City and it is still exciting to see well over 10,000 people scouring a bourse of approximately 1000 dealers. No matter what you collect you are sure to find something of interest. In fact, I found myself finding (and then purchasing) medals I had never even seen before.



Sam Spiegel, left, and Will Robins, right, being congratulated by Chief Judge Joe Boling  
(Photo: Suzanne Wolbers)

Another exciting aspect of the ANA convention is the numismatic exhibits. This year two YNs, William Robins and Sam Spiegel (my brother), took home two of the top awards. Will won the Rodger E. Hershey Memorial People's Choice Award for his exhibit, "In the Pockets of a Pikes Peak Prospector." Sam won the Charles H. Wolfe Sr. Memorial Award for YN Best-in-Show for his exhibit, "The ANA David R. Cervin Ancient Coin Project." This month, and for seven months to follow, Sam will write an

article featuring one of the eight coins from the Ancient Coin Project. In addition, there were several other YN exhibitors, with a total of six winning YN awards. Some also received awards in the adult exhibit categories, with Will, Sam, and Katie Heinrich all receiving first place honors. Another YN, Josh Wadsworth, received the Derek Pobjoy Award for best exhibit of modern circulating commemorative coins with "Fun with State Quarters." Congratulations to all of the YN exhibitors! The quality of YN exhibits this year was exceptional. To see the full list of exhibit award winners, go to the ANA website at [www.money.org](http://www.money.org) and click on "Press Releases" found under the "Communications" pull-down menu.

There are plenty of other activities besides exhibiting at the ANA convention. Numismatic Theatre (where speakers give a presentation about a topic of their choosing) were given hourly, with the special Maynard Sundman Lecture Series occurring on Thursday. Boy and Girl Scouts had the opportunity to earn their merit badge at a workshop on Saturday. Jeff Swindling, who helps run this program, gives more information on his article later in this issue.

One of my favorite YN activities – and the last one I'll talk about – is the YN Awards Breakfast and Auction. At this breakfast the YN exhibit awards are announced, along with the YN Literary Awards. This year there were no submissions for literary awards and none were given! So make sure you publish your articles and then make sure to send them in so that they can be judged for the 2006 calendar year awards. (More information on literary awards will be published in a future issue). After all the awards are given, the Floor Bid auction occurs. YNs were able to use YN dollars earned through being active in the hobby to bid on different lots. One YN even won a gold coin! The convention is a great experience, and unlike the Summer Seminar, it travels around the country. If there is ever one near where you live, stop by. I should warn you though: be prepared to spend hours upon hours (even the entire week) taking in all that the convention has to offer.

## Announcements

### **YN Mail-Bid Auction**

Bids for the YN Mail-Bid Auction must be submitted before 5 pm on Saturday, September 30, 2006. The catalog and other bidding information

is available online at [www.money.org](http://www.money.org) (select "Young Numismatists" from the "Explore the World of Money" pull-down menu). Winning bidders will be notified by October 30, 2005 by mail. Please call 800-367-9723 ext. 169 or email [outreach@money.org](mailto:outreach@money.org) with questions.

### **Outstanding Young Numismatist of the Year Award Update**

#### **2006 Awards for Young Numismatists and Adult Advisors**

The ANA is seeking nominations for the *2006 Young Numismatist of the Year* and the *2006 Adult Advisor of the Year*. The Young Numismatist of the Year is awarded to an

outstanding young collector who has contributed substantially to the ANA and hobby during the 2005 calendar year. The Adult Advisor of the Year Award recognizes the dedication and achievements of an adult numismatist that has fostered the growth of young collectors in the hobby.

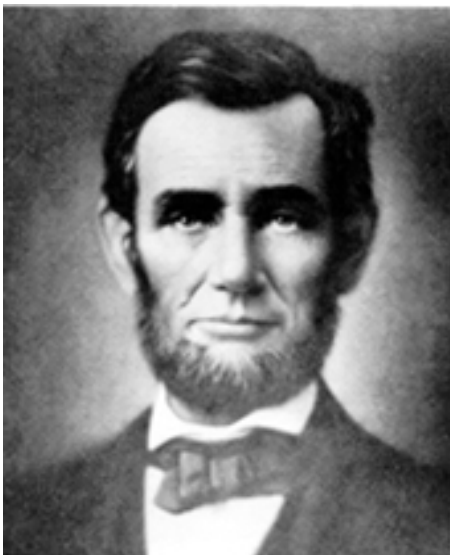
If you know of a deserving young collector or adult advisor, please contact the ANA Numismatic Outreach Department at [outreach@money.org](mailto:outreach@money.org) or 719-482-9869 for the appropriate nomination forms. Information and forms will be also posted on the ANA website at [www.money.org](http://www.money.org) by September 5th. Nominees are requested to complete a brief application to assist the selection committee in evaluating their outstanding contributions to young collectors and the hobby. The deadline for receipt of the completed applications is **Monday, October 2, 2006**, so be sure and nominate those deserving young collectors and adult advisors as soon as possible.

Lane J. Brunner, Ph.D., Director of Numismatic Outreach, American Numismatic Association.

### Discontinuing the Production of the Penny

By Doris A. Wright

What would my life be like without having pennies in it? Well, life would go on as we all know it. It would cause difficulties and frustrations at first and as with any other changes in life people and society will adjust accordingly....



A portrait of Abraham Lincoln and the obverse of a Lincoln cent  
(Photos: The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, 64-M-163  
and the U.S. Mint)

I personally believe this is extremely poor timing to discontinue the production of the penny because in just a little more than 2 years from now we will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. Lincoln's likeness is on the penny; and it was the first U.S. coin to feature a historic figure. The first Lincoln penny was issued in 1909 on the 100th anniversary of Lincoln's birth.

I do understand it is economically wise to discontinue the production of the penny as the U.S. Mint has reported it cost 1.2 cents to produce every penny because of the escalating cost of metal that goes into pennies. Producing a product at a loss is not a good business practice, which isn't always enough of a reason for Uncle Sam to discontinue a good thing.... My suggestion to the Mint would be not to continue producing pennies at a loss, but to make them of a less costly metal and keep the Lincoln likeness for historical value. I believe I read somewhere that once upon-a-time the US Mint experimented making the penny out of aluminum, but for some reason they didn't care for the result and they destroyed them.

I think it would be a terrific idea for the US Mint to make a special commemorative penny in 2009 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, similar to the special Westward Series Nickels that were produced in 2004 & 2005 to celebrate the Lewis & Clark Expedition.

## Coin Collecting Merit Badge Clinic at the Denver ANA

By Jeffrey Swindling, LM-5781

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts alike had a wonderful time in Denver at the ANA's 115<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention. A total of about 50 Scouts attended the program, and each of them earned a badge for their efforts. After an hour and a half crash-course in numismatics, all of the Scouts were eager to learn more.



Scouts were required to prepare in advance of the clinic, and bring with them to the show: a date set of coins from their birth year to the present, 5 State Quarters collected from circulation, a type set of the currently circulating US coins, and a grading set which featured 5 different grades of the same type of coin. The rest of the requirements were covered in full by the 90 minute presentation.

The best part of the clinic was the free gifts given to each Scout who registered! F&W publications donated a case of *Coins Magazine* and a case of *Numismatic News* to assist Scouts with the reading requirement for the badge. Scouts must read an article in a numismatic publication, as well as demonstrate the use of a catalog or price guide. In addition to the numismatic magazines, Scouts were given a Japanese 1 Yen coin, wheat cents in various grades, and information about the ANA's YN programs. The wheat cents, provided by George Cuhaj, allowed Scouts who had not remembered a grading set. To assist Scouts in learning about proper coin storage techniques, Traci Poole from ANACS donated a sample slab containing an "Ocean in View" Jefferson Nickel to each participant.

Throughout the presentation, Scouts were encouraged to ask questions and answer quiz questions provided with the handout materials. In addition, Scouts who could

answer trivia questions during the talk were awarded special gifts. Bruce Benoit, Assistant General Chairman of the upcoming 116<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ANA Convention in Milwaukee, donated some encased State Quarters which were distributed to lucky Scouts who correctly answered questions posed during the clinic. Other special giveaways included books, aluminum tokens from the Coin Collecting Merit Badge booth at the 2005 National Boy Scout Jamboree, a special Scout edition of Numismatic News, and a Silver Eagle provided by Denver Coin Club Scout Chairperson Jack Denton.



The Boy Scout Coin Collecting Merit Badge, left, and the Girl Scout "Fun with Money" Patch

To the many Scouts who joined the ANA after the clinic, welcome! I hope you enjoyed all of the exhibits, information and coins the ANA Convention had to offer. I would like to thank each and every one of you for being so attentive and respectful through the duration of the power point presentation. Don't forget to participate in all of the YN programs the ANA has to offer, such as the David R. Cervin Ancient Coin Program, the Early American Copper Coin Project, and earning your YN Dollars! Check out [www.money.org](http://www.money.org) for more information on how to participate. Happy Collecting!

I would also like to extend a special thanks from myself and all of the Scouts to the sponsors of the Coin Collecting Merit Badge Clinic, as well as to George Cuhaj and F&W Publications, Traci Poole and ANACS grading service, Jack Denton, Bruce Benoit, and Jane Colvard from the American Numismatic Association for making the entire event possible.

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

#### Part 1 of 8: Antoninianus of Victorinus

By Sam H. Spiegel

So just what exactly is the ANA David R. Cervin Ancient Coin Project? It 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. 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. The first coin earned in this project is an Antoninianus of Victorinus from the Gallo-Roman Empire.

The Gallo-Roman Empire (also referred to as the Gallic Empire) was an empire that broke away from the Roman Empire in the mid-3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. It began when the Roman emperor Valerian was captured while battling the Persians. This left his incompetent son Gallienus, to rule in his stead. What allowed the Gallic Empire to break away was a revolt in the province of Pannonia, on the Danube River, which drew the attention of the emperor away. Marcus Postumus was, at that time, probably the governor of Lower Germany. One theory is that Postumus was frustrated with Gallienus's lack of protection of the Gallic provinces from barbarian invasions. This theory makes sense, because Postumus may have taken the protection of Gaul personally, since it is believed that he himself was a Gaul. At any rate, he rebelled, and formed his own empire stretching from Britain to the Iberian Peninsula. His power was soon recognized, not only by his own German troops, but also by commanders throughout Gaul, Britain, and Spain.

Once Postumus broke away in 260 AD, he quickly set up his own government. This new government, however, was based entirely on the Roman style of government, with two annually elected consuls, a senate, and even a praetorian guard. Postumus reigned successfully for 9 years, until his own troops turned on him and killed him during the sack of the city Mainz, because he refused to allow his soldiers to plunder it. After him, a common soldier by the name of Marius was proclaimed emperor by his fellow soldiers. This only lasted a few months. Next, another soldier, Postumus's esteemed lieutenant Victorinus (the emperor on the coin you will receive) ascended to power. The Roman emperor Claudius II, after hearing of all this turmoil in Gaul, was able to easily take back Spain and parts of southern Gaul. Victorinus reigned for a little more than a year, when he died in "unclear" circumstances in 271 AD.



The Romanesque influence is shown on the coins of the Gallic Empire. For example, the coin shown here has the inscription IMP C VICTORINUS P F AVG. This inscription can be broken down into individual words and phrases; IMP means *Imperator*, which was a title given to a victorious general; C, stands for *Caesar*, which became a position of power and distinction in the Roman world; P F stands for *pius felix*, or “dutiful” and “successful;” and AVG, which is short for *Augustus*, was the title adopted by all emperors. These phrases were all common on coins of the Roman Empire. The design of the coin is also similar to Roman ones; the obverse depicts a radiate bust of the emperor surrounded by an inscription that praises him. The antoninianus was introduced in the year 215 AD by Caracalla and was valued at two denarii, even though it only had one and a half times the silver content. As the economic situation in Rome (and the break away empires) declined, an alloy known as billon became commonly used. This was an alloy with a high base-metal content (such as copper) and a low percentage of a precious metal (in this case silver). By the end of the Gallic Empire, the antoninianus had been debased to practically complete bronze.

This coin can be earned by any YN by doing a number of activities. All one has to do is complete any three of the following.

- Speak on any numismatic subject to any group, such as at school, coin club, Boy/Girl scouts, etc.
- Exhibit at any coin show, bank, library, etc.
- Publish an article (400 words or more).
- Hold an office in any ANA member organization (such as a local coin club, or the YNA).
- Volunteer to work at a local coin show.
- Earn a badge, award, or other recognition for numismatics.

Once you have completed any three categories, go to the “Young Numismatists” section of the ANA website under the “Explore the World of Money” drop-down menu.

*Next time: Silver Denarius of Septimius Severus*

## 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.”

### **Elias Boudinot**

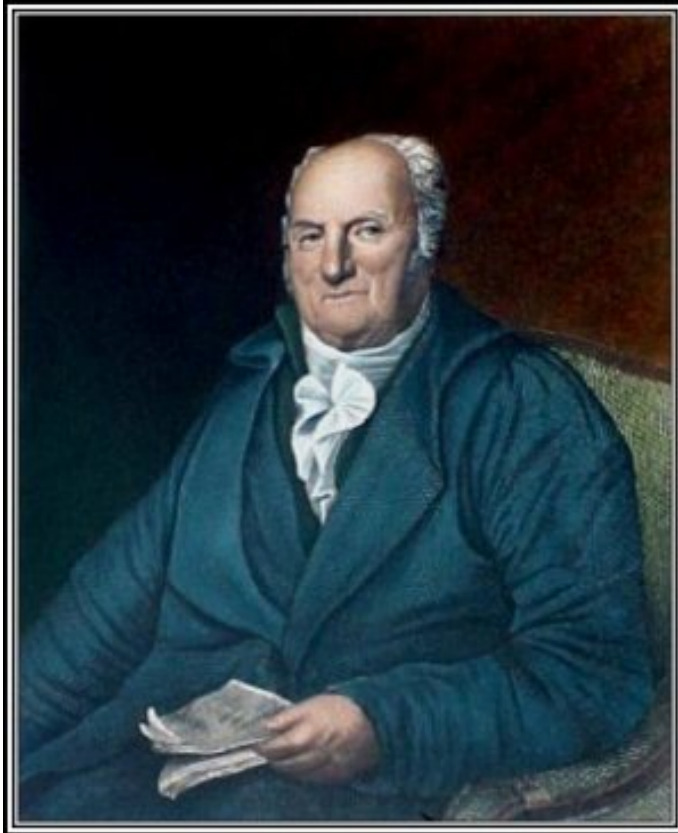
By John Kraljevich

He's unknown to most of us—but Elias Boudinot was a patriot who served his young country in important, though mostly unappreciated, ways.

This is “ANA's Money Talks.”

Boudinot served as president of the Continental Congress and, later, the U.S. Congress. He was a friend and advisor to George Washington and a protégé of Alexander Hamilton.

On this date 197 years ago [December 15], Boudinot was confirmed as the third director of the U.S. Mint. He was the third Mint director in less than 3 ½ years—so you know it was no “cushy” government job he accepted.



Elias Boudinot  
(Photo: EadsHome Ministries)

Just living in Philadelphia, where the Mint was located, was challenging enough. During his eight years at the Mint, he had to close down operations during five summers. The reason? Yellow fever, caused by the mosquitoes that bred in the swamps Philadelphia was built upon.

Besides fighting yellow fever, Boudinot had to fight constantly to ensure a steady supply of copper for one-cent and half-cent coins. When a major supplier shut down his plant in Wales, the price of copper shot up—and soon, it cost more to manufacture copper coins than they were worth. Boudinot asked to reduce the amount of copper in each coin, and the President and Congress agreed.

Boudinot was also behind changes in the design of the one-cent coin. In 1796, anti-French sentiment was spreading throughout the nation. The Liberty Cap design, used on the penny since 1793, had been borrowed from the French, our ally

during and after the American Revolution. But political prudence, and public opinion, dictated a change.

With his work done, Boudinot retired—largely forgotten, except perhaps today, on the 197<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his confirmation as the third U.S. Mint Director.

## 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 weekly sessions from June 24<sup>th</sup> to July 6<sup>th</sup>. Summer Seminar is an opportunity for numismatic scholarship and camaraderie that offers 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 at [www.money.org](http://www.money.org) and choose "Education" under the "Explore the World of Money" drop-down menu.

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).

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