MONEY, BIG & BOLD!

This year’s National Coin Week celebrates three iconic U.S. coins.

Every third full week of April, the ANA celebrates National Coin Week. This year's theme, “Money, Big & BOLD,” is inspired by the major anniversaries of three United States dollar coins: the last Morgan dollar and first Peace dollar’s 100th anniversary, and the Eisenhower dollar’s 50th. The theme celebrates bold initiatives in numismatic ideas and design. The Edward C. Rochette Money Museum has a robust collection relating to these iconic dollars.

A highlight of the Morgan dollar (1878–1904, 1921) collection is a 1921 “Zerbe Proof.” Prominent numismatist and former ANA president Farran Zerbe called for the creation of a “Peace coin” in 1920 to commemorate the end of World War I. When the U.S. Mint began production of the Peace dollar in 1921, it missed a deadline to have examples available for Zerbe, probably for the ANA convention in Boston that year. To make good, a small number (estimated between 20 and 200) of “special strike” Morgan dollars were minted using polished dies and regular planchets. Although not considered an actual proof, that designation has been widely used. When the Peace dollar (1921-28, 1934-35) was released, it completed the redesign of U.S. coinage proposed by President Theodore Roosevelt. Celebrating peace after World War I, the original design featured a broken sword below the eagle on the reverse. Many disapproved, arguing that this was not symbolic of peace, but rather of surrender. The last-minute removal of the sword meant that the new dollars were delayed until December 28, 1921, and placed into circulation on January 3, 1922. In 1928, the silver allocated by the 1918 Pittman Act ran dry, and Peace dollar production ceased. Further legislation led to resumed striking in 1934 and 1935; circulating dollar coins were not released again until 1971.

The Eisenhower dollar (1971-78) honors our 34th president and commander of the Allied forces in Europe during World War II, as well as the first manned moon landing. In 1989, the Museum received an interesting donation from ANA Past President David Ganz—a pair of galvanos of the obverse and reverse of the Eisenhower dollar, with the date 1970—the year before the actual issue—shown on the obverse. Often an attractive form of medallion sculpture, galvanos are metal shells produced by subjecting prepared plaster models to electrolytic reduction. Usually they are positive (or relief) images, produced from the immersion of negative (or intaglio) plasters in an electrolysis tank. Galvanos represent an important step in coin production, since they can be mounted on a reduction lathe to prepare a die or hub for minting.

National Coin Week will honor big, bold numismatics with a number of programs. The ANA eLearning Academy is offering daily presentations on topics including the three featured dollars, the coinage of Julius Caesar, the Lafayette dollar, the 1913 Federal Reserve Act and more. Members can share their research and big, bold collections on the ANA blog for a chance to win 2021 Morgan and Peace dollars. An abundance of online resources, including articles, activities and objects from the ANA collection, also are available. Daily trivia questions will be released via social media for a chance to win 2021 proof sets. ANA clubs can request to receive promotional materials and participate in the annual Club Trivia Challenge. To learn more, visit nationalcoinweek.org.

money.org | The Numismatist | 65