

MONEY TALKS

Presentations by numismatic experts inform and inspire collectors.

MONEY TALKS are free 30- to 45-minute educational presentations by some of the hobby's most noted authorities. Programs are offered Thursday and Friday, March 9-10, in Room W240D of the Orange County Convention Center.

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

10 a.m.

“The Panama-Pacific Exposition of 1915: Its Purpose, Coins, Stamps & Medals (Mark Trout)

The audience will learn the reasons for bringing this international exposition to San Francisco in 1915: the city's recovery from the 1906 earthquake and fire, and the 1914 opening of the Panama Canal. Because of their minting, marketing and rarity, exposition-themed numismatic items drew the attention of commemorative collectors and continue to do so.

Mark Trout began in the hobby in 1980 and is now a collector of U.S. type coins. After moving to Florida in 1990, he became involved in coin clubs as a member, leader and speaker. Mark's enthusiasm, presentation style and subject selection have led him to speak on relevant topics at many venues, including the FUN Summer Convention.

11 a.m.

“From Trenches to Treaties: The Numismatic History of World War I” (Douglas Mudd)

The Great War was a turning point in history. European dominance weakened, paving the way for a new world order. Doug Mudd will present a numismatic overview of the conflict and its legacy, and discuss how events were recorded on money, medals, military decora-

tions and trench art.

Douglas Mudd is the curator of the American Numismatic Association's Edward C. Rochette Money Museum and former collection manager of the National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History. He holds a master's degree in American history and is the author of the HarperCollins book, All the Money in the World.

12 p.m.

“It's Not Just All About the Coins & Paper Bills” (Mike Ellis)

Few people know what numismatics is, and even fewer know about exonomia and how addicting it can be. Participants will explore the world of exonomia, which is the collecting and study of numismatically related items, including medals, tokens, elongates, wooden nickels, postcards and more.

A professional numismatist for nearly 30 years, Mike Ellis has worked as an authenticator, grader, attributor, researcher, teacher and writer. He is an honorary life member of CONECA and served as its president. Mike also is a life member of the ANA, where twice he was elected to the Board of Governors. He has received many awards, and continues to teach and write while acting as a consumer advocate.

1 p.m.

“Breaking Bread with “In God We Trust” (Mike Fuljenz)

Enjoy a complimentary premium box lunch while learning about the patriotic motto “In God We Trust,” which was inspired by the War of 1812. The beloved but controversial slogan has appeared on coins since 1864 and continues to withstand legal challenges. Free

beverages also will be available for this lunchtime seminar's first 50 attendees.

Known as America's Gold Expert®, Universal Coin & Bullion President Michael Fuljenz has received more than 60 awards for his work in consumer education and protection in the rare-coins and precious-metals field. Mike is a life member of the ANA and sponsors its annual Farran Zerbe Memorial Award for Distinguished Service. He also has served many numismatic groups, including the Professional Numismatists Guild, which honored him in 2016 with its Sol Kaplan Award for his efforts to thwart numismatic crime.

2 p.m.

“Foreign Coins Made in U.S. Mints during World War II” (Bob Jaques)

While America was fighting a two-theater war, U.S. mints continued to produce coins for more than 30 countries. Though some metals were in short supply because of the war effort, coins were minted in silver, brass and copper-nickel. The lowest mintage was 100,000, making some of these pieces rare and highly desirable.

Bob Jaques' presentation is informed by his military background and interest in the WWII era. He has over 50 years' experience in the hobby and possesses an extensive collection of numismatic memorabilia that he uses to augment his presentations. An ANA life member, Bob served five years as president of the Madison County Coin Club in Huntsville, Alabama. He has written numerous articles for his club's newsletter and the ANA's official publication, The Numismatist.

3 p.m.

“Obsolete Currency: 1790 to 1860s” (Tony Swicer)

This presentation will focus on the circuitous history of these state-authorized bank notes. Though they were useful in antebellum America, they soon became worthless and then “obsolete.” Nevertheless, they remain collectable.

Tony Swicer has worn many hats in his numismatic life, serving in leadership roles such as president of FUN and the Palm Beach Coin Club. He also is an award-winning exhibitor and author, writing for the ANA, FUN and other organizations. In his “free time,” he works six days a week at a local coin shop.

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

10 a.m.

“The Men Who Made the First United States Coins” (Bill Eckberg)

A mint actually is a factory, not merely a government institution. In its earliest days, the U.S. Mint manufactured truly hand-crafted coins. This talk will focus on the mint and the workmen who were responsible for producing the country’s first issues.

Bill Eckberg began collecting Early American coppers as a Boy Scout and Eagle Scout. He reconnected with his childhood hobby in the late 1980s. He has been a member of and leader in many clubs and organizations, including his service as president of Early American Coppers. He also has written for several publications.

11 a.m.

“Reading Dates on Early American Copper” (Jacob Williamson)

After explaining how different date digits corrode, Jacob Williamson will show how to read dates on early coppers minted from 1793 to 1814. Participants will learn how to identify “target numbers” that appear on rare dates, and also will be challenged to date various hard-to-read half and large cents.

Jacob Williamson showed interest in collecting coins at the tender age of 2. A few years ago, he joined the Fort Myers/

Cape Coral Coin Club and now specializes in identifying coin features that often go unnoticed. A high-school senior, Jacob is eager to share his skills and hopes to bring the art of corroded-date reading into the numismatic mainstream.

12 p.m.

“A Survey of Florida Paper Currency, 1817-1935” (Ray Herz)

Unlike coins, Florida paper currency is profoundly tied to local history. Using the Sunshine State as a microcosm for the United States, this talk covers two major eras—Territorial, Obsolete and State Currency (1817-65) and National Currency (1874-1934)—and explains the gap between them.

A numismatist for more than 50 years, Ray Herz began collecting at age 5. He is interested in coins, paper money and medals, and especially enjoys tying art and history to numismatics. He also has given presentations at FUN conventions.

1 p.m.

“Norse-American Centennial Medals of 1925: An Update of Those ‘Thick’ & ‘Thins’ & More” (Dave Schmidt)

During the past five years, unusual Norse-American medals have been discovered, including copper trial and pattern pieces. Information about current buy/sell figures, population reports, so-called dollars and other trivia will be supplemented by handouts and medal displays.

Dave Schmidt was introduced to numismatics at age 10 and pursued the hobby throughout his college years. In the early 1970s, he became an active member of the Tacoma and Lakewood (Washington) Coin Clubs, where he served as president in 1973-79. In 1994 Dave became president of the merged Tacoma-Lakewood Coin Club and “retired” in 2016 after 22 years. He is a popular speaker and, since 1973, has chaired coin shows in Tacoma, Washington, and Portland, Oregon.



2 p.m.

“Cherrypicking Numismatic Varieties for Fun & Profit” (David Smock)

Cherrypicking varieties can be both fun and profitable. Participants will want to start searching their pocket change once they learn what cherrypicking is and how it’s done. This presentation will focus on readily “cherrypickable” and popular die varieties of modern coins and will briefly cover some rarer varieties.

David Smock is a member of the ANA and CONECA and serves as a regional representative for the ANA. He is Arkansas’ CONECA representative and currently serves on its board of governors.

3 p.m.

“Wrong-Design Dies Used on 20th-Century Coins” (John Miller)

This discussion about “wrong-design die” coins will explain what they are, how they are made, and what makes them different than standard issues. Participants also will learn which coins are valuable enough to finance a new laptop.

John Miller started collecting coins in 1982 at age 13. His numismatic interests include Lincoln cents and die varieties. John is an author and award-winning exhibitor and is a member of the ANA, FUN and CONECA. He is the recording secretary for the Ocala Coin Club and moderator of the Lincoln Cent Forum website. In 2016 John participated in the U.S. Mint’s “stakeholders forum” in Philadelphia.