

NEWS & NOTES *continued*

## 17TH-CENTURY FAKES

## To Catch a Counterfeiter

*The ANA's Money Museum and a rare coin from its collection appear in a popular television show.*

▶ THE ANA'S EDWARD C. ROCHETTE Money Museum in Colorado Springs was featured in a recent episode of the Travel Channel's "Mysteries at the Museum." Episode 5, Season 11, which premiered on July 29, highlights a 1700 milled English crown from the Museum's collection, and relates the story of a legendary scientist and his attempt to catch a notorious criminal in 17th-century London.

During the 8-minute segment, ANA Curator Douglas Mudd narrates and provides details of the historical tale. He explains how forgers shaved off edges of silver coins and used the fragments to make spurious issues. Approximately 10 percent of Britain's coinage at the time was fake, so the government turned to renowned physicist and mathematician Sir Isaac Newton to help solve the counterfeiting problem. He was appointed warden of The Royal Mint and tricked the kingpin of a counterfeiting ring into confessing his crimes. Newton also oversaw the mass recoinage of England's currency and introduced milled edges, still used on coins today.

PHOTOS: ANA ARCHIVES (COIN) & WIKIPEDIA.ORG



◀ Sir Isaac Newton introduced milled edges to British coins to thwart counterfeiters. This 1700 English crown bears the serrulated texture around its circumference.

Not Actual Size

The film crew visited ANA headquarters and the Museum in late March. A rare steam-powered coin press, a Yap stone and \$50 coin from the Museum's collection also are briefly mentioned and appear in the clip. Says Mudd, "It is always exciting to get a chance to highlight the ANA and the Money Museum and talk about numismatics, especially for such an interesting and popular show."

The episode can be viewed online by visiting the Travel Channel's website at [www.travelchannel.com](http://www.travelchannel.com) and entering the search term "Black Knight UFO." It will air on Friday, September 9 at 7 p.m. Eastern time and Thursday, September 22 at 10 p.m. Eastern time. If you don't have access to the channel as part of your cable subscription, you can purchase and download the episode through Amazon, Google Play or iTunes.

The ANA's 1913 Liberty Head nickel (the famed McDermott specimen) previously appeared in a 2014 episode. To watch this clip, search for "Liberty Head nickel" on the Travel Channel's website.