Panama Canal Commemorative Coin

The ANA is encouraging members and other interested persons to send a letter or email asking your congressional representative to support H.R. 2760, the Panama Canal and Pan-Pacific Exhibition Centennial Celebration Act, which will create a commemorative coin program to celebrate the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition.

Proceeds from the sale of the commemorative coins will support the reuse of the San Francisco Mint. Contact information can be found at www.house.gov/representatives/. For a sample letter available for download, see http://www.money.org/blog/posts/2014/january/9/help-the-ana-support-a-commemorative-coin-for-the-panama-canal.aspx.

Summer Seminar course catalog now available

Make plans now to attend the annual Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs. The course catalog and registration form are available for download at Money.org/SummerSeminar. The course catalog was also published in the January issue of The Numismatist.

The dates for Session 1 are June 21-26, while Session 2 will be held June 28 -July 3.

The annual Colorado Springs Coin Show will be held from Thursday, June 26, to Sunday, June 29.

See the ANA website for Summer Seminar scholarship information.
Aloma Blaylock

Reported by Walter Ostromeci

It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of friend, member and fellow collector Aloma Blaylock.

The following is an excerpt from an obituary published by the Standard Examiner.

“Aloma Byington Blaylock, of North Ogden, Utah, our cherished wife, mother and grandmother, passed away October 28, 2013, of complications from heart surgery. She was born May 16, 1943, in Heyburn, Idaho, to Floyd W. and Gwendola Owens Byington. She was raised in Ogden and attended schools there, graduating from Ogden High School, class of 61; she also attended Weber College. Aloma married Richard A. Blaylock on August 9, 1962 in the Logan LDS Temple. ... 

“Aloma found great satisfaction in volunteer service which included both the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, being active in the PTA, 4H, Ogden Regional Medical Center, serving as a library reading aide and being a member of Daughters of the Utah Pioneers.

“She enjoyed the outdoors, plants, flowers and gardens; she graduated as a Master Gardener from the USU extension service. ...

“Aloma is survived by her husband of 51 years, Richard; two sons and one daughter, along with other family members. Condolences may be posted at: www.myers-mortuary.com.”

Gar Travis

Reported by John and Nancy Wilson

It was only recently that we heard of the passing of our friend Gar Travis. He was an outstanding numismatist and worked very hard for the ANA in the Representatives Program for many years. In 1995 he received the Outstanding Regional Coordinator Award. In 1999 he received the Glenn Smedley Memorial Award. As President, I was honored to be able to give Gar a Presidents Award in March 2003.

We recall several shows where Gar had a bourse table and represented the ANA. At times we shared an ANA table. He always promoted collecting and the numismatic hobby. We know that his knowledge and enthusiasm for collecting coins rubbed off on many of the young and old that he talked to. As an ANA recruiter he received the Century Club award in 2004.

Not long ago we heard that his health was declining, and it was a very sad day when we heard he had passed away. Gar had a great passion, love, knowledge and enthusiasm for numismatics and life which will be sorely missed by everyone who crossed this “Numismatic Luminaries” path. With condolences to the family, R.I.P. Gar, as we will never forget you.

John Burns

Reported by Pat McBride

The Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists (PAN) had a presence at the recent FUN Show in Orlando, Fla.

PAN was not able to acquire a club table for this event but was able to offer association information at the table of numismatic book dealer John Burns. The weekend was proceeding very well with a robust volume of activity. Unfortunately the sad and shocking news for the many dealers, friends, and associates at the show was the news of the sudden and unexpected death of John Burns in his hotel room sometime late Friday night or early Saturday morning. John was a charter member of PAN along with many other numismatic organizations. He would always welcome us to use his table as a base of operations at the major shows.

John and I spoke on the phone from 11 to 11:30 Friday evening about the day’s events and the anticipation of Saturday. It was a very pleasant conversation as was typical of the many that we normally had through some 30 years of friendship. His knowledge of coins was almost beyond most numismatists. He loved to sit and chat and talk coins along with many other subjects. His recollections, stories and opinions were never put to pen. He did not have a website for his business and barely maintained an email presence. His forte was the phone and face-to-face always accompanied by a firm handshake. I often encouraged him to move a little more into the 21st century but as those that knew him can attest, his love was history, and I can’t help but feel he resisted moving further away from it. I have many voicemails on my phone from John and I think I will leave them in place. I hope the gates of heaven are wide enough for the big guy. May God rest your soul.

See page 7 for a photo of John.

Eddie Vazquez

Reported by Kimberly Smith

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of a founding member of the Brandon Coin Club of Brandon, Fla., Eddie Vazquez, on Dec. 30 at age 78. Eddie served in the U.S. Air Force in Vietnam and retired after 23 years of service.

The club wishes to extend its condolences and respects to his lovely wife, Angie Vazquez, as well as his children and grandchildren.
News from Around the Country

California

Howard Feltham, current vice president of the California State Numismatic Association (CSNA) and immediate past president of the Long Beach Coin Club, was honored with an ANA Presidential Award bestowed on him by ANA President Walter Ostromekii. The presentation took place on Nov. 23 during CSNA’s annual southern California convention awards banquet at the Holiday Inn in Long Beach.

Howard was recognized for his many years of faithful service to numismatics in Southern California through the Long Beach Coin Club, his 10-plus years of volunteer service to enhancing the numismatic education and experience of both collectors and the public at the trice yearly Long Beach Coin and Collectibles Expos, his duties as Collector Exhibit Coordinator for the Long Beach Expo as well as the Long Beach Coin Club’s ANA National Coin Week Outreach Chairman, and his assisting with the promotion of Youth Activities under the mentorship of Walter Ostromekii. Howard is slated to be the Assistant Club Host Chair for the 2016 ANA Anaheim anniversary convention.

Upon accepting the Award, Howard remarked, “I am stunned, utterly astonished. I truly had no idea anyone outside a few close hobby friends, let alone the ANA, even bothered to notice my small efforts and contributions to coin collecting in the Long Beach community and elsewhere in Southern California. Wow! This moment is totally awesome and I am humbled to receive it from my long time hobby friend and mentor ANA President, Walter Ostromekii.”

Florida

Brandon Coin Club
by Kimberly Smith, General Secretary

See memorial to Eddie Vazquez on page 2.

Tallahassee Numismatic Club
by Hemanth KN. Vasanthaiah

The club had a very good meeting in November and decided not to have its December meeting because of the holiday. Thanks to Phillip Kolbe for his talk on “mysterious countries.”

The club will be hosting its second annual spring one-day coin show at 1400 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Fla., on Saturday, May 10.

The show will be open to the public from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. There is no admission charge and parking is free. Dealers from surrounding states will be on hand to buy, sell and trade coins, currency and other numismatic items.

Raffle tickets will be sold for hourly drawings. There is a silent auction and free appraisals and identifications will be available on site as time permits.

For additional information please contact:

Hemanth Vasanthaiah, President TNC, Ph: 850-322-4647, email hemanth.vasanthaiah@gmail.com, website http://tallahasseeoinclub.blogspot.com/.

Tampa Bay Coin Club

The club had excellent results by participating in the 59th Annual FUN Convention Jan. 9-11. Most visitors were collectors or the public in general, and several had an interest in joining the club.

Club medals were sold to raise funds. The first medal struck, when the program was launched in 2013, was to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of Florida’s discovery by Ponce De Leon. The second medal in the series commemorates 110 years of the traditional Gasparilla festival parade in Tampa since 1904. Each medal in the series features a common reverse with the club’s official logo, redesigned to bring out subtle details and the beauty of the original model. The task to strike our beautiful medals is entrusted to a private mint.

The club’s medal program commemorates significant events or sites and honors those whose actions and achievements have embellished Florida’s rich heritage and diverse cultural history. Each medal is limited to a

Photo: Tampa Bay Coin Club table at FUN.
mintage of 200 pieces. Special thanks to ANA Curator and Museum Director, Douglas A. Mudd, who generously accepted the donation of both club medals to be part of the magnificent ANA Museum Collection.

The club would like to thank all the dealers who patronized our club in 2013; among them Gainesville Coins Inc., Legacy Coins of Lutz, Coin Village and Stamps and W.I.N.G.S. of Tampa. The club also would like to congratulate FUN for posting the show ad together with an article in Funtopics magazine during this excellent event. The club will host its 2014 annual coin show in the autumn. For more information about TBCC, go to www.tampabaycoinclub.org.

West Hernando Coin Club
by Bruce A. Schneider, WHCC Club Rep

The WHCC met on Nov. 11 with 45 members in attendance. YN James Monaco spoke on his experience taking a two-day grading class given by ICG. A slate of officers was elected: President Guy Ventre, Vice President Sid Kaplowitz, Treasurer Tim Klosterman and Secretary Alexandrea Zieman. Special thanks to past Treasurer Gene Harbour for his tireless efforts over the last six years, and also to Ron Parks for his efforts over the last three years as secretary.

The WHCC had a successful November coin show with about 225 people in attendance. Guest Brian Vaile from the “Ike Group” gave free appraisals. YN James Monaco repeated his talk on the grading class.

Finally, 31 WHCC members took a bus trip to the FUN convention in Orlando.

Georgia

Middle Georgia Coin Club

The club hosted its 52nd Annual Coin and Currency Show on Jan. 24-26 in Perry, Ga. For more information call show chairman Chip Davis at 478-320-7850 or go to middlegeorgiacoinclub.com.

Hawaii

by John and Nancy Wilson, ANA National Volunteers, Ocala, Florida

Thank you Hawaii State Numismatic Association and Honolulu Coin Club for the ANA table and Scouting Clinic at your 50th Anniversary Convention.

We attended the 50th Anniversary Hawaii State Numismatic Association (HSNA) Convention hosted by the Honolulu Coin Club (HCC) at the beautiful and spacious Honolulu Convention Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. The event was held Oct. 25-27, and it was one of the best we have ever attended. It had a sold-out bourse of 65 tables, occupied by more than 90 dealers.

The show once again appeared to be very successful for the dealers who had tables. Registered public attendance was 1,200. Hourly door prizes were handed out during the three-day event. The convention also had several numismatic exhibits. Special medal sets and elongated cents were made for the show. The lighting was excellent, and the large room was carpeted. Parking at the convention center is only $10.

The convention was chaired by Marion Kendrick, and the security was handled by HCC President Greg Hunt. Uniformed Honolulu Police Department officers kept the convention very safe. We don’t think any coin club in the world gets behind a coin convention like the members of the HSNA and HCC. Though the convention center sets up the tables and covers them, the coin club members take care of the dealer and public registration, along with the set up and breakdown of the cases, lights and clamps.

From the opening of the show right up until closing at 5 p.m. Sunday, the flow of traffic was excellent. This show is attended by many mainland dealers who not only come over for the outstanding weather and attractions but also the excellent business they do at their tables. About 20 dealers were still conducting business at closing on Sunday. Representing the ANA, we were able to sign up 17 new members for the Association and received a donation from H. Robert Campbell, the owner of All About Coins located in Salt Lake City, Utah, for the shipment of the Coin Show Kit. We want to thank the HSNA and HCC along with Marion Kendrick and Greg Hunt for allowing the ANA to have a table at their super show. This was Mr. K (Marion Kendrick’s) 35th year of chairing this show. He will turn these duties over to Joe Au-Franz for this year’s convention in the same location on Oct. 31- Nov. 2. We have seen Mr. Kendrick at about five different shows hosted by these clubs over the years. He did an amazing job for the coin clubs over the years and he will be greatly missed. Mr. Au-Franz has some big shoes to fill. For information on the coin clubs go to http://hawaiicollectibles.org.

A highlight of the show was the Saturday and Sunday Boy Scout Coin Collecting Merit Badge Clinic chaired by Past ANA Vice President Patti Finner. She was assisted by Brenda Sponski and coin club workers.

Registration for the clinic on Saturday started at 9:30 a.m. and on Sunday at noon. The clinic was free to scouts in a Class A uniform. For both clinics several hundred scouts, family members and scouting officials attended the event. Patti was able to certify 31 scouts on Saturday and 75 on Sunday.

The scouts have to complete a number of prerequisites to obtain their merit badge, beginning with reading the Coin Collecting Merit Badge book, and including building certain sets of circulating coins.
At both of these clinics Finner provided to each scout five different coins (wheat, steel and cartridge cents, Peace Medal nickel and Mint Set coin); miscellaneous tokens and medals; a type set of Lincoln Cents and a special scouting NGC-slabbed quarter with a scout stamp enclosed inside. These special slabs were made in very limited quantity. Some very nice door prizes were also handed out during the seminars. Finner has been handling the Scout clinics for the HSNA conventions for 10 years. She is a certified Merit Badge Counselor and has certified over 9,800 scouts.

Hawaii is a fabulous location to have a coin show or just to visit. Great weather, tons of things to do, Waikiki beach, reasonable to moderately priced hotels in the vicinity and many nearby excellent restaurants and the huge three-level Ala Moana Shopping Center two blocks away.

Mahalo (meaning thank you) again HSNA and the HCC for the ANA table.

**Illinois**

Lake County Coin Club – Gurnee, Ill.

The club is celebrating its 60th year in 2014 and is selling overstruck clad and silver coins for the occasion.

The club’s annual coin show is scheduled for March 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Warren Township High School, O’Plaine Campus. Local YNs are planning on showcasing their coins again. Last year one of our adult members showed their ancient coins to visitors. So who knows what will be in the exhibits area this year.

Information: Julie Bell, Secretary, Lake County Coin Club, www.lakecountycoinclub-il.com, email lakecountycoinclub@gmail.com.
The club is preparing to celebrate its 30th anniversary by minting a medal on the 1869 coin press at the Nevada State Museum during National Coin Week. There are two reverses, the state seal and the coin press. Medals will be minted in silver, brass and copper.

The club will also have a number of numismatic lectures and programs as well as make available the last of the 2013 national park quarters and presidential dollars and the first of the 2014 coins.

The club also welcomes Jeff Shevlin, former ANA executive director and expert on so-called dollars, to the club. He is working at Medallic Arts and the club is readying a tour of the facility that is the oldest private mint in the nation. They make medals, including many military medals, from melting metal and producing their own blanks to the finished product. The club will have its 30th anniversary medal die cut there.

Medallic Arts’ Roger Vugteveen gave the October presentation on the laser-guided die making process.

Rusty King celebrated “Happy Birthday Nevada!” with a collection of all the centennial medals.

December was the club’s mini-bourse, in which David got an 1802 “penny” (large cent) for $4.


The club is looking forward to a presentation about Lincoln in February by Nevada State museum historian Robert Nylen and presentations from Fred Holabird and Jeff Shevlin this spring.

The club will have its dollar exchange of the new coins Feb. 28-March 1 with Ken Hopple running the 1869 press at the Nevada State Museum.

### New York

**Buffalo Numismatic Association**

**by John Cali**

Buffalo Numismatic Association former president Ed Blowers was present at the November Rochester Numismatic Association show representing ANACS. I asked him how BNA was doing and he remarked that they were doing well. When I last visited they had a
regular business meeting, auction, juniors at some meetings, refreshments and other activities.

Rochester Numismatic Association
by John Cali

The Rochester Numismatic Association’s show was held at the beginning of January as usual. They had a packed house on Saturday. The group as a whole is doing quite well.

Other New York activity
by John Cali

There were several other small coin shows in New York that I was unable to attend.

North Carolina

Raleigh Coin Club

The Raleigh Coin Club held its annual elections at its November meeting. All club officer positions along with one director position were on the ballot.

Following are the club’s newly elected officers for 2014: President, Dennis Edens; Vice President, Paul Landsberg; Secretary, Sanford Steelman; Treasurer, Steve Pladna; Sergeant-at-Arms, Benji Harrell; Director (3-year term), Dave Provost.

David Boitnott, the outgoing RCC President, had served the club for five years. He commented, “I’ve enjoyed my time as President of the RCC. I feel we’ve accomplished quite a bit over the last five years and have a good base for additional growth. Our annual show continues to expand and we are always looking for opportunities to promote the hobby in our community.” He continued, “Dennis and the new Board have my full support. I’m sure they will do a great job!”

Collectors seeking more information about the RCC should go to www.RaleighCoinClub.org.

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists
by Pat McBride

PAN had a presence at the recent FUN Show in Orlando, Fla. PAN President Tom Uram and Treasurer Pat McBride were working the show floor and meeting with the many collectors and dealers to help promote PAN and draw interest to our Spring Coin Show on May 8-10.

Tom Uram also placed his exhibit, “The Historically Significant Two Cent Piece,” that features the first placement of the “In God We Trust” motto. We were both delighted to learn that it won first place in the U.S. Coin category.
Mission statement: The ANA Representative Program "is to work directly with collectors and clubs to promote and expand the numismatic experience through the services and programs offered by the Association."

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Deadline for submission of material for 2nd Quarter 2014 MintMark: April 15, 2014.

To receive the electronic-only version of future MintMark issues, or to change your email, call (719) 482-9816 or email clubrep@money.org.

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Editor’s Message by Eric Holcomb

Thanks again for the submissions received; we have another nice issue of MintMark. Please read the interesting club news and the important ANA news as well. Happy New Year to everyone!

The next (2nd Quarter 2014) edition of MintMark is not far off, so start planning and writing now. Make it a short summary of how your club is participating in the ANA Club Rep Program and try to include one photo of reasonable size with a descriptive file name and photo caption.

If you have a coin show or event to list in the ANA’s printed calendar, please send an email at least two months in advance to magazine@money.org, or go to www.money.org/numismatic-events/submit-a-calendar-item-to-the-numismatist.

Specialty Clubs

Carson City Coin Collectors of America

The Carson City Coin Collectors of America’s 30th issue of its award-winning club journal, Curry’s Chronicle, focuses on the current state of the “CC” coin market. The fall-winter 2013 issue also offers recaps of club meetings, as well as articles on a variety of other topics, including:


“The 2013 C4OA Regional Meeting – Carson City, NV,” also by Arnold-Giambrone.

“My Century Coin (100th coin) Brings Me to a Milestone in My Pursuit of a Complete Set of (111) ‘CC’ Coins,” by Life member Tony Arnold.

“Spreading News about Carson City Coins in South Carolina and Georgia,” by member Garry Naples.


“John Mackay – Silver King on the Comstock,” by life member Mark Archambault.

“Harvesting the Stories behind Counterstamped ‘CC’ Coins,” by life member Tom DeFina.

“Carson City’s Ties to The Shootist (classic Western movie) Unfold at C4OA Western Regional Meeting Time,” also by DeFina.


Wouldn’t it be nice if every numismatic club had this many authors?

For additional information, contact Carson City Coin Collectors of America c/o Marie Goe, PO Box 18040, Reno, NV 89511, telephone (775) 322-4455, email info@ccccoa.com or go to the club’s website at www.carsoncitycoinclub.com.

Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club

The annual CC & GTCC convention is scheduled for the South Point Hotel/Casino/Spa in Las Vegas, June 18-21. Further information and reservations are available at www.ccgtec.com.

For questions not covered on the club’s website, please contact Sheldon Smith, email sheldon655@hotmail.com or publicity@ccgtcc.com.