

YOUNG NUMISMATISTS CAN EARN FREE EARLY AMERICAN COPPER COINS IN NEW ANA PROGRAM

Junior and student members of the American Numismatic Association (ANA) can earn early American copper coins, reference books and supplies for activities and projects in numismatics.

"The ANA's Early American Copper Coin Project is a great way to encourage the collection and study of United States coins from the late 18th and early 19th centuries," says ANA Education Director Gail Baker. "The stories and histories of the large cent and half cent coins issued from 1793 to 1857 are fascinating and bring to life the people and events of this time in our young nation."

This program is similar to the ANA's Ancient Coin Project, in which participants earn ancient coins for completing a series of numismatic activities.

Copper specialist Douglas F. Bird, who is sponsoring and providing the awards for the ANA's Early American Copper Coin Project, says, "I am pleased to encourage young collectors and introduce them to the most challenging and rewarding area of numismatics."

In this new program, ANA members age 22 and younger can earn copper large cents and half cents, early reference books and related supplies. The awards are presented for completing a number of activities, including making a numismatic presentation to a school, coin club, or scout or civic organization; producing an exhibit for a coin show, school, bank or library; writing a numismatic article for publication in a local state, regional or national publication; organizing or holding office in an ANA member organization; recruiting new members to the ANA, and completing ANA correspondence courses or a Summer Seminar class on Early American copper or colonial coins.

Among the copper large cent awards program participants can earn are a 1796-1807 "Draped Bust" variety, 1808-14 "Classic Head," 1839-57 "Braided Hair" and 1816-39 "Coronet" variety. Other awards in the program include a copper half cent issued between 1793 and 1857; a counterstamped large or half cent; a commemorative medal produced from the U.S. Mint's first steam coinage press; and a generous selection of supplies, including a camel-hair brush, storage pouches and envelopes for copper coins. Participants also can earn copies of reference books, including Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of United States and Colonial Coins; United States Large Cents by William C. Noyes; and America's Money, America's Story by Richard Doty.

To register or for more information about the ANA's Early American Copper Coin Project, contact the ANA Education Department, 818 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279; telephone 719/632-2646; fax 719/634-4085; e-mail education@money.org; or visit the ANA web site www.money.org.

Douglas Bird can be contacted at P.O. Box 608, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254; or e-mail at birdcoin@go.com.

The American Numismatic Association is a congressionally chartered nonprofit educational organization dedicated to encouraging people to study and collect money and related items. The ANA helps its 28,000 members and the public discover and explore the world of money through its vast array of education and outreach programs, as well as its museum, library, publications, conventions and seminars. For more information, call 719-632-2646 or go to www.money.org.