

A New Home for Numismatics at the Smithsonian



The National Numismatic Collection is one of the largest and finest collections in the world.

It holds more than **one million objects**, and its collection of United States coins and currency is unparalleled.

Exceptional rarities include:

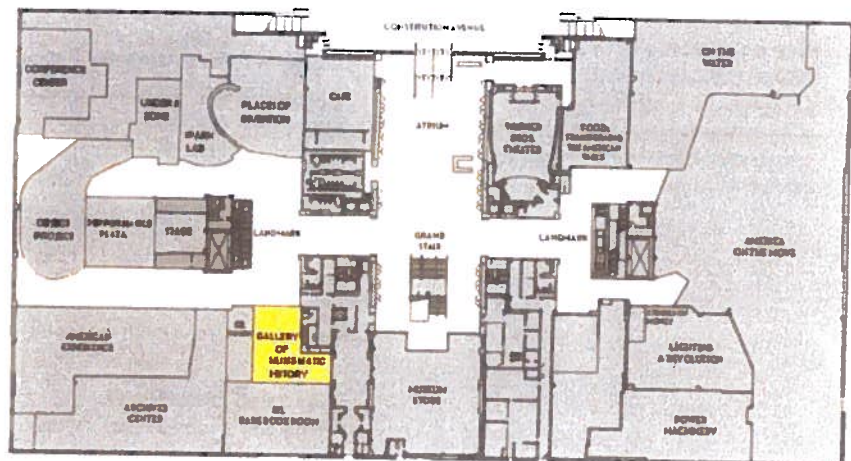
- a Brasher half doubloon
- a one-of-a-kind 1849 pattern for the proposed \$20 gold double eagle
- two 1877 fifty dollar patterns
- a 1913 Liberty head nickel
- all three types of the 1804 dollar
- two 1933 double eagles

A 9-year old boy sees a buffalo nickel and asks his father where he can find one of those. An 8th grade class stops to admire one of the two remaining British Gold Sovereigns that paid for the creation of the Smithsonian Institution. An Iowa family on their first visit to the Nation's Capital sees the earliest paper money in the Western hemisphere and pauses to consider the money in their pockets today.

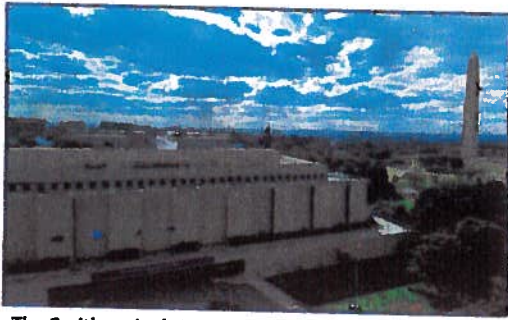
Moments like these happen every day at the **Smithsonian's National Museum of American History**. With over 4.6 million visitors each year, the Museum is a major destination for people from all walks of life, from everyday citizens who seek to connect with their nation's rich history to serious collectors who come specifically to study and admire our numismatic treasures.

The Museum is embarking on a major renovation that will completely transform its 120,000 ft² west exhibition wing, including all public spaces on the first, second, and third floors. Many new galleries and programmatic spaces will be created, including a new, updated, and more interactive gallery for the National Numismatic Collection. Construction will take place in 2012-2015.

The 1,000 ft² **Gallery of Numismatic History** will quadruple the floor space currently devoted to numismatics, and ensure a showcase for this collection for the next 20 years or more. In the interim, the Museum will continue to display treasures from its numismatic collection in the popular *Stories on Money* exhibition in the east exhibition wing.



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Renith L. Behring & Co.



The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History receives 4.6 million visits each year.

The Smithsonian is seeking \$1.5 million to create the Gallery of Numismatic History. Donors will be recognized in the following ways:

\$10,000 - \$49,999

- Recognition on the 4th tier of a donor panel at the gallery entrance
- Invitation to the opening event

\$50,000 - \$99,999

- Recognition on the 3rd tier of donor panel
- Membership in the Friends of Numismatics, with bi-annual updates on NNC news

\$100,000 - \$199,999

- Recognition on the 2nd tier of donor panel
- Invitation to a VIP tour with the Museum's Director and/or curators

\$200,000 - \$299,999

- Recognition on the 1st tier of donor panel
- Recognition in the official press release announcing the gallery

\$300,000 or more

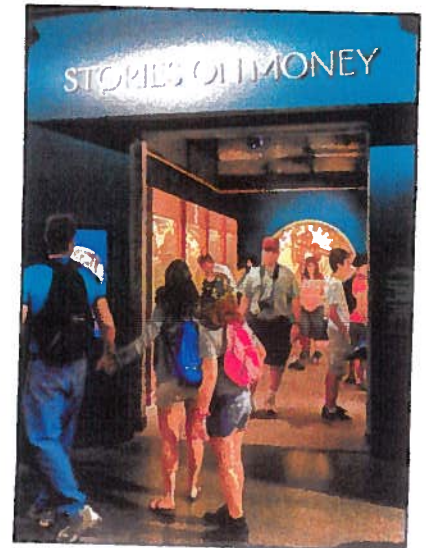
- Sole recognition as the Lead Donor, to be listed alone above all other tiers on the donor panel
- Recognition in a Donor Spotlight story on the Museum's blog and e-newsletter, which is distributed to more than 24,000 subscribers

Debating to the public in 2015, the Gallery of Numismatic History will be ideally located on the first floor, adjacent to a major new exhibition on the history of business and economics. Across the hall will be a new attraction for families with children, the highly interactive Center for History Discovery.

The gallery will be specially designed to **showcase numismatic collections**. Exhibition cases will be built at the ideal height and width for displaying small objects like coins and paper money. Pneumatic drawers that slide open with the touch of a button will allow even more of the collection to be on public display while giving visitors a sense of discovery as they explore the gallery. The space will be designed so that select exhibition elements can be rotated and updated in future years, keeping the exhibition fresh and exciting.

Museum curators are in the early stages of concept development for the gallery's inaugural exhibition. While content is still to be determined, we plan to draw on recent successful projects, including:

- **Stories on Money**, which shows how objects as small as coins can transform lives, create history, and captivate the imagination.
- **Legendary Coins and Currency**, a 2005 exhibition that included rare and historically significant coins, bills, medals, and oddities such as pattern designs, fake coins, and homemade clam shell money from the Great Depression.
- In-depth research by Smithsonian curators, including Richard Doty, author of *America's Money*, *America's Story*.



The estimated cost of this project is \$1.5 million, which the Smithsonian is seeking from private donors. While federal funding provides a baseline of support for the Museum's general operations, exhibitions like this would not be possible without philanthropic support. Donors can contribute at any level, with special recognition reserved for those who commit \$10,000 or more.

Captivate visitors, share history, inspire the next generation. These are our goals for the Gallery of Numismatic History, and you can help us achieve them. To make a gift, contact Amy Scerba Karazsia, Director of Individual Giving, at 202-633-4334 or karazsiaa@si.edu, or visit <http://americanhistory.si.edu/donate/numismatics.cfm>.