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World's Fair of Money® Transforms Oklahoma City Convention Center into a Hub of Art, History, and Treasure

Global event showcased rare treasures, hundreds of dealers, family fun, educational presentations, and more



From August 19-23, Oklahoma City transformed into the epicenter of numismatic excitement. Thousands of collectors gathered at the Oklahoma City Convention Center for the American Numismatic Association's (ANA) renowned World's Fair of Money (WFM). The venue saw a gathering of more than 9,000 collectors worldwide. This ultimate hobby destination offered it all: top dealers, international companies, mints, rare coins, dynamic exhibits, and engaging educational programs.

On August 18, prior to the WFM, the ANA Dealer Day hosted 140 booths for dealers to preview and trade the best inventory available.

During the convention, the 470-table show floor was filled with collectors and dealers. "The World's Fair of Money is an inspiring and exciting event that brings together our community like nothing else," shared newly installed ANA President Mark Lighterman. "In Oklahoma City, strolling the bourse floor, engaging with passionate clubs and collectors, and sharing stories

with fellow enthusiasts created truly special moments. I hope every collector gets at least one chance to visit a future convention!"

United States Mint Acting Director Kristie McNally participated in the official Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony on August 19, alongside ANA representatives. McNally was a constant fixture at the U.S. Mint's booth, signing official mint products and sharing information about upcoming releases and programs. She was also present to install the newly elected ANA Board of Governors during the 134th Anniversary Banquet Friday evening.



ANA representatives and U.S. Mint Acting Director Kristie McNally, center left with the scissors, cut the ribbon during opening ceremonies to welcome attendees to officially enter the bourse floor.

During the show's opening ceremony, ANA President Tom Uram (2023-25 term) bestowed the Goodfellow Award upon Host Chair Tyler Tyson. Additionally, the Oklahoma Coin Club was recognized with the Louis S. Werner Host Club Award.

The show created quite a buzz, prompting the visit of well-known figures Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt and U.S. Mint Director appointee Paul Hollis.



Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt (center) visits the Tangible Investments booth at the World's Fair of Money.

Advancing Numismatic Knowledge

Just prior to the convention, on August 17-18, the ANA hosted Bob Mellor and William Latour's seminar on "Intermediate Grading of U.S. Coins." This class included hands-on group and individual exercises with coins to gain an understanding of current grading-service philosophies and how they evolved.

All attendees could choose from an abundance of learning opportunities, including eight Money Talks presentations and the Maynard Sundman/Littleton Coin Company Lecture Series, all of which were free to attend. Money Talks presentations included "Ten (or So) Trends That Are Shaping the Coin Hobby Today,"

and "From Paper to Bronze: Creating the 2025 ANA Convention Medal" by well-known hobby leaders. The Maynard Sundman/Littleton Coin Company Lecture Series focused on the theme, "Culture's Mirror: How Coins Reflect Pop Culture" and brought in more than 120 attendees eager to learn.

Rare Treasures on Display

The show floor featured one-of-a-kind exhibits. [GreatCollections](#), the ANA's Official Auctioneer, displayed the unique pair of 1844 \$5 and \$10 Proof Gold coins minted in New Orleans for the first time in a century at their table. Both coins were sold to the same anonymous collector who has assembled one of the greatest collections of U.S. numismatic rarities ever formed, known as the Elite Collection. No sale price has been disclosed but the two coins are insured for \$15 million.



In a landmark event, ANA Event Auctioneer Partner [Stack's Bowers Galleries](#) featured select items from the James A. Stack Sr. Collection at their table, including the recently uncovered 16th 1804 dollar, the finest class three example in private hands.

Next to the Museum Showcase, a superb 1907 Ultra High Relief Double Eagle from the famous [Tyrant Collection](#) was on display. This \$20 denomination gold piece was in the estate of the famous coin's designer, acclaimed sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens. The initials "ASG" are engraved on the coin's edge, most likely by the designer's wife, Augusta.



The Collector Exhibits area featured over 50 competitive displays, showcasing ANA members' unique collections and research. Top exhibit prizes—the Charles H. Wolfe Sr. Memorial Award for YN Best-of-Show Exhibit; the Radford Stearns Memorial Award for Achievement in Exhibiting; and the Howland Wood Memorial Award for Best-of-Show Exhibit—were presented during the Anniversary Banquet. West Coast Coins sponsored Collector Exhibits.

The ANA's own [Money Museum](#) Showcase highlighted a display of electrum coins of Asia Minor, the earliest coins made; the first coins of Mexico, struck in 1535 under Charles I; and a 1792 engraved Washington Indian Peace medal, with around 20 remaining, and only about seven recorded.



Fun for the Whole Family

Ernie's Treasure Treehouse, sponsored by Kevin Lipton Rare Coins, had 263 young collectors lining up throughout the week to enjoy arcade-style activities. The ANA's Treasure

Trivia, available to young children to learn about numismatics and earn prizes as they explore the bourse floor for answers, welcomed 145 participants. Saturday morning, the Young Collectors Corner offered valuable beginner information about coin collecting to nearly 20 kids, with a surprise visit from U.S. Mint Acting Director Kristie McNally.

As an added bonus, historic reenactors of Benjamin Franklin, Abraham Lincoln, and George Washington strolled the show floor, entertaining attendees with their spot-on impressions and hobby and history know-how.

Special Events

ANA Event Auctioneer Partners [Heritage Auctions](#) and [Stack's Bowers Galleries](#) held lot viewings during the show, with their official sales taking place the following week.

Heritage Auctions sold an 1880 Coiled Hair Stella for \$2.28 million to lead their ANA U.S. Coins Signature® Auction to \$51,171,731. That total, combined with the \$16,954,975 from the ANA World & Ancient Coins Platinum Session and Signature® Auction raised the combined total to \$68,126,706, setting numerous records for these events.



Valerie Payne (right) and her parents, selecting which prize to take home at Ernie's Treasure Treehouse after earning some Hoot Loot from games.



Corinne Zielke (left) from Active Interest Media presents the Coin of the Year Award to representatives for Austria's Supernova 20 euro silver coin.

World Coin News presented its Coin of the Year (COTY) awards ceremony on Thursday, August 21. Sponsored by the ANA and *The Journal of East Asian Numismatics*, this annual competition recognizes outstanding coin designs from around the world. This year's Coin of the Year champion was Austria's Supernova coin, which also won the "Most Artistic Coin" category.

For the first time this year, the ANA hosted the YES! (You're an Exceptional Supporter) Event, celebrating those who have generously supported the ANA over the years. The celebration unfolded at the prodigious Petroleum Club, offering panoramic views of Oklahoma City's vibrant skyline and delicious hors d'oeuvres. To become a supporter of the ANA and for the chance to join exclusive events, consider becoming a donor at money.org/donate.



Attendees at the YES! Event enjoy hors d'oeuvres with a view of Oklahoma City.

The ANA offered livestreams on its Facebook page (facebook.com/numismatics) and live updates of the show on Instagram (instagram.com/americannumismatic), so those at home could be part of the action. Streamed events include opening ceremonies; the ANA's Cash Cube; tours of the Museum Showcase with ANA Assistant Curator Caroline Turco; a special look at the 1907 Ultra High Relief double eagle with John Dannreuther; insight into toned and error coins at the Northern Nevada Coin booth; and a special look at selected pieces at David Lawrence Rare Coins. Visit money.org/2025-wfm-gallery to view videos and photos from the show.

Giveaways & New Releases

Popular collectibles made a huge impression on show attendees. [Minted Assets](#) gave away 250 free commemorative coins each day of the show at their table. This popular promotion had collectors lining up to get their hands on one before they were gone. The coin's designer, Joel Iskowitz, made an appearance on Thursday to sign autographs and talk with attendees.

China's ANA Show Pandas made their return to the WFM this year. Available exclusively from [GOVMINT](#), these popular commemoratives with a one-year-only design feature landmarks or elements from the convention's host city and always sell out fast.

[Panda America](#) distributed a limited run of the People's Bank of China 2025 1-ounce silver bullion coin. The obverse features the Great Wall, while the reverse depicts the Chinese Dragon. Coins came with a card that included designs of famous landmark buildings of Oklahoma City, the famous U.S. Route 66 sign, and Oklahoma roses.

The [U.S. Mint](#) released the latest 2025 American Eagle 1-ounce silver proof coin with a special laser-engraved privy mark, as well as the 2025 American Liberty high relief gold coin and silver medal. The new products proved highly popular with attendees. The gold coin sold out shortly after release.

Honoring Excellence in Numismatics

On Thursday afternoon, during the Member Awards & Donor Celebration, ANA members and member clubs accepted longevity membership pins. Numerous ANA authors received literary



ANA Past President Tom Uram at the Minted Assets booth signing cards and meeting with guests to hand out free commemorative coins during the show.



From left, ANA Editor-in-Chief Caleb Noel presents Michael Shutterly with the first place Prue & Arthur Fitts Literary Award with Past President Tom Uram.

awards for exemplary articles that appeared in the ANA's official publication, *The Numismatist*, in 2024.

Many deserving members received service awards and notable accolades during the 134th Anniversary Banquet. Honorees include Jim Halperin (Chester L. Krause Memorial Distinguished Service Award), Robert W. Julian (Lifetime Achievement Award), Kathryn Freeland (Elvira Clain-Stefanelli Memorial Award for Achievement in Numismatics), and Don Bonser (Harry J. Forman Dealer of the Year).

Mary Lynn and Jeff Garrett were recognized with this year's Philanthropy Award for expanding ANA membership, promoting planned giving, and strengthening the ANA's educational outreach.

Future Convention

The next ANA convention is the 2026 National Money Show®, February 26-28 at the Savannah Convention Center in Savannah, Georgia. Visit nationalmoneyshow.com for up-to-date information about this event.

Thank You Sponsors

Sponsors help make ANA conventions possible—by providing the ANA with resources for better education, more activities, auctions, and more. The following sponsors contributed to the success of this World's Fair of Money:



Scott Schechter, left, was presented with the ANA Numismatist of the Year Award by Past President Tom Uram during the 134th Annual Banquet celebration.

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The American Numismatic Association is a congressionally chartered, nonprofit educational organization dedicated to encouraging the study and collection of coins and related items. The ANA helps its members and the public discover and explore the world of money through its vast array of educational and outreach programs, to include its museum, library, publications, conventions and webinars. For more information, call 719-632-2646 or visit money.org.