Albuquerque Coin Club
ACC
Founded 1953

Pocket Change

VOLUME 73 ISSUE 8 AUGUST 2026

Monetary Chaos of the Civil War

Buy: Phil Vitale

The war between the North and South is still thought of romantically by people, particularly in the South, as a conflict necessary to protect a way of life. Most of us see the tremendous loss of life and the end to idealized life style on both sides. The hostilities put into motion changes to our monetary system that persist today.

August State Fair Display set up Fri. 21 & Sat.22

State Fair Sept. 10—20 Do a shift for FREE admission

ACC Board nominations are on the horizon...

Greenbacks



The start of the civil war hostilities brought the realization in the Union that they did not have enough resources to prosecute the war: uniforms, cannons, guns & ammunition, wagons and supplies had to be paid for. In addition, commerce was being disrupted by a lack of coinage caused by hoarding.

Lincoln's administration explored borrowing from the big Eastern banks, but it was not pursued due to the exorbitant interest demanded (25 – 30%). After initial missteps (demand notes), they took the bold steps of issuing legal tender paper money without the backing of gold and silver in the treasury. These notes were printed n both sides

Continued on Page 2...

(as opposed to single sided bank issued notes) with the backs being printed with intricate designs in green ink, hence the name Greenbacks. The populace did not embrace these notes as all government

money in the past was silver and gold coin. This mistrust, particularly in the West, resulted in Greenbacks being traded at a discount. Over $400 million Greenbacks were put into circulation during the war years with the average discount equaling 11%, the rate fluctuating depending on the war progress news.

Small Coinage

Facilitating commerce with the coin shortage was a more difficult problem. Merchants quickly moved to issue 'tokens' to take the place of small change at their businesses. With the limitation of only being good at the issuing business, tokens provided only small relief. Searching for solutions, the government tried using postage stamps as small change, but this proved to be difficult to handle. The postage stamp solution morphed into encased postage stamps on tokens; this too proved difficult.





A more encompassing solution was the issuance of Fractional Currency: small sized notes in denominations of 5 to 50 cents. These fractional notes were successful in stabilizing commerce in the war years and beyond. Approximately $368 million worth of fractional notes were released over 5 issues.

Mint Coinage

So why didn't the mint just produce more coins to solve the crisis? The answer is two fold. First, the treasury's resources were very strained during the war years and beyond.

Continued on Page 3...



Gold and silver stocks were very limited. Second was the fear that issuing more coins would disappear in circulation due to continuing hoarding. Coin production figures during the war years were very low. Mintages of less than 100,000 were common, and many times they were less than 50,000. Coin production in 1865 was particularly low with half dime production at 13,000, three cent silver production at 8,000. To compound the small mintages, not all of the production was actually released (those not released were many times melted). Collectors looking for circulating strike coinage from these years can look to pay a high premium for even lower condition coins.

The government finally took the approach t issue coinage with no silver or gold content. The two cent bronze coin was issued in 1864. Three cent nickels were issued starting in 1865. Finally, five cent nickels were issued starting in 1866.



Summary

Looking back to the 1860s, there is a wealth of interesting developments for the numismatist. We are still using paper money not backed by silver and gold. We still have five cent nickels. There are many collecting opportunities, abet pricey, that can be pursued. Sometimes there is satisfaction in the hunt for that 1865 coin to complete a collection. Happy hunting.

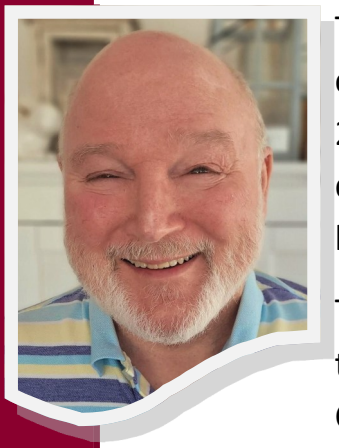




The Coin Cabinet

by: Jim Derrick

The 2026 State Fair Numismatic Display and Competition is scheduled for September 10-20, 2026. The entry dates (set-up Display dates) are Friday-Saturday, August 21-22, 2026, from 9AM – 5PM, at the Creative Arts Center, New Mexico State Fairgrounds, in Albuquerque.



To participate, please see the official entry rules at https://cdn.saffire.com/files.ashx?t=fg&rid=NewMexicoStateFair&f=16-2026_Numismatics_-_guides_website(1).pdf&cb=4F5CA062. For questions, please contact Directors Rod Frechette rodabqcc@gmail.com or Tim Cox tacotmc@gmail.com.

This is the 250th Anniversary of the United States and to celebrate, the Club is offering three (3) special Commemorative Club Buck (CB) Coins for purchase or as a reward for volunteering, while supplies last. These Commemorative CB Coins celebrate the countries involved with establishing the United States 250 years ago. They include the $10 French Liberte CB Coin, $15 Mexican Libertad CB Coin, and the American Liberty $20 CB Coin. These are available for purchase from the Club at their face value (See Treasurer Pat Vitale, to Purchase at the Membership Meeting). We will also be giving one or more of these to volunteers at the Fall Coin Show, scheduled for November 13-15, 2026, at the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid Hotel.

I will also be presenting an introductory educational presentation on America's first Federal Currency, 250-year-old U.S. Continental Currency, at our upcoming ACC membership meeting scheduled for August 31, 2026. I hope you can join us at the UNM Continuing Education Center or participate by Zoom for the presentation at 7PM. Zoom log-in information is available near the end of this Pocket Change Newsletter.

The Club recognizes members each year members who demonstrate outstanding leadership, volunteerism, or participation through the ACC Awards Program. There are several awards available including the "Johnny Plath Numismatist of the Year Award" (Nominate by September 12, 2026, Board Meeting).

Coin Cabinet continued...

"ACC Life Membership Award" (Nominate by September 30, 2026),
"ACC Educator of the Year Award" (Nominate by October 31, 2026),
"Young Numismatist Rising Star Award" (Nominate anytime),
"Young Numismatist Program Award" (Nominate anytime), and the ACC President's Award (Nominate anytime)."

To nominate a member, you can use the forms available on the website under "club documents," or submit a one-page written nomination letter and send to President Jim Derrick at my email at https://jderrick0702@msn.com. All award winners are selected by the Board and Award Winners receive their awards at the Holiday/Awards Dinner.

The Holiday/Awards Dinner is scheduled for 6:30PM Monday evening, December 7, 2026, at the Santa Ana Star Hotel-Casino, in the Quesadas Comedy Club. Reservations can be made with Treasurer Pat Vitale, at the August, September and October 2026 Membership Meetings. The ACC pays half the cost for the plated-served holiday dinner. Cost is $30 per adult member and $15 per YN member. Get your reservations early as we are limited to 60 people. Happy Fall everyone and be safe.

Our club exists to serve our members. Get involved and enjoy it more.

Pat's Pittance

by: Pat Vitale

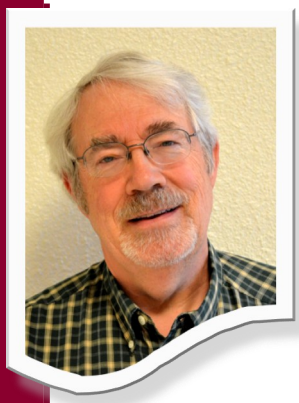


Summer is just about over, but the heat continues. State Fair time is just around the corner. Our bank deposits for the month of July totaled $1,725.00, $500 of which was rental for display cases for the Fair. Expenses came to $9,933.74 mainly due to deposits for the Spring Coin Show and the Holiday Dinner. We have outstanding checks totaling $471.05, which brings our checking account balance to $46,625.80. Our Vanguard Funds stand at $66,881.47 and our total monetary assets come to $113,507.27. See you at the Fair.

Rex's Record

by Rex Borders

The ACC BOD met on July 11th to discuss club business. Highlights included:



The July Trade Fair was cancelled over an issue with security on UNM campus. Apparently outside armed security is not allowed at UNM events. We were unaware of that and were not able to arrange having UNM security personnel on the date we had advertised. We are discussing options for next year.

Two of the three planned club bucks to honor the USA on its 250th birthday are available. So far we've been unable to get a die for the third coin that it acceptable. Rod Frechette is working on resolving these issues.

The State Fair is upon us. Displays must be delivered to the Creative Art Building on August 21 or 22. This is before our August General Membership meeting. I hope you decided to participate. See Byron for any volunteer opportunities for the Fair. The event runs between September 10-20. Rod Frechette and Tim Cox are our managing our participation. If you don't enter a display, please stop by the Numismatic area in the Creative Arts building during the fair. Contact Byron Kesner for any volunteer opportunities remaining.

The ACC has several awards such as Numismatist of the Year, Educator of the Year Award, and the Rising Star Award. Please nominate a worthy candidate for the Board to consider. Some awards have been unrealized due to lack of nominations. Please recognize a member you feel deserves recognition. Complete details our on our web site.

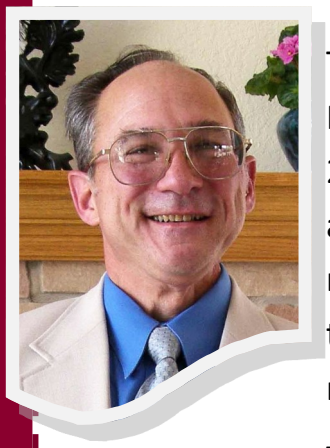
Annual elections for ACC officers and board members are coming up. With the exception of the President, all positions serve 1-year terms. Please consider running for a position this next year. The only position requiring experience is the President. All other positions are open to every member. Serving on the board can make you a better numismatist and is personally rewarding. Give it a try.

The Holiday dinner is scheduled for Dec. 7th at Santa Ana Star Casino. This year we can accommodate 60 people. The club pays half and you can use club busks to pay your half. Please plant to attend. Stay tuned for more information. (July 29) meeting was the educational presentation by Steve Loftis. About 35 members witnessed his excellent presentation of Commemorative Olympic coins, both US and foreign. Thank you Steve, we appreciate your efforts. bReminder: Presenters are given a certificate of appreciation and paid $25 club bucks. bIf you have an idea for a presentation talk to Scott Buccholtz.

I hope to see you in August. Please consider joining the "group" at our weekly breakfast at Weck's on Osuna.

ANA News

by: Phil Vitale



The ANA World's Fair of Money will be held in Pittsburgh, PA, from August 25th through the 29th. The team of Byron and Isaac Kesner, Eric and Jennifer Kibbey, and Pat and Phil Vitale will represent the Albuquerque Coin Club at a club table at this event. We will be reporting on the range of activities in next month's issue.



The ANAs National Money Show will be held in Virginia Beach, VA, from March 4th through the 6th. This event will feature hundreds of dealers from around the country in addition to free lectures, competitive displays, ANA museum displays and a US Mint store. Jane Fuller will lead a club team to man our table at this annual event. She will be looking for additional club members to help man our table. I still have discounted membership applications for savings.

Albuquerque Coin Club's Young Numismatist (YN) Program

Thank you Peter Rechkemmer, Young Numismatics Activities Coordinator, for all that you do for our club's youth.

Also, any donations for the youth program are always welcomed and appreciated.



August BIRTHDAYS

Tom McCain	8/3	Peter Bilan	8/4
Peggy Deurloo	8/6	Connor Donovan	8/8
Dennis Rishel	8/8	Chuck Stein	8/8
Peter Tabet	8/8	Carl Zdunczyk	8/8
Scott Mathison	8/11	Cliff Mishler	8/11
Donald Dry	8/12	Warner Talso	8/12
Charles Moore	8/14	Gary Coomber	8/15
Cain Martinez	8/15	Barry Deutsch	8/17
Kim Kiick	8/17	Colleen Knapp	8/17
Mark Blackburn	8/18	Jim Renshaw	8/18
Miguel Roberts	8/21	Kevin Roybal	8/24
George Sanders	8/24	Bettie Elwell	8/27
Ms Mex Gunner	8/28	Jennifer West	8/28
Bill Arnold	8/30	Kenny Jewell	8/30
Rick Ewing	8/31		

Welcome to our New Members

Kenneth Bressett	VIP	**Ken Hallenbeck**	VIP

Semiquincentennial Coins for 2026

From: U.S. Mint





To celebrate America's Semiquincentennial in 2026, the Mint has updated the circulating nickels, dimes, quarters, half dollars, and dollars that you find in your pocket change. These coins, as well as collectible pennies, can be purchased from the United States Mint in annual sets in 2026.

- Nickels with a dual date of 1776 - 2026
- Dimes with updated imagery
- Quarters featuring five different designs high lighting important moments and ideals in American history
- Half dollars redesigned with special imagery for this milestone year

Obverse (Heads) Reverse (Tails)

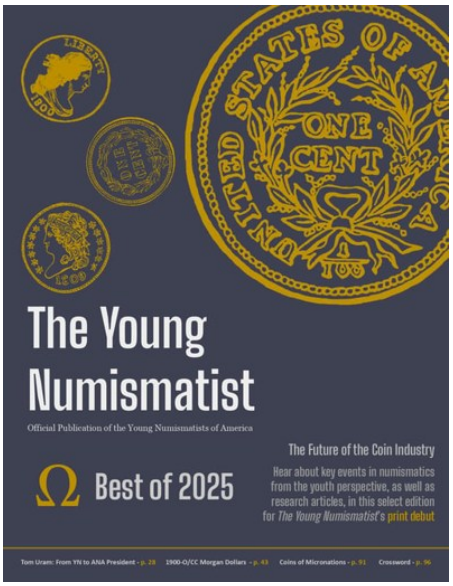
"The designs on these historic coins depict the story of America's journey toward a 'more perfect union,' and celebrate America's defining ideals of liberty. We hope to offer each American the opportunity to hold our nation's storied 250 years of history in the palms of their hands as we Connect America through Coins."

Support the Future of Numismatics From: ANA

The next generation of collectors is already making an impact. You can help them go further.

Young Numismatists OF America

The Young Numismatists of America (YNA) is a youth-led club for young coin collectors. With 100+ members nationwide, YNA helps young numismatists build skills, share knowledge, and grow through monthly meetings, expert speakers, research presentations, publishing opportunities, and more!



With a gift of $50 or more to support the YNA, you'll receive a limited-edition printed copy of The Young Numismatist, the official YNA club publication. This exclusive first print edition is a unique collector's item showcasing the knowledge and passion of today's young collectors. Only about 60 copies remain.

The print issue features the best Young Numismatist articles of 2025, covering major numismatic events from a youth perspective, plus original research.

Your gift helps us educate, engage, and empower the next generation of numismatic leaders. Limited quantities available. Don't miss your chance to receive this limited release.

Dates to Remember

ALBUQUERQUE COIN CLUB EVENTS:

Albuquerque Coin Club Monthly Meetings are held at the UNM Continuing Education Building located at 1634 University Blvd. NE, Albuquerque. Meetings are conducted person and concurrently on

Zoom. Meeting ID: 986 808 5956 Passcode: u6fN73

August 21 & 22 **Bring Your State Fair Displays for set up**
Contact Tim Cox or Rex Borders for help

August 31 **Membership Meeting** **Speaker: Jim Derrick**
Topic: US Continental Currency & Ben Franklin's Contributions

September 10—20 **State Fair** ***Volunteers needed***
free admission see Byron K., Rod F. or Tim C

September 28 **Membership Meeting** **Speaker: Byron Kesner**
Topic: History & Coinage of the Israeli Mint

*** *NOMINATIONS for Board of Directors****

October 26 **Membership Meeting** **Speaker: Tim Cox**
Topic: Allayettes, the 1st Coin

**** NOMINATIONS for Board of Directors****

ANA EVENTS

August 25 - 29 **World's Fair of Money** **Pittsburgh, PA**

UPCOMING AREA AND MAJOR COIN SHOWS

October 15 - 17 **U.S. Mexico Numismatic Association Convention & Show**
Scottsdale AZ

November 13 - 15, **Great Southwest Coin Expo; Marriott Pyramid**
Albuquerque NM

Promoting Numismatics Through Education

Albuquerque Coin Club

P.O. Box 11602
Albuquerque, NM
87192

Albuquerquecoinclub.com

ANA Member Club # C1063082

A.C.C. Monthly Meeting Agenda

The club meets the last Monday of every month, except December. Meetings are held at UNM Continuing Education Building located at 1634 University Blvd. NE, Albuquerque. We encourage and welcome visitors.

6:00 - 6:45	Young Numismatists Activities Coin hunt, Show and tell, Trivia contest, Numismatic class and more...
6:00 pm	Open floor trading and socializing
7:00 pm	Call to order Educational Presentation Club Business
8:00 pm	Break, socializing and trading 1st Door prize and 50/50 drawing Auction of numismatic items Payment of auction winnings

We're on the Web!
albuquerquecoinclub.com

Promoting Numismatics Through Education

2026 ACC Board of Directors

President: Jim Derrick
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Vice President: Byron Kesner
505-645-2618

Secretary: Rex Borders
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Treasurer: Pat Vitale
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Director: Tim Cox
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Director: Rod Frechette
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Pocket Change is published every month by the Albuquerque Coin Club. If you are interested in writing an article to be published in the newsletter and receive 10 Club Bucks for doing so, or want to receive it via email, or just have ideas, please contact our publisher at the following email address. **Rod Frechette**; rodabqcc@gmail.com