# 57th Anniversary GNA Show a Smashing Success 

If I may paraphrase the Field of Dreams, if you host it they will come. After the pause the world had taken for the past year, the GNA Show was a rousing success. From the Dealer setup day through the close of the show, we experienced a show unlike one for the past decade. The Bourse floor was constantly buzzing with collectors and dealers alike. Dealers were trying to fill client want lists and collectors were searching for those coins to fill the holes in their collections. Business was fast paced and non-stop.

The Show opened on Friday, April 16th, and we had the honor of having current ANA President Steve Ellsworth and ANA Governor Mary Lynn Garrett participate in the ribbon cutting, along with GNA President Tom Youngblood and Bourse Manager Chip Cutcliff.


Our bourse floor was completely sold out with many new dealers filling in table openings. The excitement about the Show was evident at the start; there were over 120 people eagerly waiting for the bourse floor to open on Friday. The packed lobby scene
 continued each morning of the Show, and daily public attendance saw near record numbers. Over the 3 days, the Show had more than 2,200 in attendance.

## US Mint and the Centennial Morgan and Peace Dollars

Announced last year, the numismatic community has been eagerly awaiting the opportunity to add the first new Morgan dollars in 100 years to their collections. Unfortunately the release of the "CC" and "O" privy marked coins was not as smooth as planned. Collectors experienced severe website crashes due to immense focused internet traffic, some of which was caused by bot attacks. Shortly after the release in May, the US Mint announced that subsequent releases would be delayed while efforts were taken to improve their website.

The second release occurred on August 3rd and featured coins with "D" and "S" privy marks honoring the Morgan series. The final coins in the 2021 series are the " P " Morgan and Peace dollar commemoratives, which will be released on August 10th. The "P" Morgan will have a maximum mintage of 175,000 just like the other Morgans that preceded it, while the Peace dollar will have a maximum mintage of 200,000.

Please let us know what your experiences were like. Personally I was able to pick up examples of the " $D$ " and " $S$ " coins from the latest release without any issues. However during May's release I had significant website struggles in securing the "O" privy mark and the "CC" privy mark ended up completely eluding me.


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## GNA 58 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ Annual Coin Show

April 7-10, 2022
Dalton Convention Center
2211 Dug Gap Battle Road, Dalton, GA
Show information: www.gamoney.org Tom Youngblood: (770) 815-4042

Blue Ridge Numismatic Assoc.
62nd Annual Convention
August 20-22, 2021
Dalton Convention Center
2211 Dug Gap Battle Road, Dalton, GA
Ron Blackman : (321) 258-0325
North Carolina Numismatic
Association Annual Convention
October 1-3, 2021
Cabarrus Area \& Events Center
4751 Highway 49, Concord, NC
Perry Siegel: (704) 488-4787

## Rome Coin Show

October 15-16, 2021
400 Civic Center, Rome, GA 30161
Tom Youngblood: (770) 815-4042

## South Carolina Numismatic

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October 29-31, 2021
TD Convention Center
1 Exposition Drive, Greenville, SC 29607
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Tennessee State Coin Show
November 12-14, 2021
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323 Camp Jordan Pkwy, East Ridge, TN
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Additional Show Info www.gamoney.org

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# "Don't Overlook the Overlooked" <br> <br> by Lowell Knouff 

 <br> <br> by Lowell Knouff}

I grew up in Muskogee, Oklahoma the heart of the Five Civilized Tribes country. I went to school with Cherokee and Creek Native Americans. In school we studied Oklahoma and Muskogee history which covered a lot of information on Native American tribes. I was told for years that my great-great grandmother had walked the Trail of Tears. I thought I knew a lot about Native Americans.

I had missed a very important part of the story.
In the past few years I have learned that missing story.
I learned about the Native American Code Talkers! Thanks to the United States Mint.
Not that I had never heard the term code talkers before. Most older Americans are familiar with the Native American Code Talkers from the 2002 movie "Windtalkers". The movie depicted a US Marine Navajo Code Talker. Some may even remember a movie from 1959 "Never So Few" in which Charles Bronson played a part as a Navajo Code Talker. Both movies leave viewers with the idea that code talkers were all Navajo.

That is what I thought until I began looking at the Code Talker Medals made by the United States Mint.

Navajos were not the only code talkers or even the first code talkers.
Overlooked and mostly forgotten for 55 years, some as many as 80 years, in the last seven


Greetings Fellow Numismatists!
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Contact me at (706) 951-1316 or rustedrocky@gmail.com years the US Government has authorized Congressional Gold Medals for 34 Native American tribes that served as code talkers in both World War I and World War II.

In 2016 a Native American dollar coin was issued to honor all Code Talkers as well. The only coin honoring the Code Talkers.

The first code talkers were 19 Native Americans from the Choctaw nation of Oklahoma, recruited into the US Army in 1918. Their duty was to communicate in their native language for the Army in the field. Worldwide fewer than 20,000 people spoke the Choctaw language and most of it was never written down. This was a "code" the Germans could never break.



Continued on page 9

## "Did you know...volume 29"

## by Chip Cutcliff

Did you know... that the United States Mint Stopped making 90\% silver coins after 2018? The FAST Act signed into law by former president Obama in December of 2015 gave the U. S. Mint the discretion to "use no less than $90 \%$ " rather than "must be $90 \%$ " silver in the production of their premium products. The U.S. Mint publicly announced in late 2018 that they would be using their newfound latitude from the Fast Act to begin production of . 999 coins for 2019. The reason provided was that . 999 silver was already being used in many U. S. Mint products and that an audit revealed that the . 999 planchets (coin blanks) were less expensive than the $90 \%$ that had been historically used by the mint for almost 2 centuries. They implied, if not stated, that $90 \%$ was more of a custom mix in today's world and that . 999 was now the industry standard (and therefore more cost effective). So, our 2019 silver coinage which is now .999 fine should be less expensive, right? Wrong! The U. S. Mint told us the change was to save money but the new products came out at higher prices. The reason given - they are now . 999 fine silver! I know I'm getting old, but my memory is not quite that short yet! Didn't they just tell us that they switched to .999 because it would save them money? If you buy or sell any of the silver coins in the future, remember that the purity increased to .999 fine starting in 2019. As a thought for later, our silver coinage was not always 90\%...

Did you know... ...that the production limits stated for many of our special issue U. S. Mint coins is not the actual number available to the general public when they first go on sale? One long-standing and well known reason for this is some of the production may be used in sets or special releases rather than just for individual coin sales. They state that there are 200,000 being made, but they are also doing 50,000 3-piece sets that include the coins. So, there are only 150,000 individual coins available for phone/web order if you want just a single coin. A recent debacle with the U. S. Mint ordering system highlighted another variable that could affect availability of coins; that was dealer bulk purchasing. This occurs prior to the release date of the coins to the general public! The news was provided to the numismatic community from individuals who participate in the program. The policy caused so much dissatisfaction with customers that the Mint had to issue a press release explaining the program to all of its customers that were unsuccessful in their attempt to order at the announced release date/time. It is now known that at least $10 \%$ of every item released can be sold before the general public has a shot at it. To be fair about it, everyone can use the bulk purchase program. In order to qualify you only have to spend $\$ 500,000$ a year with the U. S. Mint...

Did you know... you might not be able to get an update page for your Dansco or Littleton coin albums for some time? The flexibility provided to the Mint for new or unusual products demonstrates the old adage of "law of unintended consequences". Since 1996, the Mint has occasionally created a special coin that was not planned for. We had the "W" Roosevelt dime of 1996, the Jefferson Nickels of 2004-2006, the 5 Lincoln Cents of 2009-2010, the "P" cents of 2018, the "W" quarters of 2019-2020 and the 2021 "Washington crossing the Delaware" quarter, to

## GNA Board Member, Bob Jacques passes

Shortly after the GNA Show, we learned the sad news that Bob Jacques had suddenly passed away. He was a member of the Madison County Coin Club in Huntsville, Alabama and the Rainbow City Coin Club in Gadsden, Alabama as well as an active GNA member.

Many of you met Bob Jacques, as he diligently lead Public Registration during our last show. He kept the flow of attendees moving all the while helping those who had questions.


His additional interests were varied, including working as a NASA historian as well as serving as treasurer of the USS Alabama memorial.

I enjoyed getting to know him during the show and had the opportunity to fellowship with him in not only numismatics but many of his other interests. His kindness and desire to serve will be greatly missed.

Did you Know? (continued from page 6)
highlight some of them. The supply manufacturers had no idea that these changes were coming, so their albums and folders do not have spaces to include the coins. The general public has been "taught" over the years to wait on the upgraded pages to come out. So the original materials do not sell well because they are incorrect, providing no revenue to the manufactures that therefore can't be spent to create the updated pages. The outcome? Long waits for series to "lock in" the correct info and be available far in the future, or pages for size/type coins that are not pre-numbered in case there is an additional change to the series. Because of Covid and the issues caused by it and the decreased supply sales, you can also expect to see Dansco prices going up by "at least $50 \%$ " on all coin albums in the immediate future. Need an album? Buy them now if you can still find the older prices!

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Despite the fact that we were unable to host any educational or youth programs, we saw large numbers of families and YN collectors come to the Show. Saturday was full of many attendees who were experiencing their first coin show, and the business didn't drop off. The bourse was busy with collectors, new and old, keeping dealers on their toes.

The strong attendance continued on Sunday, and we were able to finish out the Show on a high. Wrapping up the afternoon, Bob Jacques and Marvin Dudek completed the raffle for $\$ 5$ gold piece and 2 American Silver Eagles.

We were the first major Show in the Southeast since the start of the pandemic, and for many this Show was their first outing since the
 Covid-19 outbreak. This was a great opportunity for friends to reunite, reminisce, and remember those no longer with us. Not only were we able to talk shop on coins, but we fellowshipped into the wee hours of the morning talking about our love of coins and family.

We thank you for making this an amazing show and we look forward to seeing you at our next Show: April 8th - 10th, 2022.

Tom Youngblood
GNA President and General Show Chairman

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When WWI ended those men went back to their homes and seldom spoke of their work in the war. "It is not Choctaw belief to talk about your own achievements, it's up to others to praise you," says Nuchi Nashoba, president of the Choctaw Code Talkers Association. "The code talkers would not have told many stories about themselves, they regarded what they had done as just doing their duty. When my great grandfather was interviewed for a local publication after he returned from the war, he simply said, 'I went to France, I saw the country and I came back alive.' Just that." ${ }^{1}$

Five other Native American Tribes were used in WWI as code talkers as well. Native Americans from the Cherokee, Cheyenne, Comanche, Osage and Yankton Sioux tribes were also WWI code talkers. There were at least two from each tribe. Native Americans were not US Citizens at the time, but they did not hesitate to serve.

Shortly after the United States became involved in World War II, the idea of using Native Americans as communicators was revived by the Marines and soon spread to all services. The first called up in WWII were the Navajos and, as the war went on, more Native Americans from 33 other tribes were used in service of the US Armed forces around the world.

The Code Talkers program was kept secret by the US government until 1968, when the program was officially declassified. In 1989, the French government awarded the Comanche Code Talkers the Chevalier of the National Order of Merit, a very high honor ${ }^{2}$. Five Comanches served as Code Talkers in WWI and seventeen in WWII. Fourteen Comanches landed on Utah Beach in
 $1944 .{ }^{4}$

Finally, in 2000, the United States Congress passed legislation to honor the Navajo Code Talkers and provided them with special gold and silver Congressional Medals. The gold medals were for the original 29 Navajos that developed the code, and the silver medals for those that served later in the program. A statement in the Navajo language on the back of the medals translates to: "With the
 Navajo language they defeated the enemy."

Eight years later The Code Talkers Recognition Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-420) was passed requiring the Secretary of the Treasury to strike Congressional Medals in recognition of the dedication and valor of all Native American code talkers to the U.S. Armed Services during World War I and World War II - 33 tribes.
On November 20, 2013, in Emancipation Hall at the U.S. Capitol, 33 tribes were recognized for the dedication and valor of Native American code talkers to the U.S. Armed Services during World Wars I and II. Of the tribes recognized, 25 were presented with their Congressional Gold Medals.

Under the Act, unique gold medals are struck for each Native American tribe that had a member who served as a code talker. Silver duplicate medals are presented to each code talker still living, their next of kin, or other personal representatives. Bronze duplicate medals were to be made for sale to the public.

Each medal contains an image of a code talker in action, most with a tribal image in the background on the obverse.


The reverse of each medal contains an image unique to the tribe or nation the medal honors with an inscription relating the war or wars the tribe served in.

The original gold medals were awarded to the either the few Code Talkers still living in the 2000's or to designated representatives of the respective tribes. Seven sculptors and 12 designers have created the 31 medals minted to date. Two other designers/engravers created the Navajo medal from 8 years earlier.

The bronze versions of these medals are available from the US Mint in both $1.5 "$ and $3 "$. Currently the US Mint's website list 32 medals available for purchase with 2 additional medals set for a future release date.


For collectors interested in military history or Native American history, Code Talker Medals are a set that is well worth considering. They are inexpensive, even the large 3-inch medals are not expensive, and they will bring the last 100 years of American military history to life as you hold them in your hand. Code Talker Medals may never increase in value, but the stories they hold make them invaluable.

In 2016, it was believed only 10-12 code talkers were still living. It is believed the last code talker, David Patterson Sr., a Navajo that served in the Marines, died in October $2017^{5}$ in Rio Rancho, New Mexico, at the age of 94. It is not known absolutely because of the long-kept secrecy of the code talkers program.

Anyone interested in additional details on individual medals should visit the US Mint's website, https://www.usmint.gov/learn/coin-and-medal-programs/medals/native-american-code-talkers.

Numerous websites can be found that tell stories of individual code-talkers and the tribes they are a member of simply by googling "code talkers".

## References:

1. http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-26963624
2. http://www.nmai.si.edu/education/codetalkers/html/chapter7.html
3. https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/navajo-code-talker-david-pattersondies_us_59dc9464e4b00377980b7249
4. Personal conversation with Lanny Asepermy, Comanche Indian Veterans Association
5. http://www.historynet.com/world-war-ii-navajo-code-talkers.htm

## Why We Have a 25-Cent Piece and a 20-Dollar Bill by John Phipps

A question I have heard a number of times is, "Why do we have a 25 -cent piece and a 20dollar bill? Why not a 20-cent piece and a 20-dollar bill, or a 25 -cent piece and a 25 -dollar bill?" I learned the answer in a Zoom meeting presented by the Hobby Club in New Delhi, India. The simple answer is our culture. Explaining it is much more complicated. The culture that I am referring to is not high culture like old paintings, the symphony or opera. This culture is created by a blend of tradition, politics, convenience, superstition, religion, science, mathematics, anatomy, language, humor and many more factors. I think of culture as those things that everybody knows but nobody is taught. One example is the expression "Women and children first." We all know it and believe it, but it was not taught in school.

First a look at coins through the lens of our culture. Because of our culture we think of coins as commodity money. That is to say, coins are worth the value of the metal, or they have intrinsic value. Logically, we know that today this is not true of our coins, but cultural beliefs are very deeply rooted and take decades to go away if ever. Commodity money can be divided or split. The easiest split for the human mind is to divide into halves. So, we have $1 / 2$ dollars, $1 / 2$ dimes and $1 / 2$ cents. Splitting the halves in half again and we have $1 / 4$ dollars. Historically we have split these in half again and gotten pieces-of-eight. We have other fractions of a dollar. One tenth of a dollar is not called a "tenth"; it is called a dime. One hundredth of a dollar is not called a "hundredth"; it is called a cent. This is because splitting into 10 or 100 equal pieces is harder for the human mind to consider. So why do we have a 25 -cent piece? The answer is culture.

Next a look at banknotes. Our culture has always thought of them as fiat money. That is to say, banknotes are only backed by the "good faith" belief in the issuing authority. We do not split fiat money. Almost never have banknotes been torn in half to make lower denominations. It is created for convenience. Convenience in paying with the fewest number of banknotes. Convenience in receiving change in the fewest number of banknotes. Also, the issuing authority wants to print the fewest number of banknotes for lower printing costs and transportation costs. To achieve these advantages of fiat money we analyze various schemes for their efficiency.

So, let us look at how this analysis is done. First we pick the banknotes to include in the scheme. One scheme would be a $\$ 1-\$ 2-\$ 3$ banknote scheme. So, to analyze this scheme we count the fewest banknotes needed to complete transactions for each dollar increment between $\$ 1$ to $\$ 10$. Then we total the number of fewest banknotes needed for all ten of these transactions. For the $\$ 1-\$ 2-\$ 3$ scheme the total is 23 . (see Table on next page). The lower the total the more efficient the scheme is. This analysis applies for the issuing $\$ 1, \$ 2$, and $\$ 3$ banknotes and issuing $\$ 10$, $\$ 20$, and $\$ 30$ banknotes and issuing $\$ 100, \$ 200$, and $\$ 300$ banknotes. The analysis can be done for any other combination of banknotes that the issuing authority is considering.

# Augusta Coin Club 2021 Fall Coin Show 

November $19^{\text {th }}$ and $20^{\text {th }} \quad 9 \mathrm{am}$ to 5 pm Columbia County Exhibition Center

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Why We Have a 25 -Cent Piece and a 20-Dollar Bill (continued from page 11)
For a \$1,-\$2.50-\$5 scheme the total is very high at 27. So, the $\$ 25$ banknote is out of the question. I have done this analysis and the lowest total is 19 for two schemes, a \$1-\$2-\$5 scheme and a \$1-\$3-\$7 scheme.

So, the final question is which scheme to use, the \$1-\$2-\$5 scheme or the \$1-\$3-\$7 scheme? Culture makes this decision too. With human anatomy we start counting with one finger, we have two hands and five fingers per hand. The $\$ 1-\$ 2-\$ 5$ scheme is the obvious winner. So why do we have a \$20 banknote? The answer is culture.

| Amount | Fewest of Items | Number of <br> Items |
| :---: | :--- | :--- |
| $\$ 1.00$ | $1-\$ 1$ | 1 |
| $\$ 2.00$ | $1-\$ 2$ | 1 |
| $\$ 3.00$ | $1-\$ 3$ | 1 |
| $\$ 4.00$ | $1-\$ 3,1-\$ 1$ Or $2-\$ 2$ | 2 |
| $\$ 5.00$ | $1-\$ 3,1-\$ 2$ | 2 |
| $\$ 6.00$ | $2-\$ 3$ | 2 |
| $\$ 7.00$ | $3-\$ 3,1-\$ 1$ | 3 |
| $\$ 8.00$ | $2-\$ 3,2-\$ 1$ | 4 |
| $\$ 9.00$ | $3-\$ 3$ | 3 |
| $\$ 10.00$ | $3-\$ 3,1-\$ 1$ | 4 |

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## A Macabre Pair of Coins

## by Bill Groom

Knowing my affinity for counter-stamped coins that are telling of early American times, a dealer friend of mine had long ago set aside a pair of coins that came his way in an estate purchase. He knew that, when I next paid him a visit, I'd be seeking such pieces for my collection. Eventually, he proudly handed me the pair of 1876 Liberty Seated Quarters pictured below. In near mint state condition, they were both holed and bore but simple initials. Nothing special, it seemed ....


Attractive and curious as this pair of coins was, counter-stamps that offer something of a story line are typically what I seek. Then, my friend produced the envelope in which these came. Upon it was simply scrawled in pencil, "These coins rested upon our dear Mother's eyes." Now, there's a story - of sorts!

There's no telling just who these siblings, A.P. and M.P., were, and their dear Mother's name now forever remains a mystery. It's clear that these two, newly minted coins were neatly holed to be used as keepsakes; likely, holed and punch marked as such by a jeweler. This may have been done either before or following the family wake. In addition to being lifelong keepsakes for the children, these two coins experienced more immediate use in keeping the decedent's eyes shut during viewing. Nowadays, the eyelids are reportedly glued shut. Pleasant thought, huh? Personally, I prefer the old method, coins!

In contemplating this practical but somewhat macabre use of coins, I seemed to recall, in my mind's eye, that there was some mythical purpose behind the practice. Sure enough, my memory intact and laptop at hand, I quickly found the explanation. The ancient Greeks believed that, when somebody died, their soul had to cross the River Styx which connected the Earth to the Underworld, the land of the dead. The ferryman, Charon, charged two silver coins (note that the two quarters are silver) to transport souls into the Underworld. So it happened that the placement of two silver coins upon the eyes of a deceased person became steeped in tradition.

In the words of the immortal Paul Harvey, "Now you have the rest of the story." Hopefully, a paper copy of this humble article will accompany this pair of coins as they find future owners. Then, it will be their responsibility to keep the river story afloat. In the meantime, these coins will be laid-to-rest in a coffin-like, metal coin box, then tucked into the mausoleum that I simply call a safe.

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On the Historic Marietta Square

## 9 Atlanta Street SE

Marietta, Georgia 30060
(770) 422-1096

Mark G. Thompson
LIFE MEMBER: ANA, BRNA, FUN, GNA, MNA, SCNA, TSNS "We Support ICTA"

## Directions to ROBINSON'S Coin Shop

From Atlanta, take I-75 NORTH to South Marietta Pkwy. (Exit 263)

Looping under I-75, go WEST for 2.7 miles on S. Marietta Pkwy (the South Loop)

Directly before passing under the (railroad) bridge, turn RIGHT on Atlanta Street

Go NORTH for .3 miles, Robinson's is on the RIGHT before entering the Marietta Square.

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MARIETTA SQUARE

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| :---: | :---: |
| N. Park Square | Lawrence St. |



## MARIETTA GEORGIA

