

## ANA Honors GNA 60 Year Membership



ANA District Representative Richard Jozefiak (left) presents GNA President Tom Youngblood (right) with the Member Since 1965 award at a recent Metropolitan Coin Club of Atlanta meeting.

The American Numismatic Association honored the Georgia Numismatic Association for 60 years of membership at the 134th Anniversary Convention in Oklahoma City on August 21, 2025.

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## GNA YN Earns 2nd Place in ANA Literary Essay Contest



Georgia Numismatic Association Young Numismatist, Harrison Bluhm placed second in the 2025 Bill Fivaz YN Literary Essay Contest at the ANA Convention in Colorado Springs for his essay entitled "Understanding OPA Red Points and Blue Points." He was presented with \$200 in Whitman coin books. His essay can be found on page 5 of this month's GNA Journal.

GNA YN Harrison Bluhm received his certificate at the Classic City Coin Club Meeting on October 7, 2025.

# Modern Morgan Dollars; Why Not Some of the Best of the Classic Morgans?

by Mark Benvenuto

The United States Mint has rejuvenated just about everyone's interest in the Morgan dollar design in the last few years, if that is indeed needed for this constantly popular classic silver U.S. coin. We now have a bevy of extremely attractive Morgans to add to our collections, or to give as gifts to relatives and friends, starting with those of 2021. They are almost always available in grades such as MS-68, MS-69, or even the technically perfect MS-70. But sometimes the prices for these modern beauties can be rather rich. When this is the case, why not look back to the classics, or at least the final couple of years of the classics?

## **The 1904, from three different Mints**

Several Mints had been pounding out Morgan dollars since 1878, which is twenty-six years prior to the issue of 1904. That year saw a good number come from the main Mint in Philadelphia, as well as decent numbers from the branch facilities in New Orleans and San Francisco. Today we could land an example from Philly for about \$100 in a grade at or close to mint state, or MS-60. Better news comes with the 'O' mint mark of the Big Easy, where we can break into the mint state grades for only about \$50, an undoubtedly good price. Right here, this would be a neat duet in starting some kind of Morgan dollar late-date set, even if we just enjoyed the two of them for some time.

The fly in the ointment, as it were, is the price tags connected to the higher grades for the 1904-S. As we move from something like very fine, or VF-20, to the just-mentioned MS-60, the cost jumps from a rather palatable \$90 to the downright heady \$3,300. To quote some eloquent and confused famous person: "What gives?"

We can easily come up with a few possibilities or reasons for the elevated prices of better 1904-S Morgan dollars. The two easiest to believe are first that we simply have a collective desire for just about any United States coin with that 'S' mint mark, and are willing to pay for it. Or second, quite a few of the '04-S pieces ended up plopping into the melting pot at one point in history, perhaps at the spike in silver prices back in the 1980s. That, however, is tough to prove. Whatever the reason though, this will be a costly dollar in any of the mint state grades. We might have to settle for something like a fine or very fine – that's F-12 or VF-20 – grade for this one if we want to keep our expenses in check.

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## Show Calendar

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**Marietta, GA 30060**  
Bob O'Brien: (770) 772-4359  
atlcoin@hotmail.com, www.atlcoins.com

**Augusta Coin Show**  
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Chip Davis 478-320-7850

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Randy Clark : (843) 367-0141

**Albany Coin Show**  
March 20-21, 2026  
445 Oakland Parkway  
Leesburg, GA 31763  
George Anderson 229-349-7935

**GNA 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Coin Show**  
April 17 - 19, 2026  
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Show information: www.gamoney.org  
Tom Youngblood: (770) 815-4042

**West Georgia Coin Show**  
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Teresa Robinson : (910) 231-5673

**Warner Robins Coin Show**  
July 24 - 25, 2026  
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1011 Corder Rd, Warner Robins, GA  
Adam Delestowics: (478) 396-5599

**Blue Ridge Numismatic Assoc.**  
**63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention**  
August 5 - 8, 2026  
Dalton Convention Center  
2211 Dug Gap Battle Road, Dalton, GA  
Ronda Leeper : (678) 232-6982



# Understanding OPA Red Points and Blue Points: A Deep Dive Into Their Roles and Impact

by Harrison Bluhm

The year was 1943. The US had been in WWII for over a year. Almost all food was rationed for those fighting on the front lines. The little remaining food had to be divided among many citizens not drafted. To partition the resources, the Office of Price Administration produced red and blue tokens, known as OPA Red Points and Blue Points. US residents used the OPA Red Points to buy different types of meats, cheeses, and other fats. The Blue Points were used for processed foods such as, but not limited to, canned goods, sugar, and coffee. These tokens have become collectibles, with specific scarcer variants, such as the Red MV valued close to \$100.

These tokens made of vulcanized fiber were distributed to families all across the states. Each household was issued a certain number of points based on the number of people in the home, and purchases had to be carefully planned to make the most of the available ration stamps and tokens. Due to these points functioning as a secondary currency alongside actual money, shoppers had to be mindful of both their financial budget and their ration point balance. This encouraged families to plan their meals carefully and find creative substitutes, leading to the development of innovative cooking recipes to make their rations last longer.

The key distinction between a common OPA Red/Blue Point and a valuable one lies in the letter combinations on both the obverse and reverse of the tokens. There were 30 different Red Point letter combinations and 24 Blue Point letter combinations. Some specific combinations have become extremely rare due to the small amount made. Of the 1.1 billion OPA Red Points produced, only 150 to 200 Red MVs have surfaced. Other rare variants include the Red MM, XC, YC, and Blue WW, WH, and WC. These rare points tend to go from \$3 to \$10 each. There was no true reason why the letters on the OPA Red and Blue Points varied, although some speculate it was for counterfeit detection.

The government played a vital role in managing OPA Points during WWII. Local ration boards ensured the points were given out fairly and followed the rules. The OPA worked to stop black market activity by punishing violators, and the OPA used propaganda to encourage people to see rationing as a patriotic duty. Even though some people resisted, and it was hard to balance the food needs of civilians and the military, the system helped everyone share the sacrifice and stay united. Ultimately, the OPA's efforts to control rationing through Red Points and Blue Points were essential for supporting both the war effort and everyday people, leaving a lasting impact on the economy and society during the war.

*Continued on page 6*

In conclusion, the OPA Red and Blue Points were an important part of America's economy, helping to distribute scarce food resources fairly and efficiently. These tokens not only served as a secondary currency, guiding daily life for families trying to make their rations last, but they also became symbols of America's unity. The rarity of certain Red and Blue Points has turned them into valuable collectibles, further highlighting the legacy of wartime rationing. The government's role in managing this system through local ration boards and strict regulations reinforced a sense of collective responsibility, demonstrating the strength of our local communities and cooperation during one of the most challenging times in American history.



*"Modern Morgan Dollars" (continued from page 2)*

### **The 1921, last hurrah of an amazing coin**

The 1904 Morgan dollars were all a thing of the past when Congress re-authorized the silver dollar again in 1921. The series had been in a Rip van Winkle snooze – a coma, really – for almost twenty years. Many collectors are aware that the idea was to produce a dollar coin to commemorate or honor the “War to End All Wars” – which rather disappointingly, was not. But the Peace dollar was not coined until late in the year, which meant that an enormous number of Morgan dollars were pounded out, now from the main facility on the East Coast, the new branch Mint in Denver, and the West Coast facility in San Francisco. So, we have the possibility of no mint mark at all, as well as a ‘D’ and an ‘S’ that we might gather. And all of these are far more common than any of the Morgan dollars that were coined from 1878 to 1904.

With 44.6 million of the 1921 Morgan dollars coming out of the main Mint in Philly, this was the single most common dollar coin that had ever been made by the end of that year. For those of us collecting today, we can land a decent, mint state grade for about \$100 – something like an MS-63. The ‘D’ and ‘S’ marked pieces will cost more, with the big surprise being the price tag attached to the higher mint state grades for the Denver coins. The surprise is that these beat out those from the West Coast, which routinely do carry some sort of premium, probably because the collector community still has an informal love affair with anything from the City by the Bay.

*Continued on page 9*

## “Did you know...volume 40”

by Chip Cutcliff

**Did you know...** ...that your PCGS submission voucher for 4 or 8 free submissions, provided for signing up for the higher levels in their collector's club, has a strict expiration date? When you join the Collector's Club you can get in at varying levels. Two of these offer “free submission” vouchers. The fine details state that the voucher is good for 1 year from your signup date. So, at the beginning of the year, I used my voucher for 8 free submissions. I had planned to hand deliver them at FUN, but plans fell thru so I found myself in a situation where I had to mail the submission off, something that I always try to avoid. I mailed my package, second day priority delivery, to make sure that it arrived at its destination before the expiration of the voucher, which was 6 days away. It would arrive on a Saturday, but was clearly mailed before the voucher expiration date. I waited on e-mail confirmation of receipt in California. Three weeks went by and no contact. So, I called to check the status of my submission. What a relief, the package had been received but was not yet in the que for processing. They were running behind...

About 5 weeks later I was notified that my grades were ready. They were ok for the coins submitted. A week later I printed out the receipt they sent and realized that it was \$320 over stated! I called and was originally told they would reverse the errant charges the next day. I finally got the credit issued, more than 60 days after the erroneous charge. Guess what? The initial charge for the “free voucher” submission was because they used the processing date, not the received in house date, as the starting point for my submission. It got straightened out, but it took forever, and almost required a complaint to my credit card company to preserve my rights. Moral to this story – don't wait until the last week to use your voucher. Isn't California one of those states where credit card refunds are required by law to be issued within 30 days?

...that there are some web sites out there that you should avoid at all costs unless you're an astute collector that can read through the BS and identify coins/problems from poor pictures and obtuse descriptions? Did you see the \$18,000 1958D penny? Or the \$7,000 1995 \$2 bill? How about the 1969S non-doubled cent for \$50,000? Many ads are outright fabrications (LIES) but some have a grain of truth. Often, the devil is in the details.

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**Did you know...**

Sometimes, what appears to be a common coin sells for tens of thousands of dollars. What the ad NEVER explains is that the coin in question was just graded and is the finest known. It is unique. It may be just a half point above the next lowest grade – that was top grade until this coin showed up. Millionaire players in the Collectors Club will pay ANYTHING to have the new "Highest Grade" coin which gives them bragging rights for best collection in the world. So, it may be true that a 1958D sold for 18K. HOWEVER, it is the ONLY coin worth that. The others are 25 cent coins, but you can own one for 18K if you have that much pocket change. I'll be happy to sell you one. And the \$2 bill? The ad didn't mention that the one that sold for 7K was a slabbed, GEM crisp uncirculated note with a serial number that was all 7's (77777777). Minor details...

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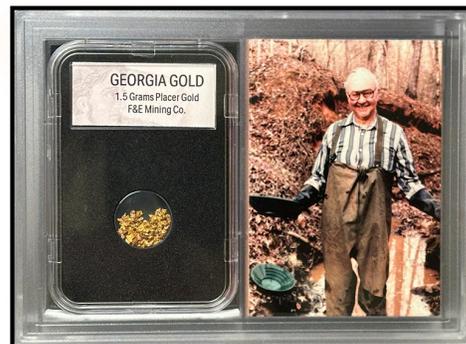
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### **Finding out what our price point is**

These six classic Morgan dollars are all available, and can all be had for very low prices, especially if we opt to dip below the MS-60 grade. But that idea of mint state coins is a big part of the modern collecting psyche, really. Just how much are we willing to pay to add a specific piece to our collection, whatever the grade happens to be? Many of us keep in our minds something like \$100 as an upper limit for any of our purchases. After all, it's a nice, neat number, and doesn't usually drain our wallets too severely. Plus, it routinely nets us some beautiful silver.

That \$100 mark probably will not hold if we want to add any of the 2021 Morgan dollars to this six-piece assembly of classic Morgan silver. They won't be too high above the mark, at least if we do not try for something like an MS-70 example (which can indeed get pricey). But whatever we choose, as the modern Morgan and Peace dollar series develops, we can have a lot of fun marrying up some of the common, classic Morgans with these newly minted gems. This could indeed become a neat, new twist to a very established collecting thrust.

# **MIDDLE GEORGIA COIN CLUB**

## **2026 Coin & Currency Show**

January 23th 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

January 24th 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

**Miller, Murphy, Howard Building**

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For more information contact Bourse Chairman:

Chip Davis 478.320.7850 [chdavis@bellsouth.net](mailto:chdavis@bellsouth.net)

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Contact for Table Availability

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**Additional Show Info**

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# GEORGIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

## Call for Nominations

In accordance with GNA By-Laws, it is time for our bi-annual election of Club Officers and Board of Governors.

The Officer/Board positions open for election are:

- President
- Vice-President
- General Secretary
- Membership Secretary
- Treasurer
- 4 Governor-At-Large positions

All of these roles serve for 2 years with the term beginning on the final day of this year's annual GNA convention.

Nominations for any and all positions may be made by any GNA Member in good standing. Please **submit your nominations** to our General Secretary, Marvin Dudek. They can be provided via email at **[mdudek@gamoney.org](mailto:mdudek@gamoney.org)** or mailed to our PO Box at: **GNA, Officer Nominations, PO Box 70, Suches, GA 30572**

The nominees that accept their nomination will appear on the ballot which will be included in our *GNA Show Journal* issue.

Those running unopposed shall automatically be accepted to office, unless an objection is voiced by any member which will trigger a vote for the position. In case there are no nominations for a particular office, written nominations may be made prior to the Annual Meeting, provided that the nominee gives their permission. If you have any questions about the responsibilities of a GNA Officer or Governor role, do not hesitate to contact us at **[Board@gamoney.org](mailto:Board@gamoney.org)**

## **GNA Scholarship Offered**

GNA is accepting applications for **two scholarships** to the **2026 American Numismatic Association Summer Seminar** that will be held in Colorado Springs. The scholarships are available to both young numismatists (YN), age 13 to 22, and GNA adult numismatists.

Completed **applications along with recommendations** from fellow GNA members must be **received by January 31, 2026**. Each scholarship covers the minimum "On-Campus Fees" for double occupancy dorm room boarding, tuition for one session, plus air travel. Scholarships are awarded on a merit basis. Successful applicants will need to demonstrate their involvement, leadership, accomplishments in numismatics, as well as a desire to learn more about the hobby.

Summer Seminar features a lineup of classes to meet virtually every collector's educational needs. Class subjects include ancient coin collecting, paper money collecting and grading, counterfeit detection, coin grading, Civil War exonomia, digital photography of coins, Colonial numismatics, hobo nickels carving, collecting medals and tokens, and more. Students learn from the hobby's most prominent scholars, rising young stars, and successful business leaders. In previous years, over 300 students and instructors ranging in age from 13 to 87 participated in Summer Seminar. The two one-week sessions are scheduled for June 20-25 & June 27-July 2, 2026.

YN scholarship recipients will attend one week-long class of their choice, have lodging in a Colorado College dormitory with counselor supervision, and participate in seminar programs and events.

Scholarship applications are available at [www.GaMoney.org](http://www.GaMoney.org) (select "scholarship" on the main page). You can also apply by contacting the GNA scholarship committee at

(423) 653-7908 or

by e-mail at [scholarship@GaMoney.org](mailto:scholarship@GaMoney.org).

**Scholarships will be awarded by February**

# Competing with the Nickels; the Last of the Half Dimes

by Mark Benvenuto

On the Periodic Table of the Elements, nickel has a prominent place, but does not really have that long of a history. Discovered in 1751, it made it into our coinage in the mid-1800s. The first nickel five-cent pieces to come out of the gate were the Shield nickels of 1866, the design work of Mr. James Longacre. But that did not necessarily spell the end of the long-time five-cent piece, the Seated Liberty half dime – the artwork of which was that of Mr. Christian Gobrecht. No, the little half-dime soldiered on all the way to 1873, which is long enough that a collector today could assemble some kind of date run of the final eight years of these little, silver pieces.

## Common versus uncommon dates

When it comes to the final decade or so of the Seated Liberty half-dimes, it's probably polite to say that the mintages were all over the board. For example, the 1866 half-dime, produced at the main facility in Philadelphia, saw only 10,000 produced. A few years earlier, in 1861, in the midst of the biggest war the United States had ever been in, the same facility pounded out 3.36 million. If we do a bit of math, that means if the folks in Philly worked 50 weeks (and took two for vacation), at an assumed 5 days per week, that's 250 days of production. So, 3,360,000 per 250 comes down to 13,440 in 1 day. That means the 1866 production run in Philadelphia could have been completed in less than a day.

On the other side of the scale, the production for 1871 and for 1872 were both close to 2 million; and even the 1872-S saw 837,000 come out of the branch facility in San Francisco. By any measure, that's a lot of half-dimes.

## Affordable grades

Whatever date we consider common, the big deciding factor in collecting any type of classic United States silver today is its price. We in the collector community have in the past few decades developed a yearning for mint state coins, no matter the series or the time. But when it comes to any series that spans the mid-nineteenth century, the term "mint state" almost always means expensive. Remember, a five-cent piece had some purchasing power in 1866. Folks didn't just squirrel them away for some rainy day. They spent them.

With that warning, it's worth noting that virtually every half-dime from 1866 to 1873 will cost at least a couple hundred dollars in a lower end of mint state, such as MS-60. This is

hardly an impossible price tag for many collectors, but we sometimes think of it as what we'd like to pay for big silver – meaning silver dollars or half dollars. It's just a fact that there's an unspoken "something" about big silver that attracts many of us which seems to be absent from small silver.

But there is a silver lining to this (okay, bad pun). That is that the price of the more common Seated Liberty half-dimes floats between \$40 and \$60 when we choose to look for examples in grades like very fine, VF-20, or extra fine, EF-40. Yes, these coins will have a bit of wear on them. But they still do have a good deal of detail, and can be rather handsome coins. Assembling a collection of these half-dimes is hardly going to net us a gaggle of ugly ducklings.

### **Mint marks**

The Seated Liberty half-dimes go all the way back to 1837, and that means there are plenty of 'O' mint marks in the series, for those produced in New Orleans. The Big Easy saw half-dime production for this series from 1838 all the way to 1861. But if we want to stick with these five-cent pieces only from 1866 until the end of the series, the only mint mark will be the 'S' of the City by the Bay.

To say the swings in production for the San Fran half-dimes is wild is itself wild, simply because one of the greatest of U.S. coin rarities is found in this brief span. The unique 1870-S half-dime is listed in the standard reference books, but it's as uncollectible as the 1849 double eagle. The Red Book indicates that the coin was auctioned in 2004, but it hasn't made any comments about it since. On the much more common side, the 1872-S is a Seated Liberty half-dime with a production tally of 837,000. That's not amazingly common, but it's not a howling rarity either. Today the much more common 'S' marked piece still runs about \$60 in that upper, circulated grade zone. That's interesting to take note of, since it means the extra cost often associated with 'S' mint marks does not seem to be there, at least in grades below mint state. Maybe there are just not too many folks collecting these little guys.

### **All things considered**

How complete a collection of Seated Liberty half-dimes from this transition period we'd like to collect is obviously up to each of us, and comes down to what we'd like to spend. It might be a fun endeavor to build this as something like one half of a two-prong collection. The other prong, as it were, would be the corresponding Shield nickels. Whatever we choose though, this is an interesting time and transition when it comes to United States classic silver coins.



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## Augusta Coin Club 2025 Fall Coin Show

**November 21<sup>st</sup> 9am to 5pm**

**November 22<sup>nd</sup> 9am to 3pm**

**Columbia County Exhibition Center**

212 Partnership Drive, Grovetown, GA

Exit 190 on I-20, Go South 1 Block, Turn Left

Go Straight to Exhibition Center

Free Admission   Free Parking   Public Invited

Gold   Silver   Currency   Jewelry   Collectible

Tokens   Medals   Supplies   Exonumia

[www.AugustaCoinClub.com](http://www.AugustaCoinClub.com)

# ROBINSON'S

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COINS, CURRENCY, GOLD & SILVER (U.S. AND FOREIGN)

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Wed. - Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM

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.

