



PANS Eaglet

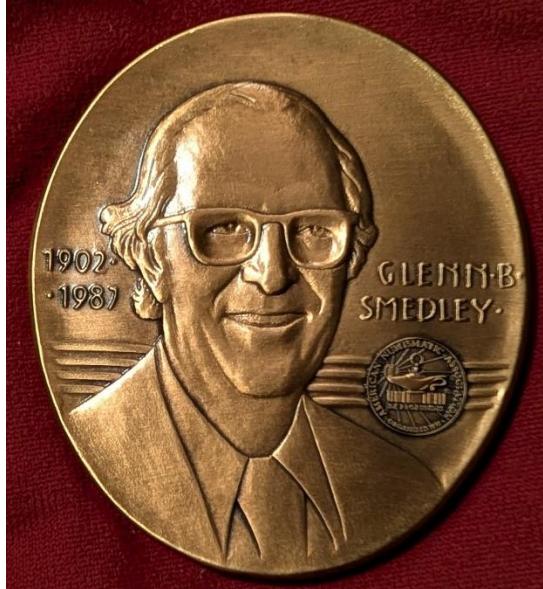
The official newsletter of the Polish-American Numismatic Society

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Lester Rosik receives ANA's Glenn Smedley Award

By Steven Bieda

At the recent ANA Summer Convention held in Oklahoma City, Lester Rosik was awarded the ANA's Glenn Smedley Memorial Award. The award was created in 1988 in memory of Glenn B. Smedley, "a collector's collector" to recognize ANA members who have devoted their efforts to the betterment of the ANA.

Smedley had served on the ANA Board twice and was vice president from 1957 to 1959. He later served as assistant editor of *The Numismatist* from 1959-1966 and editor briefly in 1966. He was awarded the Farran Zerbe Memorial Award in 1960 and inducted into the ANA Numismatic Hall of Fame in 1982. He died in 1987 and the

award honoring his name was created by a grateful ANA the following year.

The criteria for the award honors volunteer service to the ANA either on a local, regional or national level, and the nominee should exhibit positive attitude, strong communication skills, cooperation and dependability. This award specifically recognizes collectors at the grassroots level, and nominees show their support of local numismatics by participating in coin club activities, serving as officers, newsletter editors, writers, coin show volunteers, etc.

This year, the ANA recognized seven individuals for this national award. The award consists of an oval bronze medal depicting Glenn B. Smedley, his year of birth and death, and the ANA logo on the obverse. The awardee's name is engraved on the obverse along with the inscription *"American Numismatic Association"* and the year of the award. The bronze medal, designed by Russian-American sculptor Alex Shagin, measures 68 mm x 76 mm. Past award recipients are also listed on the ANA's website. The September issue of *The Numismatist* contains brief bios of Lester and the other six recipients of the 2025 award. PANS has had several members honored in the past by the ANA with a Smedley Award, including Brett Irick as well as the author.

Photos of Les Rosik, The Smedley Ceremony, and the ANA Convention In Oklahoma City

By Mike Rosik



Les receiving the Smedley Award



Les embraces the western theme of the Oklahoma City ANA Convention



Les Rosik with the award

\$ **The First Woman to Win a Nobel Prize, And the Coin that Honors Her**

By Christina Slobodnik

One of the most famous women in Polish history is often not even remembered as such. “No, she’s French,” they’ll say. “Marie Curie is French.”

In the past, even France celebrated her as a Frenchwoman as she made numerous, world-famous achievements. Oftentimes in schools, her relation and undying devotion to Poland is not taught or even remembered.

Perhaps her husband’s surname Curie is French, but her original name was Maria Salomea Skłodowska. Born November 7, 1867 in Warsaw, Poland, Maria grew up the youngest child of two distinguished teachers. Her father taught both mathematics and physics, two subjects that Maria would excel in. When her father, Władysław Skłodowski, brought his lab

equipment for teaching classes, he began instructing his children.

Maria graduated with a gold medal from secondary school in June of 1883, and then attended Flying University, one of the few universities in Poland that would allow a woman to study and earn a degree. She worked in tutoring, and eventually she continued her training in a chemistry lab under her cousin Józef's supervision.

Later she moved to Paris to live with her older sister, Bronisława, and her brother-in-law. Maria then enrolled in the University of Paris to pursue her interest in science and mathematics in 1891. Although she was extremely short on money, she continued her studies and earned both her first and second degrees, eventually a doctorate.

Maria later met Pierre Curie, and after her first initial decline to his marriage proposal, agreed to marry him in 1895. Her navy blue wedding dress then went on to serve as a daily work-dress in the lab. She began working in uranium and radiation, unaware of the negative effects of constant exposure.

Her husband grew so interested in her work that he dumped his studies of crystals and joined her. The first element they discovered was named *polonium*, for Maria's beloved Poland. A second element they discovered was then named *radium*. Years later in 1911, she was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

When World War I began, Maria focused her work on creating radiology vehicles and X-ray units for the army, treating over one million soldiers.

Maria visited the United States after the war to raise money for research on radium, and was even invited by President Harding to the White House.

The remainder of her life was spent giving lectures in various countries, working on her research, and winning various awards. After her final visit to Poland, Maria

passed away in June of 1934. Her cause of death was aplastic anemia, a bone marrow disease, which was an unfortunate result of her exposure to radiation.

In 1967, Poland produced a 10 złotych coin in honor of Maria Skłodowska-Curie's birth in 1867.



The obverse of the coin depicts Maria's face on the right. To the left, the Polish words 'SETNA ROCZ NICA URODZIN' translate to 'the 100th anniversary of the birth' of Maria Skłodowska-Curie. The 10 złotych mark lies at the base of the coin.

The reverse of the coin is a common design on many Polish coins, with a beautifully-designed Polish eagle and the phrase 'The Polish People's Republic' encircling it, with the date, 1967, at the center base.

Composed of 75% copper and 25% nickel, the coin weighs 7 grams, and boasts a ridged edge. Minted in various places around Poland, the coin celebrating their beloved Maria was well received.

While many people remain unaware of Maria's relation and undying devotion to Poland, with some instances of the French

trying to cover up her true identity and claim her for their own, the Polish Nation has not forgotten one of their most famous women to ever live. Maria Skłodowska-Curie will always be a heroine to them, and to us.

► Spot prices as of 3 September. 2025

Gold:	\$ 3,529.01/troy ounce
Silver:	\$ 41.27/troy ounce
Copper:	\$ 4.54/pound
Platinum:	\$ 1,407.30/troy ounce
Palladium:	\$ 1,111.00/troy ounce
\$US-Złoty exchange:	3.63

Have you been able to join us on the web? Try: www.pans-club.org. Or, on Facebook? If not, please go to Facebook, find PANS, and see what events are coming up for our society.

Once again, come to the meetings and win

Your PANS meets once a month, except for July and August, and is generous in raffling off one Polish coin per meeting. Why not attend a meeting, and see if you can add something to your growing collection?

Send in your finds.

Have you found any Polish coins of note, perhaps squirreled away in some dealer's stock of foreign coins? If you have found a hidden treasure, or one hiding in plain sight, e-mail Mark a photo and a brief write-up of how you came upon it. The PANS members will most likely be interested in hearing about it.

Remember folks, please pay your dues for 2025! That's \$20 for the year - \$30 if you'd like the PANS Eagle mailed quarterly.

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Join Our Club

We meet on the first Saturday of the month at 12:00 PM at the American Polish Cultural Center located at 2975 East Maple Road (15 Mile Road) at Dequindre Road in Troy, Michigan. Visit the PANS Club website at www.pans-club.org for details. We currently have 10 meetings per year (August through May) with 2 months off during the summer. The Polish American Numismatic Society also plans a Christmas Oplatek Dinner during the Holiday Season. Meeting agendas include business matters and informative lectures from renowned guest speakers on topics including error and variety coins, significant coins in Polish history, Hamtramck scrip, coin photography. Open and lively member discussions about US and Polish numismatics are encouraged. Of course, the meeting would not be complete without coffee and delicious Polish pastries. The Polish American Numismatic Society hosts two very successful public coin show at the American Polish Cultural Center. Our primary show always takes place on the third Sunday of February. PANS also hosts a second show in August. Shows have been co-hosted with other clubs in the region. If you have any interest in numismatics, please attend a meeting and sign up as a member. PANS dues are only \$20.00 per year or \$30 per year if you would like the PANS Eaglet newsletter sent to your mail on a quarterly basis. PANS Club Membership is a great way to meet collectors with similar interests and knowledgeable dealers willing to share their experiences in a hobby that we all enjoy. To become a member-in-good-standing, plan to attend a minimum of 5 meetings per year and perform club-related duties at PANS Club sponsored Coin Shows.

Membership Application I hereby make application for membership in the Polish American Numismatic Society, subject to the rules and regulations set forth in the Constitution and By-laws.

SIGNATURE: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE/ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

RECOMMENDED BY: _____

DATE ACCEPTED: _____

FIRST YEAR DUES PAID: _____

I COLLECT: _____

Attend a meeting or mail to: PANS, PO BOX 80515, ROCHESTER, MI 48308