



PANS Eaglet

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Editor: Mark Benvenuto, benvenma@udmercy.edu, 248-219-5430

P.O.Box 80515
Rochester, MI 48308-0515

The 2005 and 2014 Canadian Coins Honoring Pope John Paul II



By Steve Bieda

Currently, Pope John Paul II holds a record of the most countries visited by any pope, indeed, he is the most traveled pope in history, traveling an estimated 700,000 miles and visiting nearly 130 countries. One of the first countries Pope John Paul II visited after his election was the United States, addressing the UN General Assembly and visiting the White House, among other cities in 1979. This was actually his third trip to the United States, the first being as Cardinal Karol Wojtyla in 1969 and 1976, where he first visited Michigan, staying at Orchard Lake, celebrating Mass in Hamtramck and speaking at a dinner in Warren, Michigan. During his 1976 visit, the author had a “near meeting” experience with the Cardinal, my uncle, Father Benedict Rembelski, then pastor of St. Louise Parish in Warren, who had some input into the future pope’s schedule. Apparently the Archdiocese consulted various pastors on potential visits as well as any recreation. Specifically he asked my parents whether the Cardinal could use our backyard pool. Of course my parents were honored and said

‘yes.’ I was very young at the time; my uncle may have been joking. Ultimately, however, this never made it on the Cardinal’s schedule.

Numismatically, there have been a number of countries that have commemorated Pope John Paul II, some commemorating his visits, others commemorating significant anniversaries including his canonization. In the United States, numerous medals were struck commemorating his various visits. In Canada, medals were also struck commemorating his visits – but Canada went a bit further.

Canada has issued two silver coins and two gold coins honoring Pope John Paul II, including a CAD\$10 silver coin in 2005 and a CAD\$75 denomination gold coin, both issued shortly after Pope John Paul II’s passing on April 2, 2005. Both coins utilized the same images, inspired from photographs of the Pope’s earlier visits to Canada.

In 2014, on the occasion of Pope John Paul II’s canonization, Canada issued two similarly designed coins for that year, one a CAD\$10 silver proof coin, the other carrying the CAD\$25 denomination struck in gold. The designs differ only in the denomination. This article will examine these Canadian coins commemorating the first, and to date, only Polish Pope.

Pope John Paul II was the first pope to visit Canada, having his first visit there on September 9, 1984, with subsequent visits in 1987 and 2002.

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, or at an estate sale, or elsewhere? 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 the upcoming 2026! That's \$20 for the year – \$30 if you'd like the PANS Eaglet mailed quarterly.

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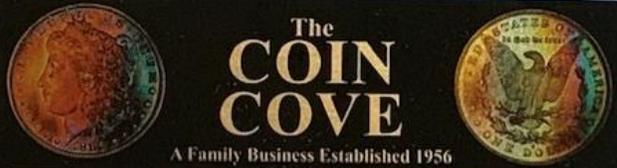


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Polish American Numismatic Society & Windsor Coin Club
Annual International

COIN SHOW

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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.*

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