



# PANS Eaglet

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## Examining the Artistry of Mennica Polska: the 2025 One Dollar Coin of Niue Depicting Jesus

By: Steven Bieda

The Polish Mint, Mennica Polska, in addition to striking circulating coinage and special commemoratives for Poland, also strikes circulating and noncirculating commemorative coinage for approximately 20 countries.

This article will briefly examine a special One Dollar denomination commemorative from the country of Niue and struck by Mennica Polska. This beautiful noncirculating .999 fine silver coin was issued in 2025 and depicts a beautiful full frontal colorized mosaic portrait of Jesus. It seems like an appropriate coin to examine during this Easter Season.

Niue is a country in free association with New Zealand using the New Zealand dollar, and prior to decimalization in 1967, Niue used the New Zealand pound. Niue first started issuing its own coins in 1966, which to date have been primarily bullion and non-circulating precious and base metal issues. These coins are legal tender within Niue, although the nominal values and often times high bullion and issue price would naturally preclude these coins from entering circulation.

Over the years, Niue, which has a population of 1,618 at the time of this writing,

has issued a plethora of coins directed to the collector market. To get an idea of the extent of these special issues, either Google “Niue coins,” or enter “Niue” in the search bar for “Coins & Paper Money” in the eBay search bar. While most of the coins for Niue have been struck at the New Zealand Mint, many specialty collector coins for Niue, including the coin being examined here, have been struck at the Mint of Poland, or Mennica Polska, which is renowned worldwide for its craftsmanship.

The obverse of this noncirculating collector coin depicts the “Public Seal of Niue.” All coins of Niue depict either the public seal or the official effigy of the reigning British monarch. In this case, the public seal contains the national motto of Niue, the inscription “ATUA NIUE TUKULAGI” (God, Niue Eternally), reflecting the island’s strong Christian faith. The symbolism of the seal also features a crown, atop a traditional garland of 14 seashells representing its villages, and two “katoua” (clubs) representing defense. The obverse of this coin also contains the fineness “Ag 999.” The Mennica Polska mintmark (consisting of the cojoined letters “M/W”) representing the mint’s original name the “Mint of Warsaw” appears in the center near the bottom, just above the date “2025.”

The reverse of the coin depicts a colorized full frontal mosaic portrait of Jesus, in a style that suggests mosaics from early visual depictions of Jesus. This coin fully characterizes the superb artistry of the engravers at Mennica Polska.

References:

Wikipedia for information on Niue.  
Mennica Polska website.





celebrated the tenth anniversary of its launch in March 2016. This premier research site is funded by the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society and administered through Washington University in St. Louis. It aims to provide the most comprehensive numismatic resources available on the Internet. The Newman Portal is managed within the University Libraries by the Scholarly Publishing unit and is centered at West Campus, which hosts the scanning team and equipment.

For several years now, PANS has been submitting our newsletter, the PANS Eaglet, for this online archive of numismatic literature. Thus, all copies of past issues are available via the Newman Numismatic Portal. In addition to our newsletter, interested individuals can research an incredible array of written and photographic resources available through the portal. It is truly a great resource for numismatic research. Included in the items in the Numismatic Portal are newsletters, periodicals, photographs and books. Also included are Eric P. Newman's extensive correspondence files which begin in the 1930s and extend into the 2010s. Mr. Newman generally saved incoming correspondence as well as copies of outgoing correspondence, and the size of the entire archive is on the order of 50,000 pages. The Portal retains Newman's original classification system, including subject files, correspondent files, and assorted files (A-Z).

The Newman Portal project launched scanning operations at Washington University Libraries in July 2015, and the American Numismatic Society in November 2015. Documents in the Newman Portal include a mix of auction catalogs, periodicals, reference books and other archival material.

Some helpful hints to keep in mind: Newman Portal searches from the home page are exact text only. If you enter

multiple words, it will search for that entire phrase.

According to the instructions found on its webpage, if you wish to search for multiple terms all one page, but not in exact order, use the search form at <https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/powersearchform>. For example, if you wish to locate pages containing the words "Pułaski," "medal," "birth," and "bicentennial," enter the search:

ItemContent:Pułaski AND

ItemContent:medal AND ItemContent:birth AND ItemContent:bicentennial

You can also use Google to search the Newman Portal site. From Google, enter, for example:

"Pułaski,medals" site:nnp.wustl.edu

Finally, you can search the Newman Portal document repository directly (<https://archive.org/details/newmannumismatic>), which, in some cases, will deliver additional results. On this page, check the box "Select text contents" before searching.

The site also provides an email for additional assistance - [NNPCurator@wustl.edu](mailto:NNPCurator@wustl.edu).

Eric P. Newman, for whom the portal is named, was an incredibly interesting man, born in St. Louis, Missouri, he lived from May 25, 1911 to November 15, 2017. Living to 106 years old. A lifelong collector, he served in leadership capacities for a number of numismatic groups, including being the 1<sup>st</sup> Secretary-Treasurer of the Central States Numismatic Society in 1938. He authored numerous articles, and over 13 numismatic books, perhaps most famously his pioneering study, "The Early Paper Money of America," (1967) the standard work on the subject today. Other titles include, "The 1776 Continental Currency Coinage: Varieties of the Fugio Cent" (1952), "The Fantastic 1804 Dollar," (1962) and "U.S. Coin Scales and Counterfeit Coin Detectors" (2000).

Over the course of a very long life, Newman was the recipient of a number of numismatic literary awards, winning the Heath Literary Award dozens of times, along with various other prestigious honors, including the Farran Zerbe Memorial Award, induction into the ANA Hall of Fame, the Archer M. Huntington Medal of the American Numismatic Society (ANS) and the Central States Numismatic Society's Lifetime Achievement Award. He served on the U.S. Assay Commission. The ANS honored him with a plaque for his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2011. He initially rose to prominence in the hobby in the 1930s and 1940s, through his writings but also by his acquisition of much of the storied Col. Edward H.R. Green collection, including all five 1913 Liberty Head Five Cent pieces.

Memorably, Newman exposed many fraudulent coins, as well as the questionable ethics of a number of coin dealers over the years. Newman was even the subject of a biography entitled *Truth Seeker: The Life of Eric P. Newman*, researched and authored by Leonard Augsburger, Roger W. Burdette & Joel Orosz and edited by James Halperin. A synopsis of this book is that it details Newman exposing a "powerful and intimidating dealer of the 1960s, who was accused of selling fraudulent gold coins and ingots to unsuspecting numismatists." Newman would ultimately prove the fraud as well as exposing a widely respected scholar as a thief, then doggedly pursue recovery of coins that the scholar had stolen from an embarrassed numismatic organization.

Newman sold his coins over several auction sales from 2013-2014, generating

over \$70 million. Most of the money was used to fund the Newman Numismatic Education Society and the Newman Numismatic Portal to "make the literature and images of numismatics, particularly American numismatics, available to everyone on a free and forever basis." This generosity has put previously out-of-print and obscure references available to the average collector as well as the seasoned researcher available at the click of a button. It is a contribution that is most appreciated.

Over his long life, Newman also made substantial contributions to medical research, academia, and St. Louis cultural affairs.

#### References:

- Davis, Shannon, "Newman Numismatic Portal Announces Opening of Numismatic Research Site, March 4, 2016. <https://library.washu.edu/news/nnp-research-site/>
- Wikipedia for information of Eric P. Newman.
- In Memoriam; Eric P. Newman dies at 106, The Centinel, Winter 2017-2018, Volume 65, Number 4.

► Spot prices as of 30 March, 2026	
Gold:	\$ 4,530.70/troy ounce
Silver:	\$ 70.83/troy ounce
Copper:	\$ 5.48/pound
Platinum:	\$ 1,908.00/troy ounce
Palladium:	\$ 1,439.50/troy ounce
\$US-Złoty exchange:	3.72

**Have you been able to join us on the web? Try: [www.pans-club.org](http://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.**

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**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 year 2026! That's \$20 for the year – \$30 if you'd like the PANS Eaglet 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](http://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.

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 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