



PANS Eaglet

The official newsletter of the Polish-American Numismatic Society

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**Editor's note:** Since July 2026 is the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary month of the United States of America, your PANS Eaglet is accepting articles this month and next that are somewhat broader in scope than usual. We hope you enjoy what has been submitted. ☺  
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Thaddeus Kosciuszko in Detroit: A Special Medal Honoring a Bicentennial Gift By Steven Bieda

Occasionally encountered in the numismatic marketplace is a medal commemorating the 1978 dedication of a massive sculpture of Thaddeus Kosciuszko in downtown Detroit. Thaddeus Kosciuszko is a national hero in Poland and is highly honored in the United States for his military genius during the American Revolution. This statue is a replica of a monument installed near Wawel Castle in Krakow, Poland where Kosciuszko is entombed. The statue has an interesting history. The Krakow monument, originally erected in 1900, was destroyed by the Nazis in 1940. After the war this statue was recreated and given to the City of Krakow by the then East

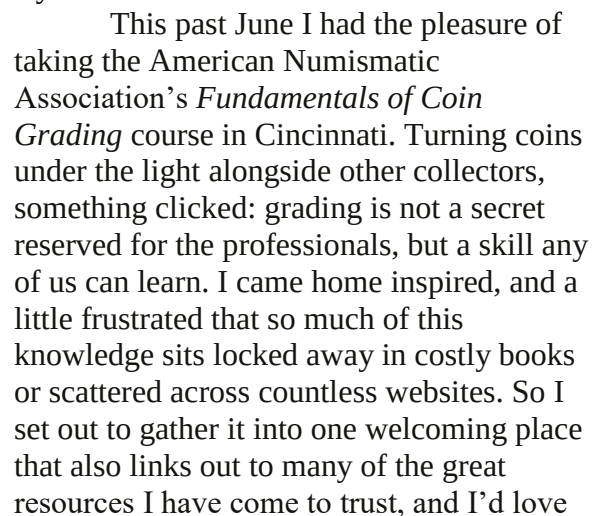
German city of Dresden in 1960. The Detroit monument was a replica of the original statue and was a gift from the people of Krakow to the City of Detroit to commemorate the United States Bicentennial. Of interest to this article, the Kosciuszko statue was the subject of a pair of bronze and silver medals commemorating the erection of the statue in Detroit. Both versions of the medal measure 70 mm with identical designs, depicting the statue of Kosciuszko on a horse on the obverse. It is sometimes found at local coin shows, online auction sites such as eBay, or in local estates sales. This article will briefly examine the medal and the sculpture it commemorates.

The large equestrian statue of Thaddeus Kosciuszko which is the subject of the medal is located at the intersection of Michigan and Third Avenues in Detroit, across the street from DTE and the MGM Grand Casino, situated on a cement island between Bagley Street, Michigan Avenue and Third Street.

The impressive sculpture measures 10.5 feet tall and weighs 15 tons. It depicts Kosciuszko seated on a horse. The horse is rearing back with its left front leg raised. Kosciuszko is dressed in a long coat, with vest, sash and ruffled shirt. His torso is turned to the right and he holds a hat in his outstretched right arm. A sword hangs from his left leg. There is an eagle emblem on the corner of the saddle blanket. It is a copy of the original sculpture created for the grounds of the Wawel Castle in Krakow.

The obverse of the medal is a bas relief depiction of the statue. The reverse has a Polish language inscription, which reads: “NA PAMIATKE USTAWIENIA W DETROIT / WAWELSKIEGO POMNIKA / TADEUSZA KOSCIUSZKI” which translates to “In memory of the installation in Detroit of the Wawel Thaddeus Kosciuszko monument.” An American Eagle is on top of the inscription, with a row of eleven stars forming a crest along the upper border of the medal. A Polish White Eagle, which separates the date “19” and “78,” appears below the inscription.

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for my fellow PANS members to be among the first to visit.

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So whether you have been collecting for decades or just inherited a cigar box of wheat cents, pour a cup of coffee, pull out a few coins, and grade along.

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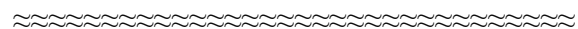


Poland's Origin, Just A Few Years Older than the U.S.A.

By Mark Benvenuto

We don't have to be historians to realize that Poland is more than a few years older than the United States. While people have been living there for millennia, it is the year 966 that is considered the symbolic beginning of Poland as a nation. Duke Mieszko I claims the title of the first ruler, and really of the unification of what would become Poland. The medal shown here is designed from an image of the duke made long after he was a memory. It is a hefty piece, made of bronze, and providing plenty of details of Poland's start, with the duke's victory at the Battle of Cedynia (depicted on the reverse).

The United States can claim to be 250 years old this month. Poland can claim to be 1,060 years old, give or take a bit. An impressive bit of history, and an impressive medal.



► Spot prices as of 1 July, 2026		.
Gold:	\$ 4,082.90/troy ounce	.
Silver:	\$ 60.73/troy ounce	.
Copper:	\$ 6.05/pound	.
Platinum:	\$ 1,606.90/troy ounce	.
Palladium:	\$ 1,263.40/troy ounce	.
\$US-Złoty exchange:	3.75	.

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 June and July, 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. We're at the half-way mark for the year.

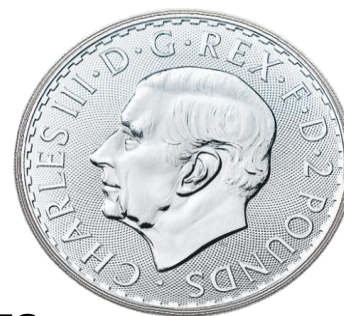
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Join Our Club

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