



PANS Eaglet

The official newsletter of the Polish-American Numismatic Society

Volume 3, Issue 8

August 2026

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**Editor's note:** Our PANS show is coming up. If you can volunteer, your help is always appreciated.  
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The PANS & HVNS Regional Coin Show on Sunday, August 16th, 2026

By Les Rosik, PANS President

Hello members and friends of all numismatic coin clubs! The members and friends of PANS and HVNS would like to invite everyone interested in collecting coins, paper money, bullion, and medals to attend one of the largest one-day regional coin shows in Michigan!

The Coin Show will be held at Madison Place Hall, 876 Horace Brown Drive, Madison Heights, MI 48071. Show hours for the public are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with one way traffic beginning at 3:30 p.m.

will have 75 dealer tables featuring dealers from five Midwestern states.

Admission and parking are both free. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase at the entrance.

The grand prize is a two coin set from the West Point Mint featuring an American Silver Eagle Enhanced Uncirculated coin and an American Silver Eagle Reverse Proof coin, both struck in .999 fine silver. All raffle prize winners will be drawn at 3:30 p.m. You do not have to be present to win.

There will also be prizes donated by PANS, HVNS, and participating dealers for the Young Numismatist raffle. Young Numismatists may receive free raffle tickets every half hour throughout the show.

As in previous years, we are pleased to have Dr. Mark Benvenuto with his XRF analyzer to help

identify the composition of coins, medals, and other precious metal items that you bring to the show. This service is provided free of charge.

Delicious Polish and Italian ready packed dinners will be available for purchase at the show for \$25.00 per meal while supplies last.

As in past years, both clubs have done extensive advertising to promote our late summer PANS & HVNS Regional Coin Show on August 16, 2026.

We expect well over 800 attendees at this year's PANS & HVNS Regional Coin Show and look forward to welcoming collectors from across Michigan and the surrounding states.

Whether you are an experienced collector or just beginning your numismatic journey, we hope you will join us for a fun and memorable day of buying, selling, trading, learning, and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you there!

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## America 250: Kosciuszko on Polish Coins

By Steven M. Bieda

With the recent celebration of this, America's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we remember several Polish heroes of the American Revolution. In recent issues of The PANS Eaglet, I wrote about some Polish coins featuring Kazimierz Pulaski, inspired by a visit to his gravesite in Savannah, Georgia.

Similarly, our esteemed editor submitted an article about a 2026 medal, designed by Eugene Daub, and issued by the Jewish Hall of Fame, honoring Haym Salomon, who helped finance the American Revolution. Most recently, in the July 2026 issue of *The Eaglet*, the author presented an article about a statue dedicated in downtown Detroit featuring Tadeuska Kosciuszko. (Note that there is a number of variations in the spelling of his name depending on the various angelized and Polish spellings).

Picking up on the Kosciuszko theme, this article will focus on a number of Polish coins featuring Kosciuszko. In doing so, it should be acknowledged that depictions of Kosciuszko first appeared on Polish paper money after Poland reemerged as a country after World War I. That topic, however, will be covered in a future article.

Kosciuszko can accurately be described as a hero of two countries. In the United States, Kosciuszko was instrumental in America's drive for independence. For Americans of Polish descent - if they know of him at all - it is this role they are most familiar with.

Lesser known to people with a cursory knowledge of history, in addition to being one of the heroes of the American Revolution, Kosciuszko is also renowned in Poland for resisting the Russians and leading what is popularly called the Kosciuszko Uprising.

Thus, Kosciuszko is featured on a number regular issue circulating as well as noncirculating commemorative coins of Poland. Most notable among these are circulating 31 mm 10 Zlotych copper-nickel coins minted in 1959, 1960 and 1966. This design features a left facing profile of Kosciuszko on the reverse. In 1969 Poland reduced the size of the coin to 28 mm, and utilized the same design for issues dated every year from 1969-1973. The last year of this design also had the lowest mintage, with 3,900,000 struck. The highest mintage of this series was the 1960 issue, with 27,551,153 struck. With revaluation of the Zlotych occurring after the collapse of communism, these issues no longer circulate. The design/engraving is credited to K. Zielinski.



Aside from the circulating issues, there are a number of noncirculating commemorative silver and gold coins issued as well, with the first being issued in 1976 during the Bicentennial year of American Independence. The 1976 silver issue is composed of .625 fine silver, measuring 32mm with a reported mintage of 100,148 struck. It carries a face value of 100 Zlotych. A similarly designed gold coin, composed of .900 gold, 32 mm, carries a face value of 500 Zlotych and had a mintage of 2,318. The Kosciuszko portrait is credited to S. Pleskowski. In addition to Kosciuszko's name, (in Polish) the design features his dates of birth and death, 1746-1817.

Commonly encountered are silver versions of a Proba coin which was also sold to collectors. Proba, roughly translated as "attempted design" and often more commonly referred to as patterns, were at one time sold to the collector community in the 1960-1980s. The Proba version of the Kosciuszko commemorative was struck in .625 fine silver, 32 mm, and was designed by the same designer as the regularly issued commemorative. It features a styled three-quarter portrait of Kosciuszko and like the regular issue, the Polish spelling "TADEUSZ KOSCIUSZKO" along with dates of 1746-1817. The word "PROBA" is to the left of the portrait. 3,020 were struck and marketed to the collector community. It also carries the same denomination, although it was never monetized.

In 1990, Poland issued a number of silver and gold coins featuring the same design of Kosciuszko on horseback, the most impressive in the author's opinion being a massive 65 mm .999 silver coin with the denomination of 200,000 Zlotych with a reported mintage of 10,000. A smaller silver issue of the same design, but with the denomination of 100,000 Zlotych was also issued, having a similar mintage and measuring 39 mm.

The gold coins of the same design had very small mintages and are rarely, if ever, encountered.

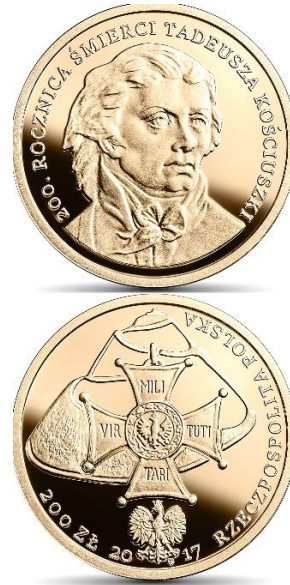
In 1994 a 20,000 Zlotych .750 fine silver coin measuring 32 mm was struck for the collector community commemorating the bicentennial of the Kosciuszko Uprising. It had a mintage of 15,000. The theme of the Kosciuszko Uprising was also the subject of a 2024 gold commemorative coin, featuring a three-quarter image of Kosciuszko on a 21mm, .900 fine gold coin with the denomination of 100 Zlotych. This coin was issued several years after a 2017 issue commemorating the bicentennial of the death of Kosciuszko, measuring 27 mm, also composed of .900 fine gold with a 200 Zlotych denomination.



Obviously, the circulating cupro-nickel 10 Zlotych coin is the easiest coin to obtain; its low face value, and high mintages guarantee its availability. The 1976 silver issues, including the Proba issues, are also fairly easy to obtain as they were the subject of relatively high mintages and wide distribution outside of Poland. The other issues, including the gold 1976 issues, are much harder to find on the secondary market, with the exception of the silver 1994 Kosciuszko Uprising silver commemorative, which still is relatively elusive but shows up with some frequency in the collector market.

Sources:

Parchimowicz, Janusz, Katalog Monet Polskich, Szczecin, 2025.



|                                    |                       |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ► Spot prices as of 28 July, 2026: |                       |
| Gold:                              | \$4,046.60/troy ounce |
| Silver:                            | \$58.40/troy ounce    |
| Copper:                            | \$6.54/pound          |
| Platinum:                          | \$1,614.60/troy ounce |
| Palladium:                         | \$1,296.40/troy ounce |
| \$US-Zloty exchange:               | 3.80                  |

## An Unforgettable Front-Row Seat to 250 Years of History!

By Dariusz Klepko

*A Fellow Numismatist Occasion: Report to the Numismatic Society* **Date:** July 2026

My fellow collectors and history enthusiasts, I am absolutely thrilled—still floating on air, to be honest—to share an astonishing, once-in-a-lifetime experience with you all! On **July 9**, opening day, I had the incredible fortune of being one of the very first visitors to step inside the **Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation** in Dearborn, Michigan, for the **Freedom Plane National Tour: Documents That Forged a Nation!**

To celebrate America's **250th anniversary (Semiquincentennial)**, this extraordinary traveling exhibition brought **nine extremely rare, original**

**founding-era documents** right to our doorstep, flying across the country aboard a specially liveried Boeing 737 Freedom Plane! For anyone like us who spends hours mesmerized by the fine artistry of colonial paper currency, early medals, copperplate engravings, and hand-inked signatures, standing just inches away from these foundational treasures was an absolute dream come true!



### The Thrill of the Vault: An Atmospheric Experience

The excitement in the air on opening morning was palpable! Stepping into the exhibit hall felt like entering a sacred historical vault. To preserve these delicate 250-year-old parchment and paper documents from light damage, the room is kept intentionally dim—lit to the equivalent of just **five candles**!

The originals are sealed inside micro-climate-controlled capsules filled with silica to absorb moisture, protected within massive, high-security showcases. Museum conservators even track their exact "light hours" each day before gently covering them for the night! Walking into that low-lit room, seeing the illuminated paper glowing through the protective glass, gave me genuine chills—it was like standing in the birthing room of American democracy!

### Standing Face-to-Face with Nine Founding Masterpieces

It is impossible to describe the surge of adrenaline when you first lay eyes on these nine original masterpieces, knowing they were

physically held, signed, and edited by Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, and Hamilton!

1. **The Articles of Association (1774):** The Continental Congress's very first unified action against Britain's Intolerable Acts. Seeing the original ink signatures of heavy hitters like **George Washington, John Adams, Sam Adams, and Patrick Henry** grouped together on a single document was breathtaking!
2. **George Washington's Valley Forge Oath of Allegiance (1778):** Signed during that grim winter at Valley Forge, bearing General Washington's own hand.
3. **Alexander Hamilton's Oath of Allegiance (1778):** A deeply intimate piece where Hamilton signed his name casually as "Alex."
4. **Aaron Burr's Oath of Allegiance (1778):** Positioned near Hamilton's oath—a dramatic historical pairing that gave me goosebumps knowing their tragic future connection!
5. **The William J. Stone Copperplate Engraving of the Declaration of Independence (1823):** As numismatists who revere fine master dies, this was a crown jewel! Commissioned by John Quincy Adams, Stone spent **three full years** hand-carving a copperplate to perfectly replicate the Declaration. It is massive, extraordinarily detailed, and beautifully crisp—featuring John Hancock's iconic bold signature alongside Franklin and Jefferson!
6. **The Treaty of Paris (1783):** The official "divorce papers" from King George III, featuring vibrant red wax seals alongside the handwritings of John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and John Jay.
7. **Secret Draft of the U.S. Constitution (1787):** A rare printing owned by delegate David Brearley, capturing the exact moment the preamble evolved from listing individual states to the thrilling phrase: "*We the People of the United States.*"
8. **The Official Tally of Votes Approving the Constitution (1787):** Complete with the

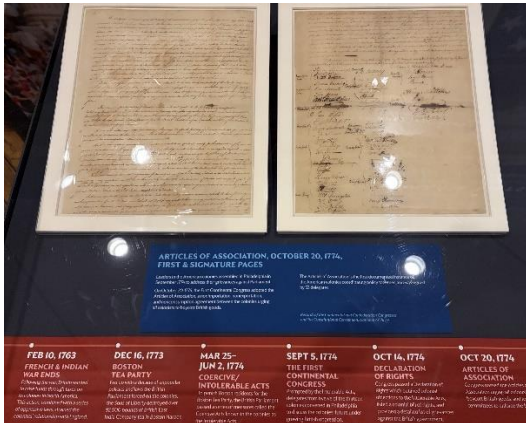
handwritten clerk's notation recording that the Constitution was "unanimously agreed to" on September 17, 1787.

9. **Senate-Marked Draft of the Bill of Rights (1789):** Featuring hand-marked Senate cross-outs and margin notes trimming the proposed articles down to the fundamental guarantees we treasure today.

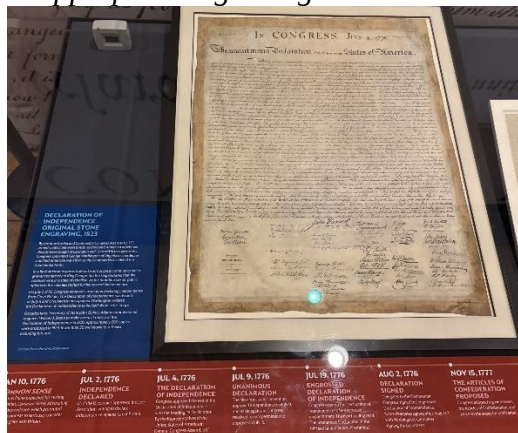
### Reference Copies of Presented Documents

To give you a feeling for the incredible artistry and detail on display, here are reference images illustrating these historic originals:

- **The Articles of Association (1774) Figure 1:** The 1774 Continental Association document displaying signatures of early colonial leaders.

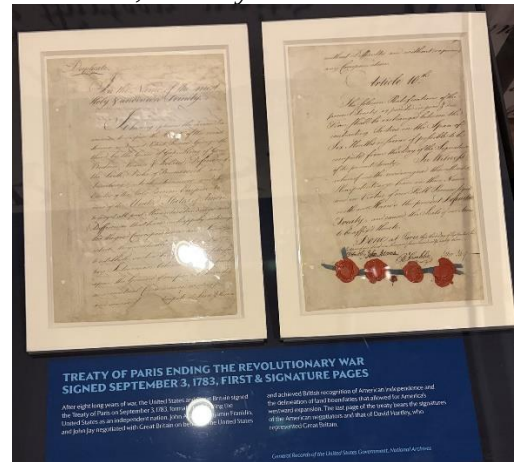


- **William J. Stone Engraving of the Declaration of Independence (1823) Figure 2:** Crisp detail of the famous signatures from William J. Stone's master copperplate engraving.

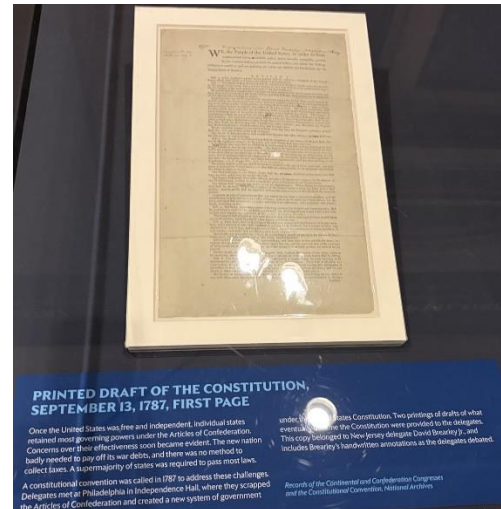


- **The Treaty of Paris Signature Page (1783) Figure 3:** The final page showing red

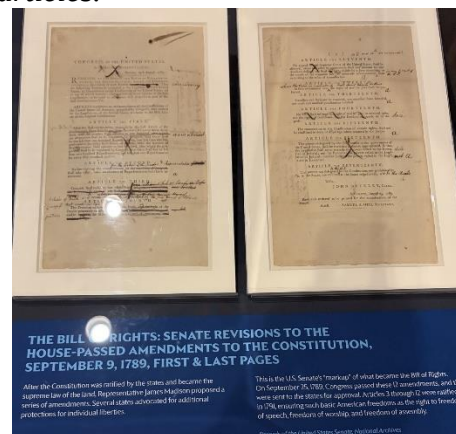
wax seals and signatures of Hartley, Adams, Franklin, and Jay.



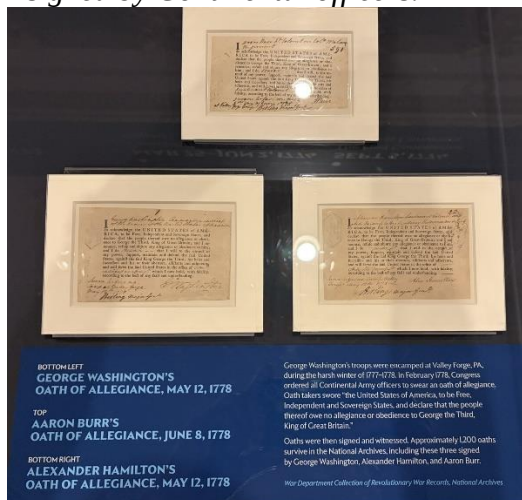
- **Draft of the United States Constitution (1787) Figure 4:** Early printed draft of the U.S. Constitution featuring historic hand annotations.



- **Senate Copy of the Bill of Rights (1789) Figure 5:** The original proposed joint resolution showing the Senate edits and articles.



- **Valley Forge Military Oath of Allegiance (1778)** *Figure 6: Example of the printed Revolutionary War Oath of Allegiance signed by Continental officers.*



### Final Reflections for the Club

As collectors, we evaluate strike quality, paper crispness, and historical pedigree. But standing inches away from paper that held the literal ink, sweat, and fire of America's founders was a deeply emotional and uplifting moment. These documents are not cold museum relics—they are alive with energy, history, and inspiration!

If you get the chance to visit the Freedom Plane National Tour as it visits remaining cities across the country, go without hesitation! It is an exhilarating journey back in time that you will never forget!

Thanks to all who make this historical exhibit possible to view in Detroit area.

### Buying Coins Online: Lessons Learned

By Mike Rosik

The internet has made coin collecting easier than ever. With just a few clicks, you can search auctions and dealer websites from around the world. Coins that once took years to find can now appear on your computer or phone in seconds.

But buying coins online also comes with risks.

I would like to share a few lessons I learned the hard way in hopes that they may help other collectors avoid making the same mistakes.

One mistake I made involved online auctions. Since I knew I would not be available when the auction ended, I entered maximum bids that were much higher than I actually expected to pay. I assumed the bidding would only increase enough to beat the next highest bidder.

I was wrong.

When the auction ended, I found myself paying my full maximum bid on several coins. Whether it was because I misunderstood how the auction worked or simply failed to read the bidding rules carefully, the result was the same. I paid much more than the coins were worth.

That experience taught me an expensive lesson. Today I never enter a maximum bid unless I am completely comfortable paying that amount. Decide what the coin is worth to you before the auction begins and stick to that number. There will always be another opportunity.

Another lesson came from buying raw coins online. The photographs looked beautiful, and I assumed the coins would be just as nice in hand.

Unfortunately, pictures do not always tell the whole story.

When the coins arrived, it became obvious that some had been cleaned. Hairlines and other surface problems that were difficult to see in the photographs became very noticeable under good lighting.

That taught me to slow down and study every coin carefully before bidding. A few pictures can never replace examining a coin in person.

Collectors should also remember that counterfeit coins and bullion have become much more common in recent years. Some fakes look surprisingly convincing in online photographs. Buy from reputable sellers whenever possible, and if you are purchasing bullion, a small digital scale is an inexpensive tool that can help verify the correct weight. While weight alone cannot guarantee authenticity, it is a simple first step that may help identify a counterfeit piece.

In the end, nothing compares to holding a coin in your hand before making a purchase. At a coin show you can examine the surfaces under

Sometimes the best purchase is the one you decide not to make.

## Hold My Beer Mennica Polska – The U.S. Mint's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Liberty Bell Coins and Medals

By Steven Bieda

To many collectors, however, these new issues didn't actually ring any bells. While some are undoubtedly impressed, traditionally inclined

collectors felt that these coins diverge too dramatically from their concept of what is a coin, and were turned off by what they see as some sort of numismatic perversion.

On the other hand, many collectors have been impressed by the innovative shape of the two coins and the silver medal.

The coins and medal are shaped like the outline of the Liberty Bell. The obverse design follows the shape of the planchet on which the coin or medal design is struck, it features a depiction of the Liberty Bell with its iconic crack and “LIBERTY” inscribed across the upper shoulder. On the obverse of the two gold coins, are the dates “1776 ~ 2026” along the top bands, near the yoke, along with the national motto “IN GOD WE TRUST,” near where the bell flares out at the bottom. The silver medal has the same shape as the two gold coins, but lacks the national motto which is required on U.S. coinage. 1776-2026 does not appear on the obverse of the silver medal, but the dual dates are featured on the bottom part of the reverse design. Both coins, and the silver medal have the “P” mintmark for the Philadelphia Mint on the obverse. The initials of the engraver, Matthew C. Newall, (MCN), appear on both the obverse and reverse of the two gold coins and silver medal.

The reverse design for both the gold coins and the silver medal depicts Independence Hall, the original home of the Liberty Bell with fireworks bursting in the air behind it. The bell’s yoke displays the inscription “UNITED STATES OF AMERICA” with “E PLURIBUS UNUM” below. On the gold coins, the “sound bow” (bottom of the bell where it flares out) shows the inscriptions “\$125,” “1/2 OZ.,” and “.9999 FINE GOLD,” on the smaller denomination pieces, with the one-ounce coins having the inscriptions “\$250,” “1 OZ.,” and “.9999 FINE GOLD.” The silver medal does not have any references to silver content or fineness, but has the dual dates “1776-2026,” along the bottom of the reverse design.

As noted on the Mint’s video of the coins and medals, accessible at: <https://www.usmint.gov/freedom-ringing-liberty-bell-one-half-ounce-silver-medal-26LD.html>, the dies for the coins and medal were laser engraved and the result of several years of preparation. At the

time of this writing, the Mint had not released the actual measurements of the coins or medal, but from the side-by-side comparisons seen in the video, they all appear to have the same dimensions with the exception of thickness.

While traditionalists were aghast at new offerings, collectors uniformly are either disgusted, gravely disappointed or alarmed by the very high official issue prices. The \$250 one-ounce gold coin is being issued with a price of \$19,600, with the half-ounce gold being offered for \$10,500. The half-ounce silver medal is equally shocking – its issue price is \$750. The two coins and the silver medal each have a limited mintage of 2,026 and are only offered separately.

When the prices of these items were first announced prior to the release date, social media influencers on YouTube and Tik Tok initially were of the consensus that the uniquely shaped coins and medal would sell out quickly, with many speculators seeking to make a quick flip – a manifestation of the “greater fool” theory.

At the time this writing, (July 26, 2026) the silver medal, the least expensive of the three, has sold out. The Mint is allowing customers to hit a “Remind Me,” prompt, which will in turn issue an alert if some medals become available due to returns, cancelled orders or invalid credit cards. During a cursory review of eBay on July 26<sup>th</sup>, I found three sellers offering the silver medal at prices in the \$3,400-3,600 range. If the original issue price seemed too high, this initial after market pricing seems abnormally high for a medal (not a coin) with a mintage of 2,026 – all of which likely will grade PF68-70. If these eBay prices are an accurate reflection of the current market, most professional coin dealers express doubt it can be sustained several years after the initial hype has dissipated, and from my experience, I agree. The gold issues, if they don’t sell out, might actually end up being much rarer than the initial announced limit of 2,026, but this remains to be seen. The Mint tends to keep unsold offerings for several years on its website, like gas station hotdogs that never get sold but keep rotating under the hot lights, a practice that discourages any appetite to acquire one.

Sadly, one thing is quite clear, these issues aren't marketed with the average collector in mind. Nor are the coins being offered at a price that doesn't steeply exceed the value of the metal of which it is composed. Secondly, this is a different offering from anything the U.S. Mint has ever produced, and although Mennica Polska, The Royal Canadian Mint, and other world mints have been producing nontraditionally shaped and innovative coins for years, this is new ground for the United States Mint.



photo courtesy of the U.S. Mint



### Novel Technology from the Polish Mint, Amber in the Coin

By Mark Benvenuto

We have gone to the Polish Mint website in the recent past, and found some amazing coin designs, and some amazing possibilities for additions to any collection. The Mint has gotten into the business of providing coins to nations that do not have their own machinery, and so will sport images of coins from various spots around the world, often right up at the front. A very recent issue, one with an astonishing bit of technology built into it, is a Niue dollar.

Niue has chosen to honor the historic Amber Route, or Amber Road, which definitely has a connection to Poland. This was a route used from as far back as the Bronze Age to the time of the Roman Empire, which traded amber found in lands such as those that would become Poland, all the way down to Egypt. Amber was valuable then, and remains so today, since it is the only jewel that is a fossilized tree resin, and can be fashioned into beautiful jewelry.

As we can see, the coin is a real beauty, and does a great job of displaying elements of history, as well as the embedded piece of amber. This embedded piece is the neat "trick" as it were, since the website does not explain how the amber is included. Glued, soldered, in some other way attached? Right now, we simply do not know for sure.

Curiously, the price is not particularly high, for those of us who wish to try and land one for our own collection. Why not give it a try?

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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 just over half-way through the year.

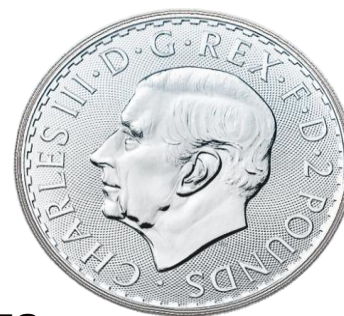
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70th Annual Fall Convention

November 20th - 22nd, 2026

Macomb Community College

South Campus Expo Center
14500 East 12 Mile Rd. Building P
Warren, MI 48088

- **FREE** Kids activities all weekend
- Kids Program (Sat 11:30a-1pm)
- Educational Seminars & Exhibits

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michigancoinshib.org
Or call: (734) 453-0504

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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