



PANS Eaglet

The official newsletter of the Polish-American Numismatic Society

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PANS Show A Success.



Thanks to everyone who helped out with our August 16th show!



“ANA” and “PANS”: A Michigan Connection

By Les Rosik, PANS President

PANS, a nonprofit educational society established in East Detroit, Michigan, in 1981, had a great reception from collectors at its club table during the ANA World's Fair of Money in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, held August 25 through 29, 2026.

PANS members handed out past issues of the *PANS Eaglet* newsletter and shared information about our society and its educational mission. We also distributed copies of *Coins of the Kings* by Roussana Alex Nowakowska and PTN, the Polish Numismatic Society in Warsaw, Poland. The book was edited and proofread by Dariusz F. Jasek and translated by Lester J. Rosik and Edward Twarog.

This children's coin book introduces Young Numismatists to the early coins of Poland.

We also had the opportunity to introduce collectors to Project White Eagle, an online educational project dedicated to documenting and preserving the history of Polish numismatics. Visitors learned about the website and how it brings together information about Polish coins and their history in an accessible format for collectors, researchers, and anyone interested in Poland's numismatic heritage.

Many people at the ANA convention asked about the Polish American Numismatic Society, its goals, what the society teaches, and the benefits of becoming a PANS member. It was a wonderful opportunity to introduce more collectors to a society that began in East Detroit in 1981 with seven founding members.

Interestingly, both PANS and the ANA have strong connections to Michigan.

The roots of the American Numismatic Association can be traced to Dr. George F. Heath, a physician and coin collector from Monroe, Michigan. In 1888, Dr. Heath began publishing a four page newsletter to help the public become better acquainted with coin collecting. His publication included articles about coins, duplicate coins for sale, and coin want ads.

His newsletter was originally called *The American Nummatist* and was later renamed *The Nummatist*.

In the February 1891 issue of *The Nummatist*, Dr. Heath asked his readers an important question:

“What is the matter with having an American Numismatic Association?”

The idea received a very favorable response.

On October 7 and 8, 1891, a meeting was held in Chicago, Illinois, where the American Numismatic Association was established with 61 charter members.

In the years that followed, ANA meetings and conventions helped bring collectors together from across the country, establishing a tradition that continues today with annual conventions held in different parts of the United States.

This year, the ANA celebrates its 135th anniversary, while the Polish American Numismatic Society will celebrate its 45th anniversary in November 2026.

The 2026 ANA World's Fair of Money was very well attended by collectors, dealers, the United States Mint, world mints, coin and paper money grading companies, numismatic publishers, auction houses, coin supply companies, and members of the public.

Michigan numismatics also had another reason to celebrate this August. The PANS & HVNS Regional Coin Show, held Sunday, August 16, 2026, welcomed more than 718 attendees, making it one of the largest attended one day coin shows in Michigan.

From Dr. George F. Heath's efforts in Monroe more than a century ago to the founding of PANS in East Detroit and our educational outreach today, Michigan continues to have a proud connection to American numismatics.



The First Vatican Coins Featuring Leo XIV; An American Born Pope with Michigan Connections

By Steven M. Bieda

The 2026 Vatican euro annual coin set, the first issued during the pontificate of Pope Leo XIV, was first offered on the Vatican City website on July 30, 2026. Currently, there are two different versions of the uncirculated sets being offered. One is what the Vatican refers to as the "traditional set" containing eight legal tender coins, the other is a special set containing a 5 Euro commemorative coin in honor of the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi. While proof sets containing the same coins have been issued in the past, as of this writing (August 8, 2026), that option has not yet been announced. While several noncirculating commemorative coins have already been issued under Pope Leo's pontificate, those coins only depict his coat of arms along with his name. The coins in this latest offering are the first to depict his portrait.

The difference between the two uncirculated sets is that the more expensive set contains nine coins, including a special 5 euro coin, and is offered at 59 euros. A less expensive option – which the Vatican website refers to as the "traditional set" – has the same coins without the 5 euro commemorative. The traditional set is offered at 39 euros. Both sets include coins denominated 1 eurocent, 2 eurocent, 5 eurocent, 10 eurocent, 20 eurocent, 50 eurocent, 1 euro and 2 euros.

Both uncirculated sets are offered in a distinctive cardboard folder, the design of which draws direct inspiration from the pope's coat of arms. It has a chalk-effect finish embossed on an ivory background. A deep blue highlights the inscriptions and key graphic elements, which echo the colors of the two heraldic fields of the papal shield.

According to the *Governorate of Vatican City*, the coins contained within the set feature an "unprecedented alternation between the pope's portrait and the papal coat of arms." Pope Leo's portrait appears on the higher denominations, while the Pope's coat of arms is featured on the smaller denominations of 1, 2 and 5 eurocents.



An identical portrait of Pope Leo XIV appears on the 10 eurocent through 2 euro denominations, with the portrait facing right. "CITTA' DEL VATICANO" encircles the pope's portrait on the eight lower denomination coins, with the date "2026" appearing to the right of and slightly below the pope's chin. The 2-euro coin also incorporates the distinctive elements of Pope Leo XIV's coat of arms: the lily, symbolizing purity and Marian devotion, and the flaming heart pierced by an arrow above an open book, representing Augustinian spirituality and the power of the Word of God to transform the human heart.

The nine coin set includes a special 5-euro coin. This larger sized coin depicts a portrait of Pope Leo XIV on the obverse and a depiction of Saint Francis's conversion – specifically the renunciation of worldly possessions. According to the Vatican description it represents "a true manifesto of Franciscan spirituality: the abandonment of all earthly wealth, detachment from the past, and complete trust in God." The 5 euro coin was designed by Daniela Fusco and engraved by Silvia Ciucci.

The bi-metallic 5 euro coin has a different portrait of the pope, one that is closer to a three-quarter portrait. It also differs from the others in that it faces left. The inscription "LEONE XIV P.P. ANNO II MMXXVI" encircles the portrait. The reverse includes the inscription "CITTA' DEL VATICANO SAN FRANCESCO D'ASSISI" around the design of three male figures. The denomination "5 EURO" appears at the bottom rim. The artist and engraver of the 5 euro is Daniela Fusco and Silvia Ciucci. While the 5 euro coin is legal tender, it is not meant to circulate.

The 2 euro coin obverse was designed by Daniela Longo, as was the 1 euro, 50 eurocent, 20 eurocent, 10 eurocent, 5 eurocent, 2 eurocent, and 1 eurocent. Engravers of these coins are as follows - Emanuele Ferretti: 2 euro, Marta Bonifacio: 1 euro, Antonio Vecchio: 50 eurocent, Silvia Petrassi: 20 eurocent, Annalisa Masini: 10 eurocent. Valerio de Seta: 5 eurocent, Emanuele Ferretti: 2 eurocent. and Antonio Vecchio: 1 eurocent.

The reverses of all the coins except the 5 euro coin are consistent with the coinage designs used in all countries that use the euro.

The composition of these coins is not detailed in the Vatican site, but they appear to be consistent with the metal composition of recent issues, with the three smallest denominations, 1, 2, and 5 eurocents in copper, and the 10, 20 and 50 eurocents appearing to be aluminum-bronze. The 1 euro and 2 euro coins are ringed-bimetallic, the 1 euro having an outer ring of aluminum-bronze, and a middle core of stainless steel. The 2 euro has an outer ring of stainless steel and an

aluminum-bronze center. The 5 euro coin appears to be composed of an outer ring of aluminum-bronze, with the center being stainless steel, consistent with some previous commemorative coins of this denomination.

As to the subject matter, Pope Leo XIV was born Robert Francis Prevost on September 14, 1955, in Chicago, Illinois.

His extensive and impressive service includes missionary work in Peru in the 1980s and 1990s, later based in Rome from 2001 to 2013, traveling extensively as part of his work. He then returned to Peru as Bishop of Chiclayo from 2015 to 2023. In 2023 Pope Francis appointed him prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops in Rome and President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America. He became a cardinal on September 30, 2023.

Pope Francis died on Easter Monday, April 21, 2025. Robert Francis Prevost became pope on May 8, 2025, choosing the name Leo XIV. He is the 267th Pope of the Roman Catholic Church and the first to be born in the United States. He is also a Chicago White Sox fan.

For a long time, it was almost a cliché, but observers of the College of Cardinals during each Papal Conclave would confidently state that neither a Jesuit nor an American would ever be elected pope. That prediction was first shattered with the College of Cardinals chose Jorge Mario Bergoglio, (Pope Francis), a Jesuit from Argentina in 2013. After that, it was simply stated that an American would never be selected pope. The subsequent election of United States born Pope Leo XIV proved that assumption wrong.

Interestingly, as the first United States born individual to become Pope, Pope Leo XIV had some significant Michigan ties. First of all, from 1969 to 1973, he attended St. Augustine Seminary High School, a minor seminary then located in Holland, Michigan, in the Diocese of Kalamazoo. The future pope was co-valedictorian of his graduating class. The school operated from 1949 to 1977. After it closed the seminary buildings were demolished.

Even closer to home, in preparing this article I was surprised to learn that the future pope was ordained a deacon on September 10, 1981, by Bishop Thomas Gumbleton at St. Clare of Montefalco Parish in Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan. This marked the beginning of his ordained ministry in the Catholic Church – a fact this local parish proudly notes on its website. Not only did I have extended family members who belonged to that parish at that time, but I knew Bishop Gumbleton quite well, having worked with him on a number of legislative initiatives when I served in the legislature. Bishop Gumbleton was well known within the Detroit area, and was often in the news as a social activist. Although he was a humble man, I suspect he would have been proud

to know that he had a significant role in the future pope's career. Unfortunately, Bishop Gumbleton didn't live long enough to see that, having passed away at 94 years old on April 4, 2024, slightly over a year before Robert Francis Prevost became Pope Leo XIV. St. Clare of Montefalco Parish is located at 1401 Whittier Avenue, Grosse Pointe Park.

After his ordination as deacon, Prevost went to Rome to study canon law and was ordained a priest in Rome the following year.

Aside from being the first coins to depict the new pope, the 2026 coins also mark the first time since 2014 that the papal image has appeared on the coins, following Pope Francis's personal request that his face not be used.

For those interested in ordering the coins, this year the Vatican significantly changed its ordering procedures. Under its old ordering system, coins were allocated based on how long the collector was on the Vatican coin ordering list, and buyers were limited in what and how many they could purchase. Ordering the coins requires one to become a registered user through the Vatican Philatelic and Numismatic Office E-Shop which is managed by the Commercializzazione Filatelica e Numismatica (CFN).

The website is slightly confusing, even when choosing the English language format (look for the little United Kingdom Flag icon). The Vatican website can be found at <https://www.cfn.va/en/>. In addition to numismatic products, one can also purchase commemorative stamps. To order, one must first register an account, using your email, choosing a password, and passing its identity verification process which requires video confirmation.



References:

“Lansing Update: Our New Pope Leo XIV: Born in America, Studied in West Michigan” Michigan Catholic Conference, May 9, 2025.
<https://www.micatholic.org/advocacy/news-room/lansing-update/2025/the-new-pope-studied-in-west-michigan/>

“Community Celebrating at Michigan Parish Where Pope Leo XIV Was Ordained a Deacon,” May 17, 2025.
<https://catholicvote.org/community-celebrating-at-michigan-parish-where-pope-leo-xiv-ordained-deacon/>

<https://www.cfn.va/en/>
<https://stclarem.org/>



AMSA American Medal of the Year Announced: “Clothesline” Prevails at the 2026 AMY Awards

By Steven Bieda



The American Medallic Sculpture Association (AMSA), whose President is none other than our editor, Mark Benvenuto, has selected the 2026 American Medal of the Year (AMY) award. This year's annual competition attracted over 30 submissions and continues a tradition that was initiated by Mel Wacks in 2014. This year's American Medal of the Year is featured along with the other contestants in the latest issue of the Members Exchange, the quarterly publication of AMSA.

The 2026 American Medal of the Year was chosen out of a diverse and talented field of works submitted by many of the artistic discipline's most talented artists. This year's international competition, for works created in 2025, attracted over 30 submissions. While most of the entries were accepted directly from the artists, some were nominated and submitted by AMSA members. The submissions ranged from the traditional cast or struck medals, along with those composed of other various non-traditional materials and production techniques. The five-judge panel, led by Chief Judge Steven Bieda, chose a submission by Tracy Mahaffey, of Greene, Rhode Island, entitled “Clothesline.”

Taut line in bedroom,
mom's wooden –
clothespins in place,
fresh scent memories

The design found a warm response from this year's jurors, with one remarking that the medal "just elicited fond memories of childhood and warmth. Sometimes we don't need deep philosophical meaning and just need to build a pillow fort."

Her work can be viewed at www.tracymahaffey.com. Individuals interested in obtaining a medal can contact the artist directly either by contacting her via the website, or by writing to Tracy Mahaffey, 120 Hopkins Hollow Road, Greene, RI 02827 for ordering information.

Polish-American Numismatic Society meets monthly at: American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 E. Maple Rd., Troy, MI 48083

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By Christina Slobodnik

While Andrzej passed away in 2016, his legacy lives on with the incredible stories his films bring to life to retell Polish history. To celebrate the impact he has made all around the world, Mennica Polska has released a 2026 coin to celebrate the 100th anniversary of his birth, in collaboration with his wife, Krystyna Zachwatowicz-Wajda. It is also the only coin in the world produced in his honor. It holds the face value of \$1, with a weight of 31.10 g, or one oz. The obverse of the coin features a beautiful, sculpted portrait of Andrzej Wajda created by the artists at Mennica Polska, and his signature at the base, as well as one of his famous sayings: *It was the Solidarity movement that taught us that if someone is being chased, you should stand with them, not with those doing the chasing.*

Mennica Polska has described the Andrzej Wajda's coin perfectly: "For those who grew up with his films. For those who learned to see history, courage and responsibility through his cinema. For everyone for whom he became a lasting point of reference. From values expressed through film to values preserved in silver." (Mennica Polska, *Andrzej Wajda, 100th Anniversary of Birth*)

So go ahead and watch one of his films — *Ashes and Diamonds*, or *Kátyn*, or whichever you choose — so that you may appreciate his skill and recognize the dedication he had in preserving some of the most painful and vital stories in Poland's history.

A circular emblem with a white background. In the center is a blue beetle with its wings spread wide, showing intricate patterns. Above the beetle is a large, dark, circular disk, possibly representing a sun or moon. Above the disk is a fan-like structure with multiple pointed, leaf-like segments in shades of blue and purple. The entire emblem is enclosed within a thin circular border.

By Mark Benvenuto

At 499 Zł, this is not a super-expensive item, although it only has 17.5 g of the precious metal in it, a bit more than ½ ounce. For those of us intrigued by this, it is probably worth buying quickly, since the overall mintage is rather low. Still, what an amazing offering from our Mennica Polska.

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25 June 24, gold

By Mike Rosik

Aurum notes are thin, flexible notes containing a small amount of real gold. They are produced by Valaurum, an American company that developed a special process for depositing a very thin and precisely measured layer of gold between protective polymer layers. This allows very small amounts of physical gold to be made into attractive and affordable notes.

Valaurum produces Aurum notes in many designs and also manufactures gold products for other organizations. One of the best known examples is the Goldback, which was first introduced in Utah in 2019 and has become increasingly popular with collectors. Although the terms are sometimes confused, Goldback is a specific brand and not the name for all gold notes.

Polish-American Numismatic Society meets monthly at: American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 E. Maple Rd., Troy, MI 48083

These modern gold notes combine precious metal with colorful artwork and an unusual manufacturing process. They offer collectors an affordable way to own small quantities of physical gold while also providing something interesting to collect.

The Aurum note I received at the ANA convention was something I had not paid much attention to before, but it introduced me to another interesting and growing area of modern numismatics.

► Spot prices as of 2 September, 2026:
Gold: \$4,431.90/troy ounce
Silver: \$66.51/troy ounce
Copper: \$6.64/pound
Platinum: \$1,785.40/troy ounce
Palladium: \$1,388.90/troy ounce
\$US-Zloty exchange: 3.73

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.

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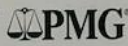
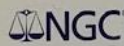


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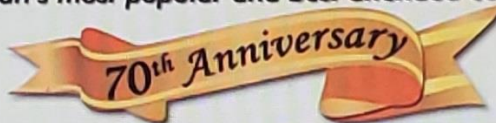
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Join Our Club

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