

Reflections on the *World's Fair of Money* by Jeff Pritchard, LSCC #1759

Before commenting on a surprisingly successful ANA Convention (*The World's Fair of Money*), the E-Gobrecht should recognize the Liberty Seated Collectors Club members who dutifully manned the Club booth during the entire 5-day event. They shared their knowledge, portions of their collections, and their enthusiasm. As a result, they inspired quite a few new members to join. Hats off to John Frost, Ken Otto, John Lundsten, Dennis Fortier, Greg Johnson, Craig Eberhart, and anyone I may have missed.

For those who've never attended the American Numismatic Association's *World's Fair of Money*, you should. At least once! Aside from dealers and collectors from every conceivable corner of numismatics gathered together and displaying their wares, the convention provides unequalled opportunities for education and fellowship.

The Bourse Floor. The dealers I happened to speak with, large or small, regardless of their area of specialization, were pleasantly surprised by the volume of business during the show. From a Liberty Seated standpoint, there was a better selection of high-grade material available than at recent shows. Quite a few of the *Gobrecht-faithful* located hard-to-find items to add to their collections. While I personally hadn't planned to make any acquisitions on the trip, discovering a Liberty Seated quarter I'd long sought was simply too good to pass up. 'An offer I couldn't refuse.'

Old Friends. Many of us participate in coin groups and clubs with members spread across the country – or even the globe. While 'zoom' meetings are convenient, in-person meetings give us a chance to reconnect with old friends or strengthen ties with new ones. For myself, as a resident of Seattle, it can be difficult to attend east coast shows. But *The World's Fair of Money* draws collectors and dealers from every corner of the country, enabling those invaluable face-to-face conversations with collecting friends.

New Acquaintances. One of the great things about the ANA Convention is the opportunity to meet fascinating people within the numismatic community. Among the many new faces with whom I was able to visit, that included the likes of Chiara Principe, based in Rome, and one of the world's foremost coin designers and sculptors; or Dan Hamelberg, the owner of what may be the most important numismatic library currently in private hands.

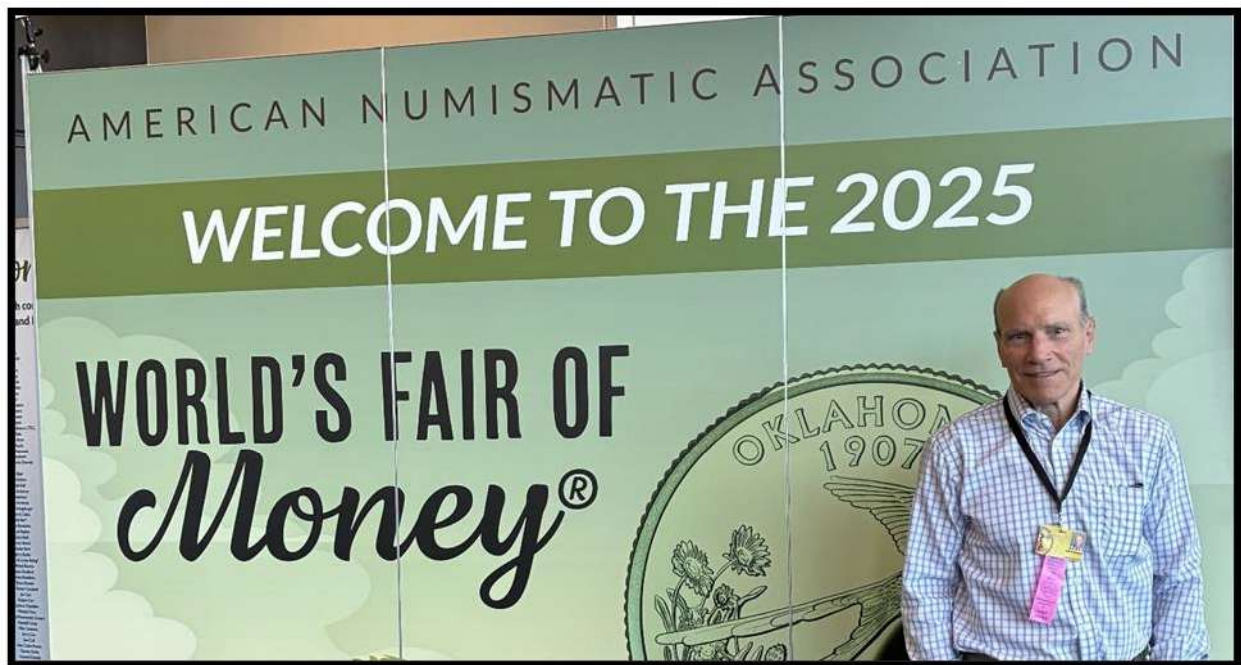
Coin Viewing. As is generally the case, both Heritage Auctions, and Stack's Bowers, provided auction lot viewing rooms above the bourse floor. Whether you're a numismatic newcomer, or a seasoned pro, lot viewing is a great way to examine large quantities of high-grade coins, across all denominations, at your own pace. Personally, I find lot viewing to be a relaxing way to carefully examine coins away from the rushed atmosphere of the bourse floor.

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(And it's another way to meet dedicated like-minded collectors.) I spent time at both auction company's venues.

New Fields to Explore. Some of the largest coin clubs or societies use the ANA Convention as a backdrop to conduct their annual meetings – LSCC being a case in point (with an excellent presentation by Greg Bennick). This enables anyone to sit-in on the proceedings of new and potentially interesting areas of numismatics – or Americana, notaphily, etc. To scratch some peripheral numismatic itches, I attended the annual meetings of the Medals Collectors of America; the Early American Coppers club; and the Colonial Coin Collectors Club. Each interesting and informative in their own way.

Overall, it was an excellent convention. During the ANA's Board of Governors' Town Hall meeting, several Governors admitted they'd had serious reservations about locating the event in Oklahoma City. Untested waters. But those same Governors admitted their concerns had been misplaced; the apparent controversy much ado about nothing. I couldn't agree more.



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