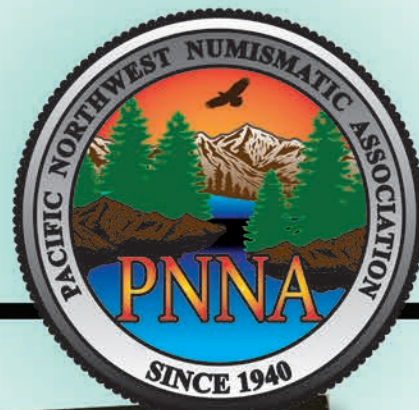


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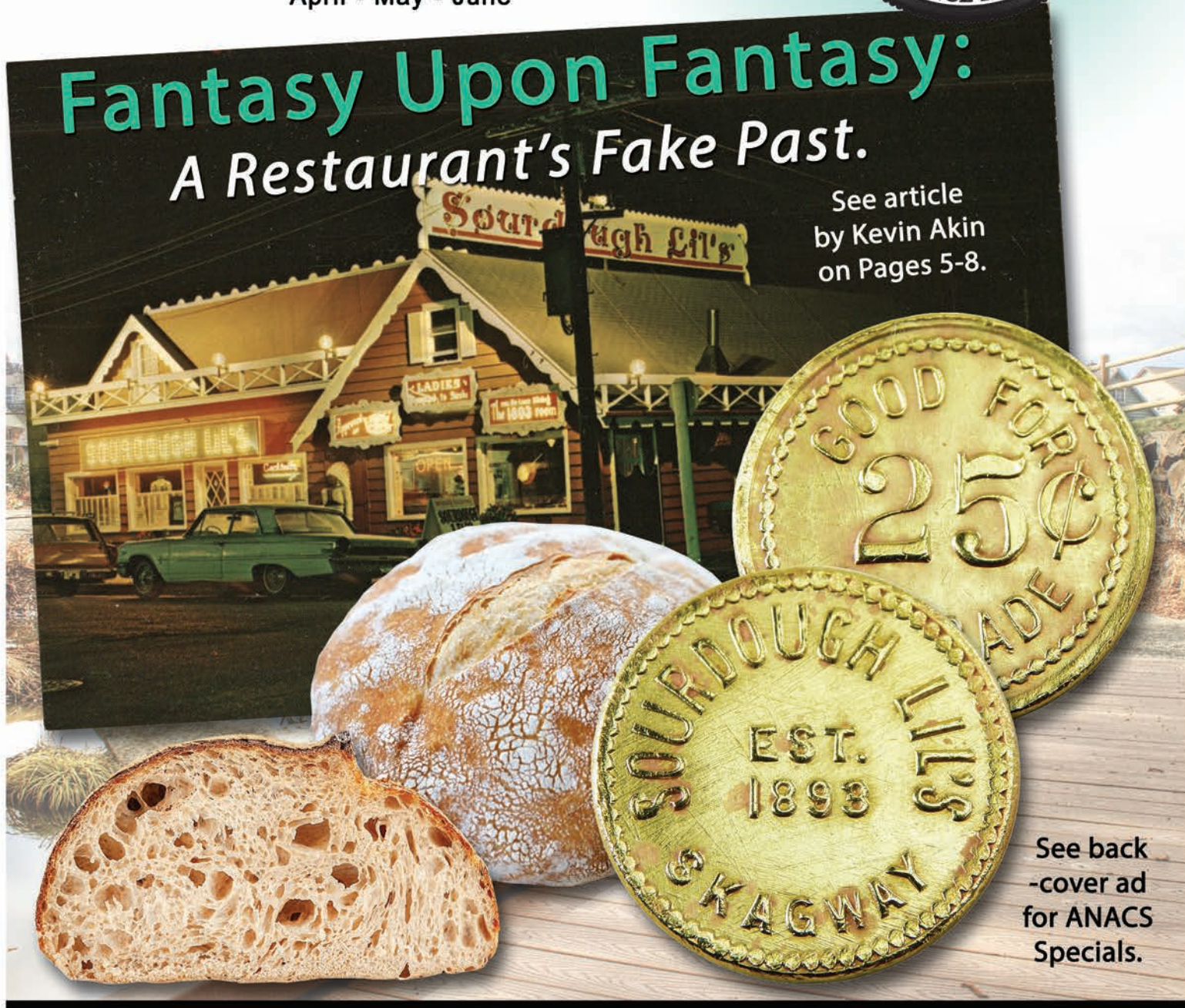
The Nor'wester



2nd Quarter 2021 SPECIAL PRODUCTION
April - May - June

Fantasy Upon Fantasy: *A Restaurant's Fake Past.*

See article
by Kevin Akin
on Pages 5-8.



See back
-cover ad
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**THE APRIL ANNUAL SHOW IN TUKWILA, WASHINGTON
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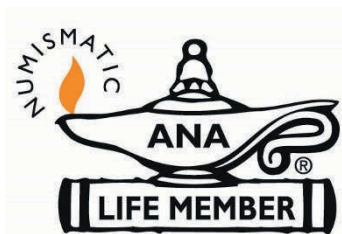
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***The Nor'wester* is published
quarterly by the
Pacific Northwest
Numismatic Association**

PNNA is an IRS 501 c(3) non-profit educational association registered in the State of Oregon.

For membership information please see this page, the PNNA website, or attend a convention.



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PNNA Dues

PNNA dues are assessed annually in January. If you have not yet paid for 2021, you should have already received a reminder with the 1st quarter newsletter. Individual online-only dues are \$10; family groups and clubs are \$15. Life membership costs \$200. Add \$5/year for paper. For more information please see <https://www.pnna.org/wp/join/>.

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Deadline for submission of material for 3rd Quarter 2021 Nor'wester: June 18, 2021.

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Email inquiries to info@pnna.org.

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The new PNNA Privacy and Data Usage Policy, adopted by the board in July 2018, is available online at: <http://pnna.org/info/privacy.html>.

PNNA Membership Information — If you have questions about your PNNA membership or would like to join, please contact: Eric Holcomb, 1900 NE 3rd St STE 106 PMB 361, Bend, OR 97701-3889, phone (541) 647-1021, email eric@holcomb.com. Individuals, families and clubs can join PNNA for 3 years and save money! See the PNNA website memberships page for details.

PNNA President's Message

by PNNA President Ed Fischer

Hope is on the horizon.

We have been through a rough year that has affected just about every segment of society. But the current news is showing glimmers of moving in the right direction. In Oregon, counties are lightening up on restrictions. Restaurants are able to seat customers inside, bowling alleys and movie theatres are reopening.

It can't be too long before we have coin club meetings and shows. A lot of this depends on the host venue and the county it lands in. I can realistically see PNNA having the show this coming fall. Regular events look to occur again and the bourse floor will be humming. (However, the Cowlitz and Mid Valley shows have been cancelled this spring, along with others.) With ever-increasing immunizations, it's becoming safer and safer to meet up with friends. Please check the events page at www.pnna.org.

Coin collecting is still active if you look for it. There has been a shift in the way business is being done by purchasing online or one-on-one with sellers. People WANT to add goodies to their sets and collections. On a recent trip to Boise, I walked into a shop while my wife was visiting with her sister. I was pleasantly surprised to walk out with a box of slabbed silver dollars, a few gold sovereigns and a miscellaneous pile of other items. It was refreshing to be able to sit down and dicker my way through the inventory with an open shop.

Another kudo goes out to the clubs that have evolved into the 21st century by using technology to operate Zoom meetings. Board members of the Portland (Willamette) club have been running monthly meetings since early last summer. Seattle is next in line and at this writing is planning their first on their regular meeting date in March. (The meeting was a big success, with Joe Boling as speaker.) I foresee this reoccurring at least until full meetings are allowed. This is expanding and creates a new way to have numismatists gather around the figurative coin case. Who says a coin club is restricted by geography?

Though the numismatic world has slowed, PNNA is still functioning. We continue to have quarterly board meetings via Zoom during the restriction on coin shows and restaurants. Our next is April 10th at 10 a.m. and anyone is invited to see us in action. Contact myself or any of the Board member listed on the website and we will gladly reply with a Zoom invite. We pursue growth and sharing. This can only be done with input from other members and coin collectors. Some of my greatest thoughts were stolen from others while sharing conversations.

Another opportunity to share numismatics is by assembling a display for National Coin Week. It runs from April 18-24 and the subject is "Money, Big and Bold." This commemorates the 100th anniversary of striking the Morgan Dollar and the introduction of the Peace Dollar.

Also, included is commemoration of the Eisenhower Dollar of 1971. Find a bank, locate an open library or other public building to place an exhibit. Check the ANA website for ground rules so that your club can get the most credit.

This long pause of isolation hopefully gave you the time to reminisce about past discoveries, make plans for upgrades and piqued your interests in other subject matter. Be prepared, because when the front door to your local show opens, numismatists will be making those deals. Hope to see all of you on the bourse floor very soon.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates and Locations:

- Apr. 10, 2021 (online at 10:00 a.m.) due to cancellation of the PNNA convention in Tukwila.
- Summer meeting to be announced.

Guests are always welcome to drop in on any board meeting - they are always open! (For online meetings, access should be requested in advance.) The Board and Officers serve at your pleasure - please contact any one of us with your suggestions.

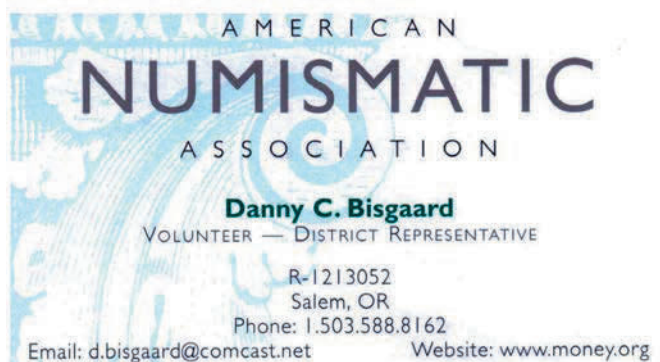
ANA National Coin Week

Webpage: <https://www.money.org/numismatic-events/national-coin-week>.

Dates: April 18-24, 2021.

Theme: "Money, Big & BOLD."

2021 is the 100th anniversary of the 1921 Morgan and Peace Dollars, with the possibility of new commemorative dollar coins.



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AU Details NGC
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1793 C-3 Half Cent
MS64+ Brown NGC. CAC
Condition Census Example



1794 C-9 Half Cent
MS64 Red and Brown NGC. CAC
Ex: Lord St. Oswald Sale



1796 C-1 Half Cent
MS63+ Brown NGC. CAC
The Ex: Whitney No Pole



1796 C-2 Half Cent
MS65 Red and Brown NGC. CAC
The Ex: Whitney With Pole



1811 C-1 Half Cent
SP64 NGC
Ex: Norweb Collection



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Fantasy Upon Fantasy: A Restaurant's Fake Past



by Kevin Akin

Most collectors are generally familiar with the fantasy tokens purporting to have been used in brothels of the Old West. There are some very plain tokens that were actually used in brothels, whether for their main business or for drinks or cigars, but the scarce real tokens give no indication of the business conducted on the premises. The fantasy tokens, in hundreds of varieties and several sizes and metals, are all modern designs, dating back no earlier than the 1960s. After their production began, some of the fakers produced leaflets and pamphlets purporting to establish the legitimacy and genuineness of some of the tokens or claiming at least that they are reproductions of real tokens of the past. Not true, not at all true, in fact totally false.

The peddlers of the fantasy tokens sometimes include in their stock a quarter-size token (photo above) that was “good for 25¢ in trade” and is inscribed on the obverse “Sourdough Lil’s, Est. 1893, Skagway.” It (and some recent imitations of various sizes, some with different reverse wording) are claimed to be the tokens of an Alaskan brothel of the Gay Nineties, Skagway having had notorious establishments of the sort. Of course, this is not true. But what is it?

Alaska token specialist Ronald J. Benice was apparently asked this question many times, because he listed this non-Alaskan token in the second edition of *Alaska Tokens* (Token and

Medal Society, 1994). It is given the catalog number Skagway 26, but the text tells us “This token is not Alaskan and is listed for information only.” He goes on to tell us that “Lillian McKerr, who was born in Skagway in 1893, owned this restaurant in Westport, Washington from 1949 to 1954. The new owner issued 10,000 of these tokens in 1955.” He goes on to warn that “Fantasy restrikes on various planchets, with different reverses, are known.” A little research shows that the new owners were Bea and Jim Madigan.

The deceptive token is a cute trick, but it is not the only step the new owners of Sourdough Lil’s restaurant took to give the establishment an appearance of age. A search of online postcard listings will turn up multiple copies of a postcard showing the restaurant in the 1950s, with a false historical note on the other side of the card. The address-side inscription on the postcard, printed by the Smith-Western Company of Tacoma to the order of the Madigans, repeats the claim that the restaurant was established in 1893. But at least the correct location is given as Westport, Washington.

The rest of the text says “Nationally acclaimed for fine food. Visit the 1893 Room retaining the old sawdust floors, player piano and spirit of Skagway in the Gold Rush era.” As we have seen, the establishment dated to 1949, sawdust floor and all.

Continued on page 9.

Fantasy Upon Fantasy: A Restaurant's Fake Past (continued)

Sourdough Lil's is not the only restaurant to give the impression of much greater age than the actuality. But it is not common for an attempt to claim extra seniority to lead to the tokens of a perfectly respectable establishment being misrepresented as the tokens of a bawdy house. In that respect, Sourdough Lil's was one of a kind.



This postcard image shows Sourdough Lil's at night in the late 1950s. (Image supplied by CardCow.com.)

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It's a Fantasy: or how I spent \$10.00 at the PNNA Tukwila Coin Show on 3 "Fake" tokens



Article by James Bard. We attended the PNNA coin show because we love coin collecting, camaraderie, hope of winning something in the ticket drawing, eating home-made cookies, and buying and selling coins.

But, what about **Exonumia**? Well, we like that stuff too! Around 1960, Russel Rulau, a token expert and soon to be the editor of *Coin World*, coined the phrase. The boom in coin collecting after WW II encompassed people who collected medals and tokens. To distinguish the numismatic study of coins and paper money from that of medals and tokens, the term Exonumia became accepted.

But Exonumia is a catch-all term and within its broad umbrella is the study of banknotes and paper money (**Notaphily**), stock and bond certificates (**Scripophily**), and the study of military orders, medals, and decorations (**Phaleristics**). People who collect medals are **Medalists**, and those who collect transportation tokens are **Vecturists**, and those who collect "fantasy tokens" are ... *suckers*. Well, not exactly. Just so you know ... if you visit the UK, the Brits use the term **Paranumismatics**.

In a book first published in 1992 by Stephen P. Alpert and Lawrence E. Elman entitled *Tokens and Medals: A Guide to the Identification and Values of United States Exonumia*, Chapter 67 is titled "Fakes, Fantasies, and Restrikes." **Fakes** are counterfeit or modern-made reproductions of actual old tokens and medals, meant to deceive collectors. **Restrikes** are copies made using one or two of the original dies that were used to strike the original token or medal. **Fantasies** are modern-made tokens that are not copies of actual old tokens. No such old tokens existed. They are totally fictitious and may be intended as novelty items.

In section B. of Chapter 67, Alpert and Lawrence discuss "L.A. STAMP OLD WEST FANTASY TOKENS." I'm going to talk about the three Tukwila tokens I purchased, and which are shown in the photo.

- **St. Helier, Permitted to Grow.** PERMITTED TO GROW AND SELL 1 CWT OF UNGROUND WHEAT (REVENUE PAID) STATES FOOD CONTROL STORE ST. HELIER

This token was supposedly used on the Nazi German-occupied island of Jersey during World War II.

- **St. Peters Port, Free Milk.** ISSUED ST. PETER'S PORT (FREE MILK) ONE PINT MAX
- This token was supposedly used on the Nazi German-occupied island of Guernsey during World War II.

- **Wells Fargo and Co., \$50 Travel Insurance.** \$50 MAX WELLS FARGO AND COMPANY TRAVEL INSURANCE

Alpert and Lawrence tell us "the Los Angeles Rubber Stamp Co. made many tokens and medals from the late 19th century to the mid-20th century. But they never used the signature "L.A. Stamp" which appears on these tokens, on the pieces they made. These uniface tokens are made of copper, brass, pewter, zinc, and white metal, and many are odd shaped and have cutouts. Not all the pieces have the L.A. Stamp signature; those that don't are similar to identical in style to the others. (Similar fantasy tokens related to the Nazis and World War II also exist)."

Researching Los Angeles Rubber Stamp Company, I found some writings by Bob Forrest on the internet. From his article, "L.A. Stamp revisited," reprinted from the *TCS Bulletin* (May and September 1997) we learn that in 1963 he gained employment at the largest Stamp Company in California, the Los Angeles Stamp & Stationery, located in downtown LA in their own 6-story building. They made everything from Stationery, Signs, Engravings, Steel Stamps, Printing and Rubber Stamps & Marking Devices. A year later, they went out of business.

It's a Fantasy: or how I spent \$10.00 at the PNNA Tukwila Coin Show on 3 "Fake" tokens



When they suspended operations on June 21, 1963, they had been in business for over 55 years. "L.A. Stamp" was a partnership of two men, "Sacramento Stan" and a fellow who chose to remain anonymous (I think he is Bob Forrest himself). As regards the Nazi pieces [see the St. Helier and St. Peter's Port tokens above], Stan and his partner did produce them, the partner being a collector of Nazi memorabilia. As for the signature "L.A. Stamp," it has long been known that this was bogus and had nothing to do with the genuine Los Angeles Rubber Stamp Co., which was established in 1884, and which did produce a wide variety of metallic business tokens from the later nineteenth century until they folded in the 1960s, but which invariably signed their products "L.A.R.S.Co." or "L.A. RUB. STP. Co." An example is shown here:



The signature of the Los Angeles Rubber Stamp Co.

At the top of the next column is a photo of the Los Angeles Rubber Stamp Co. Building, taken sometime between 1923 and 1933. Office and factory structure built on corner of 15th and Los Angeles Streets. Architects: Walker and Eisen. This historic photo is from the California State Library / California History Section Picture Catalog.

Link: <https://calisphere.org/item/8b66ec616533a3b1f2d6eebd2aec28ec/>.

The building is still there, as can be seen by looking up the address on Google Maps/Google Street View.

Stan and his partner were primarily involved in the lucrative business of stamped silver ingots. Bogus tokens were only ever a hobby, really — a bit of fun, "to see what we could get away with, and to keep folk guessing." In the



course of expanding their main business, they bought much of the metal stamping machinery and associated paraphernalia of the real Los Angeles Rubber Stamp Company after it had folded. All they did was to "resurrect" the company, change its signature, and extend its range of "products" somewhat ...

Is there a lesson here?

At the time of writing, there were two of these three fantasy tokens for sale from the same eBay seller.

The seller tells us these tokens were used on the German-occupied islands of Jersey and Guernsey during WW II. One listing had a buy-it-now price of \$24.99 plus S&H; the other one was only \$15.00 plus S&H.

Aside from the high prices, the seller didn't identify these as modern fantasy tokens and through omission allowed us to believe that they are real artifacts from WW II.

To wrap up, let me read an abbreviated version of a warning by Alpert and Elman about Fakes, Fantasies, and Restrikes:

"The pieces listed in this chapter are spurious, fraudulent, or novelty in nature, based on a consensus of knowledgeable exnumia collectors, researchers, and dealers. Collectors should be wary of pieces listed or discussed here being offered as authentic old and valuable tokens. They are not. Most appeared on the market in large wholesale quantities in the 1970s and 1980s, being sold mainly at flea markets, souvenir stands at western-themed tourist attractions, and through the mail. These tokens were and still are being sold along with similar fake, fantasy, and reproduction watch fobs, law badges, belt buckles, various tags and plaques, Nazi items, and reproductions of advertising pocket mirrors, at flea markets and swap meets."

If this book was updated and sold today, the authors would include eBay and the internet as well.

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