



# The Nor'wester

2nd Quarter 2019  
April - May - June

## Collector Exhibiting/Judging Seminar

11 a.m.  
Saturday



**ANACS**  
submissions  
accepted  
at show  
– See back  
cover ad.



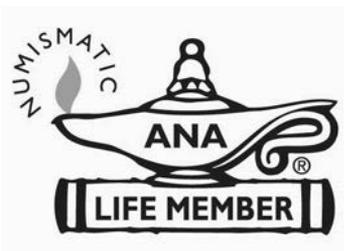
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***The Nor'wester* is published  
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Association**

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

For membership information please see page 15, the PNNA website, or attend the convention.



American Numismatic  
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Life Club #37)

## Dues are Past Due

PNNA dues are assessed annually in January. If you have not yet paid for 2019, you will receive a reminder with this mailing, and this will be the last issue of *The Nor'wester* that you will receive until dues are paid. Individual online-only dues are \$10; family groups and clubs are \$15. Life membership costs \$200. Add \$5/year for paper copies.

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**Appointed Positions**

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**Editor/Webmaster** - Eric Holcomb

*Deadline for submission of material for 3rd Quarter 2019 Nor'wester: June 30, 2019.*

### Inquiries

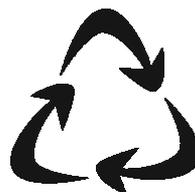
Email inquiries to [info@pnna.org](mailto:info@pnna.org).

### Advertising

PNNA members may request advertising on the website sponsor page and/or in editions of *The Nor'wester* distributed at coin shows and conventions. For information, make inquiry to the address above or directly to the editor/webmaster.

### Privacy Policy

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



Locally printed in Everett, Washington. When you are finished with this magazine, please recycle it or share it with another collector!

## Welcome to Tukwila

by General Chairman Kevin Charboneau

Welcome to the 70th annual Pacific Northwest Numismatic Association Spring Convention and Coin Show! 70 years is quite the milestone.

This year's show hours are:

Friday	March 15	noon until 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	March 16	10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.
Sunday	March 17	10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Show address: Tukwila Community Center, 12424 42nd Ave. So., Tukwila, WA.

Spring is just around the corner. That means it is time for the oldest and largest annual coin show in the Pacific Northwest: The 70th annual Pacific Northwest Numismatic Association Spring Convention and Coin Show! This year's show is set for March 15-17.

Dozens of your favorite local, regional and national dealers will cover 85 tables with a wide selection of numismatic and exonomia material in all price ranges. There is sure to be something to excite everybody's interest. There will be U.S. coins ranging from colonial coppers to gold double eagles and modern commemoratives. Classic Greek coins and Roman coins of the Caesars will be well represented, along with coins of all other ancient civilizations. Foreign coin enthusiasts will find dealers specializing in medieval coins, modern world coins, and everything in between. Currency collectors will find examples of colonial paper and the entire range of U.S. currency, including currency from the Confederate States of America, as well as fascinating and colorful foreign bank notes. Beautiful and historic medals and interesting tokens will be on display and available for sale. People will be buying and selling all kinds of bullion throughout the show. You can also display your collection in a judged collector exhibit, or enjoy the displays of others. We are working on a lineup of free numismatic theater presentations for Saturday.

The annual convention brings together many of our members. This is a great opportunity for our existing members to demonstrate the vitality of our hobby to the newest members of your local club. I encourage you to bring someone as your guest to this event.

I am looking for volunteers to help at the front desk. The job is simply to monitor the people going in and out of the door and answer some very general questions. In return for your one hour of time, you will receive free admission for the day to the show. Please send an email

to kcharboneau58@comcast.net with the day you would like to help. I will assign you a time on a first-come first-serve basis and notify you by return email.

The PNNA annual meeting on Saturday is open to all, and your comments and suggestions on how the PNNA can best promote our wonderful hobby are welcome.

*We're happy to see you – enjoy the show!*

## Additional Show Information

- Thanks to the South Hill Coin Club of Puyallup, Wash., host club for this PNNA convention.
- Parking is free, and admission to the bourse is only \$2.00 per day, \$5.00 for all three days. Children 12 and under are free. "Early Bird" admission (9:00 a.m. Fri/Sat/Sun) is usually \$30.00.
- The ANACS grading service ([www.anacs.com](http://www.anacs.com)) will have a bourse table at the show. They will accept submissions, but there will not be a grader present.
- For collector exhibit information — see page 10.
- Club table — Northwest clubs will have the opportunity to put out information about their clubs as well as have a representative if they so choose.
- There will be both a numismatic theater and club meetings. *Please inquire at the show, see the PNNA website spring convention page, and see the PNNA president's message on pp. 14-15.*
- The YN program and treasure hunt will be conducted on Saturday and Sunday by former ANA president Walt Ostromecki. The program is hosted by the PNNA and by participating local coin clubs, including the Boeing Employees' Coin Club.
- Boy Scouts may earn the Coin Collecting Merit Badge on Saturday; pre-registration is required. Girl Scout "Fun with Money" patch workshop, a great troop activity, is available upon request. There is a flyer on the PNNA website, or contact James Reinders by email, [coins2019@collect3.com](mailto:coins2019@collect3.com).
- There will be souvenir elongated coins, and you can make your own with the PNNA's "penny press."
- On Saturday, there will be a PNNA board meeting at 8:00 a.m., and a PNNA general membership meeting and awards presentation at 6:30 p.m.

**Come see us!**  
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## Manganese, an Almost Unknown Metal in Coins

by Mark Benvenuto

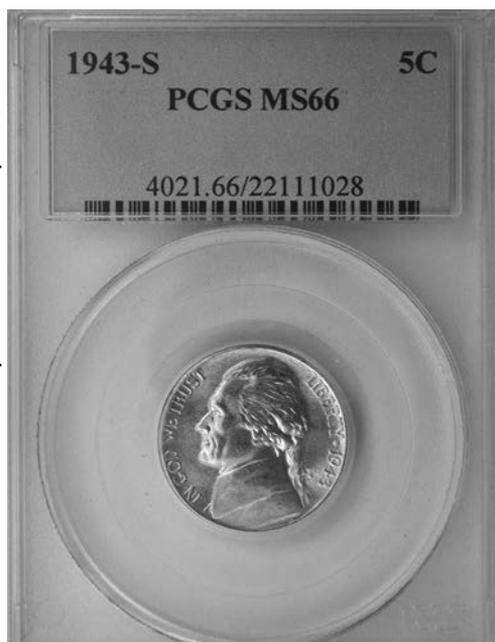
Throughout the last century or so, legions of students taking a chemistry class have been told that a particular trio of metal elements to the right of center of the periodic table – copper, silver, and gold – have been known as the coinage metals. The reason is simple and obvious: just about every government from antiquity to the present has used these three metals in coins. Yes, there have been bronze coins, generally an alloy of copper and tin. But this trio has been the big three of coinage since the beginning. And yet, in the nineteenth and twentieth century, a wider array of metal elements have crept into coins from a wide range of nations and a wide range of sources. One metal that has made a mark, yet that remains somewhat underappreciated, is manganese.

First, a bit of background on this generally unknown metal. Manganese was first discovered all the way back in 1774. But it was a tough element to extract from its oxide ores, and for quite some time there simply wasn't much of it to be had. There has been manganese extracted from various ores in the United States, but none have been commercially viable in decades. According to the *USGS Mineral Commodities Summary 2018*, a free, downloadable document, the United States have been dependent upon South Africa, Gabon, Australia, and Georgia (the former Soviet republic, not the state) for import of the element for the past several years. But the States also has imported it from Canada rather often.

Interestingly, manganese is actually available in the United States, and has been for some time. But to quote our friends in the USGA, "Land-based manganese resources are large but irregularly distributed; those in the United States are very low grade and have potentially high extraction costs. South Africa accounts for about 78% of the world's identified manganese resources, and Ukraine accounts for about 10%." And the major uses for manganese don't really include coins. It's all about making specific types of steels, or aluminum alloys.

There must have been some available manganese in the United States back in the 1940's, or perhaps in Canada, as the first use of manganese in coins appears to have been in the "silver" war nickels of 1942 – 1945 (see photo of 1943-S PCGS MS66). The composition of these five-cent pieces was: 56% copper, 35% silver, and 9% manganese. The reason for the change from the established 75% copper and 25% nickel that had been used in five-cent pieces for decades was the needs of the country for the war, both in steels and in uranium enrichment for the Manhattan Project (nickel was originally used to make the tubes used for uranium hexafluoride enrichment).

It's interesting to do a bit of math and figure out just how much manganese got used in all those nickels. Using any of the established references (such as the oft-quoted "Red Book"), we can total all the nickels made from all the Mints for those four years. We get: 811,546,490 five-cent pieces. At 5 grams each,



that's 4,057,732,450 grams, or 4,057,732.45 kilograms, or 8,927,011.39 pounds, or 4,463.5 tons of nickels more or less. Since 9% of that was manganese, we get to 401.7 tons of manganese (again, with a bit of wiggle room). Now, while that's impressive, it's still got to be far less than what Pittsburgh and Detroit were producing during those years when it comes to steel and steel-based war machinery.

Several sources indicate that the reason for this particular wartime alloy for the nickels was to ensure that the coins were still accepted in vending machines. And that appears to be the same reason that manganese was again adopted for the Sacagawea dollars and now the Presidential dollar series.

Hopefully, collectors remember that when the first Presidential dollar coins were introduced, the folks in charge mounted a television campaign to make the general public aware of this new golden, one-dollar possibility. Cynics complained that our dear government spent \$67 million in adverts to get us to spend just one – and that since dollar bills were still being printed, the whole effort didn't work. But the Mint has soldiered on, as it were, and the dollar coins keep coming out, even if only in collector sets for certain years.

Curiously, while all this was going on, Canada went in the same direction, but with an important difference – as our northern pals got into dollar coins, within a short time they stopped the presses on dollar bills. That made all the difference.

The loon dollars are also a rather complex alloy and set of layers, but they don't appear to include manganese. When first introduced, they were called "aureate bronze," which seems to mean a copper-tin alloy, over a nickel core. No big surprise here, as Canada has been a major producer of nickel for decades. The word "aureate" sounds great, but it means essentially that the coin looks gold. If we think about it a bit though, a huge number of bronze alloys look gold.

One thing both sets of aureate or golden dollars have in common is that the Mints have been continuing to make them for decades now, and have used them to honor a pretty hefty number of people or events. Since both dollar coins are offered to collectors and the general public as proofs each year, this means there are collections that can be built for very little outlay that are composed of absolutely gorgeous coins. Of course, for the truly frugal among us, or those of us who just want the challenge, it's fun to see just how many of these dollars can be gleaned from everyday commerce. One aspects of numismatics that is always fun is being able to find that one piece you still need, right in pocket change.

Manganese has taken its place along with a few other metals as part of the widening set of possibilities when it comes to coinage metals. It's a fair bet to say it won't eclipse copper, silver, or gold any time soon. But it certainly does present some fun collecting challenges.



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1820/19 O-101 Half Dollar  
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MS65 PCGS Gold Shield  
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## PNNA and ANA News Online!

### PNNA Annual Awards

Bob Everett Memorial Award — <http://www.pnna.org/awards/everett.html>

Literary Awards (Club Newsletters/Articles) — <http://www.pnna.org/awards/literary.html>

National Coin Week Awards for Clubs — [http://www.pnna.org/awards/ncw/ncw\\_awards.html](http://www.pnna.org/awards/ncw/ncw_awards.html)

Nina Nystrom Numismatic Ambassador Award — <http://www.pnna.org/awards/nystrom.html>

Presidential Award — [http://www.pnna.org/awards/presidential\\_award.html](http://www.pnna.org/awards/presidential_award.html)

Scholarship Awards — [http://www.pnna.org/awards/scholarship\\_awards.html](http://www.pnna.org/awards/scholarship_awards.html)

*The winner of the PNNA's annual Bob Everett Memorial Award, made for integrity and demonstrated commitment to numismatics in the Pacific Northwest, will be announced at the convention on Saturday, March 16. Other PNNA annual awards will also be announced at this time. Presidential awards may also be announced at the fall convention.*

### PNNA Calendar

*Just visit  
[pnna.org](http://pnna.org) and  
click on the  
"calendar" but-  
ton, or pick up a  
paper copy at  
the show!*

### PNNA Convention Collector Exhibits

*by Eric Holcomb, PNNA Chief Judge*

*See <http://www.pnna.org/exhibits/exhibits.html> for complete collector exhibit information, application form, rules and judging criteria, and past winners with exhibit photos.*

*Collector exhibitors will need to register and reserve exhibit cases in advance. Exhibits are due in place by noon Saturday, and should be removed on Sunday afternoon.*

*Not online? — Write to the address listed on page 2 of this magazine.*

### PNNA Board Meeting Minutes

*Minutes from past PNNA board meetings, including at the Boeing club show in January, are available on the website at <http://www.pnna.org/minutes/board.html>.*

### ANA Summer Seminar

*See <https://www.money.org/summer-seminar>.*

*Dates: June 15-20 and June 22-27, 2019.*

*Location: Colorado Springs, Colorado.*

*Summer Seminar is a once-a-year opportunity for numismatic scholarship and camaraderie that offers students a varied selection of courses designed for discovery or continued study. For many students, Summer Seminar is a life-changing event; it has catapulted the careers of many of the nation's most respected collectors, authors and dealers.*

*Get full information including the course catalog online to see what Summer Seminar can do for you. Consider applying for a PNNA Summer Seminar scholarship in 2020.*

### PNNA/WCC Fall Convention

*Webpage: [http://www.pnna.org/convention/convention\\_fall.html](http://www.pnna.org/convention/convention_fall.html)*

*The PNNA and the Willamette Coin Club will host their 15th annual fall convention and coin show, Nov. 1-3, 2019 at the Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel in Portland, Oregon.*

*The fall show has many of the same popular features as the spring convention — an outstanding bourse of local, regional, and national dealers, a numismatic theater, a YN program and collector exhibits.*

### ANA National Coin Week

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

*National Coin Week — April 21-27, 2019.*

*Theme: "Discover the Past, Envision the Future."*

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Many thanks to the PNNA dealers advertising on this page and elsewhere in *The Northwest* for helping to make this convention edition possible. If you wish to buy, sell or trade numismatic items with the dealers at the PNNA convention, please consider carefully all of your options before making a decision.

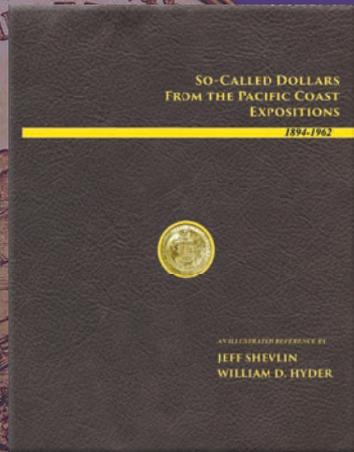
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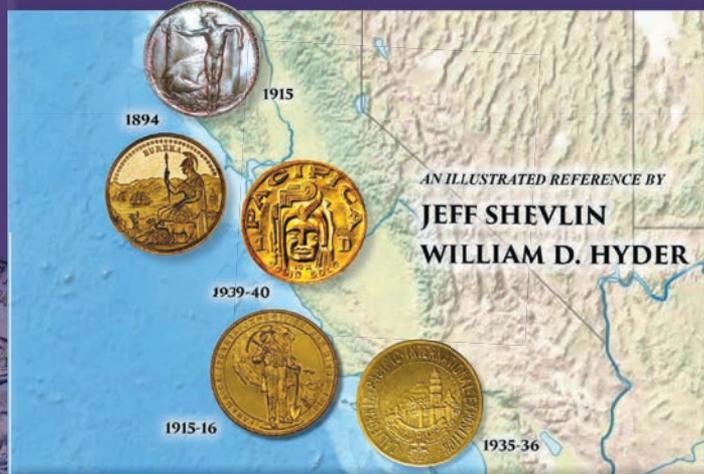


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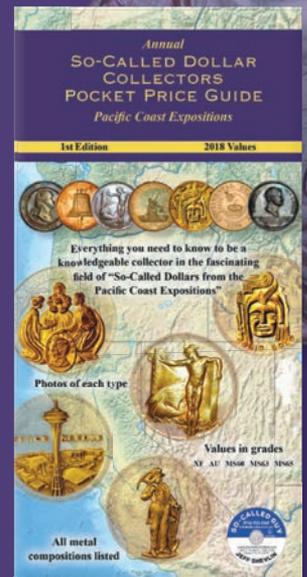
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## PNNA President's Message *by James Reinders*



We will have our annual membership meeting on March 16, 2019 at about 6:30 p.m., which is shortly after that day's close of the PNNA Spring Convention. I look forward to seeing all of you who can make it! Earlier on that Saturday we will have the coin show, exhibits, numismatic theater talks, club meetings, training for exhibit judges, and a

scout merit badge workshop.

### ***Please Help Judge Exhibits***

If you are interested in helping judge exhibits (we could use the help!) please let Eric Holcomb know. It is easy to learn, and helps provide feedback for exhibitors to help them improve their exhibits. I have benefited from judging feedback in past years to help improve my exhibits – something that helped me compete better at the national level! Please consider being a judge.

See <http://www.pnna.org/exhibits/exhibits.html> for complete collector exhibit information, application form, rules and judging criteria, and past winners with exhibit photos.

### ***Introducing the "Del Cushing People's Choice Award"***

The PNNA board recently asked PNNA Chief Judge Eric Holcomb to review exhibiting for the spring and fall shows and make recommendations. In January the PNNA board accepted all of Eric's proposals, and they will be in effect starting in Tukwila. The WCC board reviewed and agreed with the changes as well. The changes are three-fold:

- (1) Exhibit classes have been revamped to six modified classes — three traditional classes by type of material (coins, paper money, tokens and medals), and three by topic or theme (common element, topical and Pacific Northwest). These are fully explained online — see the exhibit webpage reference above. The Best-of-Show exhibit will be selected from among the first-place class exhibits.

- (2) The new classes will be used at both the spring and the fall shows.
- (3) The People's Choice Award in Tukwila will be renamed the Del Cushing Memorial People's Choice Award in recognition of Del's long standing as an outstanding numismatist in the greater Seattle area. It is a fitting tribute to name the award in his honor!

Eric consulted with ANA Chief Judge Joseph Boling about the changes, and Joe was very supportive. Thank you, Eric. Exhibitors at both shows will have many prizes available including:

- Six classes – potentially 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in each class.
- Best-of-Show (named the Byron F. Johnson Jr. Memorial Award at the spring show).
- Best Exhibit of Tokens and Medals (currently awarded at spring show only, and named the C.E. "Hepp" Heppner Award).
- People's Choice (now named the Del Cushing Memorial Award at the spring show).

### ***Encouraging our best exhibits to go National***

In addition, in February the WCC board voted to offer \$200 for the Best-of-Show winner at the fall show to take his/her winning exhibit (most likely with updates) to an ANA show within two years. This matches what is available for spring show Best-of-Show winners courtesy of the PNNA. It is wonderful to see exhibiting in Portland blossoming to the point that the WCC club can encourage national level exhibiting too. I believe that *all* the exhibits we saw in Portland last fall would compete well at the ANA level (esp. with the tips given by the judges as feedback). The \$200 helps cover some of the costs in going to an ANA show, while encouraging our best exhibits to be seen at the national level.

On January 27, I held a workshop in Portland for exhibitors. Over the course of three hours, we discussed techniques, tips, experiences, and discussed example exhibits. I got some good tips from the nine attendees myself — it was a really nice group! The presentation that I used for the workshop, originally developed for the 2015 Portland ANA show, is available on the PNNA website (see link on the exhibits page). I will do a very condensed one-hour version as a numismatic theater talk at the Tukwila show, at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

## PNNA President's Message *by James Reinders*

### **Technology Tip: try Reversee (use it at a coin show!)**

I will finish the "technology insight" that I started in my letter for the prior issue.

If you visit <https://images.google.com/> you can upload any image you want, and Google will analyze it and show you similar things on the web. You should upload a picture of a coin, currency, animal, or whatever and give it a try!

However, I never actually visit the Google website myself. Instead, I use an "app" on my "smartphone" (an iPhone) called "Reversee." It's one of several "apps" that take a picture with your phone, upload to Google (images.google.com), and show the results very nicely on the phone.

I frequently forget about this powerful tool, but I was using it recently when working on an exhibit layout. I kept wanting to sort some new currency I had, and I kept forgetting which was which. Reversee made it quick and easy to double check.

I will warn you: you have to watch what it matches. If you don't crop the picture after you take it and before you submit it, it might search for the hand that was holding the coin, or the 7-11 Big Gulp cup that was sitting on the desk behind your hand! I highly recommend trying Reversee or another "app" that fronts Google's image search. Or, if you don't have a smartphone, you can use any web access that you can upload your photo to, and use images.google.com directly.

### **Upcoming Board Meeting Dates and Locations:**

- March 16, 2019 at the PNNA Convention, Tukwila Community Center, Tukwila, Wash., at about 8 a.m. The annual membership meeting is after the show that same day at 6:30 p.m.
- Summer TBD.
- November 2, 2019 at the WCC/PNNA Portland Convention, DoubleTree Lloyd Center, Portland, Ore., at about 6 p.m. (earlier if everyone is ready).
- January 18, 2020 at the Boeing Employee's Coin Club Show, Kent Commons, right after show closes (start meeting about 5:20 p.m.)

Guests are always welcome to drop in on any board meeting - they are always open!

There are many coin shows to enjoy this spring (see <http://pnna.org/calendar.html> for current listings).

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the annual PNNA membership meeting at the Tukwila Community Center on Saturday March 16 at 6:30 p.m. (The show closes at 6 p.m.)

### Editor's notes:

*Articles in The Nor'wester (such as the article on page 6 of this issue) are eligible for PNNA literary awards ... see the information on page 10.*

*Would you like to write an educational article? The 3rd Q edition of The Nor'wester, now a special edition for the Washington State Fair in Puyallup, has no dealer ads and thus more space for articles. Your article will also reach a wide audience of the public at the Fair. If you're planning an article, please consult with the editor as soon as possible.*

Please see the collector exhibits at the Tukwila convention, in the racquetball court across from the bourse, and vote for the **People's Choice Award!**

Thank You.

Please volunteer for the **Washington State (Puyallup) Fair** in September

See <http://pnna.org/info/fair.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](mailto:eric@holcomb.com). Individuals, families and clubs can join PNNA for 3 years and save money! See the PNNA website memberships page for details.

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