

April 2026 Bluegrass Coin Club Newsletter

Spring greetings from the Bluegrass Coin Club. Bob Jones provided some samples of 2026 coins that were collected at the National Money Show but the Editor, the Old Man, and the Queen's Mum in Ohio have yet to find any 2026 coinage in our change. The editor is going to Biloxi, Mississippi, for a day job work conference this week. Hopefully the slot machines at the casino are friendly and full of 2026 quarters...



At left: The 2026 Mayflower Compact Quarter (enlarged for better viewing)
Photo courtesy of Bob Jones

At right: The 2026 Dime (enlarged for better viewing)
Photo courtesy of Bob Jones



National Coin Week

National Coin Week is April 19th - 25th. The theme this year is Striking Independence: 250 Years of American Numismatics. A link to the coin week trivia questions is in the email. More information can be found online at the ANA's website. Among the activities is an awesome array of numismatic webinars. Jeff Garrett leads off with a webinar on April 20th about *Exploring 250 Years of American History through Numismatics* followed by other outstanding webinar opportunities through the week. Check it out by visiting <https://www.money.org/national-coin-week/>

Superbowl Article From Jeff Garrett

NUMISMATICS TAKE CENTER STAGE AT THE SUPER BOWL

For me, this year's Super Bowl was one of the most exciting editions of the annual matchup ever. I really had little passion for either of the teams, but the events leading up to kickoff were truly extraordinary.

Let me explain-

I have been a member of the advisory board at the Smithsonian Museum of American History for many years. I was invited to be a board member after leading the effort to raise over \$2.5 million dollars for the Value of Money exhibit at the museum. My experience being on the board of the museum has been one of the great highlights of my career.

About three months ago, the National Football League (NFL) reached out to the Smithsonian asking if they could use a coin from the museum collection for the traditional coin flip during the Super Bowl. The NFL wanted to help with the nation's USA 250th anniversary celebration. They had done some research and thought a 1776 Continental Dollar would be a good choice.

The leadership of the museum was extremely excited about having the chance for the Smithsonian be part of such a high-profile event. The exposure for the museum and the collection would be tremendous, as over 150 million people watch the Super Bowl. They reached out to Dr. Ellen Feingold, the curator of numismatics at the Smithsonian.

Dr. Feingold's first reaction was caution, knowing that using an actual vintage coin from the collection would be against museum best practices. The coin would undoubtedly be mishandled and this would be a "bad look" in front of the entire world.

There was also an issue with using the 1776 Continental dollar for several reasons. Recent scholarship has shown that these coins were probably medals made in Europe and the design did not translate into "heads and tails" very well.

About this time the leadership of the museum reached out to me for advice. They were struggling to find the right object for the event that would be appropriate for use by the NFL. It was an opportunity no one wanted to miss, and a solution needed to be found.

After much discussion with Dr. Feingold, we ruled out the 1776 Continental Dollar, mostly because of the design. It was then that I suggested using a restrike of the famous Libertas Americana Medal. It is one of my favorite coin designs and is closely tied to Benjamin Franklin who was instrumental in getting French support for the Revolutionary War effort. Plus, the coin has the date July 4, 1776 on the obverse.

Luckily, I had an example of the 2015 silver Restrike Libertas Americana Medal in my possession. The coin has glittering Proof surfaces with tremendous eye-appeal. If the NFL liked this choice, we all thought it would be an ideal piece for the coin toss.

Apparently, the NFL is very specific about what size and weight coin is suitable for the Super Bowl coin toss. The coin could be no more than 40 mm and needed to weigh approximately one ounce. We sent photographs and the required specs for the coin to the NFL headquarters in New York City.

After about a week, the NFL requested us to send our Libertas Americana restrike to New York City for inspection. The piece would need to be sent to the NFL officiating committee for inspection and a test run.

To everyone's delight, the NFL was satisfied with the choice and let the Smithsonian administration know they would like to proceed. I sent a letter to Roger Goddell donating the coin for the Super Bowl 250th celebration coin toss. In return, the NFL gifted me a fabulous seat at the Super Bowl. My next step was making plans for the trip to California.

In the days leading up to the event, the NFL sought permission to have the piece engraved for Super Bowl. Since the coin was a modern production, this was not an issue. There is also a long history of coins being engraved when they are part of important events. The NFL engraved HEADS on one side and TAILS on the other. They also added

the NFL logo to the obverse heads side. This will make the coin unique for all time.

When the week of the Super Bowl finally arrived, the NFL firmed up a few things relating to the coin toss. Anthea Hartig, the Director of the Museum of American History was on hand for the coins debut on NBC Morning Show with Al Roker.

As mentioned above, the NFL takes the coin toss very seriously, and conducted a “practice” toss before the game with officials. No one was taking chances with such an iconic ritual of the Super Bowl! One game day, we learned that Anthea Hartig would be invited on the field for the coin toss and to receive the coin for the Smithsonian’s collection after the conclusion of the ceremony. Legendary San Francisco quarterback Joe Montana was chosen for the



Image courtesy of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History

honor of flipping the coin. Before the toss, the announcer introduced the coin to the world with great fanfare. The announcer mentioned the coins relationship with Benjamin Franklin and how the piece would soon be a part of the Smithsonian Museum of American History collection.

The NFL did a stellar job giving numismatics its day in the sun at one of the most high-profile events on the globe. Hopefully, this is just a taste of things to come as the country begins celebrating our nations 250th anniversary. Numismatics has played a central role in a lot of the nations history and the hobby should benefit from the Semiquincentennial celebrations. 2026 may be one of the best years ever for the numismatics.

If you did not watch the Super Bowl or the coin toss, it was Heads!!

This month's featured "Did You Know?" coin fact by Alan Barnett



DID YOU KNOW ?

COIN FACT OF THE WEEK



The St. Patrick halfpenny/farthing is a 17th-century copper coin (c. 1658–1670) depicting King David playing a harp and Saint Patrick dispelling serpents or preaching. Originally minted for Ireland, some reached America, specifically New Jersey, making them early colonial tokens.

Bluegrass Coin Club Member Highlight

In this edition of the Bluegrass Coin Club Meet and Greet Section, we bring you Mike Sizemore's comments. Thank you, Mike, for your responses!

Some responses were lightly edited for formatting and clarity.

Q: What do you collect?

A: I collect U.S. Coins, World Coins, Ancient Coins, some Exonumia items and silver of all different kinds. Here lately I have gotten bored with U.S. coins because of the limited number of designs, so I have been mainly collecting World coinage.

Q: When did you start collecting coins?

A: I started when I was about 10 years old when a WWII veteran friend of my mother gave me a small starter collection of coins from all over the world.

Q: What is your favorite part about being a member of BGCC?

A: My favorite part of being a BGCC member is the educational segment of the meeting. Knowledge is key when you are dealing with coins and there is a whole lot to learn when it comes to coin collecting. I really enjoy the history that you learn while collecting.



Mike Sizemore

Invitation from Jeff Garrett and Mid American Rare Coin Galleries

At our recent coin club meetings, Jeff Garrett extended an offer for individuals to help buy certain product releases from the US Mint for a premium. Please contact Jeff Garrett or Mid American Rare Coin Galleries for more information.

Anyone in the club is welcome to contribute articles or other information to the monthly newsletter. Write a story about a numismatic related topic that interests you, share some pictures of your collection, or brag about a recent coin find at the local grocery store's CoinStar machine. We love to hear from you! Email us at bgcoinclub@gmail.com.