

Alphabet Soup ■ Numismatic Photography ■ Short & Sweet

# The Numismatist

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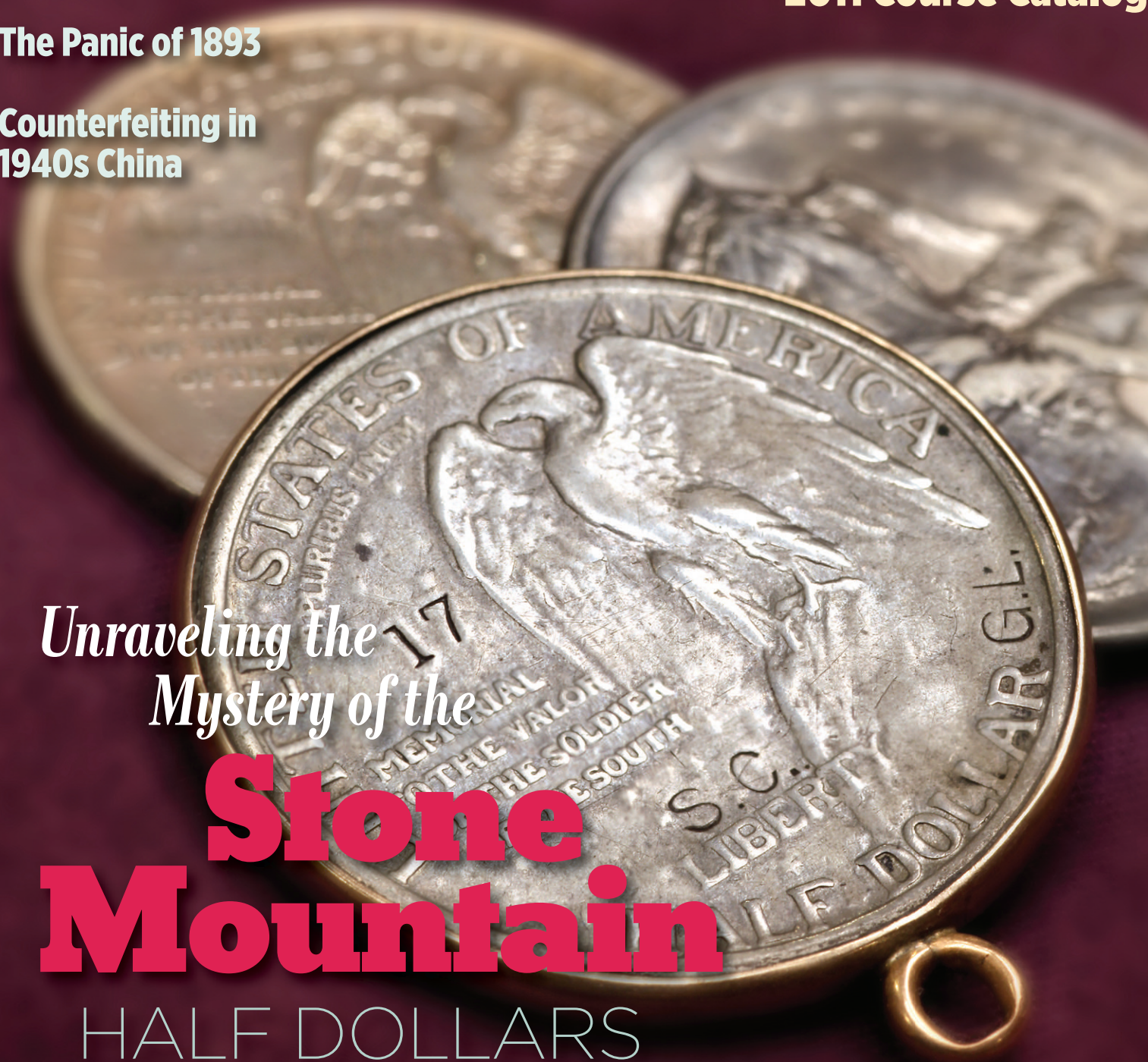
for collectors of coins, medals, tokens and paper money

**A Numismatic Tribute  
to Jerry Garcia**

**SUMMER SEMINAR  
2011 Course Catalog**

**The Panic of 1893**

**Counterfeiting in  
1940s China**



*Unraveling the  
Mystery of the*  
**Stone  
Mountain**

HALF DOLLARS

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## TO IMPROVE IS TO CHANGE

Honoring the old, embracing the new.

**W**INSTON CHURCHILL, a gifted writer whom some believe was the United Kingdom’s greatest prime minister (p. 33), once said, “To improve is to change.” Echoing that sentiment, the ANA’s executive director and publisher, Larry Shepherd, recognizes that technology and preferences change and that the Association has an obligation to stay abreast of advancements. “We intend to honor the best of the old and embrace the new,” he says.

If change indeed brings improvement, I think you will like this issue of *The Numismatist*. Beginning this month, we’re sporting a fresh look, the third format change in nearly 25 years. The revamped magazine is lively and friendly...the perfect showcase for the outstanding numismatic research and hobby enjoyment you have come to expect.

With this issue, I’d like to welcome two new columnists: Jim Bucki, who brings you “Collector Tech” (p. 25), a look at what’s hot in the way of online resources and software; and Rick Sear, who spotlights remarkable sales and numismatic rarities in “Auctions” (p. 27). Director of the computer science department at Genesee Community College in Batavia, New York, Bucki is an avid collector and a regular contributor to About.com. Sear enjoys all U.S. type and gold coins, as well as 20th-century issues. He has been involved in the American auction scene for three decades and values the relationships he has forged in the numismatic community.

Author A. Steve Deitert, also new to these pages, pursues a change of thinking in “Unraveling the Mystery of the Stone Mountain Commemorative Half Dollar” (p. 36). In it, he offers an explanation for “S.L.” and “G.L.” countermarks on coins sold to fund the massive stone carving begun by sculptor Gutzon Borglum of Mount Rushmore fame. (Project organizers evidently felt change was necessary when they canceled Borglum’s contract and hired another sculptor to complete the work.)

ANA life member Phil Iversen provides a change of pace with his “Numismatic Tribute to Jerry Garcia & the Grateful Dead” (p. 42). Author Eric Brothers returns after a 15-month absence with a retrospective of “The Great Panic of 1893 and Its Aftermath” (p. 48), a prologue to more recent upheavals in the stock market. And, honoring the best of the old, we offer Oscar Dodson’s 1940 report on “Chinese Attempts to Reduce Counterfeiting” (p. 53), especially relevant given current concerns about Chinese-made fakes (p. 93).

As we embark on the 124th year of this august journal, we are very mindful of its past with an eye always toward its future. We wish you a happy hobby and new year filled with promise.

*Barbara*



PHOTO: BRAD ARMSTRONG

Michigan resident **A. Steve Deitert** collects Stone Mountain exonumia, Roosevelt dime varieties, crown-sized Canadian dollars and pre-Civil War pewter. He joined the ANA in 2000 and also is a member of the American Numismatic Society, Michigan State Numismatic Society and Lansing Coin Club. He



**DEITERT**

has served as newsletter editor, treasurer and president of the Livingston County Coin Club. Deitert has been employed as a technical representative for a binding and laminating manufacturer since 1985.

**Eric Brothers** is a Florida-based actor, director and writer. He has performed leading roles in independent films, commercials, and musical and dramatic theater. Over 22 years, he has written more than 80 published articles, essays, editorials, reviews and stories. He is a frequent contributor to *The Numismatist*, with his most recent article, "Eye on the Prize,"



**BUCKI**



**SEAR**

appearing in the October 2009 issue.

ANA life member and award-winning exhibitor **Phil Iversen** has served as president of numerous hobby clubs, including the California State Numismatic Association, California Exonumist Society, Numismatic Association of Southern California and Bay Cities Coin Club. The recipient of many numismatic honors, Iversen was presented with an ANA

Presidential Award in 1997. He displayed numismatic items related to Jerry Garcia at the ANA World's Fair of Money in San Francisco in 2005.

This month, **Jim Bucki** and **Rick Sear** join *The Numismatist* as new columnists, authoring "Collector Tech" and "Auctions," respectively. Bucki is an instructor and the director of the computer science department at Genesee Community College in Batavia, New York. Sear, a founder of Numismatic Guaranty Corporation, has participated in numismatic auctions for more than 30 years. ■

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# HOT SHOTS

Website tips can help collectors capture the beauty of their coins for fun and profit.

**T**HIS MONTH'S FEATURED website is Mark Goodman's [www.coinimaging.com](http://www.coinimaging.com). Goodman has just published the second edition of his book *Numismatic Photography* and is working on a follow-up project dealing with high-magnification imaging. His online article "Coin Photography" covers almost all aspects of this topic, including cameras and other equipment, and appropriate lighting. The website provides samples that illustrate different equipment arrangements and the resulting photographs.

Since the type of light bulb or flash used affects the quality and color of photographs, Goodman provides more information on these topics and more in the article "Lighting Shootout." The average collector with an average camera will be able to easily grasp and execute his ideas, and the illustrations and examples on the site help novice photographers better understand some of the more advanced concepts. Visitors to the website also will enjoy the

"Image Gallery," which features some stunning examples of Goodman's work.

### More Links

► [www.tabletopstudio.com/documents/coin\\_photography.htm](http://www.tabletopstudio.com/documents/coin_photography.htm)

Table Top Studio emphasizes photographing coins for online sales. The instructions are simple and easy to understand, and the tips allow coins to be photographed in the best possible way using lighting that brings out their details. The site does not stress high-end cameras, but it does suggest using an inexpensive piece of equipment called a "light tent." Visitors to this site can view many examples that illustrate the differences various lighting arrangements make.

► [www.coin-gallery.com/cgphotography.htm](http://www.coin-gallery.com/cgphotography.htm)

Former ANA Governor J.T. Stanton has written a long and detailed article, "Coin Photography Made Simple," that summarizes his 15 years of experience photographing coins. First and fore-

most, he addresses the required equipment, including types of film that can be used with an older camera. He assumes his readers have limited knowledge of photography and helpfully covers some basic camera terms and topics. The remainder of the article concentrates on ways to magnify tails of your coins, such as macro (close-up) and micro (through a microscope) photography.

► [www.sigma-2.com/camerajim/cjgcoins.htm](http://www.sigma-2.com/camerajim/cjgcoins.htm)

"Camera Jim's Guide to eBay Auction Photography" concentrates on photographing coins for sales online. "Jim" doesn't spend a lot of time talking about cameras; he assumes you have a decent digital model and that you know how to operate it.

"Jim" focuses primarily on creating lighting effects with everyday household objects to achieve different results. For example, to soften the lighting around a coin, he uses a gallon plastic milk jug with the bottom cut out. To photograph proof coins, he suggests using a piece of window glass set at an angle to reflect light directly onto the coin. This technique brings out the deepest details without a distracting glare.

**bucki@money.org**

◀ **LEARN FROM A PRO:** Mark Goodman's website helps novice numismatic photographers cast their coins in the best possible light.



PHOTO: WWW.COINIMAGING.COM