



PAN

Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists

PANeNEWS

FEB 2014 VOL. III ISSUE 1

1985 Lincoln Way Suite 23 #225
White Oak PA 15131

FUN SHOW ISSUE



One of the major highlights of the numismatic year is the January **Florida United Numismatists (FUN) Coin Show** in Orlando. PAN had a presence at this market-setting event. PAN President Tom Uram and myself, Treasurer Pat McBride were working the show floor and meeting with the many collectors and dealers to promote PAN and draw interest to our Spring Coin Show on May 8 - 10, 2014.

We both received a lot of positive feedback in the direction that PAN has embarked on through 2013. We have made significant improvements on our website, PANeNEWS, Spring Coin Show, Fall Coin Show and Convention, Lecture Series, Clarion journal, and educational exhibits.

DEALER NOTES: PAN 2014 Spring Coin Show Contracts are available and can be accessed on the **Dealer Info Page** by visiting the PAN website www.pancoins.org

The pay by credit card option is also available to pay your table fee. The 10% discount pricing is in effect until 4/1/14.

A 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the hobby of coin collecting through education.

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PAN will be there [See page 2](#)

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www.pancoins.org

John Burns, book dealer, passed away suddenly [page 3](#)



FUN Show
photos

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Spring Coin Show - May 8, 9, 10, 2014

Bourse Chairman, Blaine Shiff
Cybercoins.net 412-531-4100
2925 West Liberty Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15216



<https://www.facebook.com/PANcoins>

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PAN Spring Coin Show

No Sales Tax on Coins & Bullion

May 8, 9, 10, 2014

PUBLIC HOURS

Thursday: 12 noon - 6 pm

Friday: 10 am - 6 pm

Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm

Monroeville Convention Center
 209 Mall Blvd., Monroeville PA 15146
<http://www.monroevilleconventioncenter.com>
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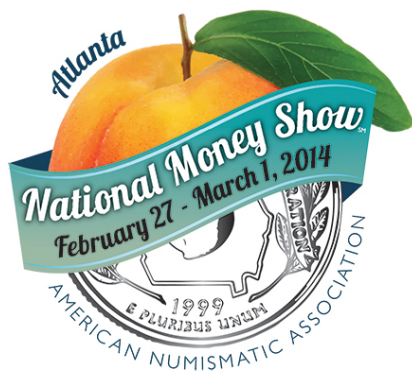
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PAN Lecture Series

Show Chairman, Blaine Shiff / Cybercoins.net
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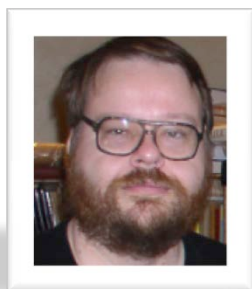
PAN will have a table set up at the upcoming **ANA National Money Show** to be held February 27th through March 1, 2014 at the Cobb Galleria Centre, Atlanta, GA. PAN members Tom Corey and Gil Hunt will make the drive and will transport all of our materials for our PAN table.

We had a very good presence at the summer ANA in Chicago and we are looking to have a similar experience in Atlanta. PAN treasurer Pat McBride will be at the show on Friday and Saturday to lend a hand and work the show floor on behalf of PAN.

PAN 2014 Membership Dues notices have been mailed. The \$12 per calendar year can also be paid online via our website www.pancoins.org For our 2014, **Each One Reach One**, membership drive we are asking all of our members to sign up a friend, colleague, or a family member this year. Membership dues are an integral part of our budget that allows us to continue to exist. PAN thanks you and is grateful for your support!



PAN is saddened to inform our readers of the unexpected passing of John Burns, Numismatic Book Seller, while at the FUN Show in Florida. Many new John and were shocked of this news.



John H. Burns October 14, 1958 – January 11, 2014

John Burns' passion was numismatics, the study of coins and other forms of money. He surrounded himself with thousands of books about the subject and became a professional dealer in numismatic literature, travelling to coin shows around the country to buy and sell.

John Henry Burns, 55 of North Huntingdon, died Friday January 11, 2014, of natural causes. He was in Orlando, FL attending a major coin convention.

Patrick McBride, Treasurer of the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists (PAN), said Burns was a regular fixture at the PAN coin shows at the Monroeville Convention Center, Pittsburgh, PA and similar large shows across the U.S.

"He drove his truck loaded with literally tons of books to shows in Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Atlanta, Columbus, Chicago, Florida, Tennessee – everywhere around the East and Midwest. "With help from friends he'd set up a mini bookstore in a back corner of the convention hall. He seemed to know everyone by name, and everyone knew him. When business was slow he'd always be found sitting and talking coins with someone."

He did business the old fashioned way – in person with a hearty handshake. He never published a price list or an auction catalog. But he read nearly every book he found, and seemed to remember it all, in great detail. He was a walking encyclopedia of information. One of his proudest moments was almost single-handedly winning a numismatic Jeopardy-style team competition at various coin shows and eventually along with John Kraljevich went on to win the title at an ANA National Show where the competition was the best in the country.

Wayne Homren was a lifelong friend who met John while both were students at the University of Pittsburgh in the late 1970s. "There wasn't a coin club on campus, so I tried to start one. John was one of the first to show up."

After college Burns worked in a local coin shop, and then opened his own business, John's Coins, in Wilkinsburg. After dabbling in stockbroker training and door-to-door sales, he started his business in coin books. "John was a people person," Homren said. "He loved being at the shows, and meeting and talking to people about the hobby. If he got to know you, you could expect phone calls on a weekly or daily basis."

He spent a few years in the late 80's as the ANA Numismatic Theatre moderator working with education director James Taylor. It was before his full time book dealing days and it was his conduit to meeting many of the numismatic notables. His speaker introductions were informative, concise, and commanded the attention of the audience.

His other interests included guns and movies; he was also quite knowledgeable about films, and especially loved historical war dramas.

"His last night on earth was spent doing what he loved. He went out for a nice dinner with several collector friends, and was looking forward to the next day's activities. When word arrived that he'd passed during the night, people were shocked. I got calls and emails from around the country." Over 100 people nationwide got together to purchase a memorial ad in the hobby publication, *Coin World*.

His parents, Vivian M. Burns and Raymond Henry Burns, predeceased Mr. Burns. He had no immediate family survivors. A memorial service is being planned for Friday evening May 9, 2014 to occur in conjunction with the PAN Spring Coin Show in Monroeville, PA. Details will be forthcoming.

Editor's words concerning John Burns' sudden and unexpected death:

I have known John since the early 1980's. Before he became a full time book dealer, we drove the PAN showcases and materials across Pennsylvania to the various coin shows that PAN sponsored before settling in the Monroeville location. We lived about 15 minutes apart and spoke on the phone a few times per week. John had no close relatives that he had any contact with. He lived very modestly alone, thus his attraction to those of us in the numismatic community. In his view, we were his family. He complained relentlessly about the struggle to load and unload his cargo van with the 4,000 pounds of books that he took to the many shows. His traveling library was a wonderful asset to have available at a coin show. He often said: "I don't sell coins but sell knowledge." It was a catchy phrase, but in reality that sale of knowledge translated into very little money to live on. He gave away vast amounts of that knowledge through his hours of conversation at his table or chatting on the phone.

John has passed intestate. Wayne Homren, one of John's longtime friends and myself has begun the legal process to settle John's affairs. His show inventory of books was carefully placed in storage through the kindness of the FUN board and officers. His body was removed from his hotel room where he peacefully passed and taken to the medical examiner's office. We have been able to arrange for his cremation and will have a respectful dinner ceremony on Friday evening May 9th 2014 during the PAN Spring Coin Show. John had no life insurance. His cremation was done because of the generous donations already made by fellow collectors and friends.

We have established the *John H. Burns Memorial Fund* under the supervision of PAN. The initial purpose will be to offset the costs associated with John's town house rent, book storage units, and other obligations until we are able to sell his book inventory and personal belongings to move forward with his estate. The money raised through the estate process will be repaid to the fund and allow us to continue with John's memory through numismatic research grants, library donations, and the establishment of a traveling numismatic reference library set up at coin shows that would allow collectors to sit and relax at a table during the show to browse through reference books in a learning environment. It would be set with tables and chairs for the purpose of trading stories and knowledge, as was the typical scenario at John's table. It is a novel concept but would still allow a numismatic literature component at the smaller shows. Below is a donation notice. Would you please consider a donation? Any amount no matter how small or large would be very much appreciated. I know that big John would be humbled and honored by the outpouring of friends. Thank you, *Pat McBride*

The John H. Burns Memorial Fund



Created in 2014 in memory of Pennsylvania
numismatic literature dealer John H. Burns
and administered by PAN
Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists

The purpose is to defray costs in
the administration of John's estate
and for furthering the development and
availability of numismatic literature
to libraries and education programs
for young numismatists.

Donations Payable to:
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PANeGRADE

This Texas Commemorative dated 1937 was the subject of last month's grading challenge. The coin was part of an old collection and was presented in the original issue holder. This was the toning that had taken place after those many years tucked away. It would likely grade at MS 65. It has wonderful luster



that is not discernable from the photo. There is no replacement for physical examination, lighting, and proper rotation that are key to making a proper judgment. If you ever have a chance to see the viewing room of a major auction company you would be well served to notice the lighting and the surrounding environment to view coins correctly. The interesting observation on this coin is the very old fingerprint to the right of the eagle between the star tip and wing. This may have been from the original purchaser in 1937 or when it was placed in the holder at the mint. Was it a noted numismatist? It would be fascinating to prove. I do know the provenance of this coin and it is likely from the hand of the typical collector in 1937 before the days of proper handling came to the forefront of coin collecting habits. We will send this to PCGS or NGC and will give a future report on the outcome. The next issue will include another coin to assess and comment about. Please feel free to give an opinion or comment by email at: pancoins@gmail.com

Click flicker to enlarge <http://www.flickr.com/photos/panegrade/11481258676/>
You can also view previous PANeGrade coins.

PAN members staffed an informational table at the **South Hills Coin Club Show** February 1st and 2nd under the direction of Tom Corey and with the kindness of the South Hills Club officers and members. Plans are moving forward to have a presence at the Indiana Coin Club Show occurring on Saturday March 8th with our members moving through the bourse area to field questions and offer collectors information and 2014 PAN projects. Our officers and board members would like us to be available at many of the club shows that occur throughout Pennsylvania. We are in need of volunteers in the many areas of our large state that would be willing to sport our bright yellow shirts that make us easy to spot and be able to answer questions and provide information to show attendees about our State Association. If you are interested in becoming a PAN representative in your area please request an information packet by emailing us. pancoins@gmail.com



We will close with a few more **photos from the FUN Show** in January. If you would like to read a good summary and get a feel for what it is like at one of these major events then there is a nice article by dealer William Shamhart in **COINWeek** <http://www.coinweek.com/market-reports/william-shamhart-fun-coin-show-report-2014/>



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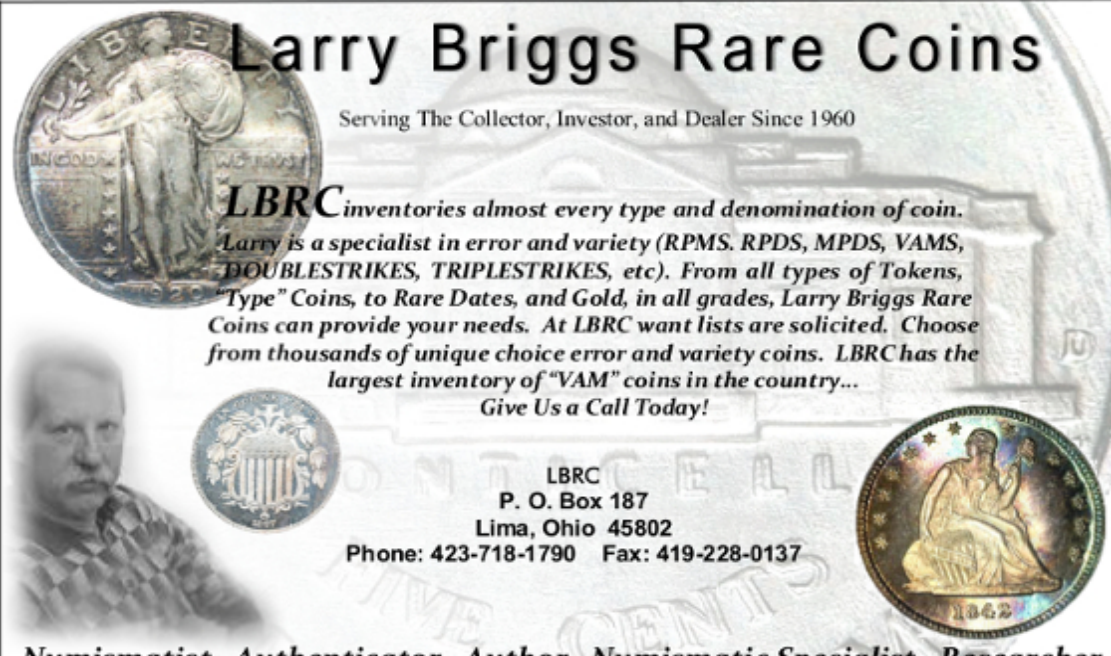
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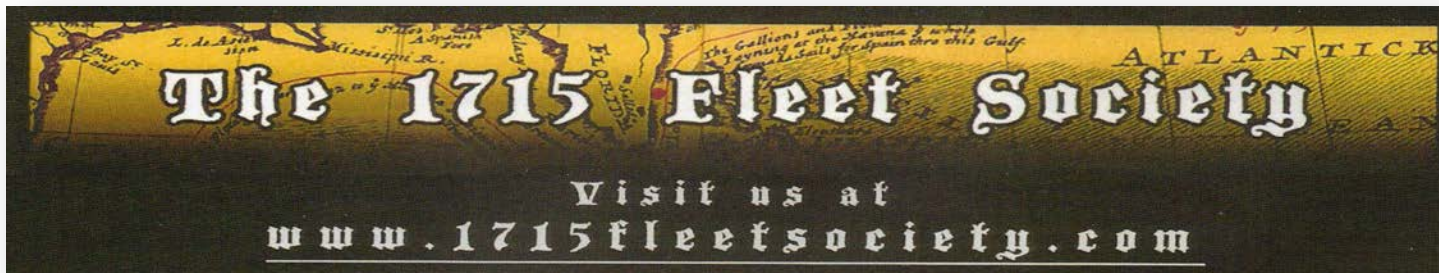
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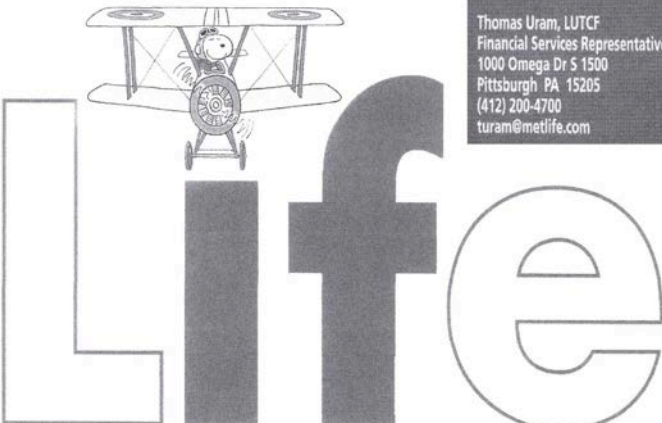


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