

Kampeska Coin Club, Watertown, SD 57201

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July 1, 2026

Happy 250th Birthday America! I hope you enjoyed the Semiquincentennial and all the celebrations that went with it. Have you seen the new 2026 US coins? Did anyone purchase the one ounce or half ounce liberty bell gold coins? Bring your new 1776 - 2026 coins (and other coins) for Show and Tell!

Our next meeting is Monday, July 20th (the 3rd Monday of the month) at **7:00 pm** at the Elks Lodge, 600 W Kemp Ave, Watertown, SD 57201. Come early and enjoy dinner at the Elks with me, I usually arrive around 6:15. This month in celebration of the fourth of July and our Nations 250th Birthday we will be talking about and having show and tell with Bicentennial and Semiquincentennial coins and currency. Plus we will plan our **barbeque we will have in August beginning at 5:00**. We want that to be a fun event and want to invite anyone with an interest in numismatics, stamps, medals, tokens and currency.

July's show and tell will be: U.S. Centennial, Sesquicentennial, Bicentennial, and Semiquincentennial Coins, US Bicentennial Currency, Great Britain Coins and Currency. Does anyone have a King George III coin from 1776? Or Continental Currency? Any Pre-1792 U.S. Coins?

August show and tell will focus on: U.S. Bust Coins and pre-1838 Currency, Pacific Islands Countries Coins and Currency.

The Sioux Falls Money Show was held May 30-31st. It overlapped the final day of the SD State Track meet so parking was an issue for some people. It was still a very good show with about 80 dealers and a good flow of traffic on the bourse both Saturday and Sunday. I saw a lot of familiar faces from the Kampeska Coin Club! A big "Thank You!" to Lee Roshen for helping at my table and for his knowledge of coins. With the big drop in silver and gold prices customers began buying bullion again and numismatic coins sold well. Customers were still taking profits in silver and gold, even at the "lower" prices.

In June I drove to Des Moines, Iowa to set up a table for the American Numismatic Association as a volunteer District Representative. They held a two-day show on Friday and Saturday and had 250 to 300 people attend each day. Dealers from as far away as Las Cruces, New Mexico attended. About 40 to 45 dealers set up. They had a very nice Young Numismatics multi-table setup with coins, drawings, books and other items for young collectors to take home with them.

Remember, new members are always welcome, and Young Numismatists are encouraged to become members! If you need a ride, please contact one of our club officers, we will assist you in getting to the Elks Club. Please bring a friend or two that might have an interest in collecting coins, currency, medals, tokens, and stamps.

Precious Metals:

Silver: \$59.45 --- Gold: \$4,046.60 --- Platinum: \$1,588.00 --- Palladium: \$1,241.00 --- GSR: 68.05

Since I last updated the precious metals numbers, they have all dropped significantly. The fundamentals for precious metals ownership haven't changed, and this might be a buying opportunity for some of you. Silver is entering its sixth year in a deficit position; this year production is 43,000,000 ounces less than demand. The six year average is a deficit of over 110,000,000 ounces per year! China has restricted exports of gold and silver, plus limits rare earth metal exports. This week Beijing banned retail paper trading, forcing investors to take physical delivery of gold and silver as global supplies tighten. Interest rates are rising, inflation is rising, and these put conflicting pricing pressure on precious metals. Debt levels, world-wide are growing rapidly, at all levels. Look at local (city, county, state debts). Expect volatility to continue in the PM market, especially the silver market.

Upcoming Coin Shows (**Local Shows are in BOLD PRINT**)

July 7, 2026	Black Hills Coin and Stamp Club Meeting at 6:30 p.m. Perkins, 1300 North Elk Vale Road, Box Elder, SD
July 11, 2026	Greeley Coin Club Summer Show 2026. Greeley-Evans Moose Lodge #909, 3456 11 th Ave, Greeley, CO
July 19, 2026	Tucson Coin Club Coin Show. Tucson Women's Club, 6245 East Bellevue St., Tucson, AZ
July 19, 2026	South Saint Paul Monthly Coin Show. UFCW Local 1189, 266 Hardman Ave N., South Saint Paul, MN
July 19, 2026	Original Monthly Coin and Collectibles Show. Bel Air Banquet Room. 12100 West Center Rod, Omaha, NE
Aug 2, 2026	North Metro Coin Show. Cambria Inn and Suites, 9655 Grove Circle North, Maple Grove, MN
Aug 8, 2026	Roseville Coin Show. Roseville Skating Center, 2661 Civic Center Dr., Roseville, MN
Aug 16, 2026	Original Monthly Coin and Collectibles Show. Bel Air Banquet Room. 12100 West Center Road, Omaha, NE
August 25-29, 2026	ANA World's Fair of Money. David L. Lawrence Convention Center, 1000 Fort Duquesne Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA \$10 admission/\$25 weekly pass, <u>Free for ANA members</u>
Aug 30, 2026	46th Annual Decorah Coin and Currency Show. Danan Lansing Building on the Winneshiek Co. Fairgrounds, Decorah, IA
Sept 12-13, 2026	The Sioux Falls Money Show. Sioux Falls Convention Center, 1201 N. West Ave, Sioux Falls, SD
Sept 19, 2026	Black Hills Coin and Stamp Club Show. Spearfish Senior Citizen Center, 1306 10th St, Spearfish, SD
Sept 19-20, 2026	Longmont Annual Fall 2026 Show. Boulder County Fairgrounds, 9595 Nelson Road, Longmont, CO
Oct 3-4, 2026	Minot Coin Club Show. Sleep Inn + Suites Convention Center, 2400 10 th St SW, Minot, ND
Oct 8-10, 2026	Denver Coin EXPO 2026, National Western Complex, 4655 Humboldt St., Denver, CO
Oct 9-11, 2026	Northwest Coin Club (NWCC) Fall Money Show. Earle Brown Heritage Center, 6155 Earle Brown Dr., Brooklyn Center, MN
Oct 9-10, 2026	Tidewater Coin Club Coin Show. Convention Center, 1000 19 th St, Virginia Beach, VA
Oct 24, 2026	Kampeska Coin Club. Codington County Extension Building, 1910 W. Kemp Ave, Watertown, SD
Oct 25, 2026	Bridge City Coin and Stamp Show. Coin Auction, Mobridge Senior Center, 616 6th Ave West, Mobridge, SD (10 am to 5 pm)
Nov 21, 2026	23rd Annual Coin Show of North Dakota. Hilton Garden Inn, 4351 17th Ave S., Fargo, ND
Nov 28-29, 2026	Phoenix Coin Club Coin Show. Mesa Holiday Inn and Suites, 1600 S Country Club Dr. Mesa, AZ
Dec 5 – 6, 2026 (T)	Capital City Coin Club Winter Coin Show. Bismarck Eagles Club, 313 N. 26th St. Bismarck, ND

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The Royal Mint has released gold and silver commemorative coins to recognize the 250th anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence.

On the left side of the reverse, a hand holds a quill, and a bald eagle in intricate detail fills the rest of the field. The rim bears the inscription 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. Martin Jennings's effigy of King Charles III appears on the obverse. Each coin comes in bespoke packaging that includes the history and significance of the Declaration

of Independence, as well as information about the commemorative's design.

The coin is available as gold proof 5kg (mintage limited to one example), 2kg (2), 1-ounce (250), and 1/4-ounce (750) versions. Silver proof examples in 1-ounce (3,500) and 2-ounce (1,000) versions are also available. For more information and to purchase, visit the Royal Mint's website.



Let Freedom Ring

The U.S. Mint is ringing in the [250th anniversary of the United States](#) with a special limited-edition coin and medal program unlike anything American collectors have ever seen. The 2026 Freedom Ringing Liberty Bell 1-ounce gold coin, half-ounce gold coin, and half-ounce

silver medal are struck in the form of the Liberty Bell's silhouette. The U.S. Mint says these Liberty Bell coins are "the first non-round coins and medals in recent U.S. history," a reference to earlier pieces of unusual shape, like the 1915 octagonal Panama-Pacific \$50 commemorative gold coin.

Liberty Bell Coins Motif

The obverse of the three pieces resembles the Liberty Bell with its familiar crack. The legend LIBERTY emblazons the bell's shoulder, and the Philadelphia Mint's "P" mintmark indicates their origin. The reverse is anchored by a depiction of Independence Hall, where the Liberty Bell originally resided, with the yoke bearing UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. The gold coins will carry the motto IN GOD WE TRUST on the obverse and the inscription E PLURIBUS UNUM on the reverse, along with the denomination of \$250 for the 1-ounce coin and \$125 for the half-ounce.

The Mintage

The mintage for each of the three Liberty Bell coins products is capped at a semiquincentennially significant 2,026 pieces, with the U.S. Mint stating that the "quantities are extremely limited due to the high level of detail and precision required to produce each" of the ultra-scarce collectibles. A household ordering limit of just one for each item will also be in effect. Given the popularity of other semiquincentennial-themed coins this year, including the nearly immediate

unavailability of the 2026 U.S. Mint Silver Proof Set (which is selling in the secondary market for a huge markup over the issue price of \$245) upon its sale on June 11, it's likely the Liberty Bell-shaped gold coins and silver medal will also sell out quickly and could command huge premiums in the secondary market. The 1-ounce and half-ounce gold coins will be offered at \$19,600 and \$10,050, respectively, while the half-ounce silver medal will go for \$750. All will be offered for sale on the U.S. Mint's website beginning July 16 at noon (ET).



Move over, Silver Eagle—the Maria Theresa Thaler was the world's first “bullion coin,” prized for beauty, purity, and an unbroken legacy dating back to 1780.

[Mark Benevento](#)

Plenty of us have gotten into collecting United States one-ounce silver Eagles in the past few decades. Perhaps as many of us have expanded into some of the other well-known silver, one-ounce bullion coins, like the Canadian Maple Leafs, the Austrian Philharmoniker, or the Chinese Pandas. All of these and several other bullion coins have definitely become mainstream collecting thrusts for both collectors and investors. But there is a large, silver coin that pre-dates them all, and that actually still finds use in some parts of the world as a store of wealth in silver. This one may qualify as beyond the mainstream. We're talking about the Maria Theresa thaler.

The basics

[Maria Theresa](#) was one of those powerful women in history who ended up in a position most people of her day considered a “man's job.” She was the Empress of the Austro-Hungarian Empire at a time when it was a much bigger European power than it is today. In 1741, the hefty, silver coin called a thaler had her face on it for the first time. But what collectors and investors call Maria Theresa thalers today are all dated 1780 and all weigh in at 23.386 grams – or 0.752 troy ounces of the precious metal. This coin is large enough to make an interesting addition to just about any collection, whether foreign coins or bullion pieces.

There are several reasons that the Maria Theresa thalers dated 1780 were minted for plenty of years after that date – decades, really – but always with that single year. For one, they are tough to counterfeit. The detail on both the obverse and reverse is complex, and traders find that to be a comfort. The brooch the empress wears, on the obverse, and the Habsburg shield on the reverse are particular points of attention for people who trade in them, as are the numerous abbreviations of the more prominent titles she bore. For another, they have circulated now for centuries in places as far from home as eastern Africa and southwestern Asia. A third reason is that back in the time of world-spanning empires, Great Britain found that locals respected the design so deeply that it was worth their while to mint Maria Theresa thalers themselves.

Proof or proof-like versions

The continued interest in the Maria Theresa thalers means that a huge number of them have been minted in what can be considered proof condition, or in at least a proof-like look. All of these have been minted long after 1780, some of them well into the 20th century. What this

means is that they are not counterfeits; rather, they are modern versions of the classic. As long as they have the 0.752 troy ounces of silver in them, they can be bought, sold, and traded for their precious metal value.

For those of us who have never looked at the Maria Theresa thalers seriously, it might come as a pleasant surprise that the proof-like versions do not cost much more than a worn version, and not all that much more than the value of the silver. It comes back to the fact that no matter when such coins were produced, they all carry that 1780 date. As well, since these can be considered foreign coins, the market for them may be thinner than popular U.S. pieces and series.

Marked Maria Theresa thalers

Another interesting twist on the Maria Theresa thalers, or perhaps on how far they have traveled, is that some can be found with large paint or ink markings on them. In the Far East, merchants in some of the big cities sometimes chopped coins to verify their silver, meaning they punched coins, called a chop mark, with some design element. But few Maria Theresa thalers have such marks. More seem to have a large inked mark, often an Arabic letter, and often eye-catchingly large. Some folks in the collecting community are willing to pay a bit more for these, as the inking serves as proof that the particular coin has traveled. Others feel it's too easy to simply add the mark, then charge more for it.

How do we collect?

Perhaps the biggest question when digging into the coin and the history of the Maria Theresa thaler is: How do we collect a coin that always has the same date? After all, it seems like a one-hit wonder, to use a more modern phrase. Well, we could opt for one that has obviously seen some wear, and that just might be an original, plus a second example that is as proof-like as possible. Beyond that, we might want to hunt around and see if we can find a piece that has a mark painted or inked on it in Arabic script, or some other writing, still at a decent price. But since we bring the Maria Theresa thaler up because we are making the claim that it was the bullion coin before bullion coins, why not add just one to any existing collection we already have of United States one-ounce silver Eagles? After all, even though these coins are different, we might say they are kindred spirits. And as far as this particular piece of bullion coin silver goes, these definitely qualify as being beyond the mainstream.

[Editor's note: Additional History of the Maria Theresa thaler.] In 1741, the first Maria Theresa thaler was struck according to the [Reichsthaler](#) standard with $\frac{1}{9}$ of a [Cologne mark](#) of fine silver, or 25.98 grams. In 1750 a new [thaler](#) was struck with a gross weight of $\frac{1}{10}$ of 1 Vienna mark of silver, .833 fine (with a fine silver content of 23.39 grams, or $\frac{1}{10}$ of a Cologne mark). In 1751 this new standard [Conventionsthaler](#) was effectively adopted across the German-speaking world when it was accepted formally in the Bavarian monetary convention. This new, post-1751 thaler has continued as a trade coin ever since.

Since the death of Maria Theresa in 1780, the coin has always been dated 1780. On 19 September 1857, Emperor [Francis Joseph of Austria](#) declared the Maria Theresa thaler to be an official trade coinage. A little over a year later, on 31 October 1858, it lost its status as a currency in Austria.

The Maria Theresa thaler quickly became a standard trade coin and several nations began striking Maria Theresa thalers. The following [mints](#) have struck Maria Theresa thalers: [Birmingham](#), [Bombay](#), [Brussels](#), [London](#), [Paris](#), [Rome](#), and [Utrecht](#), in addition to the [Habsburg](#) mints in [Günzburg](#), [Hall in Tyrol](#), [Karlsburg](#), [Kremnica](#), [Milan](#), [Prague](#), and [Vienna](#). Between 1751 and 2000, some 389 million were minted. These various mints distinguished their issues by slight differences in the design, with some of these evolving over time.

Starting in 1935 the Italians minted the Maria Theresa thaler at the mint in Rome for use in their conquest of Ethiopia. Then during World War II, the British minted some 18 million Maria Theresa thalers in Bombay to use in their [East African Campaign](#) to drive the Italians out of Ethiopia.

Please go to the Kampeska Coin Club website <https://kampeskacoinclub.webador.com/> for more information on the Maria Theresa thaler.