

Numismatist news & notes

SHORT SNORTERS

Keeping Memories Alive

Collector shares WWII notes online and at National Money Show.

[PORTLAND OR] At the American Numismatic Association's recent National Money Show™, held March 13-15 in Portland, Oregon, Tom Sparks' exhibit of signed, worn, low-denomination notes known as "short snorters" stood out, even among brilliant, million-dollar coins. (The display took third place in the "People's Choice" vote.)

Sparks, who became interested in short snorters after



▲ Short-snorter collector Tom Sparks (left) takes a moment at the ANA National Money Show to talk with ANA Marketing Director Jay Beeton.

reading Michael Marotta's article "Short Snorters: Keeping the Memory Alive" in the November 2002 issue

of *The Numismatist*, went on to start a website dedicated to the notes. The site, www.short-snorter.org, which averages

more than 1,500 hits a month, includes a definition of short snorters and a virtual museum of images of the notes, as well as the stories behind them. Keeping the site up-to-date "has been a great ride with many late nights, but it is the single, most fulfilling hobby I could hope for," says Sparks.

Another fulfilling aspect has been Sparks' involvement in the return of a short snorter he purchased in 2007 to Kristin Roberts, the daughter of one of the note's signers. Roberts found Sparks' site when she googled her father, Henry "Hank" Heyser, a World War II veteran who died in 1989.

On his way to the Portland show, Sparks had the idea of having the ANA return the note to Roberts, who lives in Colorado Springs, where ANA headquarters is located. "I believe short snorters should remain with the family," says Sparks.

PAPER MONEY

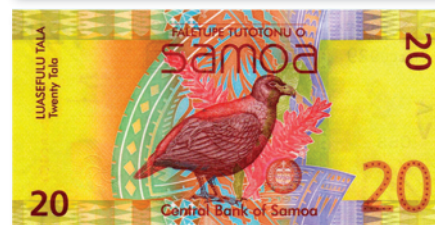
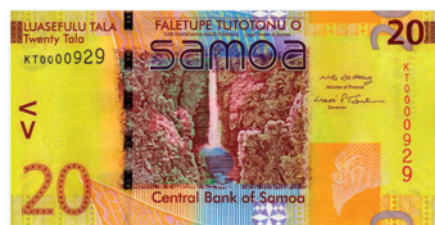
Natural Beauty

IBNS selects Samoa 20 tala as its Bank Note of the Year.

After reviewing numerous worldwide bank notes with new designs in 2008, the International Bank Note Society (IBNS) selected its "Bank Note of the Year," Central Bank of Samoa's 20 tala. IBNS judges liked the 20 tala's striking, yellow and gold colors and innovative security devices. They also appreciated its emphasis on tourism, achieved by featuring one of the nation's

picturesque waterfalls as opposed to the usual portrait. Samoa's national bird (the manumea) and national flower (the teuila) are shown on the back.

The bills were produced by De La Rue Currency, based in the United Kingdom. Visit the IBNS website, www.theibns.org, to learn more about the club. ◀



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Not Actual Size

PHOTO: DOUGLAS MUDD

WATERFALL: ISTOCKPHOTO/FLASHGUN