

Add a Barbie doll to your collection of American Women quarter dollars?

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Coin collectors sometimes seek items that are non-numismatic but are related to the items in their core collection. For collectors of American Women quarter dollars, related collectibles include Barbie dolls. Really.

Mattel is one of the biggest toy manufacturers in the world, if not the largest. Some of their product lines are the Matchbox and Hot Wheels diecast car lines and the Barbie line of dolls.

"Barbies" include more than the iconic fashion doll (coming soon to a movie theater near you) and her boyfriend Ken. Mattel

has released dozens of dolls who represent historical figures.

One of the most recent dolls offered by Mattel Creations is Bessie Coleman — yes, the pioneering African American aviator of the early 20th century being honored on the first 2023 American Women quarter dollar. The Barbie Inspiring Women Bessie Coleman Doll is part of the company's Barbie Signature line, which includes dolls that celebrate the accomplishments of real women of the past and present: scientists, athletes, politicians, artistic performers, and more.

I suspect that someone at Mattel has been following

the United States Mint's American Women program closely, because Coleman is not the only woman to be featured on both a doll and one of the quarters. Maya Angelou has been honored both on a coin and with a Barbie doll, as has Sally Ride and Eleanor Roosevelt.

This all may be coincidence — after all, the women so honored are famous and accomplished.

Still, adding a doll or two to your collection of coins might be fun, but know that limited



Pioneering aviator Bessie Coleman is being honored with both an American Women quarter dollar and a Barbie doll, and she is not the only historical figure to gain both honors.

edition Barbie dolls often sell out very quickly. Like some coins, you know. ●

guest commentary

CCAC member reminds us all that there are two sides to every coin

by Dr. Lawrence Brown,
Former Chairman, CCAC



The 2022 Negro Leagues Baseball commemorative coins tell stories at every teaching opportunity for the young and old.

I have been an avid *Coin World* reader for many decades, especially the letters to the editor and the Guest Commentaries. One may ask why I have chosen to place my toe in numismatic waters at this stage of my development. My reasons are personal and professional.

I come from Brownsville Brooklyn, New York, in which,

like many communities of the United States, coin collecting is either unknown or considered a luxury. It is a hobby where women and communities of color are under-represented despite the growing diversity in this country. Were it not for a strong matriarch, I would not have been exposed to this hobby or encouraged, even though

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Numismatist, researcher and author David Lange died Jan. 16, bringing condolences from friends who knew him.

David will be missed

We were devastated to learn of David Lange's passing on Jan. 16. Nancy and I first met David in the 1980s when he was a member of the Fremont Coin Club in California. From that time on, David became a

good friend and mentor to us both. He always answered our numismatic-related questions from his expert knowledge and dedication. We always appreciated his works, as he did ours. He will be sorely missed.

Rest in Peace, David.
Rich Kelly & Nancy Oliver,
via email

Saddened at Lange's death

I am quite saddened to hear of the passing of David W. Lange. We had been friends for decades, and in recent years he had been of great help to me with my forthcoming book on the Lincoln cents of 1922, his *Complete Guide to Lincoln Cents and Coin Collecting Boards of the 1930s and 1940s* being but two of the several works that he has published.

His contributions to *The Numismatist*, to the Numismatic Literary Guild and to numis-

matics in general will be sorely missed.

Tom DeLorey, via email

Some CAC questions

So now a Certified Acceptance Corp. coin is going to be just that, a CAC coin. No more top tier for the grade when submitted to them for grading. What does this do to stickered coins, does it diminish the value that the sticker used to add? And so on.

Time will tell, I reckon.

William Walker, via Disqus

What's his favorite moment?

Brad Karoleff asks in the latest edition of *Coin World*: "What is your favorite moment represented in your collection?" Historically, it would be my Certified Acceptance Corp. approved 1799 Draped Bust dollar graded Very Fine 25 by Profes-

sional Coin Grading Service, a coin that — when I take it out to impress noncollector friends — I call "my lucky silver dollar, because it commemorates the year George Washington died."

Vic Mason, via email

What's missing is surprising

I just finished reading the column in the Jan. 9 issue, page 34, about counterfeit bullion coins. I am surprised the author, Michael Fabey, didn't mention the most glaring difference in the counterfeit American Eagle silver dollar pictured, which is the lack of the designer's monogram under the motto IN GOD WE TRUST. That would be a sure give-away.

Joe Causey, via email

she had neither prior knowledge nor experience in the hobby. This is another personal reason I have chosen to comment now, showing gratitude to my about-to-be-90-year-old mother.

Like many of *Coin World's* more seasoned readers, I began my hobby with Lincoln cents in a Whitman folder and progressed to other denominations when life's other events, like the military service (Vietnam veteran), a medical career (addiction medicine specialty), and family permitted. Along this journey, my knowledge advanced, although I chose to remain a collector, focusing on modern circulating and commemorative coins because they aligned with events and persons known during my life.

Congruent with a medical career of appointments to various federal, state, academic and

non-governmental positions, about 10 years ago I decided to pursue aggressively my hobby. While I still have no appetite to be a dealer and I am not proud of my coin grading skills, I have enhanced my involvement in my local coin club and am proud to be a life member of the American Numismatic Association and a member of the American Numismatic Society. More importantly, and the prime reason I chose to submit this commentary, I have just completed my one-year term as Chair of the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee, appointed by Treasury Secretary Yellen.

During my tenure on the CCAC, I have a better appreciation of the legislative process and artistic efforts in coin and medal design due to the collaboration with the other 10 members of the CCAC and

the tireless efforts of the more than 1,600 dedicated individuals at the five facilities of the U.S. Mint, a federal agency that contributes money to reduce the nation's debts. So, when I read about complaints regarding the variety of United States Mint collectible products, I ask, how is this any different from your personal decisions about consuming other products that drive your individual tastes and ability to purchase? During my tenure as CCAC chair, I have yet to receive a complaint that there are too many collectibles. On the contrary, most communications have advanced design ideas for commemorative coins.

As there are two sides to every coin, some will embrace the virtues of the obverse while others decry the limitations of the reverse. Recognizing room for continued improve-

ment, I was intrigued to read in recent *Coin World* issues that complaints about the Mint have decreased. Perhaps the 2022 Negro Leagues Baseball and Purple Heart Hall of Honor commemorative coins played a role, as they tell stories at every teaching opportunity for the young and old.

I know that the Mint seeks input in a variety of ways — numismatic forums, trade shows, surveys, and focused market research, but I want to encourage collectors to reach out to directly to the CCAC (info@ccac.gov) as well as the numismatic press and associations, to contribute your ideas be considered to continue to tell America's story — through coin designs that are relevant and representative of a diverse America, while reminding us of the legacy of classic designs. ●