

Money Museum Unveils World War I Exhibit

Called “The Great War” and more optimistically “The War to End All Wars,” World War I was an event that changed the world’s political map and the fabric of civilization. To honor the 100th anniversary of United States involvement in World War I, the Money Museum, operated by the American Numismatic Association (ANA) and located adjacent to Colorado College, is unveiling its newest exhibit, “Trenches to Treaties: World War I in Remembrance.”

The exhibit showcases coins and paper money from combatant nations, art medals and military decorations, as well as weapons and uniforms to illustrate the events and effects of World War I politically, economically and socially. “Trenches to Treaties: World War I in Remembrance” runs through Nov. 2018.

Colorado Springs residents are invited to a free preview of the exhibit on Saturday, May 20 from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Notable artifacts on display include rare military decorations (awarded for heroism) such as the U.S. Congressional Medal of Honor and the French *Croix de guerre*; personal items soldiers carried in the field; dog tags, military badges and insignia; propaganda and satirical medals; plus a trench that replicates the front lines of battle.

“Trenches to Treaties explores World War I with money and beautiful, thought-provoking medals. Themes range from finance, propaganda, art and commemoration,” said Money Museum Director and Curator Doug Mudd. “Exciting interactives include a life-size trench and operating morse code keys as used in trench communications. Come learn about the crash of the gold standard, merchant submarines and the role of pigeons!”

History of World War I

More than 17 million people perished during WWI, and the unprecedented bloodshed was accompanied by social upheaval and revolution as ancient empires crumbled and new nations were established.

The war grew to encompass nations from across the globe, with battlefields in Europe, Asia, Africa, the Pacific and most of the world’s seaways. Warfare was industrialized with horrific new weapons while propaganda campaigns ensured that civilians supported the war no matter what the cost.

The entry of the United States into World War I in April of 1917 on the side of the Allies was decisive. American industry and agriculture ensured that Great Britain and France could continue to fight in spite of German successes, and American manpower eventually overpowered the German armies on the Western Front. Meanwhile, the U.S. replaced Britain as the world’s banker, becoming the greatest financial power on earth.

Money Museum Background

The Money Museum includes an extensive and ever-growing collection of historical numismatic treasures. This one-of-a-kind facility showcases some of the most valuable and significant numismatic

items the public cannot see anywhere else. Rarities include a 1913 Liberty Head nickel valued at \$2 million and two of the 15 known 1804 dollars valued together at \$6 million.

The Money Museum is located at 818 N. Cascade Ave, adjacent to the campus of Colorado College and next door to the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. Museum hours of operation are Tuesday-Saturday, 10:30 am-5 pm. Admission is \$5 (\$4 for seniors, military and students). Kids 12 and under are free. For more information, call 719-632-2646 or visit www.museum@money.org.

The American Numismatic Association is a congressionally chartered, nonprofit educational organization dedicated to encouraging the study and collection of coins and related items. The ANA helps its 25,000 members and the public discover and explore the world of money through its vast array of instructional and outreach programs, as well as its museum, library, publications and conventions. For more information, call 719-632-2646 or visit www.money.org