

**NEWS RELEASE:**

**HIGGINS MUSEUM SETS 2009  
NATIONAL BANK NOTE SEMINAR**

The Higgins Museum of National Banking has announced the scheduling of a special 2009 educational seminar dedicated to National Bank Note topics for Wednesday and Thursday, August 12-13, featuring four nationally recognized authorities in the field. The event will be held at the museum facility in Okoboji -- situated in the heart of the Great Lakes resort and recreation area of northwest Iowa -- enabling participants to view and enjoy the largest collection of issues on permanent exhibit anywhere in the country.

Featured speakers at the 2009 National Bank Note Seminar will be James Hughes, associate curator of the Smithsonian National Numismatic Collection; Don C. Kelly, author of the widely referenced "National Bank Notes" guide and census reference; Allen Mincho, the long time contributor of "NOTES on the Marketplace" appearing in "Bank Note Reporter;" and James C. Ehrhardt and Steven J. Sweeney, co-authors of "Iowa National Bank Notes," a pioneering reference work featuring a detailed census of that state's issues.

Joining with the Higgins Museum in sponsoring this seminar are the Central States Numismatic Society, the Professional Currency Dealers Association, and the Society of Paper Money Collectors, with support also provided by Bank Note Reporter. The registration fee for the seminar is \$50, including a catered lunch and light snacks during breaks, or just \$40 for members of the co-sponsoring CSNS, PCDA and SPMC organizations.

The 2009 National Bank Note Seminar will get underway with a welcome reception at the Higgins Museum on Wednesday evening, Aug. 12, from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The seminar proper will get underway at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 13, with a brief welcoming assembly and introductions. Each speaker is being allotted one-hour and 15-minutes time slots, with round table question and answer discussions following. The day's seminar is scheduled to formally conclude at 5:30 p.m.

The speakers will cover a wide range of interesting and insightful topics. Hughes will explore the Upper Midwest National Bank Note treasures at the Smithsonian. Kelly will delve into the "Surprise" discoveries that may be out there awaiting National Bank Note collectors. Mincho will provide an analysis of marketplace evolution observations stretching from yesterday through today and on to tomorrow. Ehrhardt and Sweeney will dissect and update the Iowa National Bank Note census published in 2006.

Anyone wishing to participate in the seminar sessions must register in advance by contacting Higgins Museum curator Larry Adams, who can be reached by calling 712-332-5859, or by e-mail to [ladams@thehigginsmuseum.org](mailto:ladams@thehigginsmuseum.org). Registration remittances are to be directed to the Higgins Museum, 1507 Sanborn Avenue, P.O. Box 258, Okoboji, IA 51355.

Overnight accommodations are available right in Okoboji, within a mile of the museum, at the Arrowhead Resort & Conference Center, where a special room block rate has been arranged. The rate for a standard bed with two queen beds is \$99 per night, with the block covering the nights of August 12 and 13, and upgrade options possible depending on availability. The room block code is "Higgins Museum," with a cut-off date of July 12, 2009. Contact the Arrowhead direct; 1-800-727-4561.

As an associate curator at the Smithsonian, Hughes has developed a special focus on U.S. paper currency. His career at the Smithsonian got underway 36 years ago creating inventories of its archived historical holdings, subsequently being engaged by long-time curators Dr. Vladimir and Elvira Clain-Stefanelli in the role of inventorying the national numismatic collection starting in 1979.

Possessed of a doctorate in theoretical physics, Kelly acquired his first national in 1963, with his collection of Ohio notes having since grown to more than 2,500. In pursuit of his personal collecting specialty, he has acquired at least one note from 334 of the 336 banks of issue in the state of Ohio. He first published his guide and census reference 28 years ago.

Before casting off his legal career as a district attorney and as a special prosecutor in New York State in 1980, Mincho had in 1971 issued his first currency price list. He quickly became commercially immersed in the currency marketplace, ultimately transitioning to a focus on the auction component in 1980 as a co-founder of Currency Auctions of America.

An interest in Iowa National Bank Note issues came naturally to Ehrhardt, becoming a burning passion, as both his mother and father possessed banking backgrounds. His collecting interest was fed by his father, who introduced him to the discipline and ultimately passed his collection on to his son. Sweeney was the primary "census keeper" for the Iowa reference project, having been captivated by the local historical connections of Iowa issues years after having discovered coin collecting as a youngster gleaning wheat cents from circulation.

Seminar attendees driving in for the event from out of the area may wish to avail themselves of a couple other coincident activities. The 30th annual Iowa Great Lakes Coin Show is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 15-16, hosted just a couple miles up the road at the Spirit Lake Community Building. Information on this event may be obtained by contacting the organizer, Don McCulloch, at 712-336-4618, who also annually organizes a golf outing for the enjoyment of interested collectors and dealers on the Friday prior to that popular show.

(News release submitted by Clifford Mishler, secretary, William R. Higgins Jr. Foundation. If additional information is required, call 715-445-5050, or e-mail [mish@EclecticPursuitsIola.com](mailto:mish@EclecticPursuitsIola.com))