

Doug Davis

ANA 1148636

IT TOOK TWO YEARS for Doug Davis to find the thieves who murdered his close friend and local coin-shop owner in 1985. His relentless pursuit took him across the country, scouring for clues and tracking leads until the three suspects were apprehended and sentenced to life in prison. The ringleader was charged with the murder of a Dallas, Texas, coin dealer and the robbery of eight coin shops in southern California. But Davis wasn't satisfied. His investigation had exposed critical deficiencies in criminal numismatic investigations, and he set his sights on protecting the coin-collecting industry. With 33 years of law-enforcement experience in Euless and Pantego, Texas, part-time coin dealer Davis was well-equipped for the job. In 1987 he established the Numismatic Crime Information Center (NCIC) to protect dealers and collectors and prevent more robberies and tragic deaths. With awards from the ANA, the Professional Numismatists Guild, and the Anti-Counterfeiting Educational Foundation, Davis's efforts are clearly successful.

PHOTO: ANA ARCHIVES



Sydney Stewart: Fighting numismatic crime seems like a tall order. What does a typical day in your job look like?

Doug Davis: NCIC receives a large number of emails, reports, and phone calls from collectors, dealers, and the general public. All correspondence and communications are reviewed and evaluated for further action, and a staff member responds to each one. My role is to ensure that the appropriate follow-up is conducted based on the information provided. This may entail contacting a victim, reaching out to a law-enforcement agency, analyzing data, entering stolen property, identifying similar suspects in other cases, and adding intelligence information into the NCIC database. Once all the information has been reviewed, it is determined what notifications need to be sent out to NCIC Crime Alert Network members.

SS: What do you wish more people knew about NCIC?

DD: NCIC is the watchdog of numismatic crime, and it plays a key role in providing law enforcement with resources during an investigation. Numismatic crimes are a specialized area, and most investigators do not even know the definition of numismatics. That is why NCIC works diligently to bridge the gap between the numismatic community, law enforcement, and crime victims to ensure law-enforcement agencies conduct a thorough investigation with the goals of an arrest, indictment, and property recovery.

SS: What is the most critical numismatic crime concern facing collectors and dealers right now?

DD: The most pressing issues are the surge in numismatic crime due to record-level prices of gold and silver, and the mass proliferation of counterfeit coins and precious metals in the U.S. marketplace. In addition, law enforcement's response to certain crimes has changed. Some agencies may require property crimes, such as theft, to be filed online rather than through an in-person officer response. This often means victims are not contacted by an investigator for days, which delays the investigative process and frustrates victims when huge monetary losses are at stake. The key to successful numismatic crime investigations is the quick dissemination of information, and NCIC can do this in minutes.

SS: How can collectors report numismatic crimes?

DD: Collectors, dealers, and the general public can report a numismatic crime at numismaticcrimes.org. They can also become crime alert network members, which keeps the numismatic community aware of current crime trends, patterns, and organized groups targeting collectors and dealers.

NCIC is supported solely by donations from the numismatic community. Donations can be made online or mailed to P.O. Box 14080, Arlington, TX 76094. ♦