

## U.S. Mint makes new penny for 2010

Nearly 2,500 people crowded into the rotunda of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum for the release of the new 2010 Lincoln “Preservation of the Union” one-cent coin.

Elizabeth Wooley, WICS-TV news anchor, served as master of ceremonies, and U.S. Mint Director Edmund Moy was the keynote speaker at the event held on February 11, just one day before the anniversary of Lincoln’s 201st birthday.

The coin features Victor David Brenner’s image of President Lincoln that has appeared on the penny since 1909. The “tails” image of the penny, designed by Lyndall Bass, features a Union shield with a scroll over it reading “E PLURIBUS UNUM.” The 13 vertical stripes on the shield represent the 13 states joined in one compact union to support the federal government. “This one-cent coin honors the preservation of the union, which was Abraham Lincoln’s ultimate achievement. Because of his presidency, despite bitter regional enmity and a horrific civil war, we remained the United States of America,” Moy said at the event.

After the ceremony, Moy handed out the pennies to children 18 and younger. Adults could exchange currency for the coins.

Springfield resident and Lincoln enthusiast Jim Cox attended the event. “There’s just an atmosphere, a feeling in the crowd that something new is about to happen,” he says of the ceremony. Cox has been collecting coins for nearly 40 years. After obtaining 30 rolls of pennies, Cox took them to the post office and had a cancellation stamp placed on each of the rolls to commemorate the event. “Lincoln was our president during the nation’s worst crisis. This penny is a tribute to his legacy.”

The first penny with President Lincoln’s image appeared in 1909 to celebrate the centennial of his birth. Known as the



wheat penny, the reverse side features stalks of wheat. In 1959, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Lincoln’s birth, the penny was redesigned, this time featuring an image of the Lincoln Memorial. To celebrate Lincoln’s bicentennial, the U.S. Mint introduced four new pennies that feature different phases in Lincoln’s life on the tail image. Those pennies were released last year (see *Illinois Issues*, October 2009, page 13). The 2010 Preservation of the Union Penny will be produced indefinitely.

Melissa Weissert

## BOOK REVIEW: A history of urban planning

Chicagoans marked a century of city and regional planning in 2009 with celebrations of the *Plan of Chicago*, Daniel Burnham and William Bennett’s 1909 vision of urban growth. Joseph P. Schwieterman and Alan P. Mammoser gathered stories of the people involved in various planning transformations over that 100 years in their book, *Beyond Burnham: An Illustrated History of Planning for the Chicago Region* (Lake Forest College Press, 2009).

“We tell this story through the experiences of people — the generations of professional and citizen planners coming after Burnham and Bennett — who believed that change could be achieved through the creation of great plans,” the authors say in the introduction.

“Readers will see that conflict is a major part of our story. Big plans collide with fierce political opposition, as strong-willed citizens confront official planning organizations.”

The book follows regional planning chronologically. The early chapters show the progress from the first years of the *Plan* up to the spread of the interstate highway system and the growing population in the suburbs in the mid-1950s.

The next six chapters follow planning efforts from the late ’50s to the early 2000s, when state-sponsored public agencies such as Illinois State Toll Highway Authority and the Regional Transportation Authority took leading roles.

The authors describe the forces in the last decade that brought transportation and land-use planning groups together. The Commercial Club of Chicago, which commissioned the *Plan of Chicago* and helped create the Chicago Plan Commission, joined with the Metropolitan Planning Council to eventually create the nonprofit Chicago Metropolis 2020. The Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission and the Chicago Area Transportation Study merged to form the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.

Less encumbered by politics, the authors say, Metropolis 2020 “could move quickly to lay out a contemporary regional plan based on complex modeling, statistical analysis and workshops to solicit public opinion.” The group’s Metropolis Plan envisioned 300 fewer square miles of urbanized land in 2030 than what would be developed if growth patterns continued. “The plan called for revitalizing the historic satellite cities and retrofitting newer suburban office centers to support transit, including the so-called ‘edge cities’ of suburban office development.”

The last chapter looks at what the authors call “the vexing political circumstances” surrounding expansion of the region’s airports. “The chapter provides a kind of case study of the ‘realpolitik’ of regional planning and decision-making.”

It is a good summation of the century of planning politics — private, nonprofit and public.

Beverly Scobell

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