



Elgin



Coin Club Newsletter

December 2011

COLLEGIUM NUMISMA

Year 18, Issue 12

December Meeting

Meeting: 7:30pm December 7
Trading: 7:00-7:30pm
Location: VFW Post 1307
 1601 Weld Road
 Elgin, IL

Prizes

Member: 1856 Large cent
 1963-P 50c.
YN: 2006-S 10c.
Raffle: 1818 1c.
 1868 2c.
 1886-P 10c.
 1964 10c. Proof
 2000-S 10c.
 1898-O 25c.
 1920-S 25c.
 1928-P 25c.
 1974-S 25c.
 1979-S 25c. T. 2
 1907-S 50c.
 2000-P 1c. Off center
 1965 Special mint set
 1935-A \$1 Hawaii
 1928-G \$

**Not a member?
 Come anyway and join the fun!
 Give your spouse a break and bring your
 children to the club.**

ECC Meeting 643

Opened: 7:30	Closed: 9:00
Members: 26	YNs: 1
Guests: 5	50/50: \$1,778.05
Beginning: \$3,200.66	Income: \$1,352.50
Expenses: \$255.71	Current balance: \$4,297.45

December program

This month's program will be our annual holiday dinner. If you haven't already purchased your ticket, the cost is \$12. There will be a special raffle and prizes. Don't forget to bring some show and tells.

November minutes

Eagle called the meeting to order at 7:30. The Treasurers and Secretaries reports were read and accepted. Old and new businesses were discussed, show and tells given. The program was an excellent presentation by **Mike Morissey**. The meeting adjourned at 9:00.

Secretary's Report

The members in attendance accepted the secretary's report as published in the November newsletter.

Treasurer's report

Balance: \$3,200.66

The members in attendance accepted the treasurer's report as published in the November newsletter.

Old Business

Club contest

Jim D. 77,070.69

Jim M. 63,499.53

Harold, Al, Don C., Charlene, Dave S.,

Tim 58,358.92

Doug 46,456.73

Mac 41,7775.54

New Business

Nominations were made for club President and Secretary. **Roger B.** read a letter from **Dave Bowers** regarding the Pioneer statue. **Dave S.** is checking into bulk submissions to NGC.

Prizes

Winners of the monthly raffle were **Rob V., Bob S., Rob V., Alex, Rob V., Dave S., Jim D., Bob B., John, Harold, John and Rob V.**

Member: **Vonelle**

Guy, Bob G., Chuck and Roger would have won had they been there.

YN: **Gavin**

50/50: **Mike M. \$22.50**

Submitted by **Jim D.**

Board Meeting

On November 9, **Eagle, Harold, Don, Tim, Doug and Jim D.** met to discuss club business for the December meeting. There are 15 raffle prizes and 2 member's prizes. This month seven prizes are silver coins.

Local coin shows

- **December 4** — Lemont Coin Expo, Lithuanian world center, 14911 E. 127th, Lemont, IL
- **December 11** — West Suburban Coin & Collectible Expo, Park Place Banquet Hall, 6200 Joliet Rd., Countryside, IL
- **December 18** - NOISE Coin Show, Holiday Inn, 860 Irving Park Rd (2 blocks E. of IL 53), Itasca, IL.
- **December 18** — D'Atri Auctions, Double Tree Guest Suites, 2111 Butterfield Rd., Downers Grove, IL.
- **April 29** — Elgin coin club Spring coin show. VFW post 1307, 1601 weld rd., Elgin, IL

Show and tell

Jim D. showed a pair of elongated half dollars from the San Francisco coin club's 50th anniversary.

Don D. brought in a Duit 1726-1794 from west Vreeland that had two exchange rates and a coin from the Dutch East Indies showing a double strike.

Joe P. showed an 1887 \$3 Gold coin and a 1959 half with a doubled chin.

Harold showed his recently completed set of Mexican 1 centavo coins.

Editorial

Hey Canada! Top This. Last month the Perth mint in Australia announced they made the worlds largest Gold "coin". It measures 80 cm (31.5 inches) across, 12 cm (4.72 inches) thick and weighs an amazing 1,000 kilograms or a metric ton. This raises the bar by a factor of ten over the previous record holder, the Canadian 100 kilogram gold "coin." That breaks down to 32,150.75 troy ounces and at the current spot price of gold of \$1,692.00 as of 11/23/2011, the melt value is \$54,399,000. According to the Perth mint, the "coin" took 18 months to make. Because of its great size, it could not be struck but was cast in a mold similar to old Chinese cash coins. The obverse shows the current portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, around the portrait is her name, Australia and 1,000,000 dollars. The reverse shows a red kangaroo in full stride and around the image is Australian Kangaroo, 1 tonne, .9999 gold and 2012. Why make such a large "coin?" The answer is publicity. The "coin" was made to coincide with the Queen's visit and claim bragging rights to the world record.

Another dollar bill debate. Recently Congress in their wisdom took up the matter of possibly eliminating the dollar bill. Since 1975, and possibly earlier, argued for the end of the bill in favor of a coin to save money. All attempts have failed because the company that makes the paper for the bills has enough clout to stop it. Most of the largest countries have long ago discontinued their dollar bills or the equivalent. In Canada, they use a 1 and 2 dollar coin before going to a 5 dollar bill.

England also has a 1 and 2 Pound coin and 5 Pound note. The Euro nations use 1 and 2 Euro coins and 5 Euro note. Lastly, Japans coins go to 500 yen (\$6.50) and a 1000 yen note (\$13.00). there are similar examples from other countries. The U.S. has been trying to get the public to use dollar coins with little success. As long as both paper and coins are available, most people will choose paper. Paper is lighter and hurts a lot less when you make it rain. **ECC year in review.** 2011 was another very good year for the Elgin Coin Club. Financially the club is doing very well. We presented two successful coin shows and made a collectable token for each one. Our members enjoyed two free pizza parties and are looking forward to this years holiday dinner. Every month there are interesting show and tells and several educational programs and auctions. Congrats to **Don D.** for winning several awards at this years ANA convention for his fine exhibits. Thanks to **Charlene** for making a trifold flier to promote the club and all those who volunteered to make our shows successful. Looking forward, 2012 will mark our 50th fall coin show. **Harold** has designed a special pin to commemorate the event. Dates for both shows are set and we will make a token for each show.



Photo courtesy of Google

Coin of the month

Hobo Nickels

This month's coin of the month is a form of folk art most often associated with the great depression, the hobo nickel. It is said the word hobo comes from hoe boy, a term used to refer to itinerant workers who carried their possessions tied to their hoe. These workers would travel from town to town seeking work in the fields. During their down time, some artists would use knives, nails or other objects to alter the features of an Indian head nickel. They would then take these pieces and use them as barter for meals, lodging or other goods.

The practice of altering coins this way is not new. In the 1800's people counter stamped coins with advertising or other messages, some coins were made into love tokens and some seated liberty coins were altered into "potty coins."

Several factors made the nickel the coin of choice for these artists. First was the size of the portrait in relation to the size of the coin. Second the portrait was of a man and finally, the low face value and plentiful supply made it appealing.

In the 1920's two hobo nickel artists became famous for their superior work. Bertram Weigand, known as Bert, signed his work by erasing the L, I and Y of liberty, leaving his name. He also mentored George Washington Hughes, known as Bo. By the 1940's an improving economy and the new Jefferson nickel caused the practice of carving Indian head nickels to decline. Over the years since, better tools and techniques allowed those who still practiced the art to make designs that are more sophisticated. They have also expanded the number of different coins used. Today almost any coin is fair game from nickels to Sacagawea dollars. Some artists make dies to overstrike existing coins with new designs. The Gallery mint has made a series of hobo style nickels struck on Jefferson nickels and some private mints are making Statehood parody quarters. The subject of the alterations is limited only by the imagination of the artist. Artists not only altered the obverse but some did the reverse, changing the bison to another animal or a person. Collecting hobo nickels is a mixed bag. Some recent low quality coins can be bought for \$10-\$15. Earlier and more complex pieces can sell for hundreds or even thousands of dollars. Bert and Bo pieces generally bring much higher than average prices. For more info and to see many excellent pictures of these nickels go to the original hobo nickel web site at Hobonickels.org.

JUST A SHORT NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our next meeting will be Dec 7th our Christmas Party ticket's will be \$10.00 prior, or \$12.00 at the door please try to attend as we will have a picture taken so it can make it's way in the Numismatic News paper as every year. Along with some good food.

Gold = \$1,723.20

Silver = \$32.31

Gold and Silver finish the week lower.

Don't forget due's are due for 2012

Hope to see ya at the
Christmas Party
E.C.C. President
Eagle McMahon

Coin collecting is more fun when you attend a meeting. Buy, sell or trade. Meet with friends or make new friends. There is always something interesting happening at the Elgin coin club.

Coin Club

A.N.A. 28457
C.S.N.S. R6906

P.O. Box 561
South Elgin, IL 60177
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I.N.A. 1299

President — Eagle McMahon
Vice President — Harold Eckardt

Treasurer — Tim Tvrdik
Secretary — Jim Davis

Regular Meeting: First Wednesday
VFW Post 1307
1601 Weld Road
Elgin, IL

7:30pm

Visitors are always welcome. Weld Road is a frontage road between McLean and Randall Roads just south of US 20 on the south side of Elgin.

Board Meeting: We have a board meeting about two weeks after the regular meeting. We get together at one of the officer or board member's houses or at a location otherwise determined by the officers. This is an *open* meeting. Members are welcome to all board meetings. If you want to attend, contact an officer for the time of and directions to the meeting place.

Internet: The club has a home page on the internet at www.worksandwords.com. You can view the monthly newsletter there about three or four days after it is sent out to the members.

Club Dues: Membership dues in the Elgin Coin Club, payable by the end of February each year, are:

- \$10 full member
- \$5 junior member (YNs) under 18
- \$15 family membership (all adults and children in the family)

Newsletter editor: Jim Davis. Contact me at P.O. Box 561, South Elgin, IL 60177 or at the above email address.

Submit all items for publication to the editor or any officer at any club meeting or send them to the above address. If you compose on a computer, please include an electronic copy of the item. That really helps.

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To get back copies of the Elgin Coin Club *Newsletter* ask the secretary at the meeting, send a letter to the club post office box, or send an email. You can also print them from the Internet.

2012 coin show dates

April 29

October 30