



February, 1994

Newsletter

### February Meeting

**Meeting:** 7:30pm February 3  
**Trading:** 7:00-7:30pm  
**Location:** VFW Post 1307  
 1601 Weld Road  
 Elgin, IL 888-9809

### Prizes

**Regular Member:** 1923 large silver Certificate  
 1980 proof sets

**Junior Member:** 1976 &

**Raffle Prizes:** 1904 & 1906 Barber 50¢  
 1846 & 1850 large cents  
 1944 MS64 Washington 25¢ and more...

**Door Prizes:** 1894 Newfoundland 10¢  
 Come and see what else...

**Bring a new member or guest!**

### Collector's Corner

As with the January meeting we are going to continue "Collector's Corner," a sharing of the little things of collecting we all like. It worked in January. I think you liked what Harold and I had to show—let's see something of yours now. Bring in something interesting to you—it'll surely interest several of the rest of us too. When you come in put the item on one of the tables up front for everyone to look over at leisure before and during the meeting (unless it is something not to be fingered). Then during the meeting each one who has brought something in can get up and talk about the item(s) for a few minutes—share your interests. It's always fun. Let's try it some more.

*Bring Something!*

### January Minutes

The 433rd meeting of the Elgin Coin Club was called to order around 7:50pm at VFW Post 1308. A few hardy souls made it but you have to wait until next month for the exact numbers as your secretary forgot to get the count (all these new things to remember, you know.)

Don gave his treasurer's report. It were accepted without amendments. The balance in the Club account was \$1,721.62. There was 54.58 in petty cash.

Mike read the minutes from the December meeting as reported in the January Newsletter. The following amendments were pointed out and are here reported:

- The new vice president is *Bill Darling* not Harold Hunt.
- The new treasurer is *Don Cerny* not Joe Cerny.

### Old Business:

Don Cerny indicated we have 210 coins for the Coin Week giveaway at local schools. During the discussion members reconfirmed an earlier decision to give the coins directly to kids for them to enjoy vs. placing them in general circulation where they would likely be lost to the kids who we are really aiming to interest in numismatics.

### February Agenda

We are short on specific plans for February because the weather left only Don and Doug for the January board meeting. That's when we were to iron out the February details. Instead, we'll do it at the meeting. Come with some surprises for us—make Collector's Corner really interesting with your blockbuster, or give us a talk.

As always, if you bring items to be sold at auction, we'll have an auction.

We are still collecting club dues. The weather has taken its toll on the effort so far this year. Dues are due by the end of February—they tell me you do not get March's newsletter if you are not paid up.

## New business:

Harold Hunt brought up that we have several old display cases in varying states of disrepair and put it out to the membership that they should be sold to the membership as is at \$10 a piece. The proceeds should go into the club's general fund. Doug Nelson volunteered to store them in the back of his store in South Elgin until they are picked up by members. The members agreed to these proposals and several signed up to purchase one or more.

I (Mike Metras) described what I'd like to do with this newsletter at this time and opened the floor for discussions. Most seemed to appreciate the direction it is going. Among the suggestions were to have a coin-of-the-month feature for the newer collectors. Though there was no direct vote, my feel of the group was that you want me to continue in the direction I started with the January letter.

## Collector's Corner:

After a break to sell raffle tickets and visit, we had Collector's Corner:

- Harold Hunt showed two confederate notes of Richmond, VA. Though similar, one was a counterfeit made in Havana, Cuba. Harold invited members to look and decide which was the genuine and which the counterfeit. The latter, though circulated more, was the much better workmanship.
- Rich Ekebrecht brought in a wooded nickel with a Elgin Coin Club and a 1957 date and 1936 Elgin commemorative head on the reverse. What was it about? Harry Westlake said it was used in a later promotion but knew little more. Does anyone else know more? Let me know and I'll publish it here.
- Mike Metras showed some coins of Somalia made in 1950. Two had an elephant head and two a most lively lion. He also showed some coins of the later versions of the Somali Democratic Republic and forgot to mention that one of the latter had a little lamb, anything but an accurate mascot for the spirit of the Somalis who have always been fiercely independent and never prone to following the flock as that little lamb does.

Because the weather kept the VCR away, we were unable to present a planned video on currency. None the less Harold Hunt displayed several notes originally designed to support the video. These ranged from a couple Ben Franklin colonial notes through the early current small notes.

The raffle tickets netted \$... for the club. The officers awarded six raffle prizes and four door prizes. All winners were excited with their prizes. I was so excited with my Nova Constallatio copper token that I forgot to take any more notes for the meeting, though I think the raffle and door prizes were the end.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 and everyone was told to watch out for the snow that was falling with vengeance when we started.

Presented by Mike Metras, Secretary.

## Elgin Coin Club

A.N.A. 29457                      P.O. Box 561                      I.N.A. 1299  
South Elgin, IL 60177

<b>President</b> – Doug Nelson	<b>Treasurer</b> – Don Cerny
<b>Vice President</b> – Bill Darling	<b>Secretary</b> – Mike Metras

This newsletter is the informal mouthpiece of the Elgin Coin Club.

**Newsletter editor:** Mike Metras

Submit all items for publication to Mike or any other officer at any club meeting or send them to:

Elgin Coin Club  
P. O. Box 561  
South Elgin, IL 60177

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

- \$15 for the first adult and \$7.50 for each adult after the first
- \$5 for junior members (YNs) under 18.

**Club Auctions:** The Club gets 5% of the sale ("hammer") price of all items sold at club auctions unless other rules are explicitly stated before the auction.

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## Newsletter Changes

Based on your reaction (as seen at the January meeting), it seems you like most of what I have done so far with this newsletter. That being the case, here is a current feel of what you should be seeing in this letter in the coming months:

- The previous month's minutes
- A "Coin of the Month" feature talking about a specific coin. Any volunteer to write this one? No, this is better shared by everyone so we learn from each other. Let's have a volunteer a month—I'll make a sign-uop sheet. You learn a lot when you have to the writing.
- A small, free "Items Wanted" classified ad feature
- A small "For sale" classified ad section (both this and the former should be restricted to a couple items per member).
- At least one feature article a month—a page or two long.

- The “Dealer of the Month” feature along with the dealer cards will continue though the cards will be placed here and there throughout the newsletter. This is slow getting started this year; but we should get our show together by March.
- Any special announcement for the membership (or a significant part of the membership) you want to include in this letter.
- A “Bits ...” feature that mentions numismatically related things found in various sources.
- A “Books, Etc.” feature listing names of new (and not so new) numismatically related books.

Everything will not happen at once, but you'll see most of this in time. If you have any other ideas on how to make this a better tool to help all of us enjoy any and all aspects of numismatics better, bring it up at the meeting or with me at any other time. I'm willing to put in the effort to make it happen and I have the tools to produce the product.

If you want changes in this list, bring it up directly with me or at the meeting. I'm open to suggestions and the will of the members.

The one thing I want to do at this time is keep the size below 5½ pages (3 sheets) long—that keeps the postage at 29¢. (But if we find enough to fill 6 sheets a month, I'm sure the club could find the extra change or go out with a different rate.)

## Input

I've included an article of my own again this month. I need help from you all for this one. This is where *you* can tell others about the part of coin collecting that is so interesting to you. It *will* be interesting to others too.

Please give me anything you'd like included. This includes non-article special announcements you want to include. Just get whatever you want to include to me at the regular meeting or to the club post office box before the board meeting two weeks later and I'll get it into the next month's newsletter.

You can keep all rights. There is no reason for the club to hold the copyright. We'd just like to print it once in the newsletter. I'll mark it with your copyright if you'd like that.

Because I am *sure* that we have enough talent here to fill 5½ pages a week, I do not want to simply reprint (copy, or otherwise wholesaley reproduce) existing printed material. This is your newsletter. Let's put your material in it.

“I can't write.” ??? This is *not* a valid excuse. If you can talk about the coins you collect, you can write about them. You're worried about proper grammar and spelling? Don't. I'll clean that up for you if you'd like. Just tell us about something to do with coin collecting. As I said above, if you do not know a lot about some subject, the best way in the world to learn

about it its to write about it. Then we all benefit from your research.

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## Bits ...

This feature reports bits of news gleaned from newspapers, periodicals, books, or any other place where there is some interesting bit of information about numismatics or anything remotely allied with numismatics. Help me with this one. When you find something interesting, pass it on to me along with where you got it from (if it's your own observation that's good too). The only qualifying factor for inclusion here is that it is small and interesting to you because it has something at least remotely to do with numismatics. So lets look at the first *Bits ...*

ABC will air a series “Money Made Easy, The ABC Kids Guide to Dollars and Sense” on the uses of money on national television on April 2 and 7 at 12:30 EST.

- *Coin World*, 1/10/94, p. 1f

If you know even a little about computers, the numbers reported by the mint for the sales of 1993 Proof 1 oz. Gold Eagle should make you take a second look. The mint report sales as of December 17 as 32,676—that's exactly 32K!

- *Coin World*, 1/10/94, p.51

ANA president David Ganz has proposed a circulating dollar or quarter to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the first man on the moon instead of the currently proposed non-circulating versions.

- *Coin World*, 1/3/93, p. 26

In 1965 the mint contracted with GM for GM to develop a rotary press to production speed. After tests at the new Philadelphia mint in 1969 the project was dropped. Ten pattern GM cents with nonsense legends were sold by Bowers and Merena at the Florida United Numismatics convention in January for from \$174 to \$210.

-*Numismatic News*, 1/4/94, p. 28f

In 1888 James Kimball, director of the mint, asked congress to discontinue the three-dollar gold coin because (except for two years) it had only been made in proof condition since 1862. In the intervening time it had been used mainly for jewelry and almost always sold at a premium. It was in high demand in Japan and China.

-Q. D. Bowers, *Coin World*, 1/3/94, p. 40.

The US Mint has began its sales of the 50¢, \$1, and \$5 World Cup Soccer commemoratives. (US Mint, P.O. Box 41998, Philadelphia, PA 19101-1998)

## Books, Etc.

This feature reviews numismatic literature, new and old as I find out about it or you supply it. Some you surely already will be familiar with. I hope some will be new. I include a short description of each item in the list if the title of the item does not clearly give away its content. Supply me with anything you think may be of interest to others and I'll put it here. If you have titles to contribute, please include author/editor, title, publisher, date and location of publication, approximate price, and a short description of the book's contents.

S. Mitchell and B. Reeds. *Standard Catalog of British Coins: Coins of England and the United Kingdom*. Seaby. \$24.95. available 2/15/94. Standard beginners guide and reference of British coins and mints from Celtic time forward.

- *Coin World*, 1/3/94, p. 38.

*Numismatic Literature*. American Numismatic Society. New York. 1993. second of a semi-annual listing of numismatic literature on all fronts along with short synopses.

- *Coin World*, 1/3/94, p. 38.

Dennis Gill. *The Coinage of Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Italian Somalia*. Printing Mart of Long Island. Mineola, N.Y. 1991. \$25. 330 pages. 6 pages of bibliography. This book is the best current source on all manner of details on the coins, medals, paper money, and tokens of the subject countries. It also includes coins of the emirate of Harar in southeastern Ethiopia.

- Mike Metras

James Mackay. *The Beginner's Guide to Coin collection*. Gallery Books. 1991. New York. 96 pages. 9x12. \$14.98 (I bought it at discount—\$6.48). This book with many enlarged color pictures discusses all coins of the world. Its contents page includes early coins, how coins are made, what coins are made of, shapes and sizes of coins, the parts of a coin, and kinds of coins. As a long-time collector, this not-always-accurate book is still really a fun book. The pictures alone are worth the price. If you know a starting collector entice her or him with this one.

- Mike Metras

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## Coin of the Month 1894 Newfoundland 10¢

Since Newfoundland, an island northeast of Maine, remained separate from Canada until 1949, it has a much longer coin series than the other pre-confederation British colonies. Newfoundland adopted decimal coinage in 1863, hoping to have coins of the new standard in circulation in 1864. The first are dated 1865.

The most important coin in Newfoundland had been the Spanish-American dollar, the 8 real piece. So they set the value of the dollar equal to the value of this Spanish coin. This made the Newfoundland decimal cent equal to the British half penny. Four Newfoundland dollars and eighty cents was equal to the pound Sterling.

Newfoundland made 100,000 1894 ten cent pieces just like the fine specimen we are giving away as a door prize this month. They are currently valued at \$16 in this condition.

- Joe Cerny

The following pictures of Newfoundland coins were reproduced from the *Royal Canadian Mint and Canadian Coinage: Striking Impressions* by James Haxby, Ottawa, 1983.