



March Meeting

Meeting: 7:30pm March 2
Trading: 7:00-7:30pm
Location: VFW Post 1307
 1601 Weld Road
 Elgin, IL 888-9809

Prizes

Regular Member: 1845 Large cent EF
Junior Member: 1949 Franklin half Unc
Raffle Prizes: 1893 Colombian half
 1923 Peace dollar
 1903-O Barber dime
 and more...
Door Prizes: Come and see what else...
April Super Raffle: 1915 \$2½ Gold AU
 BT Washington 50¢ MS65

**Bring a new member or guest!
 Not a member? Come anyway!**

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

Starting this month we'll be drawing for the membership prizes based on the paid members list. If you are not at the meeting and your name is drawn, we'll tell you so via this newsletter and draw again until we draw someone who is at the meeting. So come!

We are still collecting club dues. The weather slowed things this winter. As long as you pay during the meeting before the membership drawing, you are eligible for the membership drawing.

Bring something for Collector's Corner.

February Minutes

ECC Meeting 434 — February 3, 1994

Opened: 7:45pm	Closed: 8:25pm
Members: 15	YNs: 4
Guests: 0	
Club account: \$1,684.00	Cash: \$8.51
Raffle income: \$46	Auction income: N/A

Super Raffle

The Super Raffle prizes are about to be given away! Be sure to get your tickets before it's too late! The super raffle has been moved to April due to the inclement weather this winter. With this in mind, we would like everyone to make an extra effort to bring a guest to the April meeting. Let's make April *guest month*. (Is this a blatant effort to get their money? I hope not—but we could use it—but then, too, they could win! And we'll give them a good time so they'll want to come back.

March Meeting

We are looking for our tape on currency. If we cannot locate it, the March meeting agenda is up to what we bring ourselves. With this in mind, please bring something for Collector's corner. If six or eight of us bring something, we'll have a great meeting. *It's up to us—make our meeting memorable, make it yours, ours.*

The weather was again ominous this month as President Doug Nelson called the 434th meeting of the Elgin Coin Club to order around 7:45pm at VFW Post 1308.

Bill Darling Dead

Doug announced that Bill Darling, our vice president, died recently. We will miss him.

February Minutes

Mike Metras made a motion to dispense with further reading of the minutes since they are now published in this newsletter. The motion passed unanimously. Mike made the following amendments to the January minutes:

- Fifteen regular members and five YNs attended the January meeting.
- The January raffle netted \$54.

No other amendments were made to the minutes. They were accepted as amended.

Treasurer's Report

Don gave his treasurer's report indicating the balances listed in the box above. The report was accepted without amendments or comment.

Old Business

I repeated my request for articles and short items for this newsletter.

Doug reported that the old display cases are still in the barn in the country. In the spring when the weather breaks, they'll be moved to Doug's store in South Elgin. He will let the members know when they are available.

Marty Krashoc asked for a count of who had paid up on dues so far. We agreed to publish that number here. The current membership is:

- 28 regular members (4 life)
- 7 junior members (YNs)
- honorary members.

As the weather improves, the numbers surely will improve. If you are one who has not paid, please do so. Remember you can only win a membership prize if you are paid up.

New business

There was no new business.

Four door prizes were given away. After a break to sell raffle tickets and visit, five raffle prizes were awarded.

Collector's Corner

Rich Eckelbrecht and Mike Metras took part in the Collector's Corner presentations:

- Rich showed several chop-marked silver coins used for a few centuries in the Orient. The marks are punched into the coins to authenticate the weight and fineness. Once the coin got away from the punching authority it had to be punched again to assure its value. A couple were covered with chops.

Rich's silver dollar sized coins included:

- A pillar dollar of King Charlos of Spain
- A US trade dollar
- A mexican 8 real
- A British trade dollar of Bombay (Hong Kong?)
- A late-coming Chinese entry.

Elgin Coin Club

A.N.A. 29457

P.O. Box 561
South Elgin, IL 60177

I.N.A. 1299

President – Doug Nelson

Treasurer – Don Cerny

Vice President –

Secretary – Mike Metras

Regular Meeting: First Wednesday
VFW Post 1307 708-888-9809
1601 Weld Road
Elgin, IL

Board Meeting: Third Wednesday
Castle Collectibles
395 East State 708-695-7030
South Elgin, IL

Visitors are always welcome!

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.

Newsletter editor: Mike Metras

Submit all items for publication to Mike or any other officer at any club meeting or send them to the above address.

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- Mike showed some coins of King Menelik II, the first modern Ethiopian emperor. The coins were Menelik's failed attempt to replace the Maria Theresa Thaler as the standard coin of the business world of the turn of the century in Ethiopia. Most were minted in Paris though the later ones were minted in the newly created capital of Addis Ababa.

As a historical sidelight, Mike also showed a painting and talked about *Menelik I, the first king* of Ethiopia. The painting tells the story of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba (Makeda of Ethiopia). It tells how they learned from each other's wisdom and had a child, Menelik I, who returned later and stole the Arc of the Covenant, which to this day rests in a church in Axum. All this is duly noted and codified in the now defunct 1955 Ethiopian constitution.

The meeting was adjourned after the membership drawings. In spite of the blowing snow, several stayed around for conversations. that was great to see.

Presented by Mike Metras, Secretary.

First 1994 Coin

Harold Hunt reported his first sighting of a 1994 coin. But I think he cheated a bit. He went to Mexico and found a 1994 1 peso coin. But just now, Feb 21, I got two 1994-D cents at the Riverdale Restaurant in Aurora.

Bits ...

In 1944, in addition to serving the US, the US Mint made coins for 17 foreign countries on six continents: Austria, Belgium, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Greenland, Guatemala, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Peru, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, and Surinam.

- *Coin World*, 1/31/94, p. 10f

Philadelphia produced 25 million Belgium 2 franc coins in 1944 from the same blanks as the 1943 zinc-coated steel cents. How many blanks fell over into the US cent hoppers? More than 40 steel 1944 cents have been reported.

- *Coins*, March, 1994, p. 34f

- related story in *Coin World*, 1/31/94, p3.

In 1857 the fickle public disliked the new small cent so much that they called the new Flying Eagle cent the "buzzard cent."

-*Numismatic News*, 1/25/94, p. 19

Shield nickels have a great variety of overdates and die doubling. This article describes several and includes several fine pictures.

- *Coins*, March, 1994, p. 69f

The *El Cazador* set sail from Vera Cruz, Mexico, for New Orleans in 1784 with 450,000 silver coins. Its cargo is finally making its way to port. A fishing boat, the *Mistake(!)*, found *El Cazador* deep in the Gulf 50 miles off the Louisiana coast last August.

-*Numismatic News*, 2/8/94, p. 4

Between 1976 and 1978 Gould Co. of Cleveland, Ohio, produced several trial pieces from powered titanium to see whether the metal could be used for coining smaller sized dollars. The very light coins had a displeasing, porous appearance and tended to quickly erode the dies. The project was abandoned.

-*Numismatic News*, 2/8/94, p. 26f

Elias Boudinot, the president of the Confederation, which preceded the United States, was also the third US mint director.

-*Numismatic News*, 2/1/94, p. 61

A *mule* is a hybrid coin, token, or medal whose obverse is not matched to its official reverse die. For example, there is a known mule that matches the obverse of the Bahamas 5¢ (KM-3) with the reverse of a New Zealand 2¢ (KM-32). It has no date.

Books, Etc.

C. Krause & C Mishler, *Standard Catalog of World Coins: 1701-1800*. Krause Pubs. Iola, WI. 1993. This expansion of the similar book listing coins of the world from 1800 on now opens details of 18th century to the collector of those coins.

-*Numismatic News*, 1/25/93

Editors of *Coin World*, *Coin World Almanac: a Handbook for Coin Collectors*, 6th ed., Amos Press, Sidney, OH, 1990. What obscure fact do you want to know about numismatics? It's probably here. The law chapter is written by David Ganz, the current president of the ANA. Want to know how many foreign coins the US mint made in 1920 (99 million)? It's here. Want to know who was the treasurer in 1943 (W.A. Julian)? It's here. The almanac includes detailed histories of government institutions related to numismatics, detailed accounts of laws related US coinage. If you to know something about something associated with numismatics, this is a good place to look. An extensive bibliography tells you where to go from here. A comprehensive index tells you where to look while you are still are in this helpful reference.

Coin of the Month Two Cent Piece 1964-1873

The short-lived two cent piece was created by the coinage act of April, 1846. This is our first bronze coin (95% copper and 5% zinc and tin) and the first with the motto "In God We Trust." The same coinage legislation changed the Indian cent to bronze from the much heavier copper nickel it had been for five years.

laurel branches and a shield standing in front of two arrows dominates the obverse. The motto "IN GOD WE TRUST" is written into a flowing ribbon on the top. A wreath of wheat grains dominates the reverse.

The Shield nickel, first issued just two years later, has a similar shield. James Longacre designed both. The shield was probably a symbol for liberty at that time close to the end of the Civil War—the military shield of the mother country saving the Union.

These two cent pieces along with the ever more numerous cents were designed to fill the change shortage caused because everyone hoarded silver and gold during the war. In fact, cents

were often wrapped and exchanged in roll quantities because there was no other change. Perhaps to discourage this, or perhaps to simply to define their value, the same 1864 legislation established that cents were legal up to 10 cents and two cents up to 20 cents.

1864 and 1865 accounted for almost 34 million of the about 45 million two cent pieces minted between 1864 and 1873 when they were discontinued. On a small budget? You could probably put together a full date set (save the 1873—proof only) in fine condition for less than \$20 each (some much less than \$20).

The major varieties are the large and small motto versions of the 1864. But there are number of overdates, double dies, and minor die variations that make the series a candidate for an interesting study.

In its day 2¢ would buy a newspaper. I still have the one my grandmother gave me when I first started collecting coins.

(Drawings from *Cowles Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. Coins*. Mort Reed. Cowles Book Co. New York. 1960.)

“Where Did You Learn About That?”

During Collector's Corner last month, I talked about the coins and history of recent and ancient Ethiopia as described elsewhere in this newsletter. After the meeting, someone asked me “Where did you learn about that?”

I flippantly answered, “I just knew it. I have a big library of Ethiopian things because I lived there and because I have collected its coins for years.”

That answer was all well and true, but it really didn't answer the question. I really hadn't listened to the question. The real question being asked was, “Where can I find information like what you were telling us?” “Where can I find historical information about the coins I am collecting?”

The answer to this new question is not so easy, though there are several sources to help you. Most of them take you to your local library. Often the sources are not special books on coins. You are likely looking for historical information that can be related to coinage. Coinage and other numismatic material never occur in a vacuum.

So where do you learn about that? Here are some places:

- If you are looking for specifically coin information look in the *Coin World Almanac* mentioned earlier in “Books, Etc.” or look in your particular specialty's coin book.
- Otherwise, look up the country or period or person in an encyclopedia for general information. These entries

often include a list of sources where you can continue your search.

- Repeat the search in the library's card catalog. Again historical books also often include a list of sources where you can continue your search.

The list is really this short, and this long. Though books specializing in coins tell you specific things about coins and events surrounding them, the real source is the events and how the events effected coinage.

If it ever really happens, the new “information superhighway” promises to provide us with many more sources. We only have to learn how to use them. Even today if you have a computer and modem, CompuServe, Prodigy, America Online, and Infonet promise to provide you with all manner of research information. But with all my computer background, I still have not mined this source. I'm intimidated by it. Maybe someone out there can write something for the rest of us on how to easily use this new data source to improve our knowledge.

For most of us, the local library is the source. Most libraries are able to borrow books from other libraries, so if yours doesn't have the book you are looking for it may be able to get it from another.

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Chicago Coin Club Marks 75

The Chicago Coin Club will celebrate its 75th anniversary in conjunction with the Chicago International Coin Fair (CICF) on April 15. They will have their normal monthly meeting at CICF and follow it with a banquet in the evening. If you are interested call 312-454-9696 or write to the Chicago Coin Club at PO Box 2301, Chicago, IL 60690.

Shows—Shows—Shows

I love to make one or two shows a month if only to walk the floors and look at the coins—sometimes I even buy. Here for our collectors is a list of the regular (and not so regular) shows I have been able to find in the area. (Addresses and times taken from various sources). This list is not an advertisement for the shows—it is a service to our collectors. I am listing those I know of at the time of publication. Tell me about others you know of and I'll add them.

- First Sunday—Elmhurst KC, York Road, Elmhurst
- Third Sunday—N.O.I.S.E., 400 E. Ogden, Westmont
- Fourth Sunday—St. Andrew's Golf Course, 3N441 Hwy 59, West Chicago
- Mar 6, Mar 27—Woodfield Card, Coin, and Stamp Show, Holiday Inn, Rt 62 & 53, Rolling Meadows
- Mar 13—Will County Coin Club Show, Holiday Inn, I-80 on Larkin, Joliet
- Mar 13—DuPage Card, Coin, and Stamp Show, Holiday Inn, 150 S. Gary, Carol Stream

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- Mar 27—Lake County Coin Club Show, Moose Lodge#706, 2755
Washington St., Waukegan
 - Apr 10—Schaumburg Coin Club Show, Marriott Hotel, 50 N. Martingale,
Schaumburg
 - Apr 14-16—Chicago International Coin Fair, Sheraton Chicago, 301 East
North Water Street, Chicago