



May Meeting

Meeting: 7:30pm Wednesday, May 4
Trading: 7:00-7:30pm
Location: VFW Post 1307
 1601 Weld Road
 Elgin, IL 888-9809

Prizes

Regular Member: Nova Constellatio Copper
Junior Member: 1941S Walking Lib. 50¢ AU
Raffle Prizes: 1837 Bust Half F
 1941D Walking Lib. 50¢ U
 1913 Type 1 Indian 5¢ F
 and more...
Door Prizes: Come and see what else...

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

May Meeting

May is White Elephant month. We do this to raise a few bucks for the club. Bring anything you'd like to present to the club for auction. Naturally, we would like numismatic items—they sell best to numismatically minded fellow members. But the club will gladly accept whatever you think your fellow members would be willing to donate a few bucks for the pleasure of ownership thereof. Bring whatever and be ready for some fun.

And as always, if you bring items to be sold at the regular auction, we'll have an auction, too.



Clue One: French Bronze
Clue Two: Longacre

See the April Newsletter for the mystery coin contest rules. The prize for guessing the mystery coin will be an 1896 Silver Dollar.

See you at the meeting. Bring something for Collector's Corner to show your friends.

April Minutes

President Doug Nelson called the 436th meeting of the Elgin Coin Club to order at 7:45pm at VFW Post 1308.

Secretary's Report

There were no changes to the minutes as published in the April Newsletter.

I did acknowledge however that the 1886CC half dollar advertised in the raffle for April was indeed an 1876CC as none of the former exists.

In addition I pointed out that the location of the board meeting is not as formerly published but in Doug Nelson's shop, the Gas Light Coin Shop, 395 East State in South Elgin at 7pm.

National Coin Week April 17-23

As reported last month, the American Numismatic Association (ANA) declared April 17-23 National coin week. In conjunction with this week collectors and clubs around the country dropped old coins into circulation to give people a chance to experience the joy of collecting.

The Elgin Coin Club had its own twist on this national effort. In our name Harold Hunt passed out some 225 coins at three area elementary schools in the area. He delivered them to the principals of Lowrie and Highland Elementary Schools in Elgin and Clinton Elementary in South Elgin to be passed to students as the principals and teachers saw best fit. The coins were in 2-by-2 holders with an Elgin Coin Club card attached. We not only wanted to give the coins away, we wanted the recipients to know where to come to learn some more.

I also announced that last month was the last month that those who had not paid their dues would be receiving this Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

Don gave his treasurer's report indicating the balances listed in the box above. He also indicated that the club issued an advance of \$500 for the October show raffle prizes. The report was accepted without amendments or comment.

ECC Meeting 436 — April 6, 1994			
Opened:	7:45pm	Closed:	9:00pm
Members:	18	YNs:	6
Guests:	4		
Club account:	\$1,293.07	Cash:	\$364.70
Raffle income:	\$72	Super Raffle income:	\$182

Old Business/New Business

There was no activity reported in the old or new business categories.

Collector's Corner

Dave Volrath, Mike Metras, and someone we failed to invite to present his collection (Please bring it back, we're sorry for the mixup.) brought offerings for Collector's Corner:

- Dave showed some high relief medals of the 1962 Seattle World's fair. All were in a custom Whitman folder of the era. Dave also displayed several political pins and passed out free copies of a wooded nickel he had made when he was running for county office in the 70s.
- Mike brought several coins with holes and asked for reasons for holes in coins. We came up with at least these reasons. Do you know more? Tell me.
 - Those without pockets can string the coins together.
 - A hole in the center of a light coin requiring a specific weight gives the coin a larger overall diameter.
 - Besides stringing the Chinese cash coins through square holes, the coiners placed the newly cast coins onto square rods so they could file the casting junk off the edge of many coins at once.

Paper Money Video

We watched a very informative American Numismatic Association video on collecting American paper money. The video spanned Colonials to modern and described collecting alternatives that included type sets, denomination sets, National Bank Notes, Errors, and fractional bills. I learned a lot.

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Elgin Coin Club</h2>		
A.N.A. 29457	P.O. Box 561 South Elgin, IL 60177	I.N.A. 1299
President – Doug Nelson	Treasurer – Don Cerny	
Vice President – Harold Hunt	Secretary – Mike Metras	
Regular Meeting:	First Wednesday VFW Post 1307 1601 Weld Road Elgin, IL	7:30pm 708-888-9809
Board Meeting:	Third Wednesday Gas Light Collectibles 395 East State South Elgin, IL	7:00pm 708-695-7030
Visitors are always welcome!		
Club Dues: Membership dues in the Elgin Coin Club, payable before the end of February each year, are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$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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After the video we broke and sold raffle and super raffle tickets. When we reassembled, we had the Super raffle, raffle, membership drawing, and door prizes. The lucky winners and unlucky absent are listed in the accompanying box.

April Prizes

Super Raffle No. 1: Mike Cerny

Super Raffle No. 2: Doug Nelson

Regular membership prize: Marty Krashoc

Junior membership prize: Joseph Proser

Not present to claim membership prize: Bob Akin

Door prize winners: Al Maday, Lorraine Westlake, Jim Donovan, Bill Ruby

Not present to claim a door prize: Warner Ellmann, Jay Sidmore

Raffle Winners: Chuck Cerny, Joe Cerny (twice), Bill Ruby

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm.
Presented by Mike Metras, Secretary.

Thanks for Vidzo Projektor

Bill Ruby has been borrowing the video projector for us from the school where he teaches. I want to publicly thank him for that service in the past. Bill is being reassigned. That means we will not have an available video projector after June. This is a call for help. Is there anyone out there who can borrow such a projector for us now and then as we need it for a presentation?

Because of the length of the following review, I have dropped this month's versions of the *Bits*, *Books*, and *Coin of the Month* articles. They will return next month.

Chicago International Coin Fair

I spent the major part of April 14th to the 16th at the Chicago International Coin Fair (CICF). The downtown location aside, CICF is a major event in my numismatic year. As most of you know, foreign minors are my thing. And there is no better place to look for—and find—foreign minors (short of being in some foreign country) than at CICF. I have taken part in this fair for six years now.

I am working on a collection of one coin from each coin country (issuing authority) listed in Krause's *Standard Catalog of World Coins*. If you take that literally, you'd rightly be saying, "He'll never go it. No one can get many of those obscure political entities." You're right, you're right. This is only a guideline.

An additional requirement (rather desire): that the coins are circulated, that some person has had his hands on them, that they are real money, not the combative tokens so many

countries are putting out to get our money into their pockets. I want pieces of the foreign economy.

When I left for the city the 14th, my data base showed I had the coins of 395 political entities.

Having said I want only circulated coins, I confess that my first stop was the Pobjoy mint table, a prime maker of those collector ripoff coins. I lived in Eritrea for two years in the '60s and am very proud of their independence. So I laid my first \$6 down for a \$1 Eritrean May 24, 1993, independence day coin. It is a beautiful copper nickel (CuNi) crown-sized coin with a camel and palm tree on the desert shore next to a dhow in the Red Sea. I also succumbed to a couple other Eritrean Pobjoy \$1 coins, one with a triceratops and another with a couple pteranodons. Eritrea was finally in my collection. I returned to that Pobjoy table again and again trying to rationalize myself into buying the entire Eritrean independence set that includes two gold coins. I didn't.

With the initial Eritrea requirement out of the way, I made a pass through all 115 or so dealers at the show to warmup, to get the blood flowing. I looked at the breadth of what was there and marked my program with twenty or so checks. So many ancients—all beautiful—all interesting—and all too dear for my pocketbook—so many ancients slowed that initial pass.

With program marked, I dived into the boxes of the first dealer. When I came up for a breath from one of those boxes the next afternoon, here is some of what I had.

Africa holds much of my collecting attention. I added coins of the new countries Namibia and Arab Sahara. Namibia, long under South Africa's control as South West Africa, became independent in 1992 and issued circulating coins dated 1993. The Democratic Republic of Arab Sahara issued coins in 1993 also. I think this is the country that used to be called Western Sahara, situated between Morocco and Mauritania on the Atlantic. Neither of these countries are in Krause's book yet.

Harar is a city on the edge of the Ogaden Desert in eastern Ethiopia. It was an independent arab Emirate for several centuries until King Menelek of Ethiopia annexed it to Ethiopia at the end of the last century. The walled city was a stop on several trade routes through the region. Today people visit to see its walls and to get a glimpse of its hyenas that are said to be the city's garbage collectors. I picked up a curious little brass coin (KM11) pounded out of shell casings in 1886 at the end of their independence. I can just discern the *hrr* that identifies it.

In the 1850s a leader known as the Mahdi drove the English out of the Sudan. It was some 40 years before an Anglo-Egyptian coalition retook control. I found a nice large 20 piastre copper coin (KM25) of 1312 (1894). It is very flowery and has crossed spears in its field.

In five years of looking, I had never seen a coin of Tunisia (Tunis) from before the French Protectorate started in 1881. I had my pick of four coins in the first dealer's boxes. And

then I saw three more as the days went on. I picked a typical Ottoman looking specimen of 2 Kharub (KM156) dated 1281 (1864).

Still in the Ottoman Empire I found a 1303(1885) Egyptian, silver, 10 qirsh (KM295). At between a half dollar and dollar size, this old silver coin in fine condition was a nice buy for just three dollars. When's the last time you saw a fine Seated Liberty half for three bucks?

The later German East Africa coins were minted in Tabora in the bleak center of what is now Tanzania. Most of them have the crude look of coins unevenly struck with little pressure, poor planchets, and equally poor dies. They are the result of an effort by a besieged and cut off population trying to make the best of what they had. Whenever I see one of the coins I think of Karen Blitzen in *Out of Africa* trekking across barren land to supply her husband Baron Van Blitzen fighting against these very Germans in WWI. I remember "God is laughing at us, Sabu." as Karen tried to drive a lion from her cattle. I picked up three of these coins and a similarly crude 1 Rupie banknote issued by the Deutsch-Ostafrikanische Bank in Dar es Salaam 1 November 1915. Brian Stubs gave a talk on African banknotes at the International Banknote Society tipping me off to this note.

I asked for Axumite (ancient Ethiopia) coins at every ancient dealer's table. Each dealer told me of one or two others who *might* have one. Only one dealer *did* have one, one that I already have. But he has an auction that has a couple I do not have. This search led me to the first coin I have ever seen of ancient South Arabia. What a beauty it was! If there is such a thing as gem uncirculated for ancients, this would be in the run for that designation. The size of a dime, it had a portrait, a very smooth surface, and an easy to read South Arabic inscription. Though I know a bit about the history of the area, I know nothing of the coins so I passed up what was a very pretty coin.

Coins of East, West, and South Africa, and Tanzania along with Guinea-Bissau (hard-to-find-minors), Madagascar, French Equatorial Africa, Cameroon, and Reunion rounded out my African purchases.

I added a 1933 5 piastre and a 1925 1 piastre to my type collection of Lebanese coins. Also in the Middle East, I bought a coin of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Kabaa of Mecca is on one side and the Mosque of Omar is on the other. It is definitely a Moslem coin.

Ras al-Khaima, "Khaima Point," is a 1700-square-miles emirate on the Arabian Peninsula in the Persian Gulf and a member of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Most of its coins seem to be non-circulating collector coins. I picked up one (KM3) of the three that were circulating.

The Chicago Coin Club presented a talk on Moslem transitional coins from the coins of Justinian and the Saracens, coins that looked somewhat like these but had Arabic on them. These were issued by the Moslems as they conquered

the world that was to come to be known even until now as the Arab world. I found an Umayyad coin of al-Walid I in 712 C.E. just after the transition. This beautiful, thin, 30mm, silver coin has precise Arabic letters and a long inscription. I had to buy it.

Moving into the Balkans, I found a 1930 coin of Shqipni. (Oh, we call that country Albania.)

During the last century Britain controlled several Adriatic Sea Greek islands including the current resort island Corfu. I picked up a minuscule xf 1834 1 lepton (KM34) with Britannia on the reverse for a minuscule price.

And for the ultimate in inflation I picked up Yugoslav (read Serbia) inflation notes in the denominations of 5,000,000, 5,000,000,000, 50,000,000,000, and 500,000,000,000 dinars, all issued in Belgrade in 1993. Yes, that is *five hundred billion*. I paid \$6 for all four. I'm sure the major part of that covered the expenses of the middle men who delivered them and had little to do with their actual value or lack thereof. The Serbians have since dropped a number of those zeros and have a "new" dinar that is inflating as quickly as the old one.

The country we daily hear called "Bosnia" on the news is spelled "Bosna i Hercegovina" on their Brontosaurus 500 dinar coin I picked up. The dinosaur is OK, but the obverse's coat of arms and medieval bridge between city buildings over a river is really outstanding. This is a beautiful coin. Again I broke my rule: I'm sure this is *not* a circulating coin in Bosna i Hercegovina, but it was too pretty to pass up. I don't know what is being used for everyday exchange there. The inflation must surely be near that of their neighbors in Serbia and Croatia.

We do not hear much of Slovenia these days though it is one of the new independents carved out of Yugoslavia. Hopefully it is doing better than its neighbors. I had previously bought a set of their new coins and showed them to a friend of Slovenian decent. He really liked them (We used to say, "He went ape over them." I think that is out these days.) and demanded I get him a set. I did. Each coin has an animal with its Latin(!) name: salamander, owl, honey bee, salmon trout, flying bird (*hirundo rustica*), and majestic ibex. A non-collector, his immediate question was, "Why can't we make beautiful coins like this instead of these things with dead men we have to put up with?" Where have I heard that before?

Later in the day I added three more Slovenian coins. A 5 tolariev has beehive and bees, a 1693-1993 date, and inscription naming an Operosorium Labacensium Academy (KM12). Can someone tell me what this academy is and what the coin is commemorating? Another 5 tolariev (KM?) commemorates a victory in Sisek in 1593. The reverse reads "Carnioliae Victoria * Sisek" and "Andrej g. Turjaški" around a medieval city. The obverse names the value and country. These are (26mm) *brass* coins— real circulating commemorative coins???! The third Slovenian coin is a companion to an earlier 0.02 lipe coin I had found. This slug-like coin has 0.05

lipe and the date 1991 on one side and the “Republika Slovenija” surrounding three leaves on the other side. I cannot find any listing for this or the 0.02 lipe which has a cattle shed on it. Both are brass and 19mm. Any ideas?

Moving north and west, I found a coin identified as being from the Italian state of Lombardy-Venezia. But the inscription on the 1852 5 centesimi coin (KM35) read “Impero Austriaco,” Austria! That didn't look Italian to me. But it was in a way. Milan, Mantua, and the Venetian Republic became part of Napoleon's kingdom in 1805 and were later awarded to the Hapsburg Austrians when Napoleon fell. Lombardy-Venezia remained under Austrian control until the Italian Kingdom won Lombardy back in 1859 and Venezia in 1866. Such is the history of Europe. I bought the coin. Any coin that can teach me so much deserves to be in my collection.

Saarland is another European area that has passed back and forth between countries. This one, currently a state in Germany, is located between Germany and France. It was French after both World Wars but voted to rejoin Germany in 1935 and 1957. Its aluminum bronze and CuNi coins were minted in Paris in 1954 and 1955. One of my first foreign coins as a kid was a Saarland 10 franken coin with an idealized factory on the obverse. It took me a long time to find out where this Saarland was and what that coin was. I found a 100 franken at CICF to join my 10 and 20 frankens. Some day I will get the 50 to fill out a complete series for the country!

Moving to the Far East, on a whim I bought a cash coin of Annam, the forerunner of Viet Nam where I and a lot of others went along with our Uncle Sam in the '60s.

I picked up some pretty crocodiles from Papua New Guinea, Franklin Mint specials but they added a tick to my list of countries. Still in the Pacific I found a well circulated 1868 20 centavos piece (KM145) of the Spanish Philippines with Queen Isabella 2^a, another tick.

Back on the Asian mainland, I found a small aluminum 1 fen (Y9) of the Japanese puppet state of Manchuko on the Chinese mainland in what was Manchuria and a couple other Chinese states. This happened in 1931, 10 years before Pearl Harbor. Another little piece of history.

And now the former Soviet sphere. First, I finally found a coin of RCPCR (the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic) its name after the 1917 revolution. I found a 1922 silver 50 kopeks (KM83). Now I have a coin of each of the Russian coin issuing authorities since 1800, including the current post-USSR authority.

Of the former USSR republics, I bought pieces from Moldova (Moldova Republica), Latvia (Latvijas Republika), Lithuania (Lietuva), Turkmenistan (Turkmenistany_ Te__esi), and Azurbaijan (Az_rbaycan Respublikasi). Moldava's 1993 5 bani could not be planer. Latvia's 1992 1 santimas includes a coat of arms with two lions as their coins of earlier this century. Lithuania's 1991 2 centai has a knight on a galloping horse, also a repeat of an earlier Lithuanian design. Turkmenistan's

5 ? has a portrait of their president, Saparmyrat Nyayazow (how's that for a name?).

I bought several of the Azurbaijan coins because they showed a marked debasement between 1992 and 1993 as inflation took its toll. The 1992 20 qupik (kopek?) is bronze and well struck from a well executed die. Its 1993 version is very poorly struck in aluminum from a messy looking die. The same happens between the CuNi 1992 50 qupik and its companion 1993 aluminum version though this is a little better executed than the 20 qupik version. None of these will win any artistic contest.

Of the new Eastern European countries, I added Romania, Bulgaria, and Hungary. The 1992 20 lei (KM108) of Romania commemorates the its new beginning on December 22, 1989. Bulgaria's 1992 10 stotinki looks little different than its earlier version except that the lion now stands alone no longer surrounded by the communist wreath and star. The Hungarian 1993 5 florint is the prettiest. An egret or heron stands next to a tall stem of marsh grass in a pool of water.

Back in North America I bought a coin of Pancho Villa's Chihuahua, Mexico. Normally not so interested in this area, I acted on impulse to add the 1914 5 centavos of the *Ejercitio Constucionalista* of the *Estado de Chuhuahua de Republica Mexicana*.

I also added the Turks and Chicos and Aruba to my list. The Aruba 10 cents is at least as uninspiring as all other modern Dutch coins—a tick on my list. Not so with the Turks and Chicos. This group of islands on the eastern end of the Bahamas is a British colony by choice. The 1988 crown I bought celebrates the 25th anniversary of the World Wildlife Fund. A lively iguana appears ready to jump into your right hand as you hold the coin.

I did buy one US item, a hard times token, something I have never owned before. The obverse has “Webster” above and “Credit 1841 Current” around a sailing ship identified as the Constitution. The reverse says “Millions for Defence” around “not one cent for tribute.” If you have a book, would you bring it to the next club meeting so I can look this one up.

To round out the activities, I picked up my bronze plaquette of “The Discoverers” commemorating the Chicago Coin Club's 75 years. See last month's ECC newsletter for a picture of this.

What a three days! Did I have fun? You bet! And I had a lot of fun writing about it here too. When I came home the 16th, I was up to 425 countries. I'm almost ready for next year's version, though I'm happy for a few month's rest to get this all organized a bit and into my data base.

Shows—Shows—Shows

Specific Dates

- May 1—Dixon coin and Sports Card Show, Northland Mall, IL 2
- May 22—Woodfield Stamp and Coin Show, Holiday Inn, Rts 62 & 53, Rolling Meadows, IL

Monthly

- First sunday—Elmhurst KC, York Road, Elmhurst
- Third sunday—N.O.I.S.E., 400 E. Ogden, Westmont
- Fourth sunday—Collectables, etc. Show, St. Andrew's Golf Course, 3N441 Hwy 59, West Chicago
- Forth sunday—Stamp and Coin Browse, Holiday Inn, I80-94 & Torrence Av., Lansing

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