



## September Meeting

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

### Prizes

**Regular Member:** 1919S 50¢ F  
**Junior Member:** 1946 Booker T Washington vf  
**Raffle Prizes:** 1809/6 half cent F  
 1857 Seated Lib 25¢ VF  
 1913D Indian 5¢ Ty I VG  
**Door Prizes:** Come and see.

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

"In God we trust" was added to first \$1 note by the Bureau of Engraving and printing on September 9, 1957.

### Clue One: Engraver Barber

This is a new Mystery Coin Contest. Its prize will be a Bicentennial proof medal. Marty guessed correctly the 1909S Indian Cent last month after the fifth clue. See the April Newsletter for the mystery coin contest rules.

## August Minutes

### ECC Meeting 440 — August 1, 1994

<b>Opened:</b> 7:45pm	<b>Closed:</b> 8:55pm
<b>Members:</b> 14	<b>YNs:</b> 3
<b>Guests:</b> 2	
<b>Club account:</b> \$658.32	<b>Cash:</b> \$42.50
<b>Raffle income:</b> \$44	

## September Meeting

September's program will feature an ANA slide presentation on the coins of Colonial America.

If you bring items to be sold at the regular auction, we'll have an auction, too. *See you at the meeting. Bring something for Collector's Corner to show your friends.*

### Coin Show Raffle

We will be handing out raffle tickets for the Annual Coin Show Raffle during the September meeting. Hopefully each of us can sell between \$25 and \$50 worth of tickets. To sweeten that a bit, as in the past, we will give 25 free tickets to the dealer who sells the most and the same 25 to the regular member (non-dealer) who sells the most tickets. These tickets and the annual show help pay for the prizes and other things we pass back to you during the year. The more we can make on the raffle, the more we have to play with the rest of the year.

President Doug Nelson called the 440th meeting of the Elgin Coin Club to order at 7:45pm at VFW Post 1308.

### Secretary's Report

The minutes were accepted as published in the August Newsletter. There were no changes.

### Treasurer's Report

Don Cerny reported the balances indicated in the box above. He indicated we had bought several raffle, door, and membership prize coins during the last board meeting. He also reported that we now have all the show gold for the coin show raffle.

### Old Business

No old business activity was brought up.

## August Prizes

**Regular membership prize:** Vincent Zaccardi

**Junior membership prize:** Mike Cerny

**Not present to claim membership prize:** Bob Akin, Chad Ruby, Abe Vollrath

**Door prize winners:** Harry and Lorraine Westlake, Mike Metras, Harry Collins

**Not present to claim door prize:** Ed Gicla, Jerry Ransom, Jeff Reuss, Oscar Reyna, Bill Ruby, Dave Snyder

**Raffle winners:** Harry Westlake, Don Cerny, Clayton Hagemann, Mike Cerny

## New Business

Harold Hunt reported that we now have applications for tables for the October Coin Show. If you or someone you know wants one or more, contact Harold or one of the officers.

At this time we broke for about ten minutes to sell raffle tickets. On return to order, we drew for raffle and door prizes, awarding them to those in the box above and not awarding them to others listed in the box.

## Collector's Corner

Because your secretary was so worried about his impending show, he forgot whether there were any Collector's Corner presentations. But a call to Don reminded me that Harold showed us his new bill and Don showed the beautiful engraving he won the right to buy from the Bureau of Engraving and printing at the Detroit ANA convention at the end of July.

## Program

Mike Metras presented a slide show entitled "Axum and Its Coins." Using slides taken during a two year stay in Ethiopia in the late '60s, Mike presented a show that simulated a trip that a Greek merchant might have taken in visiting Axum between the fourth and sixth century. The members saw several of the coins they might have had in their purses during one or another of those trips.

The buildings are almost gone. But the landmarks and ruins can tell us a lot about what might or might not have gone on in those ancient times when the people on the northern plateau of modern Ethiopia ruled everything from the Nile River to well into the southern Arabian Peninsula including all trading on the southern Red Sea.

I hope all who saw the show will have a bit of a feeling and some images to recall when someone talks about Axum or Northern Ethiopia in the future.

After the program, we had the membership drawings and adjourned at 8:55.

Presented by Mike Metras, Secretary.

## Elgin Coin Club

A.N.A. 29457

P.O. Box 561

I.N.A. 1299

South Elgin, IL 60177

**President** – Doug Nelson

**Treasurer** – Don Cerny

**Vice President** – Harold Hunt

**Secretary** – Mike Metras

**Regular Meeting:** First Wednesday 7:30pm  
VFW Post 1307 708-888-9809  
1601 Weld Road  
Elgin, IL

**Board Meeting:** Third Wednesday 7:00pm  
Gas Light Collectibles 708-695-7030  
395 East State  
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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## Futures

Dick DeRobertis, a South Holland, IL, dealer, will tell us about and show slides on "The Queen's Vignette on Modern Commonwealth Banknotes" during the October meeting.

## Mystery Coin Made Clear

Marty guessed the mystery coin during the August meeting. Here are the first contest's clues once again with their explanation.

1. **French Bronze** – April 22, 1864 Congress authorized the issue of cents in “French Bronze,” a mixture of 95% copper and 5% zinc.
2. **Longacre** – Designer and engraver James Benton Longacre designed the Indian cent.
3. **Hub number 3** – The Indian cent had three hubs according to Walter Breen's *Encyclopedia of US and Colonial Coins*:
  - Hub I – 1860-64 rounded-tip to bust
  - Hub II – 1864-86 pointed bust with L on ribbon
  - Hub III – 1887-1909 lowest feather to A.
4. **Third highest price** – according to 1994 *Coin Dealer Newsletter* monthly supplement – fine condition
5. **San Francisco mint** – Indian Cents minted in San Francisco only in 1908 and 1909.
6. **309,000 minted** (unpublished and unneeded clue) – 1909 San Francisco mintage.

Thanks to Harold Hunt for conceiving the Mystery Coin idea and writing up the first set of clues. As you see, the first clue for the second Mystery Coin is already on the cover page. Good luck!

### Back Copies of Newsletter Available

If you or anyone you know wants back copies of the Elgin Coin Club newsletter, we have some. Let me know, either at the meeting or with a letter to the club post office box and I'll get them to you.

### Continuing Call for Vidzo Projector

Can anyone borrow a video projector for our meetings? Until we can locate one somewhere, we will be getting slides from the ANA rather than videos. Not that slides are lower class citizens; rather there are some rather nice videos out there, too. We'll keep looking from our side. Let us know if you can help.

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## August Board Meeting

To keep you up on what your officers have decided on during the board meetings, this part of the newsletter from now on will list items decided on during the monthly board meetings.

This month we:

- Renewed our membership in the ANA for another year.

- Bought another 1896 dollar for the Mystery Coin Prize. In the confusion of the summer, we gave the first one away as a membership prize in June.
- Talked about the idea of making up a coin quiz to be used for a program some month. Does anyone have any feeling or thoughts on this one? Would someone like to take charge and make this one happen? We think it would be fun.
- Decided on the ANA slide show “Coins in Colonial America” for the September meeting.
- Bought \$96 worth of bronze and silver medals to be used as door prizes at the annual show and regular meetings.

Dennis Kwasniewski sent in the following reflections on his coin collecting. Thanks Dennis, I'm sure everyone will enjoy this.

### A Little of This A Little of That ...

A few years ago if I were asked, “What do you collect?” I would have said, “A little of this and a little of that.” Or, “A little of everything.” That was before I saw the World Coin book or the World Paper Money book. When we first start collecting, this seems to be a stock answer. Why is this?

For me it was a safeguard so I would not have to talk about one type of coin, as the Liberty half dollar or Morgan dollar series. I didn't want people to know I was just learning, just starting out in the world of collecting coins. Now after collecting for a few years, when someone asks what I collect, I can answer that question. I collect Jefferson nickels, African notes, and Canadian coins and, yes, I am just learning.

Let's start with the Jefferson nickel. One reason this series caught my attention was that it's an inexpensive coin, it's a short series in regard to some, and it's easy to obtain. It was the clear profile of Jefferson that caught my attention first, then the reverse. As most coins, I feel it is a great art work.

I prefer to collect toned coins as my first choice and then proof coins through 1970. The third thing I look for are the clear steps on Monticello and then I look for cameo coins.

African notes. How did this happen? Long before coins, I collected elephant statues for no reason other than I liked them. Well, somewhere I saw a picture of a Liberian dollar with an elephant on it. I now have that proof set series along with the Liberian five dollar notes. This was my introduction to African notes.

African notes offer an array of interesting and colorful notes to collect. I am collecting notes with animals on them at this time and searching for ones with elephants in their design.

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There is an exciting challenge for us as collectors, that we can all benefit from each others experiences and knowledge. Remember, if you don't know, ask. If you know, share. But please, do something. It's a great hobby, ... don't let it die. If we can't share our knowledge, then what is there?

I must say that our newsletter is sure looking good. If we want it to keep looking good and be an information letter, we are all going to have to add something to it. I feel everyone that belongs to our club can add something to our newsletter with far more information to give than me.

— Dennis Kwasniewski

I can only repeat Dennis' words. I not only “feel” everyone can add a lot to this newsletter. I *know* everyone can add a lot to make this newsletter a genuine tool to share information about our hobby. This is a great start. I hope about 45 of you will begin to follow Dennis' lead with paragraphs on your collecting joys and idiosyncracies. And Dennis, don't stop. Tell us more about Jeffersons and Elephants and Canadian coins.

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## The Minting Process

© Mike Metras

This is the second installment of a series of articles describing some of the things I learned during an American Numismatic Association (ANA) class I attended July 9-15 on the minting process.

### Numismatic Coins

The mint uses Grebner presses to make numismatic coins. According to the mint, the distinction between production and numismatic coins is in the pressure and the way the coin is handled by the press. Production coins are thrown into the press, stamped, yanked out, and pitched into a pile to be moved away. Numismatic coins are fed in and retrieved gently. They are also stamped with a slower strike and a lot more pressure (often twice) to bring up relief and detail that are not necessary in production coins.

Uncirculated sets are not as close to production coins as is often thought and taught. When Denver makes these coins, the blank planchets are washed and dried separately. They are then struck on good presses with *new* dies.

In addition to the standard uncirculated sets of production Philadelphia and Denver coins you can buy through the mail, the Denver mint (and Philadelphia) sells a separate specimen set of only Denver (or Philadelphia) coins. You can buy this set (\$4) only at the mint. Instead of the cent-sized Denver token of the standard uncirculated mint set, this specimen set has a 1-5/16" bronze Denver mint medal with a picture of the mint building.

Some of the 1994 Denver specimen sets have a 1993 quarter instead of the 1994 version. They do not know how this happened, but they do know it has happened and that some got out of the mint before they found error and corrected it. Some may have gone to a school in southern Colorado that bought several for graduation.

### Quality Assurance

Quality Assurance (QA) must test all incoming cent planchets and coin sheet rolls for compliance with set standards. QA uses Xrays to determine the composition of incoming metal coils and planchets. Thickness also must be within a close tolerance.

With cents QA looks at a sample batch of 800 blanks per 600,000. The cents are also tested for the thickness and quality of the copper plating. If the batch fails, another sample is taken from the whole; if that fails too, the whole batch is sent back to the supplier. This does not happen often any more. Joe Lopez, head of QA said, “Blisters from flaking copper coating are much less prevalent than earlier. The quality is usually where it should be.” I cannot say that is what I see in the real world. I see a lot of tiny blisters.

LaSalle Rolling of LaSalle, IL, and Altrista, a subsidiary of Ball, supply the blank planchets for the cents.

In addition to composition, QA checks the clad metal coils for the quality of the lamination. QA admits that this is an almost impossible task since quality can vary so much from place to place in the sheet. Lamination problems only show up later in the coining process where the planchets pop apart during stamping to cut out the blanks or blister up during the heat of annealing or the edge rolling of the upsetting process.

To help trace lamination and other problems back to its source, the coins from a single roll are sent through the production process as a unit separate from those of other rolls. That way any problems point to their source. The mint is currently set up so that they can dedicate the processes of three separate lines from start to finish to the stamping of a single coin type. Conveyors and a computerized system use some of the latest technology to make this happen. The entire coining process—blanking to bagging—takes 6 to 6½ hours.

QA accepts and passes die cracks as a necessary evil. They almost always, however, reject die breaks.

### Die Making Addition

Chief Engineer and Acting Superintendent Duane Sjaardema told us the mint is currently aiming to produce 42 million coins a day. They are running 24 hours a day and worked three Saturdays this July.

To meet this production, the mint uses 66 obverse and 38 reverse dies a day. All dies are shipped from Philadelphia. The only die ever lost in shipping was one being shipped to Canada for chrome plating some time back. It was eventually accounted for.

To facilitate die making, Denver is about to build a die processing shop. The facility aims to make 50,000 dies a year and should be on line by 1996.

They will make the die blanks, and then hub, harden, and finish the dies. The hubs themselves will still come from Philadelphia. The new workshop will be sandwiched between the current building and the street on the west side of the mint. To accommodate the Historical Society they have to preserve the look of the old building down to the windows. The result will be "windows" and stone courses made of formed concrete. Windows are the last thing they want is such a secure building. To complete the details Mr. Sjaardema indicated there will be 600 tons of air conditioning. The building is projected to cost 5.5 million, a good deal for the size and scope of the project—let's see how close to that number it is when they are done.

With the new building, the union workers are losing 38 parking spaces, much to their consternation! But they also gaining 28 more work slots.

### Security

Tom Waugh, head of security, said that everyone entering the Denver mint, including we students (and the roofers who tar the roof), is checked on some super security computer in the basement before being allowed into the mint. If you were stopped for spitting on the sidewalk twenty years ago, this thing is supposed to know about. At least that is their story; that is what they want us, the citizens, to believe. Mr. Lopez told us that there are contractors who just beg off when they learn that their men are going to be security checked; they know they are going to fail.

### Production Cost

As of July, 1994, the cost to produce \$10 of the various coins is about as follows:

- Cent — \$8.75
- Nickel — \$7.85
- Dime — \$1.70
- Quarter — \$1.63
- Half dollar — \$1.46.

With the current extensive overtime these costs are bound to raise.

### Distribution

The Federal Reserve buys these coins from the government at face value. So the ten dollars in quarters is bought at \$10 while it cost only 1.63 to make. The government makes \$8.37 (\$10-\$1.63). On the other hand, it makes only \$1.25 (\$10-\$8.75) on ten dollars in cents. This profit is called "seigniorage." It goes into the treasury coffers.

### Reeds

To round out our discussions here is how many reeds are on our coins.

- Dime — 118
- Quarter — 119
- Half Dollar — 150.

(To be continued)

## Shows—Shows—Shows

### Specific Dates

- Sept 10—Sonny Henry Auction, Howard Johnson's at I80 & US251, Peru, IL
- Sept 24—Annual Tazewell Num. Assoc. Show, Miller Center, 551 S. 14th St., Pekin, IL
- Sept 25, Rockford Area Coin Show, Ramada Inn/Hoffman House, 7550 E. State, Rockford, IL
- Oct 1—Corn Belt Coin Club Fall Show, Elk's Lodge, Madison and Washington Sts., Bloomington, IL
- Oct 2—Danville Coin Club Annual Show, American Legion #210, N. Jackson and Prospect
- **Oct 23—Our very own Elgin Coin Club Annual Show, Ramada Inn, IL31 and I90, Elgin, IL**

On September 1, 1965, the San Francisco mint struck the first coin since 1955. The mint mark was not added again until 1986.

### Monthly

- First Sunday—Elmhurst KC, York Road, Elmhurst.
- Second Sunday—Pawaukee Coin Show, Pawaukee Motor Inn, 1090 S. Milwaukee Ave (Rt45 by airport), Wheeling, IL.
- Third Sunday—N.O.I.S.E., 400 E. Ogden, Westmont.
- Forth Sunday—Stamp and Coin Browse, Holiday Inn, I80-94 & Torrence Av., Lansing.
- Forth Sunday—Woodfield Stamp and Coin Show, Holiday Inn, Rts 62 & 53, Rolling Meadows, IL.

The advertisements (the boxes with names) in this Newsletter are paid for by specific donations of cash, door prizes, membership prizes, and raffle prizes for our Elgin Coin Club. Please support the advertisers. Consider them early on as you go looking for coins.

On September 26, 1890 Congress passed the law that mandated that the design must be kept on coins for 25 years. A special law was passed in 1963 to authorize the Kennedy half dollar when the Franklin Half had only been around for 15 years.

September 11 is Ethiopian New Year's Day, September 6 Jewish New Year, and September 16 Mexican Independence Day.