



### October Meeting

**Meeting:** 7:30pm Wed., October 5  
**Trading:** 7:00-7:30pm  
**Location:** VFW Post 1307  
 1601 Weld Road  
 Elgin, IL 888-9809

### Prizes

**Regular Member:** Bust 50¢ 1829 vg  
**Junior Member:** Jeff 5¢ set 1938-1962  
**Raffle Prizes:** 1877CC 10¢ vf  
 1901 25¢ vf  
 1915 50¢ F+  
**Door Prizes:** Come and see.

### Some ideas for Collector's Corner:

Bring some professionally graded coins to add to the group to be graded by everyone.

If you have a colonial coin or two, bring them in to illustrate some of the items we saw in the slide show last month.

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

### October 23 Coin Show and Raffle

Our annual fall show will be held at the Elgin Ramada Inn on October 23. There will be member displays and around 35 dealer tables. Be sure to plan on attending (and lending a helping hand please).

We will be again handing out raffle tickets for the Annual Coin Show Raffle during the October meeting. Let's each try to sell between \$25 and \$50 worth of tickets. To sweeten this 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.



**Clue one:** Engraver Barber  
**Clue two:** Seated in her glory

The prize for winning this new Mystery Coin Contest is a Bicentennial proof medal. See the April Newsletter for the mystery coin contest rules.

### September Minutes

#### ECC Meeting 441 — September 1, 1994

<b>Opened:</b> 7:40pm	<b>Closed:</b> 8:55pm
<b>Members:</b> 15	<b>YNs:</b> 5
<b>Guests:</b> 1	
<b>Club account:</b> \$694.47	<b>Cash:</b> \$167
<b>Raffle income:</b> \$66	

### October Meeting

Our scheduled October program feature has been canceled because the speaker had to cancel. We hope that we will be able to hear from him in the near future. Now we must do the program for ourselves. Someone will have a small program showing some coins pre-graded by a grading service. We will look at them and try to guess what the expert said—and maybe argue a bit (or more) over the expert's opinion. Think of bringing one or more of your coins that you have had graded and adding them to the group to be inspected by all. We can all sharpen our grading skills by listening to each other and arguing a bit over why we graded it the way we did. We can have a lot of fun with this one.

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President Doug Nelson called the 441st meeting of the Elgin Coin Club to order at 7:40pm at VFW Post 1308.

### Secretary's Report

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

### Treasurer's Report

Don Cerny reported the balances indicated in the box. He also indicated he had a \$100 check for deposit.

### Joy Barth and Betty Hackbarth Die

Roger Bear announced to the club that Joy Barth, wife of Herb Barth, one of our past presidents, died last month. We offer Herb our condolences.

Saturday, September 24, Doug reported to me that Betty Hackbarth died. Betty was the wife of past Elgin Coin Club president Bob Hackbarth. We offer Bob our condolences also.

### Old Business

Don Cerny presented the 1896 dollar to Marty Krashoc for winning the first Mystery Coin contest.

### New Business

Harold Hunt suggested we consider an internal YN Auction for November since we will not have one in conjunction with the annual show as we have had in the past. There was no comment from the floor on the suggestion. The officers decided during the board meeting to accept this suggestion. As a result there will be a YN Auction and a White Elephant sale during the November meeting. Begin to think about what you can contribute to both of these auctions.

We accepted Gene Cunningham of Carol Stream as a new member to the Elgin coin Club. Welcome, Gene!

### Show Report

Harold Hunt reported that he had passed out several applications for tables for the October Coin Show. Eight to ten tables have been sold already. Several more applications were received by the time of the board meeting. If you or someone you know wants an application, contact Harold (at 708-934-4724) or one of the officers.

Harold and Don set out lists asking members to sign to volunteer time for various activities at the show. If others did like I did, forgot to sign up, or put it off until later, *please do not forget to sign up at the October meeting.* We all need to pull together at this to make it a success. it's really a lot of fun if you have never done it before, we play as much as we work.

Harold passed raffle tickets to members requesting them. The tickets are a dollar each or six for \$5. Bonuses of 25 free tickets each go to the dealer and non-dealer selling the most tickets. Harold also passed out advertising cards to members. Be sure to post yours out at work and at Target, Eagle, Jewel, etc., etc., etc. bulletin boards.

The Show Raffle drawing will be at 3pm after the show. 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 accompanying box and not awarding them to others listed in the box.

### Program

I read the script for an interesting ANA slide show on Colonial Coins. If others learned half of what I did from the show, the show taught us a lot. Thanks a lot to the ANA making this available to us.

### September 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

# Elgin Coin Club

A.N.A. 29457

P.O. Box 561  
South Elgin, IL 60177

I.N.A. 1299

**President** – Doug Nelson  
**Vice President** – Harold Hunt

**Treasurer** – Don Cerny  
**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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You can get back copies of the Elgin Coin Club newsletter either from the secretary at the meeting or with a letter to the club post office box.

As good as the show was, it talked about things that happened over a span of 250 years giving the impression that they are a historical unit—they really are not. Confusion reigned for me. I had to create a time line to keep all in focus. But then I forgot to pass the chart out until after almost everyone was gone. I think it is helpful enough to include here. It is farther back in this newsletter.

## Collector's Corner

Don Cerny again brought in 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.

Al Maday showed sets of Lincoln Cents and Buffalo Nickels.

I brought in a Shilling of Charles I, a New Jersey cent, a Nova Constallatio token, and a Washington token to illustrate some of the coins described in the slide show.

Membership drawings resulted in the winners and losers listed in the accompanying box. We adjourned at 8:55.

Presented by Mike Metras, Secretary.

## Continuing Call for Video 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.

## September Board Meeting

September's board meeting was held at the Gaslight Coin Shop in South Elgin at 7pm September 23. Those present were President Doug Nelson, Vice-president Harold Hunt, Treasurer Don Cerny, and Secretary Mike Metras.

This month:

- We discussed the possibility of finding another location for our monthly meetings. We have few answers. The VFW currently costs us \$450 a year (\$37.50 a month). That really is a reasonable cost. But do you have any better idea? Do you know of another place we could use to our benefit? At a lower cost? If so, let one of the officers know.
- We decided to include a YN auction along with and parallel to the November White Elephant auction.
- We decided on the prizes for October's meeting.
- Harold accepted several table applications for the October show.
- I was directed to use this newsletter to encourage you to make strong efforts to sell show raffle tickets. Sell Tickets! I've sold my first \$50 as of Wednesday 21 Sept. If I can sell (I hate doing it, I *abhor* doing it), most of you can do it too. We have good door prizes and good membership prizes because we have good show revenue and this is the biggie.
- It's time to think about our Christmas dinner. We want your ideas. When? Where? How? Who wants to help us with this? Let us know soon, like at the next meeting.

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## Beginnings

© Mike Metras

It was a cold Saturday afternoon late in 1955. I was making my weekly stop at 923 North Seminary Avenue to collect 30¢ for the *Woodstock Daily Sentinel*. The woman at the door gave me two quarters. I gave her two dimes and tore off the little square of paper, her receipt, and handed it to her and wished her a good day.

As I walked away, I looked at the quarters. One was odd. Washington was not on it. Nor was it the then quite common Standing Liberty. Instead, this one had a lady with a round face. A very different eagle with a lot of stars was on the back. It looked a lot “flatter” than the other quarters, though it was still sharp. And the date was 1900, 55 years earlier. This was o-l-d to that seventh grader.

That quarter represented my pay for delivering 25 papers (¼ of the 102 papers I delivered each day). I put it in a separate pocket. That was the first coin in my collection.

Not long after that, someone paid me with a 1907 nickel with a big “V” on the back. Jefferson was the going nickel then too and a lot of Buffalos were always in my change. I didn't even notice the buffalos as special. But this “V” nickel was different. A few weeks later I got another of these odd “V” nickels, this one 1905.

I showed these to my friend Alan in school. He had talked about collecting coins. I was hooked. I started collecting nickels and cents in Whitman blue albums. I never bought from dealers. I really couldn't do so on that 1¢ per paper salary. My collection in those days was from circulation. I got my buffalos, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Mercuries from circulation.

I bought \$10 and \$20 in cents and spent long Saturday mornings looking through them only to return most to the bank the next week.

As time went on, I found some foreign coins. One early one was dated 1330! It had a five-pointed star on one side and a fancy rounded six-pointed star on the other side. And there were no letters, ~~just flowing squiggles that might have meant something~~. I was certain I had a real gem, something made 700 years ago. After a considerable time I learned about the Moslem calendar and had my *old* 1330 deflated to a mere 1912. But that Moroccan 5 mazunas (KM-28.1) will forever evoke special feelings when I think of it and its 1330 date and beginnings. Now I can read those “flowing squiggles.” They are simple Arabic.

With College I studied Greek and Latin and found that I could buy inexpensive coins that had words in these languages, even though the coiners didn't have enough sense to add

spaces between the words. I was buying coins that were documents from the ancients, from 2000 years ago.

In the early sixties I cashed my summer check at the bank and was paid in silver dollars. I checked them for dates I needed and spent what I didn't need. Oh, for a few of those I spent!

In the Army I visited many countries. Circulating foreign coins joined my collection (Canadian were always there, I never really saw them as “foreign.”). While in Ethiopia I learned about an ancient Ethiopian society—Axum. Axum had coins that were available at the archeological sites where I was stationed in Ethiopia. They too entered my growing accumulations. (Several years later I learned that I had done business with a dealer in Asmara, Eritrea, Francesco Vaccaro, who is one of the top experts on Axumite coins—an opportunity lost.)

I went several years through the 70s and 80s ignoring my coins. For a brief period in 1980 while I worked in South and Central America I gathered a lot of coins while passing through, but I really wasn't actively collecting.

True collecting came back to life in the late 80s after I started accumulating the commemoratives of the second half of the 80s decade.

Now my collecting is better defined, I suppose. I am collecting foreign coins, not just any foreign coins, but coins that have been used or are intended for actual use by the people. Fancy non-circulating commemoratives are not part of this. My goal is one coin from each coin issuing authority in Krause's catalog. I'm up to 450.

I really concentrate on African coins, especially modern and ancient Ethiopian coins. I still have some American and ancient interests but Africa is on top.

I joined the Elgin Coin Club last year. It is the first club I have ever belonged to. In addition to ECC, I also belong to the Chicago Coin Club, The Fox Valley Coin Club (Yorkville), Numismatics International, and the ANA. It was time to get out and share my joy of collection with others.

Most of my coins are common, none will make me rich, *but almost every one* teaches me a bit of history, of some other corner of the world. They are fun.

With your indulgence I would like to profile one ECC collector each month in this new column. That gives us 47 more profiles—about 4 years.

I encourage you to write your own history as Dennis did last month. Otherwise, I will sit down with one or more of each of you at the club meeting and interview you for your facts and anecdotes.

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# Shows—Shows—Shows

## Specific Dates

- 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, Danville, IL
- Oct 7-9—Illinois Numismatic Assoc. (ILNA) Show, Holiday INN City Center, 500 Hamilton Blvd, Peoria, IL
- Oct 8—Sommy Henry Auction, ILNA Show, Holiday INN City Center, 500 Hamilton Blvd, Peoria, IL
- Oct 16—Coin, Card, and Stamp Show, CIVIC Auditorium, S. 8th Ave, & Charles St, Kankakee, IL
- **Oct 23—Our very own Elgin Coin Club Annual Show, Ramada Inn, IL31 and I90, Elgin, IL**
- Oct 30—Oak Forest Coin Club Annual Show, Holiday Inn, 5000 W. 127th, Alsip, IL — \$2 admission
- Oct 30—Antioch/Indian Hill Coin Clubs Show, VFW Hall, 130 E Grand Lake Villa, IL

## Monthly

- First Sunday—Elmhurst KC, York Road, Elmhurst.
- 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.

# Timing of Colonial Coins



