



February Meeting

Meeting: 7:30pm Wed., February 1
Trading: 7:00-7:30pm
Location: VFW Post 1307
 1601 Weld Road
 Elgin, IL 888-9809

Prizes

Regular Member: 1847 10 cent f
Junior Member: '68,'69,'74,'76,'80 pf 25c
Raffle Prizes: 1851 3 cents silver
 1843 10 cents vf
 1853-O 1/2 dime vg
Door Prizes: Come and see.

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

January Minutes

ECC Meeting 445 — January 4, 1995

Opened: 7:40pm	Closed: 8:45pm
Members: 13	YNs: 1
Guests: 3	
Club account: \$1312	Cash: \$99.50
Raffle income: \$38	

President Doug Nelson called the 445th 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 January Newsletter. There were no reported changes. But I forgot to mention that the date was incorrect. It was 1994. Change it to 1995 if those things are important to you.

I also reported that I did not get to sending out the newsletters to former members early enough to make them useful for the January meeting. I will do that this month before the February meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Don Cerny reported the balances indicated in the box. He also mentioned that we have paid our rent of \$450 for this year (That's only 37.50 a month). The Post Office box rent was also paid in November.

Nominations

Joe Cerny was nominated to be a YN board member. Dennis Kwas was nominated to be a full board member. The election will be in February.

New Member

We accepted Mark and Shea Finnigan as new members. Welcome, Mark and Shea. I hope you will enjoy and take part in our activities for a long time.

February Meeting

The February meeting will feature an ANA slide program on the San Francisco mint from its beginning in Gold Rush times through its conversion to a museum.

We will also have elections for the board members. Joe Cerny and Dennis Kwas have been nominated. If anyone else is interested you will have a final chance before the election.

In conjunction with the slide show on the San Francisco, think of bringing your favorite San Francisco coin(s) for the Collectors' Corner this month.

The new lower club dues are due. If you've paid, thanks. If you haven't come with your \$10 or mail it to our box.

Program

John Grig of AM-NAT American International in St. Charles, a dealer authorized by PCGS to submit coins for certification, gave a very informative description of certifying coins. He told us why to certify, what to certify, and the procedures and costs of actually submitting coins for certification. Of interest was that one can become a PCGS submitter only after being in business for at least 10 years, and then only after a 6- to 9-month review after application.

After his presentation, John answered several questions from the members. Most of us learned a lot. Thanks very much for taking your time to present this to us, John. We appreciate your interest and enthusiasm.

Collector's Corner

Mike Metras brought a set of 1993 10, 25, 50, and 100 ruble token-coins of Spitzbergen. These coins, with the "Russian Federation" written across their faces, were the source of a complaint from the Norwegian Government to Russia that resulted in Russia melting 22 million rubles worth of them — How many are left? Spitzbergen in an island in the Norwegian Svalbard Archipelago at 87° North latitude. Though Norwegian, the islands are open to mining by 42 nations.

The Rest

January Prizes

Regular membership prize: Lorraine Westlake

Junior membership prize: Mike Cerny

Not present to claim membership prize: n/a

Door prize winners: Alan Cerny, Harold Hunt, Al Maday

Not present to claim door prize: Jim Donovan

Raffle winners: Mark Finnigan, Rich Ekebrecht, Clayton Hagemann

Before the program we broke to sell raffle tickets. After the program we had the raffle drawing, Collector's Corner, and the membership and door prize drawings. The winners are in the accompanying box.

11 members have paid dues already. Thanks.

Submitted by Mike Metras, Secretary.

Salvation Army Gold

Sunday, January 23, I attended the Bruce Hickman Auction at the Oak Brook Marriott. Besides the great variety of coins in his own auction, he auctioned off gold and silver bullion coins deposited in Chicago-area kettles over during the holiday season. They brought a little over \$4000. Most sold at just over bullion price.

Elgin Coin Club

A.N.A. 29457

P.O. Box 561

I.N.A. 1299

C.S.N.S. R6906

South Elgin, IL 60177

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

Visitors are always welcome.

Board Meeting: The board meeting takes place about two weeks after the regular meeting. We get together at one of the officer's or board member's houses or at a location otherwise determined by the officers. This is an *open* meeting. Members are welcome to all board meetings. If you want to attend, contact an officer for the time of and directions to the meeting place.

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

- \$10 full member
- \$5 junior member (YNs) under 18
- \$15 family membership (adults and children)

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 the editor or any 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.



Clue one: Power keg bands
Clue two: New Haven, Conn.

The prize for this new Mystery Coin is a 1922 Peace dollar. See the January, 1995 newsletter for the Mystery Coin rules.

January Board Meeting

January's board meeting was held at Doug's house at 7pm January 18. Those present were President Doug Nelson, Vice President Harold Hunt, Treasurer Don Cerny, Secretary Mike Metras, and soon-to-be board member Joe Cerny.

This month we:

- Decided on the program and prizes for February's meeting.
- Decided on the Mystery Coin prize.
- Reminded this secretary to send out letters to former members.
- Renewed our membership for 1995 in the Illinois Numismatic Association and 1995-1996 in the Central States Numismatic Association.
- Spent a lot of fun time talking about coins and coins and coins and more coins—none of this had to do with running the club, but it sure was fun....

Coin of the Month Seated Liberty Dime 1837-1891

The beautiful Seated Liberty design created by Christian Gobrecht first was placed on the 1837 dime. Liberty was seated right and facing over her shoulder to the left. She held a pole with the liberty cap and sat in front of a shield with the word "Liberty." On the reverse "United States of America" wrapped around an olive wreath that enclosed "One Dime." The mint mark was placed the both within and below the wreath on the obverse.

The dime was 17.9 millimeters. It weighed 2.67 grams and was 90% silver (.0773 ounces). The rest was copper. This

dime replaced the earlier dime which was 2.7 grams and 89.24% silver (.0775 ounces)

Quickly in 1838, the mint added stars to the obverse field where there was nothing in 1837 and 1838O. In 1840 drapery was added at liberty's elbow and the shield set more upright.

In 1853 the weight was diminished to 2.49 grams—that made a dime with .0721 ounces of silver. The mint added arrows at the date to mark the lighter coins in 1853 through 1855. the arrows were removed the following year.

In 1860, though the basic Seated Liberty design remained, the coin was changed dramatically. The "United States of America" motto was moved from the back replacing the stars which were removed from the coin. The olive wreath was changed to one of oak and maple leaves and wheat stalks.

The last major variety happened when the mint again added arrows to the date in 1873. This time the arrows identified slightly heavier dimes, now 2.5 grams (.0724 ounces), the weight of the dime until silver was removed from them in 1964.

After the arrows were removed in 1875 the series continued until it was replaced by the Barber dime in 1892. The last Liberty Seated dime left the mint in 1891, 54 years after the first, and people were mighty tired of it. And here we sit with an 86-year-old penny, a 54-year-old quarter, a 48-year-old nickel, and a couple young'uns. Time for a change? I think so.

The winner of this month's Membership prize will take home a 1847 variety of this dime in fine condition.

Bits

The *Rare Coin Review* quoted part of an article in *Coinage* by John Iddings: "John Zug was a coin speculator in 1909, and when he noticed the fuss being made over the V.D.B. initials, he went straight to the San Francisco Mint and paid face value for 25,000 mint-fresh 1909-S V.D.B. Lincoln cents. Zug sat on his hord until 1918, when the designers initials were restored to the coin. Figuring that the design was now at a peak, he sold off the hord for about \$450, realizing a \$200 profit. Today, the coins Zug obtained for \$250 would be worth approximately \$30 million."

- *Rare Coin Review* no. 102, p.45

Cleaning

It seems that cleaning coins is a hot topic in the numismatic press these days. Both *Numismatic News* and *Coin World* have had a number of articles and many letters to the editor on the subject. As I wash my face and hands, and body to remove whatever has built up over the day or days since I last cleaned myself, I also use the soap and water to clean the dirt and grease off my coins. If something does not remove or alter the metal, why not use it to improve the look of my coin. Yes, I don't do it to my proof or uncirculated coins, but then, they aren't dirty—I keep them in a clean environment. But coins that have been in circulation for years and are dirty need to have their faces cleaned.

John S. Davenport, one of the notables in American Numismatics, gave a talk to the combined ILNA state convention and Chicago Coin Club in Chicago in 1970 on "Some Numismatic Heresies." The talk was reprinted in the *NI Bulletin* October 1994. Mr. Davenport presented what he termed his "five commandments" for numismatists. His second commandment was "Thou shalt clean thy coins if this will improve their appearance." He continues:

In the last issue of *The Numismatic Review* editor Risk has a terse comment, "Our advice about cleaning coins is the simple admonition - don't." I disagree flatly. Gold coins, I think present no special problems, and as I know nothing about the cleaning of nickel and copper coins, my remarks will be confined to silver, the metal of the great bulk of my own collection. I think a great deal of balderdash has been written — mostly by dealers with an eye on sales — about the beautiful toning on silver coins. Only one coin in a thousand of toned pieces is really beautiful. Until a coin is completely toned, the bronze, purple, or gold coloration around the border is mere distraction from the coin itself, and if most of us wait for such a piece to complete its toning, we will be snugly in our graves when that occurs. I think a silver coin should look silver and is the most beautiful in that condition. Coins have been ruined by scrubbing and polishing, and discretion is obviously necessary. My coins are treated with loving, tender care with a soft toothbrush or my fingers and with nothing more abrasive than common baking soda. Sometimes it takes some persistent work, but the results have many times revealed a coin in better condition than the one described by the dealer who sold it to me because he could not see underneath the discoloration and tarnish. Several times during my European trips I have had to ask to have cases of coins on display opened to let me pick up the coin itself in order to determine its type. In several instances the lighting was so bad and the coins so black that nobody could possibly have told what he was looking at. My taler-crown pieces are sealed in transparent holders after cleaning and most are in as pristine condition today as when they were

sealed up 35 years ago. Somebody else will have to let them tone.

- *NI Bulletin*, Oct. 1994, p. 231.

Well, I do not know whether I'm ready to use baking soda or not. But my tooth brush and Ivory soap get a good workout every time I bring in a new batch of coins. Like Mr. Davenport, I want to be able to admire my coins and I cannot do that through a cover of dirt and grime (and, yes, bad toning).

Shows and Auctions

Specific Dates

- Jan 28—Sonny Henry Auction, Howard Johnson, I80 & US251, Peru, IL (815-539-6300), 5pm.
- Feb 5—Rockford Area Coin Club Show, Hoffmann House and Ramada Inn, 7550 E. State, Rockford, IL.
- Feb 12—Rantoul Coin Club Show, Civic Center, 520 E. Wabash.
- Feb 24-26—Chicago Paper Money Expo, Ramada O'Hare Hotel, 6600 N. Mannheim Pk.
- Feb 26—Frank D'Atri, Holiday Inn, 2400 Kingery Hwy (Rt 83), Willowbrook, IL, noon.

Monthly

- First Sunday—Elmhurst KC, York Road, Elmhurst.
- Third Sunday—N.O.I.S.E., 400 E. Ogden, Westmont.

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