



March, 1995

Newsletter

## March Meeting

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

## Prizes

**Regular Member:** *Guide to Barber Quarters*  
**Junior Member:** 3 proofs, a loon, and a '64 Kennedy, mostly proof  
**Raffle Prizes:** 1856 Seated Liberty 25¢ xf  
1817 Large cent vg  
1941S Winged Liberty 10¢  
**Door Prizes:** Come and see.

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

## Super Raffle in April

As many of you already know, April is Super Raffle month. Harold has been selling tickets during the last couple meetings and will be selling them during the next two. Buy some. A few others have tickets to sell also.

And now we have the coins:

- 1895 \$5 Liberty gold unc, a really nice coin
- 1883 CC Morgan Dollar MS62 or MS63

If you want some tickets (please do) to sell among your co-workers and friends, see Harold. If you cannot make the meeting and want some chances on these fine coins, send your check for \$1 per chance to the club box and we'll get you into the drawing.

## White Elephant

May will be White Elephant Month.

## February Minutes

## March "San Francisco" Meeting

March is "San Francisco" month. The March 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. This time we will have a projector.

To make the theme work, bring some of your favorite San Francisco coins to Collectors' Corner. Make it a real San Francisco month.

Think about bringing some of the coins you are no longer actively collecting and placing them in an after-meeting auction. And bring some money, you may find something to buy you have been looking for.

If you haven't paid your 1995 \$10 dues or mailed them to our box, you are not eligible for the March Membership Prize and this is the last month you will get this newsletter. Pay up so you don't miss out.

## ECC Meeting 446 — February 4, 1995

<b>Opened:</b> 7:30pm	<b>Closed:</b> 8:15pm
<b>Members:</b> 18	<b>YNs:</b> 4
<b>Guests:</b> 1	
<b>Club account:</b> \$897	<b>Cash:</b> \$67
<b>Raffle income:</b> \$44	

President Doug Nelson called the 446th meeting of the Elgin Coin Club to order at 7:30pm at VFW Post 1308.

## Secretary's Report

The minutes were accepted as published in the February Newsletter. There were no reported changes. I also reported that I sent out 31 newsletters along with a cover letter to former members inviting them to join us again.

## Treasurer's Report

Don Cerny reported the balances indicated in the box. He also mentioned that we have bought \$147 worth of coins for future raffle, door, and membership prizes.

## Appointments

After discussing on matters of order—that we did not have to *elect* board members unless there were too many applying—Doug offered that we were just asking for voice approval for the new members. With that Doug appointed Joe Cerny to be a YN board member and Dennis Kwas be a full board member. Thanks for your help Joe and Dennis.

## Program

Yours truly dropped the ball on getting the slide projector and as a result the slide show had to be canceled. We will have it in March.

Luckily Dennis Kwas had brought his bank notes and shared them and his thoughts on them with us. Thanks for pulling us out of that one, Dennis.

## February Prizes

**Regular membership prize:** Dennis Kwas

**Junior membership prize:** Shea Finnegan

**Door prize winners:** Dennis Kwas, Mike Metras, Vincent Zaccardi

**Not present to claim door prize:** Bob Akin, James Anderson, Roger Bear, David Friederick, Al Maday, Mike Palm, Daryl Prosser

**Raffle winners:** Jay Sidmore, Harry Westlake, Mike Cerny

Before Dennis' presentation we broke to sell raffle tickets. Afterwards we had the raffle drawing, and the membership and door prize drawings. The winners are in the accompanying box. As you can see we had to try awfully hard to give away the door prizes. Though we had a good attendance compared to the recent past, we miss the rest of you—though we didn't mind taking your door prizes.

Twenty seven members have paid 1995 dues already. Thanks. We also have three life time members and five honorary members.

Submitted by Mike Metras, Secretary.

## Auction?

During the board meeting someone asked what had happen to our monthly auctions of member coins we used to have. None of us had a good explanation (it was actually before my time). They just seem to have stopped dead. Is it the 5% surcharge we started to charge? Have you just forgotten about the auctions? Were you realizing too little profit? Let's talk about this a bit at the meeting because I have a lot of fun with auctions at other clubs I attend.

## Elgin Coin Club

A.N.A. 29457  
C.S.N.S. R6906

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

**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.

For new members who, like me, know little of this fun practice, the auction is a means to get rid of some of your old stuff, get some money for it, and use the money to buy something new. It was never intended to be, and never will be, a place to sell your coins at retail. Rather, it is a chance to recycle your unwanted items to fellow collectors and maybe get something you are looking for that someone else wants to sell.

What should you bring? Not your gem bu 1856 Flying Eagle or some other very high grade item that you want to get a lot for—it won't happen. But bring things you'd like your friends to have for a nominal compensation. And make bids on what your friends have brought and we all can get our obsolete inventory moving.

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## Dealers and Would-be Dealers

They also tell me some dealers used to set up before meetings. I remember a little of that when I joined the club a couple years ago. You still can set up if you want. Those of us who are strictly collectors surely would look and some of us would buy.



Clue one: Powder keg bands.

Clue two: New Haven, Conn.

Clue three: Abel Buell.

Marty correctly guessed the mystery coin during the February meeting but to give other and the younger members a chance he forfeited the prize. Thanks Marty.

The Mystery Coin prize is a 1922 Peace dollar. See the January, 1995 newsletter and the February board minutes below for the Mystery Coin rules.

## Are You a Clue Maker?

Do you want to create a set of clues for a mystery coin? We'd love that. Make a set of six clues and then quietly submit them to *one* of the club officers (to *one* so the others have a chance to win too).

## First 1995 Coin

On February 2 Harold called to say he had received a 1995 cent in change at a White Hen in River Forest that morning. Has anyone else received 1995 coins yet? Let us know.

## Clarification — Weighing Cents

In the June, 1994 Newsletter I quoted *Numismatic News* that there are 181.4 cents in a pound. That is correct for the 2.5-gram zinc cents. But there are only 145.9 3.11-gram copper cents to a pound. So it is almost impossible to determine how many cents you have by weighing them unless you know they are all copper or all zinc.

## February Board Meeting

February's board meeting was held at Don's house at 7pm February 15. Harold Hunt, Don and Joe Cerny, Mike Metras, and Dennis Kwas. Welcome to Joe and Dennis.

We decided on the prizes for March's meeting.

We also decided to clarify the Mystery coin rules as follows: *The only members not eligible to win are those who actually create the clues (usually just one or two members). Otherwise all other members including the board members and editor are eligible to win.*

We had a long discussion concerning before-meeting dealer setup and after-meeting auctions. Basically, what has happened to them? We'd like to see them come back. Two items earlier in this newsletter reflect our discussion.

The board agreed with me when I told them I was sending last year's Elgin Coin Club Newsletter to the ANA Club Publications Contest.

Dennis reminded us that at one time everyone got some little handout at every meeting, nothing to make anyone rich, but something new or different that stimulated interest. We decided to try this again.

We also talked about asking you what you want us to present for our monthly programs. We have done that before, but I ask you again, what would you like us to do for you program-wise? What are your interests? Write your suggestions and give them to one of the officers-Or just tell us. We'll surely consider them. And while we are at it, if you have presentation you want to give or know someone who would be willing to talk before us, please let us know.

We also agreed to and purchased the Super Raffle coins announced on page one of this Newsletter.

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## Five Thousand Cents

© Mike Metras

In mid-1985 I inherited a jug of cents accumulated over a period of a couple of years here in the Chicago suburbs. They have sat in my room gathering dust since that time. Oh, I looked at a few off the top but I'm not one to go through a lot of cents any more like I did in my youth.

A few weekends ago my curiosity finally got the best of me. What was there? Were rare cents lurking in that jug? How long had my brother been gathering them? Had he kept only certain cents and discarded others? He was not a coin collector as such, so what was in the bottle? If these were just the cents he got in change, how were the dates and mints distributed?

## Dates and Mints Found in June 1985, Cache of

Year	Cents			Tot.	%
	P	D	S		
1985	0	20	0	20	0%
1984	194	64	0	258	5%
1983	185	204	0	389	8%
1982	256	684	0	940	18%
Cu lg	149	591			
Cu sm	6	0			
Zn lg	83	26			
Zn sm	19	67			
1981	148	354	0	502	10%
1980	129	231	0	360	7%
1979	76	201	0	277	5%
1978	71	210	0	281	5%
1977	86	154	0	240	5%
1976	91	168	0	259	5%
1975	58	174	0	232	4%
1974	43	182	4	229	4%
1973	27	138	2	167	3%
1972	26	101	2	129	2%
1971	12	113	2	127	2%
1970	11	99	6	116	2%
1969	4	105	7	116	2%
1968	15	81	0	96	2%
1967	52	0	0	52	1%
1966	34	0	0	34	1%
1965	28	0	0	28	1%
1964	21	98	0	119	2%
1963	4	38	0	42	1%
1962	7	39	0	46	1%
1961	2	34	0	36	1%
1960	3	33	0	36	1%
1959	2	28	0	30	1%
Totals:	1585	3553	23	5161	

**Other:** 1946, 1946D, 1949D, 1949S, 1951D, 1953D, 1956, 1956D, 2-1957D

**Canadian:** 1957, 2-1963, 1978

**Notes:** 1970S 3 large/ 3 small dates.

Several 1971P have very broad rims.

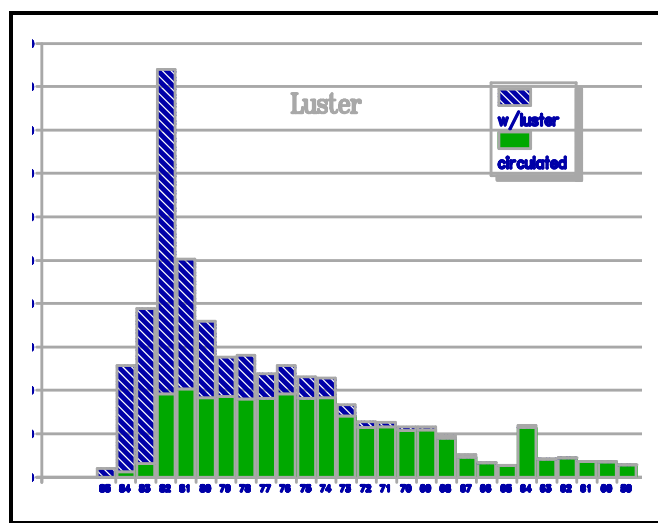
1960 all large dates.

Several 1984P have very flat rims (corrosion? chemicals?).

Piqued by these questions and just plain old curiosity, I spent a cold winter weekend in early February doing a complete population check. Five thousand sixty one cents later I made the accompanying table from counts of the little boxes and stacks all over my table.

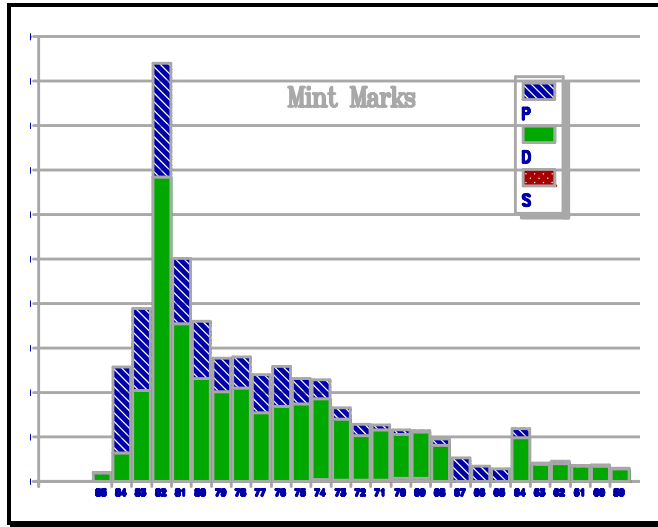
Now I think I can answer some of those questions that my brother, Jake, now gone, no longer can.

- He gathered them between early 1982 and 1985. 1982 makes up a full 18% of the total and the numbers drop off before 1981.
- The even distribution indicates that Jake included all cents he received in change.
- The number of 1982 compared to other dates suggests that he may have heard about the 1982 change to zinc and decided to save just them at first and only later decided to save all cents he received.
- Denver cents predominate up through 1975 when the Philadelphia distribution moves up to between 25% and 35% of the total.
- The last two full years 1983 and 1984 show 48% and 75% Philadelphia, a decided change in the ration of Denver to Philadelphia.



- The accompanying Luster chart shows counts based on whether the coins had mint luster or not. It does *not* indicate whether they are uncirculated or not, as many are only AU and some only XF and worse. I only wanted to indicate the percentage of coins still *looking* "new."
- The Luster chart clearly shows that most of the coins were pulled from circulation from 1981 at the earliest.
- It also shows, curiously, that the number of coins with no luster remains almost the same from 1974 through 1982 (one year into the saving) even though the total number increases each year.

## Coin of the Month Barber Quarter 1892-1916



- The Mint Marks chart shows the numbers from the table in graphic form. It clearly shows the dominance of the Denver cents in all but the last two years (not counting 1985).
- As for the 1982 coins, the copper variety predominates with almost 80% of the total.
- Curiously, when it comes to the 1982 zinc, 82% of the Philadelphia cents have large dates while a nearly the same percentage (70) of the Denver have small dates.

### Copper vs. Zinc

I was at a loss on how to distinguish between the copper and zinc 1982 cents. This series is not one of my normal areas of operation. They looked the same and I had no expensive balance to tell the difference between the 3.11-gram copper and the 2.5-gram zinc cents.

The answer came in a flash after a thinking about it for some days. I put a pencil under the 3-inch mark of a 6-inch plastic ruler. I then put a 1983 (zinc) cent on one end and the test 1982 on the other end. If the 1982 went down, it was copper. If it stayed more or less balanced, it was zinc. There was a clear difference!

I suppose this has been discovered before but it was so simple and so elegant that I thought I'd share it with anyone else who may not have thought of it and would like to do similar tests.

By the 1880s people were getting tired of the Seated Liberty design. Authorization for a change came from Congress in September, 1890. After failure of both a closed and a public contest for a new design, Charles Barber, the Chief Engraver, was chosen to design a new dime, quarter and half dollar.

The obverse of the initial design actually was a standing Columbia with a liberty cap on a pole. It was "to British" and didn't stand a chance. The prevailing opinion resulted in a Liberty head like the one on several French coins. "In God We Trust" is over liberty's head and thirteen six-pointed stars and the date fills up the rest of the rim area.

The reverse has an outstretched eagle holding 13 arrows in its left talon and an olive branch in the other. Thirteen stars fill the field above a banner with "E Pluribus Unum" in the eagle's mouth. Pattern versions of the reverse included clouds above the eagle and an oak wreath around a much smaller eagle, a very busy design well left unused.

The quarter is the then standard 900 fine silver with 10% copper weighing 6.25 grams with 0.18084 oz. of silver and 24.3mm in diameter.

The Barber Quarter and Half dollar shared essentially the same design. The quarter was minted between 1892 and 1916, exactly the required 25 years. All four active mints, Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco, and New Orleans, minted the coin.

The Barber Quarter had three major hub changes: one right away in 1892 when the coiners discovered the original design didn't stack well because the head extended above the rim; a second that was used from 1892 through 1990; and a final one used 1990-1916.

Barber quarters were heavily used. Most come to us in only very good, good, and even worse condition. Coins in higher condition demand considerable premiums over their worn out cousins.

The lucky winner of this month's membership prize will go home with a lot more information about the Barber Quarter in the form of David Lawrence's *The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters*, the source for most of the information in this article.

## Shows and Auctions

No sortage of things to do this month!

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- Mar 4—Sonny Henry Auction, Howard Johnson, I80 & US251, Peru, IL (815-539-6300), 5pm.
  - Mar 5—Elmhurst KC, York Road, Elmhurst.
  - Mar 5—Wat-Cha-Kee Coin Club Show, East Side Banquet Center Rts. 1 & 24 East, Watseka, IL.
  - Mar 11-12—National Collectibles Expo, Holiday Inn, Rt 83 and Landmeiere, Elk Grove Village, IL.
  - Mar 12—Bruce Hickman Auction, Marriott, 1401 W. 22nd, Oak Brook, IL
  - Mar 19—N.O.I.S.E., 400 E. Ogden, Westmont.
  - Mar 19—Coin, Stamp, & BB Card Spring Show, Civic Auditorium, 8th & Jeffery, Kankakee, IL.
  - Mar 24-26—Chicago International Coin Fair, Sheraton Hotel and Towers, 301 E. N. Water St., Chicago
  - Mar 25—Corn Belt Coin Club Show, Elks Lodge, Madison and Washington, Bloomington, IL
  - Mar 26—Lake County Coin Club Show, Moose Lodge #706, 2755 Washington St., Waukegan, IL.
  - Mar 26—Will Co. Coin Club Show, Holiday Inn, I-80 & Larkin, Joliet.
  - Mar 26—Frank D'Atri Auction, Holiday Inn, 2400 Kingery Hwy (Rt 83), Willowbrook, IL, noon.

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