



April, 1995

Newsletter

## April Meeting

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

## Prizes

**Regular Member:** *Guide to Walking Liberty Halves*  
**Junior Member:** 1979S Type 2 50¢ Proof  
**Raffle Prizes:** 1932 25¢ bu  
1944S 10¢ bu  
And more...  
**Door Prizes:** Come and see.

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

## April Meeting

April is Super Raffle and date month. The April meeting will feature an ANA slide program on dating systems used on coins. The slides show how different countries have used systems other than our calendar year to designate the date of issue

Bring in some of your coins with different dating systems to share with us. Maybe you have something really unusual that is not in this 66-slide set.

April is also Super Raffle month. Buy some chances to own one of these beautiful coins:

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

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.

## March Minutes

### ECC Meeting 447 — March 4, 1995

<b>Opened:</b> 7:35pm	<b>Closed:</b> 8:30pm
<b>Members:</b> 18	<b>YNs:</b> 6
<b>Guests:</b> 1	
<b>Club account:</b> \$702.92	<b>Cash:</b> \$59
<b>Raffle income:</b> \$44	

President Doug Nelson called the 447th 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 March Newsletter. One sharp reader noted an error in the March Newsletter article on the Barber Quarters. The hub dates should have read: second hub — 1892-1900; third hub 1900-1916.

### Treasurer's Report

Don Cerny reported the balances indicated in the box. He also mentioned that we paid \$195 for the Super Raffle prizes....So buy some tickets and make this worth our while. If we don't make the purchase price, future raffles will be affected.

### Old and New Business

There wasn't any so we got right into the program.

### Program

Joe Cerny did a wonderful job of reading the script for the ANA Slide show telling the fascinating history of the Mint in San Francisco. Thanks Joe and thanks ANA.

### Show and Tell (or Collector's Corner)

Rich Eckebrecht brought several tokens associated with San Francisco. He also had a book on So-called Dollars in which he had several San Francisco items marked.

I brought foreign coins made at the San Francisco mint. They included coins of Australia, Dominican Republic, French Indo China, Fiji, Haiti, Liberia, Panama, Netherlands East Indies, Philippines, and Nepal.

## March Prizes

**Regular membership prize:** Mark Finnegan

**Junior membership prize:** Joe Prosser

**Not present for membership prize:** Chuck Cerny

**Door prize winners:** Joe Cerny, Jack Palm, Joe Prosser  
**Not present for door prize:** no one

**Raffle winners:** Harry Westlake, Dennis Kwas, Mike Cerny,  
Mark Finnegan

We broke to sell raffle tickets before Show and Tell. Afterwards we had the raffle drawing, the membership, and door prize drawings. The winners are in the accompanying box. We finished off with a spirited auction. Let's do that more. This was a particularly fun meeting. See you next month.

Submitted by Mike Metras, Secretary.

## Futures

Here are some of the things that will be happening in the coming months:

- May will be White Elephant Month.
- May will also feature an ANA slide show on detecting counterfeit dimes through silver dollars.
- June will feature another ANA slide show, this one on Hard Times Tokens.



**Clue one:** Powder keg bands.

**Clue two:** New Haven, Conn.

**Clue three:** Abel Buell.

**Clue four:** First coin issued under US Authority.

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.

## First 1995 ChuckE Cheeze Token

Don Cerny wanted to make sure I let you know that he got his first 1955 ChuckE Cheeze token at the end of February. I saw it at the board meeting and assure you it is indeed authentic and 1995. Congrats, Don!

## 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  
**Vice President** — Harold Hunt

**Treasurer** — Don Cerny  
**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 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.

## Rovelstad Retrospective

Elgin sculptor Trygve Rovelstad (1903-1990) designed our Elgin Pioneer Half Dollar. Among many other things, he also designed 19 commemorative medals and several military awards and badges.

The Elgin Community College is having a display of his sculpture (a "retrospective") between March 9 and April 12 in Gallery One of the Commons of the Visual and Performing Arts Center of the ECC main Campus, just behind (south of) where we meet.

Times: Monday-Friday 10am-2pm  
Saturday 10am-1pm  
Tues., Wed., Thurs. 6-8pm

The school will be closed March 27 through April 2 for spring break. For more information call 697-1000 ex. 7405.

## March Board Meeting

March's board meeting was held at Don's house at 7pm March 15. Doug Nelson, Harold Hunt, Don and Joe Cerny, and Mike Metras.

We decided on the prizes for April's meeting.

We decided on ANA slide shows for the next three months. They are listed earlier in this newsletter.

The club has received a deluge of nominating petitions from various people looking for endorsement to be nominated as ANA board members. We (the officers) know only a couple. During the next meeting I will place these petitions on a table for you to review. If you want to discuss any, bring it up during the "new business" part of the meeting.

Beyond that it was a good evening of talk.

## A Little of This A Little of That

by Dennis Kwas

The last time I wrote here I said I'd soon be talking about Jefferson nickels. This seems like a good time. You can collect Jefferson nickels from circulation for face value if you want to collect circulated coins. Though I have only found two "war" nickels, I have found nickels from almost every other year beginning in 1938.

But I like toned Jeffersons more than circulated ones. The best toned coins are usually uncirculated. Some very pretty toned coins come from original rolls, usually from the ends of the roll. Other attractive tone colors come from Jeffersons in older holders.

The silver in the Jeffersons issued during the war give rise to the most pleasant array of colors of any of the Jeffersons.

Jefferson Nickel collectors count the number of steps in front of Montecello on the reverse. Their aim is to collect a series of "full-step" Jeffersons, coins with six full steps. The following excellent guide tells you how to correctly count steps. This procedure is adapted from a Jan.1993 publication of the PAK Nickel Club, a now defunct Mount Clair, NJ, Jefferson club.

Jefferson specialists generally agree that Jefferson Nickels, whether proof or uncirculated, must have *six full steps* to be classified as a full-step specimen. Any nickel with less must be described by its actual step count.

In architectural terms, a *step* includes a *tread* and a *riser* (Exhibit 1).

When viewed head on, the steps on reverse of the Jefferson Nickel look like a series of incuse and raised lines (Exhibit 2). The incuse (indented) lines represent the treads of steps 2 through 6 while the raised lines represent the risers.

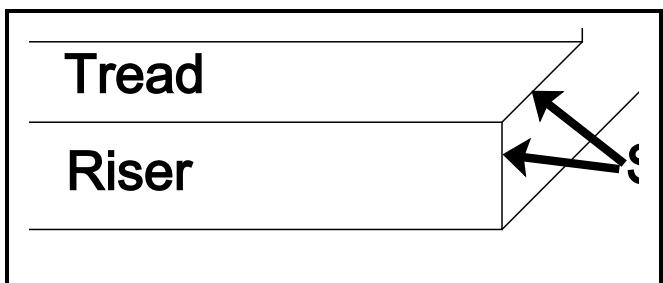


Exhibit 1: Steps

Count the steps by mentally dividing the step area into quarters as shown in Exhibit 3. Count the number of unbroken steps in each in each quarter separately. Add up the four quarter counts. Finally, divide the total by six to get the step count. To be counted, the steps must have no "misses," merging lines within the span of the quarter you are counting.

A full-step nickel has all steps visible without any merging or blending of the line defining the tread and the riser of the step. A full-step nickel has a quarter count of 24. Dividing it by 4 yields a step count of 6. In a similar manner a count of 17 divided by four gives a step count of 4½.

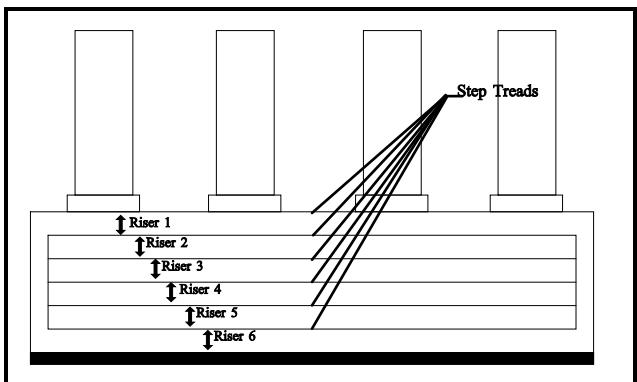


Exhibit 2: Montecello Steps

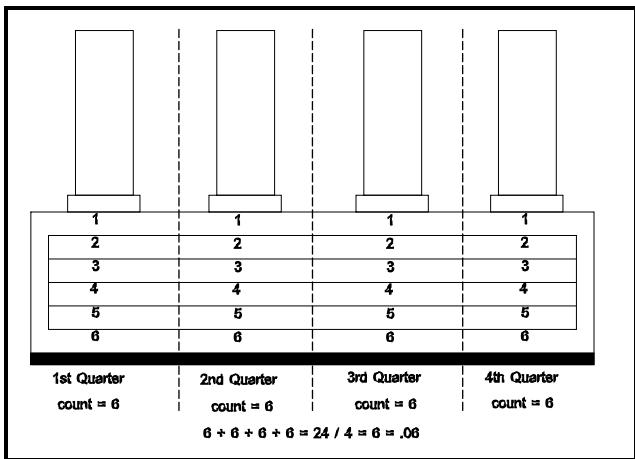


Exhibit 3: Counting Step Quarters on a Nickel

By convention, the number of steps are designated as a confusing hundredth designation—3 steps becomes  $.03$ , 5 steps become  $.05$ . Further convention keeps the fraction of a step as a fraction, not a  $4\frac{1}{4}$ -step nickel becomes  $.04\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  becomes  $.04\frac{1}{2}$ .

Once you have the quarters step count, reexamine the steps for complete steps—steps that are unbroken across all four quarters. Frequently the first and fourth steps have six unbroken steps with only two or three or less in the second and fourth quarter. You designate the number of complete steps by adding the number of complete steps and *CS* after the quarter step count. To add to the confusion, this *CS* count is left off when the complete-step count is the same as the quarter-step count.

To illustrate the count, the example in Exhibit 4 shows a nickel with a step count of  $.04\frac{1}{2}$ , **2CS**. There are 6 full steps in the first quarter, 4 in the second, 2 in the third, and 6 in the fourth, for a total of 18 steps— $.04\frac{1}{2}$ . In addition, only two of the steps cross all four quarters. This gives the final designation of  $.04\frac{1}{2}$ , **2CS**.

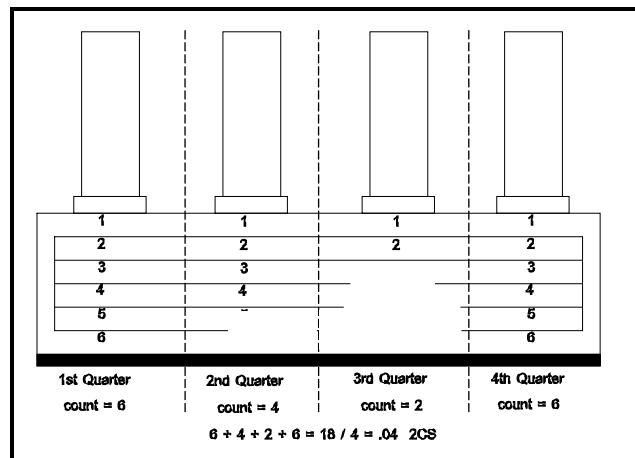


Exhibit 4: A  $.04\frac{1}{2}$  2CS Step-count Nickel

The second example (Exhibit 5) is simply  $.04\frac{1}{2}$ . Because there are four complete steps and the quarter count is also 4, you do

not have to add *CS* to the basic designation. Note that the riser and tread of Step 6 are mushy and indistinct in all four quarters.

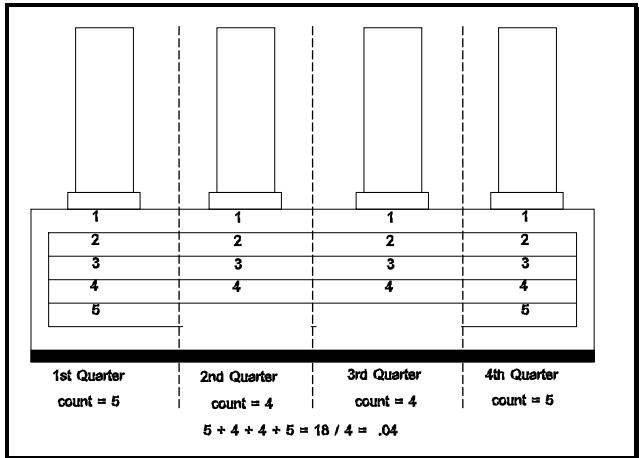


Exhibit 5: A  $.04$  Step-count Nickel

(Drawings and step-count text adopted from Pak Nickel Club publication by Mike Metras)

## Coin of the Month Walking Liberty Half 1916–1947

1916 was a year of change for the dime, quarter, and half dollar. The government held a contest among selected artists. In addition to winning the competition for the Winged Liberty ("Mercury") dime, Adolf Weinman, an immigrant born in Karlsruhe, Germany, won the contract to design the new Walking Liberty half dollar.

In Mr. Weinman's own words, "The design of the half dollar bears a full-length figure of Liberty, the folds of the stars and stripes flying to the breeze as a background, progressing in full stride toward the dawn of a new day, carrying branches of laurel and oak, symbolic of civil and military glory. The hand of the figure is outstretched in bestowal of the spirit of Liberty."

He continues, "The reverse of the half dollar shows an eagle perched high upon a mountain crag, his wings unfolded, fearless in spirit and conscious of his power. Springing from a high rock is a sapling of mountain pine symbolic of America." Add to this the monogram of his initials, AAW, is placed at the tip of the eagle's feathers.

What else can I say other than give you the vital statistics. The Walking liberty half dollar ("Walker") weighed 12.5 grams, had 90% silver (0.36169 ounces) and 10% copper, and was 30.6 mm in diameter.

The Walking Liberty was only the second US coin to have a mint mark on the obverse. It was below "In God We Trust" in 1916 and part of 1917. But in February, 1917, Mr. Von Engelken, the mint director, ordered it moved to the reverse because "the obverse mint mark had the appearance of

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a defect in the die and was entirely too prominent" on the obverse. I remember as a kid discovering my first branch mint Walker with an obverse mint mark. That was in the days when all mint marks, save on the cent, were still on the reverse. I was in some way in awe over it. I thought it was some wonderful error.

Minted from 1916 to 1947, the Walker includes in its members the seventh lowest mintage of the 1900s: only 208,000 1921-Ds were made.

The Walking Liberty, along with its companion the Standing Liberty quarter, had so much detail and depth that it is hard to find samples of many dates that are fully struck with complete details. To me it is surely the most beautiful US coin to date.

(Mr. Weinman is quoted by A. Swiatek in his book *The Walking Liberty Half Dollar*.)

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## Beginnings The Cerny's

(Editor's note: Here's Don Cerny's contribution to our ongoing effort at chronicling the beginnings of our collectors.)

Sitting around the dining room table talking about which movie to get or what pizza to order one particular Saturday, someone mentioned that our family needed a hobby. We all knew about baseball cards. But some in the family really were not interested. We brought up different collectibles and hobbies. We talked about it at various supper times for months.

A small ad in the paper about the Elgin Coin Club show at the Ramada Inn brought up the subject again. The boys and I decided to go to the show for a look.

I had collected as a kid but other interests and the Marine Corps stalled my interests. 1980 saw my collection dwindle to a few pieces of silver and a whole lot of copper. I had managed to save my Walking Liberty halfs. With that in mind, we decided to go to the show and take a look.

As a kid I had had a real nice '38-D Walking Liberty half in XF but I had given it to a woman who also collected. Oh, my regrets! So I thought I would find a new one. Two dealers had '38-Ds. I chose one from Mike Riley. The coin was only fine, but it renewed the boys and my interests.

We started to go to the shows more often (I liked it when the ECC had shows at the VFW on Sunday). On one particular trip to the Schaumburg Coin Show, Mike Riley handed me a card for the Elgin Coin Club. My brother and I thought we would visit and see. We went to the March, 1992, meeting and met some nice people, ate the best hamburgers, and learned a few things about collecting. Next my oldest son, Chuck, attended, followed by my second son, Joe, and finally Michael.

We have found that there is more to collecting coins than just purchasing them. The programs the club has, the knowledge the members share, the interesting people we have in the club, the club newsletter, and the time my boys and I spend together makes me glad we chose coins as a family hobby.

## Shows and Auctions

- Apr 2—Elmhurst KC, York Road, Elmhurst.
- Apr 2—Quad City Coin Club annual Coin Show, Holiday Inn, 174 & Middle Road, Bettendorf, IA.
- Apr 16—N.O.I.S.E., 400 E. Ogden, Westmont.
- Apr 22—Sonny Henry Auction, Howard Johnson, I80 & US251, Peru, IL (815-539-6300), 5pm.
- Apr 28-30—Central States Numis. Soc. Convention, Mecca Convention Center, 500 N. Kilbourn St., Milwaukee, WI.
- Apr 30—Schaumburg Numis. Soc. annual Coin Show, Marriott, 50 North Martingale, Schaumburg, IL.
- Apr 30—Frank D'Atri Auction, Holiday Inn, 2400 Kingery Hwy (Rt 83), Willowbrook, IL, noon.
- Apr 30—Bruce Hickman Auction, Marriott, 1401 W. 22nd, Oak Brook, IL

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