



Elgin



Coin Club Newsletter

August, 2007

1957 FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY YEAR 2007

Year 14, Issue 8

August Meeting

Meeting: 7:30pm August 1
Trading: 7:00–7:30pm
Location: VFW Post 1307
 1601 Weld Road
 Elgin, IL

Prizes

Member: 1901 25c.
YN: French 25 Euro cent
 Jules Verne
Raffle: 1921-S 1c.
 1993-S 1c.
 1919-P 5c.
 1955 25c. proof
 1948-P 50c.
 1962 50c. proof
 1962 50c. proof
 1992-S 50c.
 1939 India half rupee
 1964B Swiss 2 franc

Not a member?
Come anyway and join the fun!
Give your spouse a break and bring your children to the club.

ECC Meeting 592

Opened: 7:30	Closed: 9:00
Members: 16	YNs: 0
Guests: 0	50/50: \$25.00
Beginning: \$384.50	Income: \$95.00
Expenses: \$81.00	Current balance: \$398.50

August program

This month's program will be a grading seminar. Bring in some raw coins to be graded by the club. Coins should be in double-sided flips. After all coins have been graded, we will average out the grades to arrive at a consensus. Don C. will give a short quiz on events from the June meeting.

July Minutes

Since the first Wednesday of July was the 4th. There was no meeting.

Secretary's Report

There was no Secretaries report for the July meeting.

Treasurer's report

Balance: \$398.50

There was no Treasurers report from the July Meeting. Balance is carried forward from June.

Old Business

Fantasy coin contest

- 1. Jim D. 25,000**
- 2. Marty K. 25,000**
- 3. Jim M. 25,000**
- 4. John R. 25,000**
- 5. Rick W. 25,000**

Standings will be updated at the August meeting.

New Business

None

Prizes

There were no raffle or members prizes awarded in July.

Submitted by Jim D.

Board Meeting

On July 11 Don, Shea F, Eagle, John R. and Jim met to discuss club business and select prizes for the August meeting.

Shows

- **August 5** — Lemont Coin Expo, Lesnieski Center, 127th & Lemont Rd., Lemont, IL
 - **August 12** — West Suburban Coin & Collectible Expo, Park Place Banquet Hall, 6240 Joliet Rd., Countryside, IL
 - **August 19** – NOISE Coin Show, Holiday Inn, 860 Irving Park Rd (2 blocks E. of IL 53), Itasca, IL.
 - **August 26** — D'Atri Auctions, Double Tree Guest Suites, 2111 Butterfield Rd., Downers Grove, IL.
- Oct 28 Elgin coin club annual coin show. VFW post 1307, 1601 weld rd., Elgin, IL

Editorial

The A.N.A. convention in Milwaukee. This years Worlds Fair of Money will be held at the Midwest Convention Center, 400 W. Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI from August 10-12. If you have never attended an ANA convention you should as it is one of the premier numismatic events of the year. In addition to the opportunity to browse the tables of several hundred of the nation's largest dealers there are a number of events and activities in which to participate. At the convention, you can see scores of exhibits encompassing all aspects of numismatics. If that is not enough there are many numismatic theatre programs presented by various experts sharing their knowledge on a variety of subjects. Over the course of the convention, there will also be several national and specialty clubs holding meeting that are open to the public.

If that is not enough to get you to go there are also some very special exhibits from both the U.S. mint and Smithsonian Institution. The

Mint will show the twelve Sacagawea dollars struck in .917 pure gold and sent into space aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia. The contribution from the Smithsonian is a group of pattern coins showing the renaissance of American coinage between 1907 and 1921. Included among the 25 or so patterns are patterns for the St. Gaudens \$10 and \$20, the Walking Liberty half, the Standing Liberty quarter and the Peace dollar.

Lastly, one of the fun things to do is to obtain a numismatic passport. It is a small booklet sold at the door and contains pages telling about all the mints that set up booths in the convention. Also in the folder are slots to place minor coins that the mints give away to passport holders. Many times the person working the booth will stamp your folder with either a postage cancellation stamp or coat of arms of that country. This show only comes to this area every decade or so, so do not miss this opportunity. I hope to see you there.

COTY awards announced. Krause publications recently announced the winners of this year's coin of the year for coins dated 2005. The United States took three honors including Best Crown for the Marine Corps dollar. Other awards went to the Oregon Quarter for Best Trade coin and the Jefferson/Bison nickel as the most popular. Australia won Most Innovative design with the Dancing Man dollar. When tilted the man appears to move in a circular manner as if really dancing. Germany took two awards one for Historical coin honoring Einstein's theory of relativity and Best Gold coin for the world cup soccer tournament. Austria won for best silver coin, Belarus for most artistic and Israel for most inspirational.

Coin of the month

Sing a song of sixpence.

Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue and a lucky sixpence in her shoe. This rhyme well known to brides is believed to bring good luck to their upcoming marriage. While the last part is well known to

English brides, most American brides know very little about the sixpence.

First struck in 1551 during the reign of James I, the sixpence was an important part of British coinage for over 400 years. Under the old system of British money, the sixpence was a logical denomination at half a shilling. In the US until the mid 1800's when foreign coins were still legal tender the sixpence was worth about 12 ½ cents or one Spanish bit. When England switched to the decimal system in the early 1970's some old timers still used the sixpence at the new rate of 2 ½ new pence. By the early 1980's the British government demonetized all pre decimal coinage.

One interesting story about the sixpence is that guitarist Brian May of the rock group Queen used a sixpence as a guitar pick. He also had an agreement with a guitar manufacturer to include a sixpence with all guitars bearing his name. Sixpences were struck in sterling (.925) silver until 1920 when the silver content was reduced to .500. Silver was completely removed in 1947 in favor of a copper-nickel alloy. The last sixpences were struck for circulation in 1967 and for proof sets in 1970.

Collecting sixpences can be an expensive and time consuming endeavor. Early coins (before 1700) are very scarce and even low-grade specimens can run several hundred dollars. After Victoria the coins start becoming more common and the coins issued during the reigns of George VI and Elizabeth II are quite common. You can buy a very nice copper nickel sixpence for a bride in your family for less than fifty cents.

Coin Quiz

1. This mint's location is in the same city as the setting of the film "The Big Easy."
2. This mint's name is the same as the last name of a co-star of a 1960's sitcom.
3. The name of this mint is the same as the title of a Tom Hanks movie.
4. Adrian Monk solved a crime committed by an employee of what mint?
5. This mint is in the same state as the

Ponderosa.

Coin quiz answers

1. New Orleans
2. Denver
3. Philadelphia
4. San Francisco
5. Carson City

Coin Club

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C.S.N.S. R6906

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I.N.A. 1299

President — Doug Nelson
Vice President — Steve Hardman

Treasurer — Shea Finnegan
Secretary — Jim Davis

Regular Meeting: First Wednesday
VFW Post 1307
1601 Weld Road
Elgin, IL 7:30pm

Visitors are always welcome. Weld Road is a frontage road between McLean and Randall Roads just south of US 20 on the south side of Elgin.

Board Meeting: We have a board meeting about two weeks after the regular meeting. We get together at one of the officer 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.

Internet: The club has a home page on the internet at www.worksandwords.com. You can view the monthly newsletter there about three or four days after it is sent out to the members.

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 (all adults and children in the family)

Newsletter editor: Jim Davis. Contact me at P.O. Box 561, Elgin, IL 60552-0314 or at the above email address.

Submit all items for publication to the editor or any officer at any club meeting or send them to the above address. If you compose on a computer, please include an electronic copy of the item. That really helps.

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