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## *Madison County Coin Club Newsletter*

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**Volume 7, Issue 9**

**Founded 2001**

**October, 2007**

**ANA Member #C-195870 (Region 20, AL & GA)**

**ANS & GNA Member**

**Meeting:** Thomas W. Davidson, Sr. Senior Center

**Meeting Time:** 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**Location:** 2200 Drake Ave. SW  
Huntsville, AL 35805  
256-881-6268

**Meeting Dates:** 4<sup>th</sup> Monday  
of every month, except  
May & December

**Web:** <http://mccc.anaclubs.org/>

**Editor:** Harold Fears

**ANA Club Rep.:** Jon Stimpson

### **President's Report**

By: Harold Fears

As you know, our club's newsletter is used to distribute useful information to the membership including coin news and upcoming events within the club. However, it is more than that – it is also a platform for members to contribute their own material for the purposes of entertainment, education, or information. This material keeps the newsletter fun and interesting. You have nothing to lose by giving writing a try and the club has everything to gain. You have an opportunity to share your interests and knowledge with all the members. You might find that you unknowingly share a specific interest with someone. So what are you waiting for?



*Eleven members with four guests attended the September meeting. Three guests became members that night!*

### **October Meeting Notice**

The October meeting will be held Monday the 22 at the Senior Center in Huntsville. We will be meeting in the Ceramics Room. Arthur Patrick will discuss commemorative coins.

# October is Quarter Month

October is quarter month. So if you wish to trade, sell, or buy some key dates quarters, the coin club's October meeting is the place to be!





## Some Scenes from the September Meeting



# **RARE KUWAIT CURRENCY STOLEN BY IRAQ IN 1990**

By  
**Bob Jaques**

On August 2, 1990 the world was shocked when the news described the swift invasion of Kuwait by Iraqi forces. Iraq had regarded Kuwait as part of their territory for many years, and on this particular day in August, Saddam Hussein decided to take Kuwait. On August 8, less than a week after the invasion, Iraq declared Kuwait annexed into Iraq. The United Nations passed a Resolution declaring the invasion illegal, and Iraq was told to leave Kuwait. A coalition of UN forces attacked the Iraqi forces in Kuwait on February 24, 1991 and Kuwait City was liberated just two days later. The Iraqi forces quickly withdrew a short time later.

During the invasion of Kuwait, Iraqi forces confiscated large hoards of Kuwait currency in denominations of 1/4 Dinar, 1/2 Dinar, and 1 Dinar. When the U.N. coalition forces drove the Iraqi's from Kuwait, the currency was returned to the Kuwait government.

Today, those confiscated pieces of paper money are highly sought

after as collectible items. How can they be distinguished from regular currency? By noting the prefix numbers preceding the notes serial numbers. Just to the left of the serial numbers is a small fraction with two numbers on the bottom portion of the fraction.

On the 1/4 Dinar notes the prefixes that range from 54 to 68 are the stolen pieces. On the 1/2 Dinar notes the prefixes that range from 30 to 37 are the stolen pieces. And on the 1 Dinar note the prefixes that range from 47 to 53 are the stolen pieces.

In my collection are the three stolen notes that are pictured with this article. These notes were sent to me by a friend who spent the last year serving in Iraq. He often visited Kuwait, where he purchased these notes from a dealer. My friend is a numismatist and recognized the historical significance of these notes.

These notes are not particularly valuable, but like many numismatic items, they do represent an interesting historical story.



## The Stolen Banknotes of Kuwait



## STANDARD INTERNATIONAL NUMERAL SYSTEMS

PREPARED ESPECIALLY FOR THE STANDARD CATALOG OF WORLD PAPER MONEY© 2006 BY KP Books

WESTERN	0	½	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	50	100	500	1000
ARABIC-TURKISH	٠	½	١	٢	٣	٤	٥	٦	٧	٨	٩	١٠	٥٠	١٠٠	٥٠٠	١٠٠٠

# **Numismatic Journey of Alaska:**

An Overview from 1784 to the Present

By

**Richard Jozefiak**

## **Introduction**

Alaska has a rich and interesting numismatic history, unlike any other part of the United States. From becoming a Czarist Russian territory in 1784, to a U.S. territory in 1867, from the gold rush era and finally to statehood in 1959, Alaska's numismatic history is a combination of its many different peoples and events that has shaped its history over the past 200 years.

The author has divided Alaska's numismatic history into five major periods, each period focusing on major historic events and impacts to the Alaska peoples. Each period has distinct numismatic items that were created and used by people during that time.

1. Russian America  
1794-1867
2. Unorganized U.S. Territory  
1867-1912
3. Gold Rush Period  
1895-1912
4. Organized U.S. Territory  
1912-1959
5. Statehood  
1959-today

## **Brief Overview of Alaska**

In order to understand the numismatic history of Alaska and what has shaped it, a brief overview of Alaska is helpful.

Alaska is known as "The Last Frontier". Alaska of today is still sparsely populated, and many areas are only accessible by boat or light plane. Alaska has its own time zones, and the land varies greatly from rugged coastlines of tall forests to arctic areas in the north.



*Figure 1 -- Typical Central Alaska area  
(Photo by the author)*



The Alaskan wildlife and natural resources bring people from all over the world to see and experience the wonders of the many different areas of the state.



*Figure 2 --Typical Central Alaska area  
in November  
(Photo by the author)*

Alaska is so large with many different zones of flora and fauna, weather, and native cultures that the state can be thought of as a subcontinent. Also, Alaska is much closer to Asia than it is to the lower 48 U.S. states.

Alaska is surrounded on three sides by water, and lies very close to Russian Siberia. The Aleutian Islands stretch in an arc for over a thousand miles.

Comparing the size of Alaska to the Continental U.S. with the above picture is helpful to appreciate the size and scale of the state. Alaska is more than 2 ½ times the size of Texas. It would stretch from Jacksonville, FL in

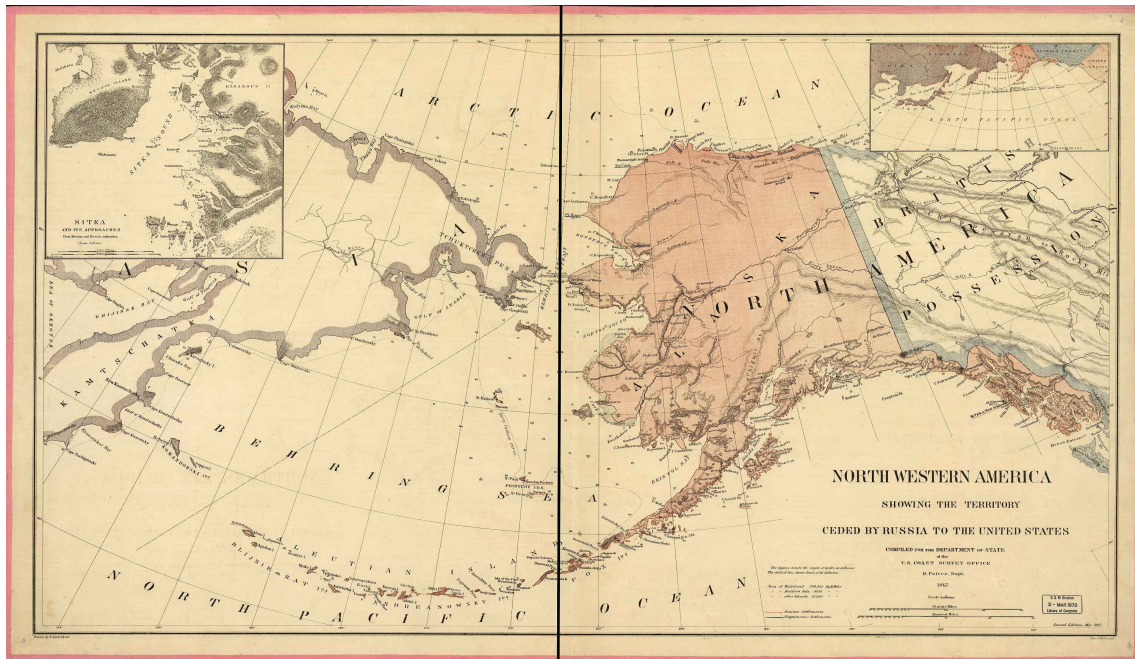
the east to San Francisco, CA. in the west.

Most of the population of Alaska is centered in and around its largest city, Anchorage. The major Alaskan highway forms a rough triangle from Anchorage to Fairbanks to Valdez. Most of small communities in Alaska are accessible only from the air or the sea.

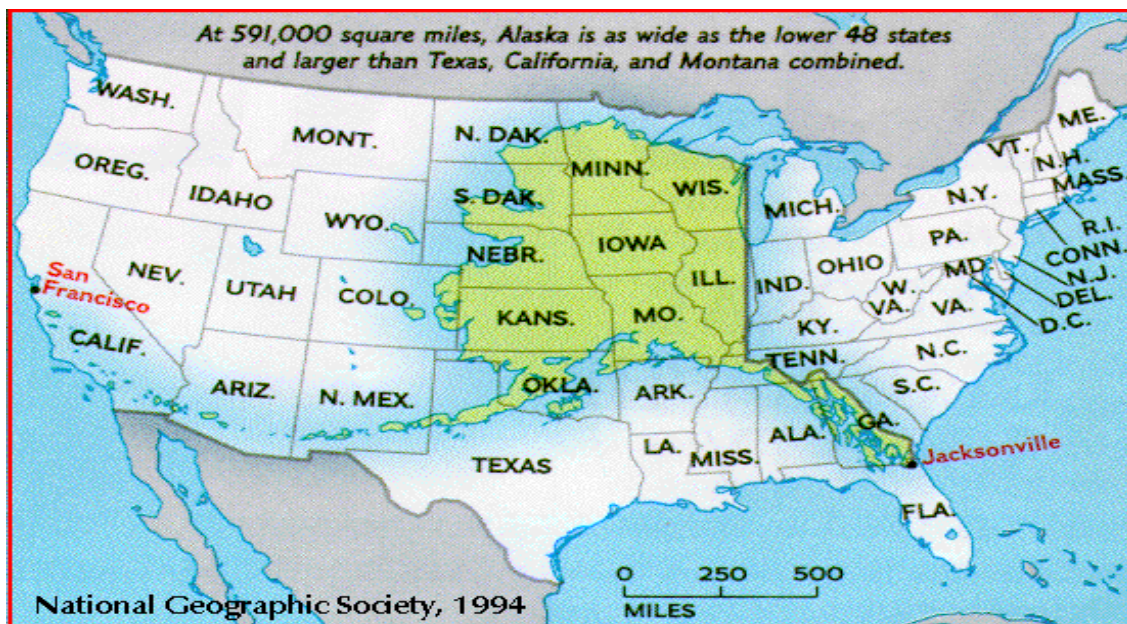
Anchorage is the business center of Alaska and is a large modern city. It has a number of high-rises, large hotels, shopping malls, cultural attractions, businesses, and a major airport with daily flights from Asia to North America and back.



*Figure 3 - View of downtown Anchorage  
looking towards Cook Inlet.  
(Photo by the author)*



*Figure 4 - 1867 Map of Alaska region, U.S. Government  
(From: [www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/alaska/statemap/alaska1867](http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/alaska/statemap/alaska1867))*



*Figure 5- Alaska overlaid on Continental U.S.  
(From: [www.dced.state.ak.us](http://www.dced.state.ak.us))*



## **Russian American Period** **1784-1867**

Russians were the first Europeans to explore Alaska. From their seaports in Siberia, the Russians worked their way across the Aleutian Islands to the mainland of Alaska.

In 1784, the Russian Government official claimed a large area, which includes present day Alaska, in the name of Czarina Catherine the Great (1762-1796). The Russian-American Company was granted a charter (and monopoly) by the Czarina to trade in Alaska.

Russians expanded their presents in Alaska for financial gain. Russians were following the fur trade. The Russians occupied only a few towns near the coast, and only made limited progress into the interior.

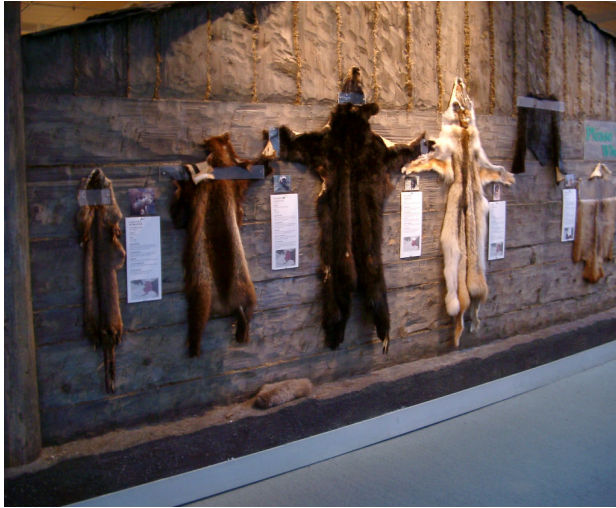
Trading centers were established to trade with local tribes for furs. There were never many Russians (estimates are a few thousand) in Alaska. Alaska was viewed not as a place to settle, but as a place to get rich in furs and leave.

The Russian government did not develop much infrastructure in Alaska, and provided very limited defense. Many native Alaskans never saw a Russian.

The Russian Orthodox Church was a major organization in Alaska, and stayed even when the Russian government withdrawal. Many native Alaskans in the Aleutian Islands and southern part of the state converted to Russian Orthodox.

The Russians used a barter system with the native Alaskans. Russian hard currency (gold and silver coins) was not used in trade, and very little hard currency could be found in the Alaska area. This caused a problem for the Russians in the area whom needed hard currency for transactions among themselves and the few other foreigners present.

The Russian-American Company developed trading posts in a number of areas, and created a uniquely Alaskan numismatic collectable. The Russian-American Company created the "Sealskin Note" to be used in place of hard currency (Cartwright, p. 207)



*Figure 6- Sample of different furs  
Russians wanted.  
(Photo by the author at Anchorage  
Museum of History & Art)*

The Sealskin notes measure about 2 ½ inches by 1 ¾ inches. They were crudely printed from about 1847-1852, and only meant for temporary use.

There are very scarce, and highly sought after. Very few Sealskin notes have survived. It is estimated only a few dozen still exist, and are very well worn from use and age. Sealskin is an animal product that will deteriorate over time.

The front of the note has the seal of the Russian American Company, with the denomination “One Ruble”. It also has the Russian “Double Eagle with Royal Crown” with the inscription: Russ. Americ. Company Seal. Around the seal the inscription is: “Under the High Patronage of his Imperial Majesty).

The back of the note translates as: Note is America 1 Rub. There is a space where a serial number is handwritten in. This notes serial number is 3453.



*Figure 7- Sealskin Note from  
ANA collection  
(Accession No. 1994.32.1, 61 x 45  
mm)*



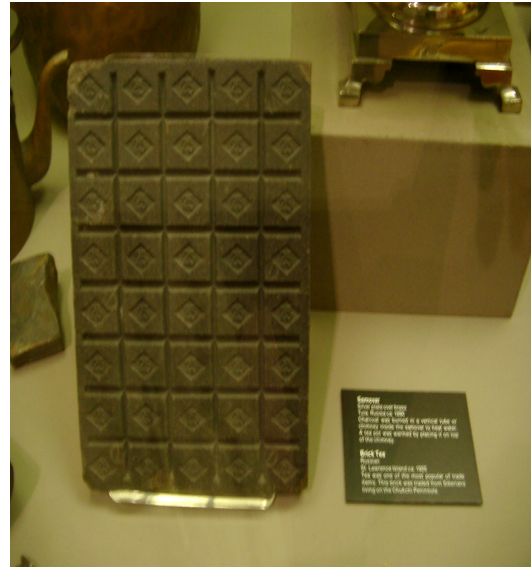
Five pinholes can be seen in the note. These pinholes are not defects, but were intentionally part of the note. The pinholes allowed the notes to be stacked on counting boards.

The Russian American Company redeemed most of their Sealskin notes for hard currency. Any Sealskin note is highly collectable. No Sealskin note has been slabbed to date.

Another Russian Numismatic collectable is Russian Brick Tea money. Brick Tea money was documented as used in the Aleutian Islands. The Russian Brick Tea money is very similar to the Brick Tea money used in many parts of Asia.

Each small square in the Russian Brick Tea block is stamped, and represents "One Ruble". Very little research has been done on Russian Brick Tea money and its use in the Alaskan area.

Due to the nature of brick tea (compressed tea leaves), not much would have survived to the present day.



*Figure 8- Russian Brick Tea Money, circ. 1906  
Found at site in Aleutian Island  
In University of Alaska Museum-  
Fairbanks collection  
(Photo by the author)*

**--- TO BE CONTINUED ---**

### **September's Raffle Winners**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Gene Oliver UK Silver Proof Set
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Greg Ward 1776-1976 PNC
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Richard Jozefiak Ohio State Quarter



**What have you won lately?**

### **Inclement Weather Notice**

If the Huntsville City Schools are closed due to inclement weather, then the Huntsville Senior Center is closed. There will be no club meeting if the Huntsville Senior Center is closed. Local TV and radio stations will give notice of any Huntsville school closure.

### **On-Line Information**

Club's web site:

<http://mccc.anacclubs.org/>

Coin Community Forum:

[http://www.coincommunity.com/forum/forum.asp?FORUM\\_ID=86](http://www.coincommunity.com/forum/forum.asp?FORUM_ID=86)

Pictures and photographs to share:

<http://flickr.com/groups/coinclub/>

E-mail: [hkfears@knology.net](mailto:hkfears@knology.net)

*Please bring a friend to a meeting,  
all are welcome!*

### **Meetings for 2007**

January 22 – Bob Jaques presents “Military Payment Certificates”

February 26 – “State of the Coin Market” by Charles Cataldo

March 26 – David Hollander presents “An Introduction to the National Banknotes of the United States, Supported by the Alabama National Banknote Trial Census and the Alabama Collection”

April 23 – Richard Jozefiak presents “The Modern British Sovereign and Half-Sovereign”

June 25 – Pot Luck / Bourse Night – Dennis Delong presents “Building a West Point Set”

July 23 – British Night by Bob Jaques

August 27 – Dwight Maxwell presents Roman Coinage

September 24 – Computers by Mark Larson

October 22 – Commemoratives by Arthur Patrick

November 26 – Pot Luck / Bourse Night





# An Exciting Announcement!

As most of you know, Frank DuVall is retiring from his coin business. In doing so, Frank has decided to donate to the club many items that will be given away over the coming year. Each month, in addition to our normal door prizes, an additional three prizes will be given away. The first give away will be at the October meeting. Hope to see you there.

**Madison County Coin Club**  
**14047 Camden Circle**  
**Huntsville, AL 35803**

«Mailing\_Name»

«Street»

«City», «State» «Zip»