

Madison County Coin Club

of Huntsville, Alabama



Volume 8, Issue 1

January 2008

The President's Corner

It is always exciting for the New Year to arrive because we can anticipate new things in our lives, and we make new resolutions that will be broken in 30 days or less. But one of the changes of this New Year is that our Club will have me as the new President for 2008.

Harold wanted to take a much-deserved rest and I was elected to take the helm for this year. We owe a great deal of gratitude to Harold for the work he has done these past several years in guiding our Club's progress.

Harold has done much work in writing and producing our monthly newsletter and he has volunteered to continue as the Editor. Our newsletter is among the finest among the clubs in the ANA.

As your new President I want to see our Club continue to grow and to have interesting programs for our members and guests. I am counting on each one of you to support your Club by suggesting ways to improve on what we are doing. If there is an area of

Continued on page 10

Numismatic Journey of Alaska -- (Part 3)

By Richard Jozefiak

Organized U.S. Territory Period

1912 - 1959

In 1912, the citizens of Alaska petitioned the U.S. Congress for territorial status. Territorial status would create internal government, courts, allow local laws to be created, and provide a delegate in Congress.

The U.S. Congress voted and approved to make Alaska an official U.S. Territory. Congress was concerned with the number of people arriving in Alaska during the gold rush and not having much control in the area.

During the gold rush period, people in Alaska started to take notice of other natural Alaskan resources: timber, oil, and fishing. While furs were still being trapped and sold, other resources could generate greater rewards. Outside investors started to provide funding for mining, logging, and fishing.

During the time period, Trade tokens boomed. Since many communities were isolated and had only one store, Trade tokens of the store were basically used as local currency. There are a number of reports of people in many villages never seeing federal coins, only using local trade tokens.

Trade tokens are collected, and for prior to statehood (1959), the reference book by Benice (2nd edition, 1994), lists many of the tokens from this period. During the years since 1994, more unlisted tokens have been

Continued on page 3

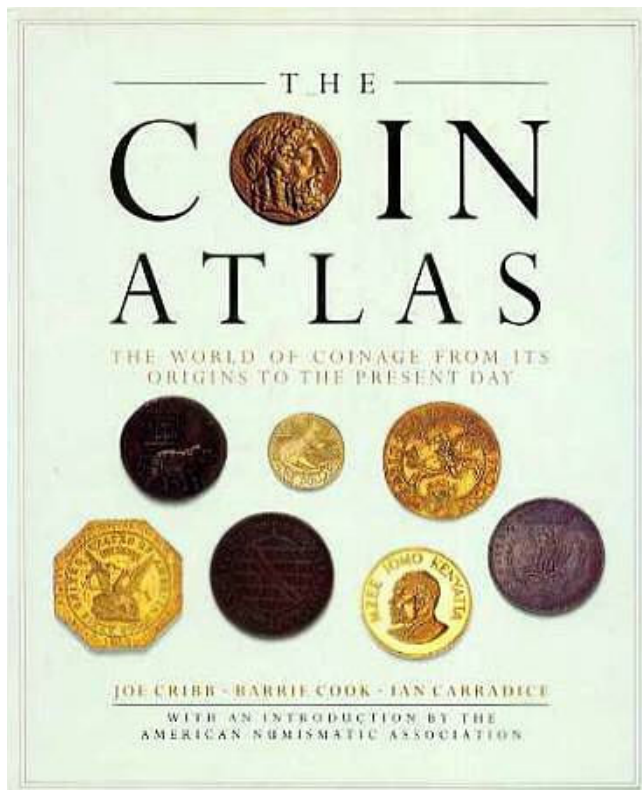
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** Numismatic Journey of Alaska: Part 3
- 2** From the Library: The Coin Atlas
- 2** Collector Spotlight: Greg Ward
- 9** Jersey's Shipbuilding Series: The Tickler
- 10** 1916-D Mercury Dime
- 11** Coins of Hawaii

From the Library

The Coin Atlas: The World of Coinage from its Origins to the Present Day

by Joe Cribb, Barrie Cook and Ian Carradice



The Coin Atlas, a book that contains hundreds of illustration of coins, depicts both geographical and historical information related to the world coinage from its origins to the modern days. The authors present a country-by-country account of world coinage, from its beginnings in the seventh century BC to the present day.

This is truly a "Coin Atlas" with more than 100 maps and 1800 illustrations

This book covers twenty-six centuries of coinage and displays clear photographs of coins through history. It also provides the collector with concise tables for easy reference, and is compiled by a team of experts from the British Museum. ■

Collector Spotlight: Greg Ward



My interest in coins began many years ago, from my grandfather. I remember as a small child, looking up to the top shelf in his closet and seeing a half dozen mason jars full of old coins. It was an awesome sight I thought, at the time.

I started collecting coins around the age of 8 or 9, along with stamps as well. Then I pretty much did not pursue collecting for the next 20 years, although I always maintained a casual interest in coins. I started getting back into collecting about 5 or 6 years ago, mostly just picking up silver coins here and there at antique stores, flea markets, etc. Then not long after that I became "serious" about collecting. Over the last 3 years or so, I assembled an uncirculated set of Jefferson nickels, an uncirculated set of Peace Dollars (my favorite series), an uncirculated 20th century type set, and an almost complete set of Lincoln wheat cents (minus the 4 keys). I also enjoy "hoarding" key and semi-key Peace dollars in BU. Also, I am currently working on a second 20th century type set, and a BU set of Franklin halves, as well as a set of mid-grade Barber halves. I like silver, and I pretty much buy anything silver that I see. I have probably about 1,000 Morgan/Peace dollars for example. I just love to stockpile silver coins. Coin collecting has provided me with a hobby that I enjoy very much, and I hope to continue for many more years.

-- Greg Ward ■

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found. The current estimate of tokens is around 3500 (Perala, 2006).

Other Alaskan numismatic materials being produced in the time are transportation tokens, company scrip, and medals to commemorate different events.



Figure 16 – Typical Trade Token, Obverse-Reindeer Commercial Co., Aluminum



Figure 17 – Typical Trade Token, Reverse - 50¢ (32 mm) 1¢ (19 mm)

The above photos show a couple of Trade tokens used in the community of Gambell, located on St. Lawrence Island. St. Lawrence Island lied off the west coast of Alaska in the Bering Sea, near Norton Sound.

Most trade tokens of this period exhibit the following

characteristics:

- Crudely produced
- Base metals (i.e. tin, aluminum, steel, etc) used
- Simple design, mostly letters
- Limited to use in local area
- Used at trade centers in isolated communities.

It is documented that trade tokens continued to be used in many area well after statehood in 1959 (Perala, 2006). A subsistence lifestyle continued in many areas of Alaska (even to today) even as cities and towns started their major development.

The Alaskan economy was affected by the world depression beginning in 1929. With the Depression, the U.S. Government cut back on many federal projects. Private investing was greatly scaled back.

Since many communities were isolated and had only one store, Trade tokens of the store were basically used as local currency.

By the mid 1930's, the U.S. Government conceived of a new program to help Alaska and farmers affected by the Depression. The U.S. Government created the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation (ARRC). The purpose was to relocate farm families from the upper mid-west states (MN, WI, MI, etc.) to the Matanuska Valley, which begins north of Anchorage (Schmidt, p. 1010).

A few hundred men, women, and children were moved in 1935. As during the gold rush period, many people did not understand how severe the Alaskan winters are or the other hardships. The U.S. Government officials believed that if the farmers could manage farms in the upper mid-west states, then they could do the same in the Matanuska Valley.

To assist the families and to keep funds in the project area, the ARRC issued tokens, popularly know as "Bingles". The Bingles matched the U.S. denominations from one cent to ten dollars. The amount issued to each family was based on the size

Why not bring a friend to the next meeting?

Continued on page 4

and age of the family members. Even though the U.S. Government issued the Bingles, there is no record of the Bingles being produced by the U.S. Mint. It is unknown at this time what company produced the Bingles.

Unlike most Alaskan tokens, Bingles are also collected by people whom normally do not collect tokens or Alaskan materials.

Unlike most Alaskan tokens, Bingles are also collected by people whom normally do not collect tokens or Alaskan materials. The reason is that Bingles are listed in the "Red Book", *A Guide Book of United States Coins* (Yeoman, 2006). Bingles follow the five rules above for Trade tokens.

Bingles were produced in Aluminum and Brass, and mostly followed the size of U.S. coins; the major exception is the one-cent token, which is not round.

Bingles had the same design on both sides of the token, and the numbers of pieces issued were limited. By 1936, the ARRC withdrew the pieces, and replaced them with regular U.S. coins.



Figure 18- Obverse of ARRC 50th Anniversary Set- 1985 issued to commemorate 50th anniversary of issue of ARRC Tokens (Bingles)

The relocation project failed, and a number of people died during the Alaskan winter. Many of the survivors left Alaska to return to the lower U.S.

Many of the farmers were assigned lands that were permafrost, and therefore were unable to be plowed with the equipment provided. A large part of the state

beginning north of Anchorage is permafrost lands.



Figure 19- Reverse of ARRC 50th Anniversary Set- 1985 issued to commemorate 50th anniversary of issue of ARRC Tokens

Alaskan trade tokens are not graded the same as U.S. coins. Tokens are either uncirculated or not. There is no standard grading for tokens, and most grading is based on a person's experience. Some tokens are only known in a poor circulated condition. Alaska tokens so far have not been graded and slabbed by any of the major grading services.

There is no known "complete" set of Alaska tokens or medals.

During the period, three other banks received charter numbers to issue national bank notes (Huntoon, p.23)

- Anchorage- First National Bank, Assigned Charter in 1921, #12072 (no notes issued).
- Ketchikan- First National Bank, Assigned Charter in 1924, #12578 (small notes only).
- Seward- Harriman National Bank, Assigned Charter in 1915, #10705 (no notes issued).

Statehood Period

1959 - Today

During and after World War II, many Americans were sent to Alaska to provide defense, and support the supply operations with the USSR. After the war, the

Continued on page 5

U.S. Government continued to staff large military bases and develop greater infrastructure in the territory.

Many people for the lower 48 states stayed in Alaska after their military assignments, or moved to the state for new opportunities.

The largest numismatic manufacture in the state is the Alaska Mint, with its main production facility located in downtown Anchorage.

With the development of the Boeing jet plane, Alaska was no longer remote. Anchorage could be reached in a day from many U.S. west coast cities. With jet travel, tourism greatly expanded in the major Alaskan cities. From the major airports, people could take smaller planes to remove areas for sightseeing, hunting, and fishing.

A movement started in Alaska for statehood, and in 1959, Alaska became the 49th state to join the union. The Alaskan economy continued to grow.

Trade tokens continued, but many were now used by a local business more for advertisement than for trade. Prior to this most Trade tokens main purpose was trade, and advertisement was secondary, if any.



Figure 20- Typical post 1959 Trade Token type

Issued by Portage Glacier Lodge for a free cocktail

Many numismatic items were created for tourist, to take home as souvenirs, not for use in the local Alaskan economy (Fernald and McDowell, 1965). Also, many of these items were produced outside of the state, and shipped it. Many of these new tokens

and medals are fun to collect, but do not have much numismatic value. There are some exceptions for some low mintage or event medals.

Today in Alaska, there are numismatic items being produced in the state. The largest numismatic manufacture in the state is the Alaska Mint, with its main production facility located in downtown Anchorage.



Figure 21- Alaska Mint, Anchorage

The Alaska Mint is open to the public, and the manufacturing of medal can be seen. The Alaska Mint also has artifacts from the gold rush era to see.

The photo below shows a sample of the different numismatic items a person visiting Alaska can find. There are event medals, elongates, transportation tokens, silver bullion medals, and Trade tokens. Many are produced for tourists, and are readily available in tourist areas.

There are also numismatic activities in Alaska. The Anchorage Coin Club meets monthly in Anchorage, and publishes the ANA award winning monthly

Continued on page 6

newsletter, Accent.



Figure 22- Alaska Mint die area, Anchorage

The Accent also contains ads for a number of coin shops in Alaska. There are full service coin shops in Anchorage and Fairbanks.

There are also a couple of small coin shows held in the Anchorage area a couple of times a year. Information on these is also available in the Accent.

Conclusion

Alaska has a wonderful and rich numismatic history. From the time of the Russian Czars in 1784, to being sold to the U.S. in 1867, being made a U.S. Territory in 1912, statehood in 1959, and up to today, Alaska's numismatic history is a history of changes and challenges to develop a new land and "The Last Frontier".

There are many different collecting areas a person can specialize in. A person can concentrate on early Alaska, prior to 1867. Another area is tokens issued prior to 1912, or the Gold Rush Era.

Other areas are tokens issued during the Territory period or paper money. And finally the numismatic products issued after statehood in 1959.

There is no known "complete" set of Alaska tokens or medals. There is no listing or checklist of all Alaska tokens or medals, and no ones are being found and documented all the time.

The numismatic history of Alaska is closely tied to the development of Alaska's natural resources, and the development of this vast and varied land.



Figure 23- Modern day (post 1959) Alaskan Numismatic Items

Alaska numismatic items present challenges in finding rare and scarce items. This numismatic area is ripe for cherry picking since the typical Alaskan numismatic collector knows more than the average coin dealer. ■

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.

Some Scenes from Last Year



Bob presents a talk on Military Payment Certificates.



The gang examines a few coins from Charles' shop.



Dennis displays his West Point set.



Preparing for the start of the meeting.



A few YNs



Party time!



Veredy and Dennis swaps a few numismatic stories.



Arthur discusses commemoratives.



Harold identifies a mystery coin for a guest.



Dennis and Mark share some quality time together.



Frank had many stories that all of us enjoyed.



Looking over a few coins.

Jersey's Shipbuilding Series

Part 1: The Tickler

By Harold Fears

During the nineteenth century, the Island of Jersey enjoyed great economic expansion, largely due to the important influence of the shipbuilding industry.

In the 1990s, the British Royal Mint struck a series of seven one pound coins to commemorate Jersey's naval history.

In the 1990s, the British Royal Mint struck a series of seven one pound coins to commemorate Jersey's naval history. Six of the coins depicted locally built vessels while a seventh had a representation of the Bailiwick's seal in use from 1844 to 1870. The choice of ships was determined to show the great diversity of ship building in the States of Jersey.



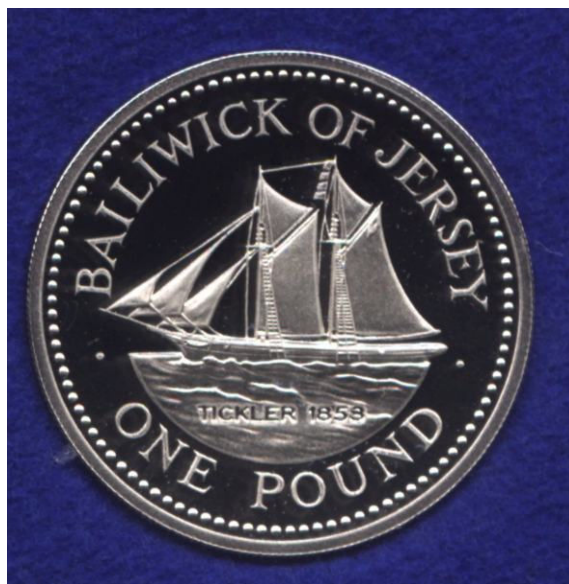
Arnold Machin's portrait is on the obverse for this series.

Robert Evans designed the reverse of the coins, while the obverse depicted Arnold Machin's famous portrait of Queen Elizabeth II. These coins have the same weight and size as the current British pound coins. Each had the edge inscription CAESAREA INSULA, the name given to the island by the Roman Antonius in AD 300, meaning "Island of Jersey."

The first coin in the series, which was minted in 1991, depicted a schooner, the *Tickler*. This two masted schooner was built in Jersey in 1858 for the Le Boutilier Company. The *Tickler* with a weight of 93 tons, measured 93 feet long, had a beam of 19 feet and drew some 10 feet of water. She plied the trade routes of northern Europe and the Mediterranean, with occasional voyages to Newfoundland.

The first coin in the series depicted a schooner, the Tickler.

After ten years in service, the *Tickler* was mortgaged with the Jersey Joint Stock Bank and was subsequently sold to Charles Robin and Company. Some three years later Robin and Company, a principal ship owning company on the island took control of the *Tickler*. Because of financial difficulties the schooner, along with other vessels, was sold to France in 1888. She was last mentioned in the Lloyd's List in 1864.



The Tickler

This issue had 15,000 normal circulation strike coins, 3,000 silver proof coins, and 250 gold proof coins minted.

Next month, we will take a look at the *Percy Douglas* pound coin■

Members' Notices

Rules for users of the member notice section: All notices are free and should be directed to the editor of the Madison County Coin Club newsletter (see back page for address). Notices will be limited to a maximum of 8 lines, including the name and contact information. The person entering the notice must answer all responses to notices. Preference will be given in the following order to notices when the page oversubscribed in a single month:

1. Research Notices
2. Wanted Items
3. Trades Offered
4. For Sale Items

Further rules on notices offering items for sale restrict specific prices or values. For sale notices must be general offerings, offering of a price list, offering of a mail bid sale catalog, disposal of an individual collection, write for price(s), etc. In months, where there is no room for 'for sale' notices, the notice will be held over until the next month.

Looking for Alaskan Medals and Tokens. Contact: Richard ANALMRJ@gmail.com or 256-337-5092

Looking for numismatic information concerning the Island of Jersey, Channel Islands. Especially interested in magazine or newspaper articles. Contact: Harold hkfears@knology.net or 256-881-6268.

The President's Corner continued from page 1

collecting you want discussed then let us know.

I am looking forward for 2008 to be a good year for the Madison County Coin Club.

Sincerely,

Bob Jaques

1916-D Mercury Dime

The 1916-D dime, the king of the Mercury dime series, is one of the most carefully scrutinized coins in the world and there is a reason why. According to PCGS 264,000 coins were minted but 500,000 examples are known to exist! The discrepancy is due to counterfeiting. It is recommended to purchase one from a grading service or a reputable dealer. ■



COINS OF HAWAII

By Bob Jaques

As collectors of all types of numismatics, such as proof and mint sets, foreign coins, gold coins or bullion, and anything of unusual interest, one of the most neglected and interesting series are the low mintage coins of Hawaii.

When the Hawaiian Islands became a part of the United States as a Territory in 1890, the Treasury Department decided the Islands would use United States coins in all denominations and designs.



1847 One Cent

Prior to 1890, the Islands had their own coins in circulation. Their first coin was a copper coin dated 1847 with the picture of King Kamehameha III on the obverse, and the words AUPUNI HAWAII meaning "Kingdom Hawaii" on the reverse. Also on the reverse are the words Hapa Haneri, which mean "Moiety of 100", or 1/100 of a Keneta, or cent. The One Cent or One Keneta coin was manufactured by the private Mint of H.M. & E.I. Richards in Attleboro, Massachusetts. The Richards firm misspelled the "Moiety of 100" which should have been Hapa Hanele. The coins were sent to Hawaii anyway on the ship *Montreal* and they were used in circulation. The Islanders were unhappy with the coins because the King's portrait was not clear and the misspelled denomination. Stories are told that many natives threw them into the ocean as a protest of their unhappiness with them. The mintage of these copper coins was 100,000. They are very hard to find in MS-60 or above, but are occasionally offered in the Fine to Extremely Fine condition for a range of \$500 to \$900 dollars. These one-cent coins remained as legal tender in the Islands until 1884.

The famous mint engraver and designer, Charles E. Barber, designed the five denomination coins wanted by the King. He designed a nickel, dime, quarter, half dollar, and dollar.

In 1883, a local banker and sugar tycoon named Claus Spreckels, who was also the power behind the King, suggested that the United States make silver coinage for the Islands. The famous mint engraver and designer, Charles E. Barber, designed the five denomination coins wanted by the King. He designed a nickel, dime, quarter, half dollar, and dollar. The nickel was not minted, but the dime, quarter, half dollar, and dollar were made on normal planchets used in U.S. coinage. This was done to keep production costs down from having to create a special coin planchet for each denomination.

The total mintage of all the Hawaiian silver coins was 1,950,000 pieces, and all were minted at the San Francisco Mint in 1883. However, in 1890 after Hawaii became a territory, it was ordered that the Islands would use regular United States coinage and

Continued on page 12

the Hawaiian coins were to be returned and melted.



1883 quarter

The following is a table showing the mintage/melt numbers:

Denomination		Minted	Melted	Net
English	Hawaiian			
Dime	Umi Keneta	250,000	79	249,921
Quarter	Hapaha	500,000	257,400	242,600
Half-Dollar	Hapalua	700,000	612,245	87,755
Dollar	Akahi Dala	500,000	453,622	46,348

So as can be seen by the numbers above, the existing mintages for the higher denominations are really quite rare and hard to find.

In my collection, I have a dime and a quarter, and am keeping my eyes out for the cent, half-dollar, and dollar. Perhaps one day I can own a complete a Hawaiian type set. As you know, part of the fun of numismatics is always "looking for the coin we need".■

Please bring a coin, medal, note, or something for Show-and-Tell.

2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All meetings are held at the Senior Center in Huntsville in the Ceramics Room. We meet on the fourth Monday each month except for May and December. Meetings start at 6:30 and typically end around 8:30. The Thomas W. Davidson, Sr. Senior Center is located at 2200 Drake Ave. SW, Huntsville, AL 35803

JANUARY 28

Speaker: Bob Jaques

FEBRUARY 25

Speaker: Charles Cataldo.

MARCH 24

Speaker: Dennis Schafluetzel, President of TN State Numismatic Association

APRIL 28

Speaker: Richard Jozefiak

JUNE 23

Annual potluck and bourse night.

JULY 28

Open

AUGUST 25

Open

SEPTEMBER 22

Open.

OCTOBER 27

Speaker: Robert Patrick

NOVEMBER 24

Annual Thanksgiving celebration and bourse night.

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CLUB OFFICERS

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January is Silver Dollar Month

January is silver dollar month. So whether if you wish to trade, sell, or buy some silver dollars, the coin club's January meeting is the place to be!



A nice 1883 Akahi Dala (silver dollar)

Madison County Coin Club
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