

# Casino Chip And Token News

A Quarterly Magazine for Members of  
the Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club

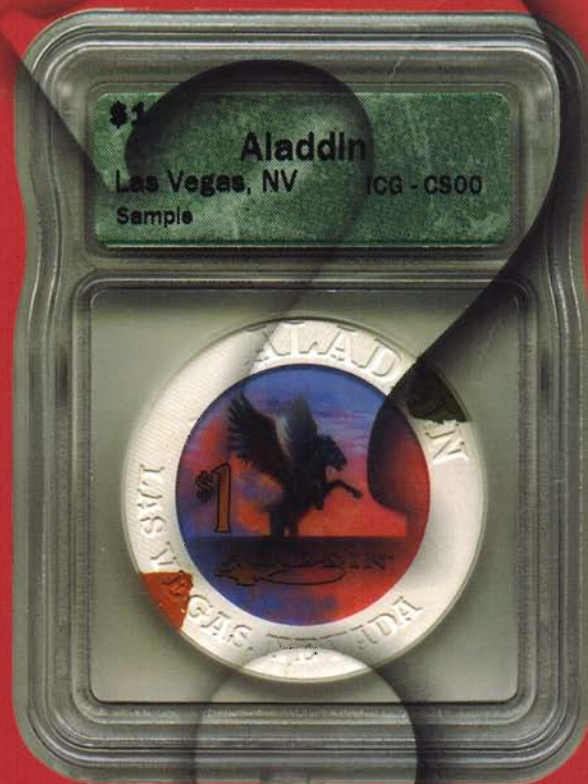


Spring Issue  
April, May, June, 2001  
Volume 14, #2

A Member of the  
American Numismatic Association  
(C-140538)

\$6.<sup>95</sup>

## SLABBING INVADING THE CHIP HOBBY





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From Nevada, Atlantic City and Cuba

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The screenshot shows the Casino Rarities website interface. At the top, there are several circular logos for different casinos, including the Flamingo Las Vegas. The main header reads "Casino Rarities" with the tagline "Specializing in Fine Casino Collectibles From Nevada, Atlantic City and Cuba". Below this, there are several navigation buttons: "Home", "Chips for Sale", "Hall of Fame", "About Us", "Want List", "F.A.Q.", and "Contact Us". A prominent "Click Here" button is highlighted. To the right, a "Featured Chip" section displays a "\$25 Flamingo (w/ Die Cut Brass Inlay) \$9995." with a detailed description of its historical significance. Below this, there is a "Submit A Chip For Pricing" button and a "Hall of Fame" section. At the bottom, there is a copyright notice: "© 2000 All Rights Reserved - Casino Rarities, LLC, 820 Hudson St, Suite 26, Hoboken, NJ, 07030 - 888-528-0913".

## For Serious Collectors

Casino Rarities, LLC, 888-528-0913  
820 Hudson St, Suite 26, Hoboken, NJ, 07030



## CASINO CHIP & TOKEN NEWS C.C. & G.T.C.C MAGAZINE

OFFICIAL Quarterly Publication of  
The Casino Chips & Gaming Tokens Collector's Club

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Previously unpublished, original articles are encouraged and are welcomed by the Editor. However, no assurance is implied that such material will be used or returned to the author. Proper credit for all materials that are published will be acknowledged. *No articles will be published without a byline*

### SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATION DATES

*1<sup>st</sup> Quarter* January, February, March  
Mailing Date: Early January

*2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter* April, May, June  
Mailing Date: Early April

*3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter* July, August, September  
Mailing Date: Early July

*4<sup>th</sup> Quarter* October, November, December  
Mailing Date: Early October

### CLUB OFFICIALS

Got a question or a problem? Listed below are the names and the addresses of the CC&GTCC officials and volunteer contacts to whom your requests should be mailed.

#### **President**

Complaints/Suggestions,  
By Laws Changes,  
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Chip & Token Update,  
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Finances,  
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#### **Advertising Manager**

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P.O. Box 4572  
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#### **Convention Chairman**

Dealer Table Contracts,  
Exhibitor Applications,  
Hotel Reservation Cards

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Commemorative club medal,  
Club chips, logo patches,  
Meeting woods, decals,  
Back issues club magazine

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rburgel@cs.com

#### **Club Librarian**

#### **Robert Pardue**

P.O. Box 2014  
Laguna Hills, CA 92654  
pardue@home.com

## CC&GTCC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State                      Zip                      Country

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

My collection interests are:

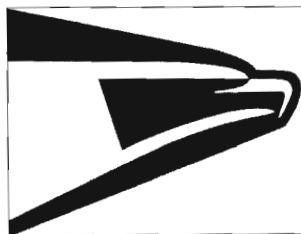
- Chips                       Tokens  
 U.S.                       Foreign

I would like you to publish my . . .

- Name and address  
 Phone  
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CC&GTCC Membership Officer  
 James Steffner  
 P.O. Box 368  
 Wellington, OH 44090

Sponsored by: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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Regular  Student  Junior  Senior  Associate  
 Present or former ANA number, if any \_\_\_\_\_

Mr.  Mrs  Ms.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name, please print

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State                      Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Country                      Date of Birth

ANA bylaws require the publication of each applicant's name and state.

Please check here \_\_\_ if you DO NOT want your name and address forwarded to the ANA representative in your area. Please check here \_\_\_ if you would like your name provided to companies with offers we feel may interest you. I herewith make application for membership in the American Numismatic association, subject to the Bylaws of said Association. I also agree to abide by the Code of Ethics adopted by the Association.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant                      Date

### Proposer

Casino Chips & Gaming Token Collectors Club

Check  Money Order  Credit Card Type \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card all Numbers                      Expiration Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Cardholder (Required)

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- Regular (age 23-64) \$29\* outside US \$36\*
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 Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279



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**COLLECTORS CLUB, INC.**  
**QUARTERLY PUBLICATION**

“Camera Ready” advertising deadline is the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month prior to the mailing date. These rates are for camera ready display ads only. Need help with your ad? See next the column over. Please allow 3-4 weeks delivery for 3<sup>rd</sup> class mail.

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<b>Inside Covers with Full Color</b>	Width: 7.50" x Height: 10.00"	\$325.00
<b>Inside Facing Pages</b>	Width: 7.50' x Height: 10.00"	\$150.00

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All ad copy must be accompanied by payment made out to “Casino Chips & Gaming Tokens Club Inc.” or CC&GTCC. No ad will be run without payment.

Publisher assumes no responsibility for statements made by advertisers and reserves the right to reject any advertisement.

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2"	\$22.00	\$80.00	\$8.00
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1/2 Page	\$60.00	\$220.00	\$20.00
Full Page	\$100.00	\$360.00	\$40.00

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<i>Yes, I Would Like</i>	<i>Ad Size</i>	<i>Requirements</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	1"	\$35.00 with placement of ad
<input type="checkbox"/>	2"	\$80.00 with placement of ad
<input type="checkbox"/>	Business Card	\$70.00 with placement of ad
<input type="checkbox"/>	1/4 Page	\$130.00 with placement of ad
<input type="checkbox"/>	1/2 Page	\$220.00 with placement of ad
<input type="checkbox"/>	Full Page	\$360.00 with placement of ad

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

CC&GTCC# \_\_\_\_\_

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 562-408-2463 and ask for C.T. Rodgers  
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 E-Mail - ctcoins@aol.com

Send full payment payable to “CC&GTCC”  
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Charles T. Rodgers  
 Advertising Manager, CC&GTCC  
 P. O. Box 4572 Lakewood CA 90711

**WE NEED YOUR HELP  
IN PUBLISHING THIS NEWSLETTER.**

**PLEASE NOTE**

- All ads must have your membership number and name someplace in the ad.
- Do not send in ads that are folded. May we recommend that you send in your ads by Priority Mail in a flat pack marked "DO NOT BEND", this will only cost you about \$3.00 and we will receive them in about two to three days.
- When you place a one inch or two inch ad for more than one issue, you may make changes in that ad for each issue. Once again try to get the changes to us well before the deadline of each issue.
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- When ordering items from one of our advertiser let them know what issue of the magazine you noticed their ad in.

Send full payment made out to "CC&GTCC"  
with your advertisement to:

Charles T. Rodgers  
Advertising Manager CC&GTCC  
P. O. Box 4572, Lakewood, CA 90711

**NEXT DEADLINE**

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Issue 2001  
is June 1<sup>st</sup> 2001

***Publication and Ad Deadline Dates***

1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter: Jan-Feb-Mar	Deadline for Ads: Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter: Apr-May-Jun	Deadline for Ads: Mar 1 <sup>st</sup>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter: Jul-Aug-Sep	Deadline for Ads: Jun 1 <sup>st</sup>
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter: Oct-Nov-Dec	Deadline for Ads: Sep 1 <sup>st</sup>



**CASINO CHIP & TOKEN NEWS  
C.C. & G.T.C.C MAGAZINE**

*OFFICIAL Quarterly Publication of  
The Casino Chips & Gaming Tokens Collector's Club*

**EDITOR** JOHN YEE  
**ASSISTANT EDITOR** ALLAN ANDERSON  
**ADVERTISING** CHARLES T. RODGERS  
**PRINTING** PALMER PRINTING

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**VICE PRESIDENT** KEN HALLENBECK  
**TREASURER** NATE PINCUS  
**SECRETARY** BARRY WEINTRAUB  
**MEMBERSHIP OFFICER** JAMES S. STEFFNER

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**WWW.CCGTCC.COM**  
GREG C. SUSONG  
WEBMASTER

---



# Letter

from the editor

**John Yee**



A serious debate has arisen over the last few months about the issue of grading/slabbing. If you didn't hear about it or didn't know there was a controversy it's probably because, like many members, you are not on a computer, on-line and discussing the issue on the various bulletin boards. Because of the topical nature of this subject and a number of passionate collectors who wish to keep slabbing out of the hobby, I decided to make this the cover story and present ideas and positions so you can determine for yourself whether slabbing is for you or not.

Jim Perlowski and Archie Black have given their position on the pitfalls of slabbing, Howard Herz had presented a historical background and ICG has presented their argument on why their grading service may be desirable to some of our members. Currently ICG is the only commercial company offering grading/slabbing to dealers, collectors, investors, and whoever else may be interested. I have heard there are other grading companies on the sidelines waiting to see what materializes in the future. Nearly 300 members have taken a "pledge" not to have anything to do with slabbing and their movement is getting attention outside our own hobby. I encourage all of you to attend the upcoming educational seminars offered at this year's convention and specifically one seminar that will devote the topic to grading and slabbing.

As a relatively new collector, I was reminded one evening that many of us started collecting chips and tokens to get away from the unpleasant influences in the real world. A hobby permits us to have that warm feeling of accomplishment, attainment, and enjoyment not often experienced with a hard day at work, a grumpy supervisor, being stuck in traffic, chronic fatigue, and other stresses that plague us day in and out. I mention this because we all need to be reminded that this is a "hobby" with a goal of just having fun. Let's put away our differences, can the politics, and stop the bickering that has plagued other areas of our lives.

I'm happy to report that Doug Saito has been added as a regular contributor to our quarterly magazine. Doug is no stranger to chipping and for the "old timers", they know of his colorful exploits, expertise on chips, and down to earth demeanor. Unfortunately, or as yet to be determined, fortunately, Doug was instrumental in my decision to collect arodies, diswrls, and old Nevada obsoletes. Doug has a regular newsletter with tons of information on chips and history. Look for his column about the Harvey Fuller diaries and how you can subscribe to his newsletter.

Please note that the Wednesday night Early Bird Banquet is May 30<sup>th</sup>, NOT May 29<sup>th</sup> as previously published in the last quarterly magazine.

Please extend a congratulatory note to our new board members. The strength of our hobby lies in the membership. If you care about the strength, stability, and cohesion of our group, please lend a helping hand. A call for volunteers in the last two issues has fallen short of expectations. Please do what you can to help out the club by volunteering your time for a few hours during the show. Belinda and Wayne will be thankful for your help. The convention requires a huge undertaking and we can't get enough people to help. Contact Belinda at P.O. Box 1195, Colleyville, TX 76034 txbel711@aol.com

If you wish to submit a story for publication, please send written hard copies to my mailing address or email your article to my email address as an attachment in Microsoft Word or in the body of the email message. I am more inclined to publish an article that I don't have to re-type.

Because of rising costs of postage, higher costs in print production, better quality paper which creates better picture quality, a proposal to increase advertising rates was approved and reflected starting with this issue of the quarterly magazine. In previous years, advertising did not pay for itself and therefore was subsidized by the club. Our goal is to one day have a larger circulation, reaching out to a larger spectrum while maintaining a self sufficient magazine capable of standing on its own advertising revenues. Every attempt is made to provide timely, accurate, unbiased and interesting articles to our members. If I am deficient in that quest or you believe I have strayed from fundamental direction of the club, please provide constructive feedback in the form of a letter to the editor. All submissions are given full consideration prior to publishing. I hope you enjoy this issue of the magazine and I hope you have a great time at this year's convention!

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***Rates extend before and after the event and include unlimited, FREE  
mileage***



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April · May · June 2001 Volume 14 Number 2



## SLABBING

*Invading the Chip Hobby*

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# President's Letter



**David Sarles**

By the time you read this, the 2001 Convention should not be far away. Our Convention Chairperson Wayne Thompson, his Co-Chair Belinda Hixon, and many others have been working diligently for many months now. This will be Belinda and Wayne's last year in charge Your Board is actively looking for volunteers for their important positions. If you feel this is a job for you, please contact any board members or myself.

Although the results are not in as I write this, the ballots are. Our capable Election Chairman, Gene Trimble will be counting votes soon. The winners will make up our new board and take over at this year's convention. Join me in supporting this new administration!

Likewise an amendment to our constitution was put to a vote to our members. A two-thirds majority of those voting is needed in order to overturn the decision on whether all chapter members must be members of the National Speaking of chapters, there is a misunderstanding by some. Nowhere in our constitution or bylaws does it state that a chapter has a vote in the election or bylaw changes. Only individual members can vote. Also a new chapter has just been formed. The "Slabfree" chapter organized by Gene Trimble is official. Slabfree is comprised of collectors who oppose the idea of grading and slabbing of casino chips.

On the subject of slabbing, let me give you the CC&GTCC board's official position, NONE! The board has discussed this issue at length and has arrived at neutral stance. We represent all 2000 plus members and feel you all should decide this issue for yourselves. If a majority is against slabbing in our hobby, vote it out. A member should propose this and bring it to a vote. That's the fair thing to do.

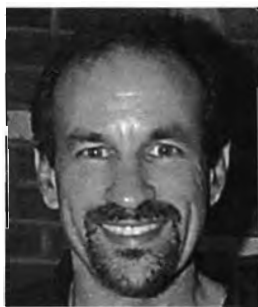
The entries are in for the chip and medal design contest. We have many fine entries this year. In addition to the winning chip and medal designs, we will use one of the entries on the 2001 Convention T-shirt. Many thanks to this year's entrees.

While the amount of shows has diminished in recent years, there seems to be a comeback. Rene Nezhoda's Palace Station Superbowl Show was a resounding success. Dealers and attendees from all over the country enjoyed a very successful show.

How times fly. It seems only yesterday that I was installed as your 2nd President. While I've enjoyed the last two years, I'm anxious to get back to chipping. This will be my last President's letter. A new picture and message will greet you next issue. It's been fun.



# Treasurer's Report Spring 2001



**Nate Pincus**

As of February 28, 2001, the balance in the club's operating account was \$65,880.00 after payment of all substantial expenses incurred. Included in the expenses is payment for the printing, mailing and postage for the Winter 2001 issue of our club magazine in the amount of \$15,884.00. The balance in our money market account as of February 28, 2001 was \$34,959.00.

Please feel free to contact me by e-mail, telephone or mail with any questions and comments regarding the club's financial position. Thanks again for your continued support.

Nate Pincus  
Treasurer

---

## Convention 2002

The Club is seeking volunteers to fill various positions for the 2002 Annual Convention. There are several positions that we could use help with. Some require work during the year preparing for the Convention; others involve only a short commitment of time during the Convention.

If we are going to continue to have successful Conventions we must have more people get involved. We hope you will consider helping your Club and offer to volunteer some of your time to help make the 2002 Convention the most successful ever.

If you would like to volunteer or ask any questions please contact:

Wayne Thompson  
191 Kentucky Avenue  
Lexington, KY 40502

859-252-5626 Phone  
859-252-9168 Fax  
wayne@casinocheques.com

# Secretary's Report



**Barry Weintraub**

On Saturday March 10<sup>th</sup>, myself and 7 members of the Southern California Chapter met to carefully tally the votes for the Constitution Amendment. This was an Amendment to the Constitution that would have required all members of a local Chapter to also be a member of the CC&GTCC.

The total number of votes tallied was 350 with 194 votes for the Amendment. In order for an Amendment to be approved and the Club Constitution changed, the Amendment must pass with a 2/3 majority (66.7%). The final tally was 55.4%, therefore the Amendment did not pass and the Constitution will not be changed.

After the votes were tallied it was discovered that an additional 129 votes were sent in with the election ballots. This was not the address that was specified on the Amendment ballot. With shades of the last National Presidential Election and a controversy of our very important election, we are lucky that the 129 ballots (88 for an Amendment change and 41 against the Amendment) did not affect the outcome of the final balloting.

So, when the dust has settled, and the votes counted, the Amendment has been defeated. I would like to thank my "Amendment Count" staff for their help...a big thanks to:

Jim & Laurel Sarra,  
Joe Benon,  
Chuck Rodgers,  
Michael Quinlivan,  
Lynn Brooks  
and  
George Dmitrevsky.



CC&GTCC  
BALLOT COUNTING  
03-11-2001

PRESIDENT:

Nate Pincus	314
Jim Reilly	141
Jim Steffner	262

VICE PRESIDENT:

Ken Hallenbeck	282
Neal Silverman	414

SECRETARY:


Jim Episale	227
Marty Kaplan	458


TREASURER:

Dave Shon

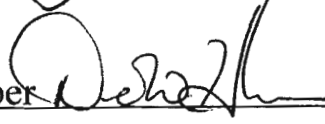
MEMBERSHIP OFFICER:


Tom Hartel	209
Ralph Myers	480

Gene Trimble Chairman 

Paul Fortner 

Mary Lee Fortner 

David Harber 

Walter Tarby 

Don Conrad 

Rich Averill 

# DO YOU KNOW WHAT SLABBING IS

by Archie Black



In mid-December, 2000 there was an attempt by a coin grading/encapsulating firm to introduce slabbed casino chips into the chip collecting hobby.

For those who are not familiar with this term, slabbing is a process whereby a firm who traditionally has provided this “service” in the coin industry, charges a fee (\$10 has been suggested) for a chip collector to submit a single casino chip for evaluation of condition in which an arbitrary grade is assigned. The chip is then permanently sealed into a plastic case with a registration number, and the arbitrarily assigned grade is clearly visible. This now-slabbed chip is returned to the owner usually within two weeks at the owner’s additional expense.

This slabbing company does not guarantee the grade assigned. It is merely the opinion of the grading company’s employee(s) who are examining the chip at that particular point in time. The slabbing firm has no interest in purchasing or selling slabbed chips. The whole purpose of their existence is strictly financial in that they depend upon huge quantities of chips to be submitted for evaluations at \$10 per opinion. An employee (grader) who originally graded a particular chip, may not be employed at the firm one month, six months, or a year later.

It is not unusual in the coin industry for the slab to be physically cracked open with force, the coin removed, and is re-submitted either to the same grading company, or another one, in the hopes that it will come back at a higher grade than it had previously.

Variations of one or two points on certain coins could mean a difference in price of hundreds or thousands of dollars.

It is for this primary reason (and others) that more than 250 online members (as of 1/6/01) of the Casino Chips and Gaming Tokens Collectors Club (CC&GTCC) do not wish to see this unwarranted development take place in the chip hobby. Grading of chips is not as critical as grading

coins are. In addition, there is a fear among many hobby veterans that this slabbing practice will result in overall higher prices of chips that have been slabbed vs. identical chips that have not been slabbed. These club members have overwhelmingly responded to an electronic pledge on the CC&GTCC message board, not to purchase slabbed chips, or patronize a dealer who is engaged in selling slabbed chips.

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“slabbing is a process whereby a firm who traditionally has provided this “service” in the coin industry, charges a fee”

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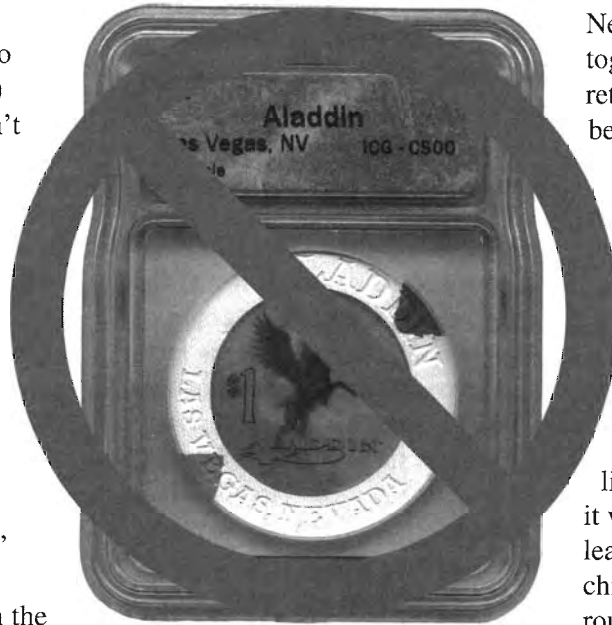
While I personally pledge that I will have no part of encouraging the purchasing, trading and/or selling of slabbed chips, every individual is free to make up their own minds as to what they feel is in their own best interests. I also personally support a proposed club policy that would prohibit the sale of slabbed chips during the club’s annual convention and auction and/or accept ads from slabbing firms in the Club Magazine. Happy collecting. ♦

# THE SLABBING OF CASINO CHIPS

by James L. Perlowski

I have often wondered why people in various hobbies want to “slab” (encase in a plastic holder) their coveted collectable. You can’t hold it. You can’t smell it. You can’t play with it. In fact you can’t do much with it at all. Yet individuals send their precious collectible off to these third party authorities for certification as to grade, condition or what have you. Collectors actually pay hard earned dollars to have some stranger tell them how good their collectable is. I guess it is assumed this “stranger” has some mystical authority from some higher power that gives him the **AUTHORITY** to pass judgment. I learned early in life there is no such thing as an expert. There are just individuals who know a little more about a certain subject than you do. I also learned to look out for people who claim to be an expert, especially in the collectable field. Usually you can find other collectors who know more than the so called experts.

I have bounced from collectable to collectable since I was a kid. I have collected stamps, comics, marbles, baseball cards, coins, rocks and just about anything that comes to mind. You see I suffer from collectable-itis. I must collect in order to survive. Before collecting casino chips, matches etc. I collected coins. In fact I put myself through college restoring coins for a well known coin business (establishment) back in the 60’s. I was so good I could remove the carbon spots from an indian or Lincoln cent and retone it back to its



original color. I am sure many of you who still purchase coins have bought some of my restored cents. When “slabbing” of coins started I knew it was time for me to leave the coin hobby. As years passed every so often I would get a phone call from my previous coin employer asking if I would “restore” a Lincoln or two for him so he could slab them and make more money. I would decline and after a few more years he quit calling.

He would tell me how this slabbing thing was the greatest since sliced bread. We could put grades on BU coins and a few AU that showed “cabinet wear” and make more money than if these pieces were unslabbed. After all he would tell me grading was subjective and an opinion. Therefore, his opinion was as good as any other individual in the coin business. If only I would use my talents and clean a few cents for him.

Needless to say I quit coins all together. Sold what I had left and retreated from the hobby. It now was becoming a big business and no longer just a hobby for kids and young adults. I put away my Brown & Dunn grading book for posterity.

The collecting urge was driving me hard. I needed to collect something. By chance I stumbled upon casino chips. A friend introduced me to collecting limited edition chips. I jumped into it with both feet. After a while I learned their were more interesting chips to collect for me. Ones surrounded by history. Ones from closed and burned down casinos. I loved it! I could mix my love of history with my collecting habit and enjoy the best of both worlds. What a hobby. I found others who shared my interests and soon I was joining the Casino Chips and Gaming Tokens Collectors Club (CC&GTCC).

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“you can’t hold it. You can’t smell it. You can’t play with it. In fact you can’t do much with it at all”

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Like with any hobby I would look for dealer shows to attend so I could search for the chips I needed for my collection. The last show I attended was a combination coin & stamp show held in early December, 2000 at the Tropicana Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas. As I was reviewing the

various dealer layouts I stumbled across a dealer display that sent a shock up my spine and than down again. Here was a display of “slabbed” chips. All nicely arranged in a show case. None for sale but for display purposes only. I began to get a sick feeling in my stomach. What the heck was going on. I inquired about the display and was told that for a fee of \$10.00 per chip I could have my chip graded by an expert, encased in plastic and returned to me with a certificate of authenticity. Now I was really getting sick.

I inquired, why would anyone want to use their service? I was told that it was the wave of the future just like coins. It was going to happen and maybe I should get in on the ground floor. I was told that the company had been slabbing coins for years and that chips were just a natural in the course of events.

Folks, I tell you I was very disheartened. I was looking upon what I believed to be the beginning

of the end of the hobby I was starting to love. I thought why would anyone allow this to happen. I began to remember what I learned from the coin business. Collectors liked slabbed coins because slabbed coins eliminated the need for them to make a decision involving the buying or selling of the item. The decision was made for them by an “expert”. The dealer liked slabbed coins because he could charge more for the item than if it was unslabbed. The dealer also had a built-in excuse. Someone else graded the coin therefore it was someone else’s responsibility if there was a problem. Big bucks could change hands without anyone being held responsible except that distant un-named third party expert who graded and slabbed the coin long ago. What a perfect set of circumstances for those who love to blame others instead of taking responsibility for their own actions. Just think as long as I buy and sell slabbed coins I can always blame the third party grader/expert if any discrepancy should arise. A perfect hobby for

those who don’t accept responsibility for decisions and blame others for mistakes. Just like the rest of that individuals life slabbing will give the built in excuse for anything that should go wrong in the hobby.

I was sick. Was this going to happen to my hobby of chip collecting? I am hoping not but lets be honest most individuals do not like to accept responsibility for their actions. We like to blame others for our mistakes. Slabbing of chips will make life easier. I buy it slabbed; I sell it slabbed. No hassles, no aggravation, no decisions other than do

I have enough money for the purchase. Just what I always wanted - a nothing hobby! Yeah, Right! If you don’t stop it. You asked for it.

Don’t buy slabbed chips. Don’t support the slabbing of chips. Speak out. The hobby you save may be your own! ♦

## IN MEMORY OF OUR TOKEN COLLECTING BUDDY

# “DICK VIERRA”

**Muriel and Art Sanderson R-0590 R-0171**

Announcing the formation of

# THE SLABFREE CHAPTER

**DEDICATED TO KEEPING THE HOBBY SLABFREE!**

This new chapter of the Casino Chips and Gaming Tokens Collectors Club is being formed for those members who wish to collect ONLY Slabfree chips, tokens and silver strikes. Membership is open to all members of CC & GTCC. There is no "LIST" to sign or become a part of, no Boycott Pledge to take. Just the belief that the slabbing of chips and tokens brings nothing of value to our hobby. To gather with members who share the same sentiment about this issue and to promote our hobby in a manner that is respectful of everyone's opinion.

"The purpose of this organization is to promote support of the Casino Chips and Gaming Tokens Collectors Club and to promote the hobby of collecting casino chips and tokens by promoting the hobby of collecting casino chips and tokens which have NOT been commercially graded or slabbed."

## *SLAB FREE AND PROUD OF IT!*

SLABFREE CHAPTER MEMBER APPLICATION  
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Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Amy Andrae, 4 Shelter View Court, Wilder, KY 41076.

Copy this application or send the above information, along with dues to Amy.

To find out more about THE SLABFREE CHAPTER and this important issue concerning our hobby,  
visit [SLABFREE.COM](http://SLABFREE.COM) today!

Be sure to visit us at Table # 74 during the CC & GTCC Convention at the Tropicana Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas  
May 31-June 2, 2001.



# SLABS

## WHERE A LITTLE HISTORY MAY GO A LONG WAY TO UNDERSTANDING

by Howard W. Herz

In the early 1960's I began collecting coins for the owner of Harvey's Resort Hotel. The 1960's and the 70's were a period of change and turbulence in the coin business for both dealers and collectors. It was a time when the entire business of numismatics was undergoing changes and the days when the idea of the "slab" was born.

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**"slabs" were born to meet the needs of collectors in defense against altering, counterfeiting and grading abuse"**

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In the early 1970's the hobby of coin collecting was plagued by two major problems - both fueled by greed. The first was alteration and counterfeiting of rarities. The second was the "over grading" of coins to justify dealers charging higher prices. With rarity prices moving rapidly from three digits to four and five, the hobby experienced an influx of both alterations (ie. a "D" added to 1916 dimes) and direct counterfeiting. Virgil Hancock, president of the ANA (American Numismatic Association), battled the fakes and alterations first with his articles on "featuring fakes"

and later by establishing counterfeit detection seminars for collectors. Hancock also pushed the U.S. Congress to pass the Hobby Protection Act that penalizes production of unmarked replicas. As the problem continued, the ANA took steps to protect collectors and established ANACS - a certification service that utilized records, photographs and expertise information to certify coins as being genuine.

ANACS's initial certifications provided a collector with a certificate stating authentication (or not) along with the coin returned in a sealed flexible plastic envelope. The rather simple encasement of certified coins was subject to abuse and could itself be manipulated, thus a stronger and more secure "certification" package had to be developed.

To solve the problems of over grading, ANA first developed grading standards that were published. Following several years of controversy, the ANA began to include grading along with the certification services provided by ANACS. To solve problems of abuse, the service began to encase certified coins in hard plastic cases along with a tag reflecting the authentication and the grading if requested.

Thus "slabs" were born to meet the needs of collectors in defense against altering, counterfeiting and grading abuse. "slabs" were developed as a tool to assist collectors. They were, and still are, essentially nothing more than holders. Over time, the process of authentication and grading "slabs" has been taken over by private companies who profit from the production of "slabs". What "slabs" represent to collectors on their labels is a guarantee that is only as good as the company's knowledge and reputation for honesty and accuracy.

To coin collectors "slabs" can be as controversial as they are to collectors in the chip hobby. The point of controversy lies not in the "slabs" guarantees to collectors and "collecting", but to their use by dealers in "marketing." By guaranteeing authenticity a "slab" certainly contributes to a level of protection and confidence in collecting. It is this guarantee of confidence that is used in "marketing" that dismays most true collectors. By tying a grade to reported market values, dealers are able to "guarantee" a sense of value when selling "slabs" to investors and novice collectors who may have a gross ignorance of the coin or chip in the "slab."

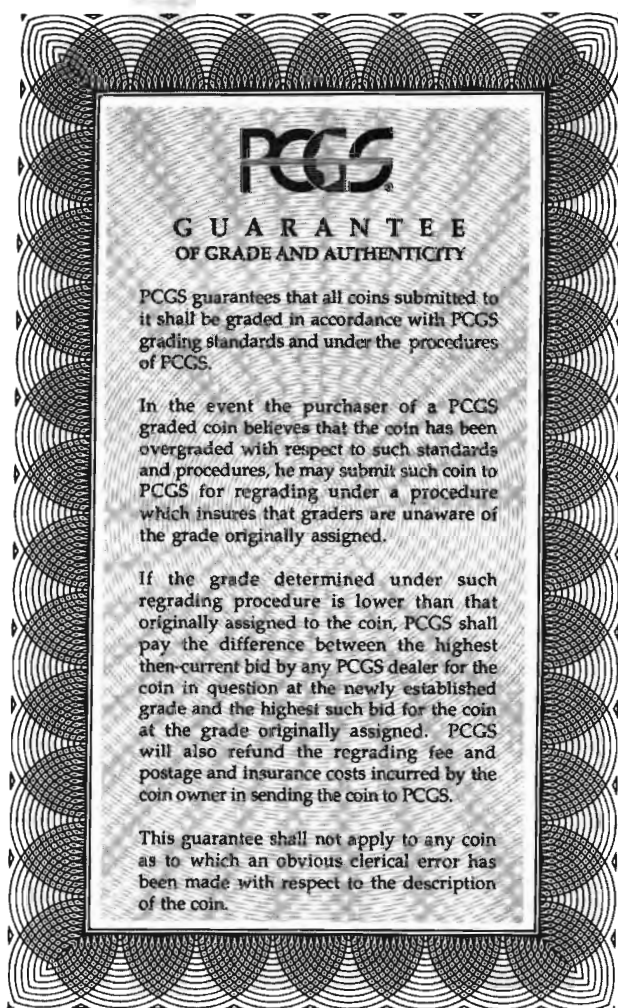
In the coin collecting hobby, "slabs" became the



commodity that attracted investors who were not collectors, but were the source of the dollars producing a demand that drove the price of coins through the roof. Many collectors were driven from the market as investors greed pushed dollars into the hobby in what was probably little more than a type of pyramid scheme. The market exploded and then with equal force imploded in a rush that took coin collecting from a hobby to a recognized investment tool and back to a discredited hobby.

Today I am seeing much of the same controversy that rocked the coin collecting hobby as “slabs” are introduced into the chip hobby. I do have some grave concerns about where the hobby is headed, but I can not fault the “slabs” which remain to me complex holders - but still nothing more than holders. If investors and speculators can control the prices of chips they will certainly try to profit from the ignorance of their clients. But an increase in sincere collectors will also push the price of chips upward. As a collector, I may dislike the rise of prices that might stunt my collecting ability, but I have to realize that as my hobby becomes increasingly popular the competition for material will result in price increases.

I have always enjoyed the history that chips represent as artifacts of the gaming industry in America. My interest is not focused on their saleable value, but their interest as artifacts from a little documented area of American history. I believe that “slabbing” chips would be a benefit



in the areas of preservation and authentication in some instances, but I understand that “slab marketing” would also introduce other elements into our hobby that could make our hobby just another speculative business.

As a dealer in gaming checks I do not cherish the arrival of “slabs” into the market. I do not sell encased chips that prevent the collector from handling and inspecting all sides of the merchandise. I also do not presently know of a single authority that would and could accurately “certify” the “grade” of a chip when the hobby does not have a consensus of grading or standards that are generally accepted and used in the hobby today.

My company, Gaming Archæology, has been involved with chips in “slabs” in another consideration for their use. In the mid-1990’s Gaming Archæology was consulted by the Nevada Gaming Control Board when a box of \$100 Golden Gate checks were uncovered in the casino’s vault. The casino was told to destroy the checks under the regulations of the board. An agent of the board contacted us to determine the value of the checks to collectors and was shocked with our estimate of value between \$20,000.00 and \$30,000.00 for the 100 original issue checks. Gaming Archæology submitted a proposed recommendation to the board that included allowing casinos to sell a limited number of old checks to collectors. To identify the checks being sold we proposed the use of a “slab” that would guarantee the authenticity of the checks by the selling casino. Unfortunately,

this proposal was rejected by the control board who still prefers that checks be destroyed.

Today our hobby is largely free of many of the problems that resulted in the development of “slabs” in the coin collecting hobby. But with prices increasing and hints of alterations, repairs and isolated instances of fabrications being made for unsuspecting collectors, the need for authentication may not be far off. If “slabs” can assist the collecting of chips and checks they will certainly become accepted holders for hobbyists. If the “slabs” only contribution will be as a marketing tool for speculators - they will probably only become the vehicle that will give a rough ride to many sincere collectors in the hobby. ♦

# INTERNATIONAL COIN GRADING

by Keith Love  
President

International Coin Grading is private company that offers the services of third-party opinions in regards to grade and authenticity of collectibles. ICG's services are used because many times in transactions of collectibles sellers are consciously or unconsciously biased in regards to the condition of the items they are selling. Buyers prefer the consumer protection of an outside party to protect their interests. Slabbing is a shorthand term used to describe the process of an independent third-party grading and authenticating a casino chip. This process includes sonically-sealing the chip in a protective tamper-evident case that describes the chip in terms of issuing casino, denomination, variety and grade.

ICG anticipates no more than .1% (one per one thousand) of the collectible chips will ever be slabbed. This has been the case in other hobbies where it is a very small group of higher value material that a third-party opinion is necessary. Sure there will be many rare chips in which the owners will choose not to slab their chips, and yes, some will choose to have common chips slabbed.

The future of slabbing depends on whether authentication and grading are factors in the value of chips. The issue of authentication seems self-evident. Nobody wants to purchase a chip only to find out later that it is counterfeit. This is not currently an issue. The chip market has seen many price increases in the last couple of

years. The more money that becomes involved, the more incentive there will be for dishonesty and fraud through counterfeiting and alterations. ICG guarantees the authenticity of every chip we slab.

A larger issue facing the chip collecting hobby is the necessity of grading and whether the grade of a chip effects the price. There are probably many of you who do not care about the condition of a chip you are buying or prefer a well worn, very used chip. Grading may not apply to you. Grading applies to the others, those who will value chips higher or lower based on condition. To point out that many hobby leaders use grading when pricing their chips, I will turn to examples from three influential individuals who use grade as a determinate for pricing; Archie Black, founder of the CC&GTCC, and authors, James Campiglia and Steve Wells. Additionally, the last column in *The Chip Rack*, a price guide is a reference to grade.

On February 23<sup>rd</sup> of this year, Archie Black stated on TheChipBoard.com that when he sells chips he describes them as "...either excellent, circulated or worn and it's priced accordingly." Archie Black's statement is clear. He uses three grades when selling his chips, and additionally has three pricing tiers – one for each grade.

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“ICG does not set value on any chip, only a standardized numerical grade and a guarantee of authenticity”

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James Campiglia and Steve Wells are the authors of *The Official U.S. Casino Chip Price Guide*. In the book Mr. Campiglia and Mr. Wells use a much more in depth grading system than Mr. Black. They actually use a 100 point system that leaves the possibility of 100 different grades (and this is only after rounding!). For pricing purposes, however, the book gives prices for only three different grades. The same chip is generally priced four times higher in the highest grade compared to the lowest grade. As with Mr. Black, these authors are using grade as part of the formula for determining price.

None of this is to say the grade of a chip is more important than rarity when it comes to determining a price, but it certainly is evidence that some of the hobby leaders use grade when determining price.

Slabbing is a form of consumer protection. When a transaction involves an ICG graded chip, ICG

will be the only unbiased party in the transaction for that chip. It is not a matter of the honesty or integrity of the buyer or seller, it is simply a matter of consumer protection when money is involved. ICG does not set value on any chip, only a standardized numerical grade and a guarantee of authenticity, the marketplace will determine the price.

What follows is an example of a recent posting on TheChipBoard.com. This gentleman supported the position that some people would benefit by slabbing. He states "However, I do feel when it comes to slabbing high-end chips, something with a value of say \$1,000 or more, to ME it ("slabbing") clearly does make sense. I entered this hobby as a novice. I was taken advantage of pretty early on by a few of your members. They will go nameless, but they know whom they are. They outright saw \$\$\$ when they saw me coming. I

believed they had good intentions. I was sadly mistaken. I was just a new person to peddle their over graded junk on."

I would like to summarize by saying ICG grading may not be for you. At the same time there are those who will benefit from slabbing as a consumer protection issue. This consumer protection is provided not only because there are dishonest people in the world but because it is human nature to subconsciously value one's own goods higher. ICG can not solve problems such as found hoards, but will help some achieve fair value in relation to assigned grades.

ICG uses three graders on every chip. ICG has also established a network of industry professionals for opinions regarding authenticity, alterations, attributions and grades. Please call, email or write us with any questions.

Additional Note: I noticed Charles Kaplan wrote on Chequers that slabbing is needed in rare coins, but not in chips because chip dealers are honest. In the same "issue" James Perlowski "brags" how he used to alter coins to commit fraud on buyers when he was a coin dealer, but now as a chipper he would never do such a thing. I like the "Hometeam" as much as the next guy, and chip collecting is the "Hometeam" in this magazine. In some cities it is forbidden to say something bad about the "Hometeam." But if arguments against slabbing rest on the honesty of chippers versus the dishonesty of those in other hobbies, then truly "The emperor has no clothes" and certainly such an emperor would not want an independent third-party opinion on his wardrobe.

Thank you for your time. ♦

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# GOLFING IN NEVADA



by Susan Kobylarczyk

My husband Dan and I just spent a two week vacation in Las Vegas. Most people can only afford 3 to 4 days max, but I am considered somewhat “cheap” when it comes to throwing my money into a slot machine and not seeing any return for it.

What can you do in Vegas for two weeks? I can tell you that we never went to the Strip. Too touristy. We go where the locals go — movies, malls, golf.

Which brings me to this article. I am a mostly weekend duffer. My husband has the luxury of working evenings with Friday and Saturday off, so he can usually be found on the golf course on Tuesday morning (before the sun is up) and Friday morning around 7 A.M. Because of his love of the sport, I became a golf buff, rather than a golf widow. Now he is stuck with me. When I plan our vacations, he is now begging me to leave some non-golf (or casino) time for him.

This last trip out we found some wonderful courses for you to try if you have the time. We never actually golfed in Las Vegas. The cheap part of me refuses to pay \$200.00 for a round of golf.

One of the first courses we went to was Desert Willow in Henderson. It is an 18 hole executive course that

is very well maintained. We have gone there during different seasons of the year and always marvel at how the grounds-crew keep it so very pristine. It is challenging enough for the well seasoned golfer, but easy enough for the weekend duffer who is only out there for the sun and fun. A round of golf there runs about \$95 cart included. One thing we enjoy about this course is that it is never over crowded. They space their foursomes out nicely.

From there we went for a nice drive to Pahrump to try an executive course out there. It was about an hour's ride at 6:30 A.M. It was a nice little course, not as scenic as Desert Willow, but, for \$25.00 we didn't expect it to be. They have no riding carts at this course, so if you can't walk a lot, this is not the course for you. They do rent pull carts. What we could see of the fairways looked green, but the grounds were covered in pine needles, even some of the greens. It was not as pleasant an experience as we would have liked. More than likely it will not get a return visit. But — while we were out aimlessly wandering the town, we did find a regulation size golf course with carts which was about \$35.00 per person and included the cart. As the rest of the 2 weeks had been planned out already, we put this on our “to do” list for the next trip out.

Since I thought that we did not have enough golf yet, we planned a “package deal” for a golf and hotel package in Mesquite. I had wanted to play a course called the Oasis because the slope and handicap rating was lower than the other courses there, but we were told that a 1 day package would get us the Palms golf course. A two day package would get us both of the courses. I was not familiar with the Oasis Hotel so I chickened out and booked us the 1 night only, dreading the difficulty of the course in the morning.

After an 80 mile drive from Las Vegas, we reach the Oasis and checked it. They gave us directions to the golf course which is actually in Arizona. Cost of a round of golf at the Palms is \$125.00 per person. We got a 1 night stay and 2 rounds of golf for \$129.00.

Finally a bargain in Nevada. The course was not as hard as the rating had suggested and the scenery was breathtaking. I would highly recommend this course and as a matter of fact, we will be going back in the near future for a long weekend, maybe a 3 day package and bypass Las Vegas altogether.

There is a lot to do in and around Las Vegas if you take the time and effort to find it. Next time you are looking for something to do, find one of the What's On or other little magazines in the hotel lobbies by the concierge. They are your best source for places to go, things to do, and maps of how to get there. These are just a few of the courses I've been to.

Hope to see you on the links... ♦

# 2001 CC&GTCC Convention Schedule

(Tentative and subject to change)

## WEDNESDAY MAY 30

- 10:00 AM **GENERAL TRADING SESSION OPENS  
HAWAIIAN ROOMS**
- 12:00 NOON Dealers may pick up show credentials at the Convention registration table outside the showroom. Proper identification is required to pick up all credentials.  
**GRAND BALLROOM ENTRANCE**
- 1:00 PM Dealer set up begins. Only dealers with tables are allowed in during setup. *CREDENTIALS ARE REQUIRED FOR ADMITTANCE.*
- 4:00 PM **GENERAL TRADING SESSION CLOSSES FOR THE DAY**
- 5:30 PM **EARLY BIRD BANQUET. TICKETED EVENT – ADVANCE PURCHASE ONLY  
CARRIBEAN BALLROOM**
- 8:00 PM **MEMBER TRADE SESSION.** Please bring only what you can carry. *Members only may attend.*  
**CARRIBEAN BALLROOM**
- 11:00 PM Dealer setup ends. Show floor closed until 7:00 AM.

## THURSDAY MAY 31

- 7:00 AM Dealer set up continues. *CREDENTIALS REQUIRED.*
- 8:30 AM **EDUCATIONAL FORUM – ILLEGAL CLUBS AND THEIR CHIPS  
CARRIBEAN BALLROOM**
- 10:00 AM **OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY.**  
2001 Convention opens to membership and public  
**GRAND BALLROOM**
- 4:00 PM **SILVER STRIKE FORUM  
CARRIBEAN BALLROOM**
- 6:00 PM Show in recess until 10:00 AM
- 6:30 PM **CLUB ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING.**  
All members are urged to attend  
**CARRIBEAN BALLROOM**
- 7:30 PM **SILVER STRIKE CHAPTER – BUSINESS MEETING/AUCTION/TRADE SESSION  
CARRIBEAN BALLROOM**

- 7:30PM      **COLORADO CHAPTER MEETING**  
**HAWAIIAN ROOMS**
- 7:30 PM      **GENERAL TRADING SESSION**  
**HAWAIIAN ROOMS**
- 8:00 PM      Show floor must be vacated and secured
- 8:30 PM      **3rd ANNUAL CC&GTCC POKER CHALLENGE**  
**ORLEANS HOTEL**

**FRIDAY JUNE 1**

- 8:00 AM      Dealers with credentials may enter show floor
- 8:30 AM      **EDUCATIONAL FORUM – CHIPOLGY 201**  
**CARRIBEAN BALLROOM**
- 10:00 AM      Show floor opens to members and public  
**GRAND BALLROOM**
- 5:00 PM      Show in recess until 10:00 AM
- 6:30 PM      Show floor must be vacated and secured
- 6:30 PM      **ANNUAL CLUB AUCTION.** Over 250 lots to be auctioned  
**CARRIBEAN BALLROOM**

**SATURDAY JUNE 2**

- 8:00 AM      Dealers with credentials may enter show floor.
- 9:00 AM      **EDUCATIONAL FORUM – SLABBING: THE PROS AND CONS**  
**CARRIBEAN BALLROOM**
- 10:00 AM      Show floor opens to members and public.  
**GRAND BALLROOM**
- 11:00 AM      **SLAB-FREE CHAPTER MEETING**  
**CARRIBEAN BALLROOM**
- 4:00 PM      2001 Show closes.
- 6:00 PM      All dealer tables must be down and floor vacated.
- 7:00 PM      **THE LAST DANCE.** Final trading session. Bring only what you can carry. *Members only may attend.*  
**CARRIBEAN BALLROOM**

# 2001 Convention Seminars

All seminars begin at 8:30 am so that those with dealer tables can participate and attend, and so that members who don't want to take too much time from their show activities will have the opportunity to learn without sacrificing the opportunity to spend money!

## Thursday morning

### **ILLEGAL CLUBS AND THEIR CHIPS:**

Through the 1960's, illegal casinos were rampant in all areas of the country. Some were famous, some not so well-known, but all with rich history that is often difficult to find. Learn from a panel of experts how to research illegal clubs, their chips, and the people associated with them. Four panelists, each of whom has conducted illegal club research, will help you with materials and research techniques from some often-overlooked sources of information. If you collect illegals, this is a must-do session!

## Friday morning

### **CHIPOLOGY 201**

Following the accolades for last year's Chipology 101, Dick Covington and Michael Knapp have prepared a new and informative presentation for beginners through experienced collectors. Everyone will find something of interest and value - and perhaps even a bit of controversy - in this well-illustrated and detailed seminar. This year's theme will center around chip manufacture and some anomalies of the manufacturing process. Chipology 101 was the best-attended seminar in the 8 years the Club has held its own conventions, and for good reason! Don't miss this one!

## Saturday morning

### **SLABBING: THE PROS AND CONS**

Within the past 6 months, the issue of slabbing of casino chips has become a controversial and sometimes emotional issue. But what are the facts? What is slabbing? Why would anyone "slab" a casino chip? What's the cost? What does slabbing do to chip prices? Are the chips harmed? What are the advantages to slabbing casino chips? The disadvantages? What will slabbing mean for the hobby? This panel of experts - several of whom have considerable experience in the coin hobby where slabbing has been taking place for some time - will address these issues objectively and unemotionally, so that the debate may continue on an informed basis. If slabbing is of concern to you, or if you've never heard of the concept and need to know what all the fuss is about, you'll want to attend this seminar. ♦

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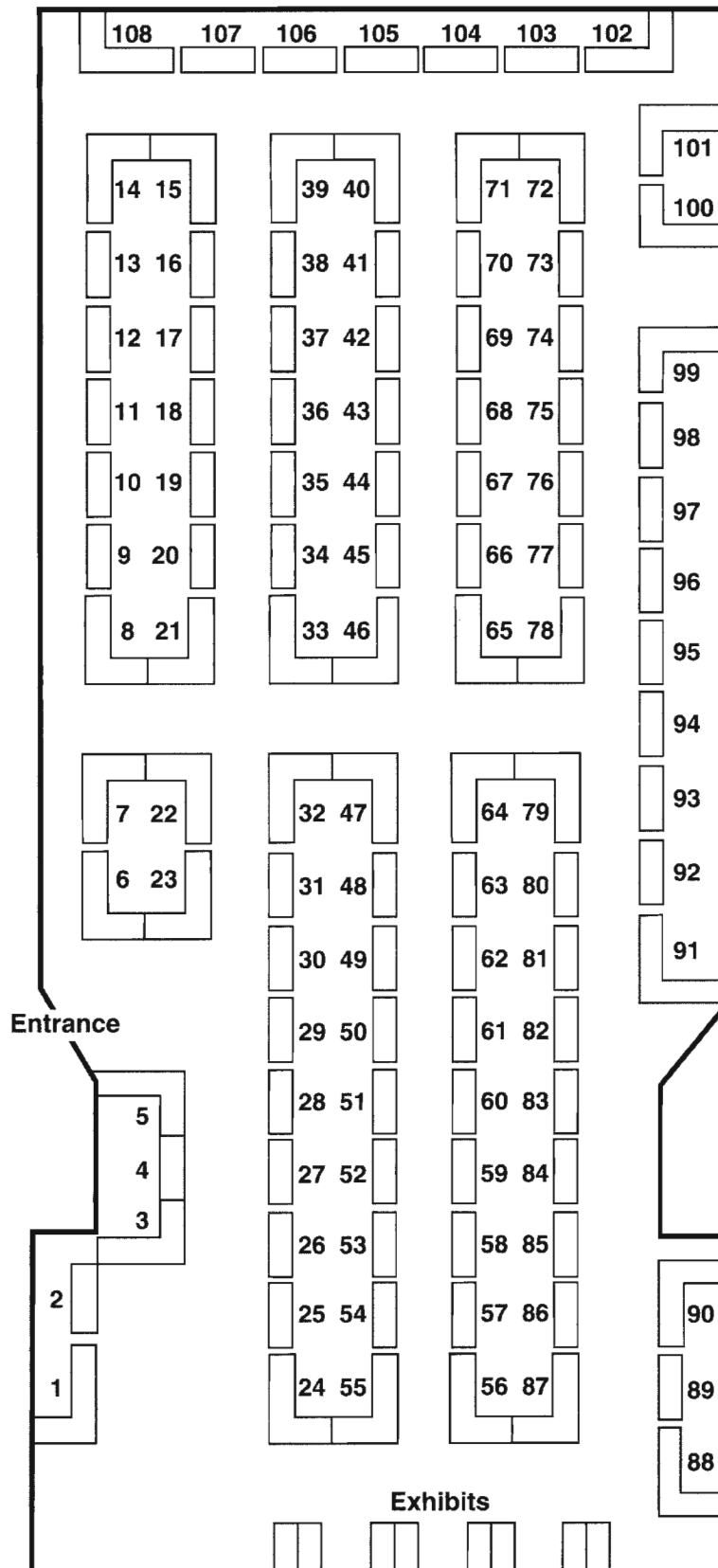
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# List of Exhibitors & Floor Plan

## 2001 CC&GTCC Convention



1	UNSHREDDED NOSTALGIA	55	CASINO CHIP GALLERY
2	BILL JUDGE	56	FROG POND / CUNNINGHAM
3	C T COINS	57	FROG POND / CUNNINGHAM
4	C T COINS	58	BOB FEENEY
5	C T COINS	59	GARY SHEPHERD
6	CC&GTCC CLUB TABLE	60	KNAPP / PICCOLO / SARRA
7	RICHARD ALLARD	61	KNAPP / PICCOLO / SARRA
8	DEWITT ENTREPRISES	62	DINOS CHIPS
9	KEN HALLENBECK COIN GALLERY	63	GREAT CASINO CHIPS.COM
10	SAHARA COINS, LLC	64	JOHN C. RAUZY
11	COAST TO COAST	65	WALT GONSKI
12	COAST TO COAST	66	NORM CLEM
13	COAST TO COAST	67	TED BROWN
14	SPINETTI'S	68	RUSS DIAZ CASINO CHIPS
15	CHIP CHAT	69	CASINO-CHIP-MART.COM
16	ROADHOUSE COLLECTIBLES	70	CAL NEVA CHIPS
17	RON MINSBERG	71	ROGER MORGAN
18	COCHIPS.COM	72	KESSINGER / LAUDEMAN
19	RIC CHANDGIE	73	NEVADA OBSOLETE CHIPS
20	RALPH POLLACK - DARTMOUTH	74	SLAB-FREE CHAPTER
21	T.D.S ANTIQUE GAMBLING CHIPS	75	HADDOCK / VAN DER KER
22	CC&GTCC CLUB TABLE	76	ROSEVILLE RECYCLING
23	CC&GTCC CLUB TABLE	77	ERNIE WHEELDEN
24	SCOTT HARTMAN "THE CHIP MAN"	78	CRAIG, LEWIN, MYERS
25	RALPH STRANDWOLD	79	MARK & MYRNA LIGHTERMAN
26	WEINTRAUB / BROOKS	80	WILCOX ENTERPRISES
27	R.I.C.H - ROULETTE INT'L	81	RENE NEZHODA
28	STAN & BETTY WILKER	82	RENE NEZHODA
29	LARRY & FRAN BETKER	83	SKIP'S CHIPS AND STRIKES
30	HENRY GARRETT	84	VINTAGE DICE
31	JOE & SUE DOLCE	85	BOB'S GAMING TRINKETS
32	B&V COINS	86	K+C ENTERPRISES
33	MEL'S CAINO COLLECTIBLES	87	CASINO COLLECTIBLES
34	LISA'S SILVER STRIKES	88	VACANT
35	CASINO CHIP ENTERPRISES	89	GAMING ARCHAEOLOGY
36	JIM MUNDING - CASINORAMA	90	ZOESCH / HERTEL
37	CHARLES KAPLAN	91	NEW YORK CHIP CONNECTION
38	AMERICAN CHIP ENTERPRISES	92	NEW YORK CHIP CONNECTION
39	AMERICAN CHIP ENTERPRISES	93	NEW YORK CHIP CONNECTION
40	CHIPS OFF THE OLD BLOCK	94	DICK BRACH
41	BIG BILL "THE CHIPMAN"	95	BRUCE LANDAU
42	CASINO FUN DISTRIBUTING	96	GENE GROSSBLATT
43	FRANK J LONTEEN	97	GENE GROSSBLATT
44	FLORIDAS CHIPMAN	98	DICE702.COM
45	CHRIS BURNS	99	NEVADAMINT.COM
46	SARLES / McCLENDON	100	AUCTION ITEMS
47	WALTER DIRZULAITIS	101	AUCTION ITEMS
48	GOODRICH / JOHANNES	102	DIAMOND JIM'S
49	ALBERT ROLLINS	103	ICG
50	EARL & CAROLYN DONLEY	104	CASSIDY FRAMES
51	CASINO CHIPS OF NEVADA	105	CHEQUES IN THE MAIL, INC
52	CHIP N' SALES	106	TINY TREASURES
53	CASINO CHIP GALLERY	107	TINY TREASURES
54	CASINO CHIP GALLERY	108	BUD MEYER

# New Members Since Last Issue

	Last	First	State	Referral
R-5019	Sullivan	Jerry	NV	Luongo, Anthony
R-5020	Bingham	David	PA	Chip Rack
R-5021	Richardson	Tom	TX	Lueders, Don
R-5024	Shargorodsky	Yan	PA	Web site
R-5024-A	Shargorodsky	Yelena	PA	Web site
R-5026	Foster	Bill	OK	Web site
R-5026-A	Foster	Patricia	OK	Web site
R-5027	Myers	Martin	CA	Web site
R-5029	Maheu	Dick	NM	Web site
R-5030	Conroy	Steve	CA	Web site
R-5031	Brannon	G. Max	AL	
R-5032	Spratling	Chuck	CA	Web site
R-5033	Goolsby	Jeff	IL	Web site
R-5034	Imbornoni	Robert	NY	Web site
R-5035	Papke	Lyn	MI	Amer Chip Ent
R-5036	McFadden	Sr James	CA	Web site
R-5037	Desnoyers	Derek	MS	Web site
R-5038	Bailey	Russell	MS	Amer Chip Ent
R-5039	Delfuoco	Christiine	MI	Borenstein, Al
R-5041	Vitto	Robert	NV	Hall of Fame
R-5042	Cartonia	Joseph	NY	Moritz, Raymond
R-5043	Stemple	John	CO	
R-5044	Larson	Lew	CO	Amer Chip Ent
R-5045	Esslinger	John	CA	SCC&GTCC
R-5046	Birtman	Ken	FL	Steffner, Jim
R-5047	Stechele	Karl	OH	Web site
R-5048	Leibowitz	Alan	PA	Web site
R-5049	Reed	Bob	LA	
R-5050	Ritchie	Peter	CA	Web site
R-5051	Moe	Al	WA	Susong, Greg
R-5052	Simons	Harold	CA	Web site
R-5052-A	Simons	Janet	CA	Web site
R-5053	Hirsch	Richard	OH	Finn, Dennis
R-5054	Fitzgibbons	Frank	OH	Amer Chip Ent
R-5055	Hedberg	Kent	CA	Web site
R-5056	Botelho	Patrick	RI	Web site
R-5057	Sargent	Bill	TX	Chip Rack
R-5058	Sarka	Tom	OH	Web site
R-5059	Lawson	Larry	TX	Web site
R-5060	Rowan	Paul	CA	Chip Rack
R-5061	Bellous	Brien	OH	Web site
R-5062	Brior	Robert	PA	Susong, Greg
R-5063	Cooper	Kevin	NJ	Cooper, William
R-5064	Miller	Steve	NV	Amer Chip Ent
R-5065	Korton	Andrew	NJ	Black, Archie
R-5068	Barrett	Todd	IL	Web site
R-5072	Boyer	Harry	AZ	
R-5074	Townsend	Ray	WA	Web site
R-5075	Brooks	Steve	CA	Shapiro, Marc
R-5076	Oakman	Kenneth	WA	Web site
R-5077	Thomas	Harold	FL	
R-5078	Phillips	Scott	UT	Amer Chip Ent
R-5079	Wolfe	Rick	TX	Web site

	<b>Last</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Referral</b>
R-5080	Chlebowski	Joyce	CA	Weaver, Marvin
R-5080-A	Chlebowski	Michael	CA	Weaver, Marvin
R-5081	Bolstad	Roger	NV	Susong, Greg
R-5082	Jackson	Jeanette	TX	Borenstein, Alan
R-5083	Bigley	Edward	FL	Web site
R-5084	Mayhall	Bob	CA	Web site
R-5085	Stiliha	Paul	CT	Landau, Bruce
R-5087	Smith	Sheldon	IL	
R-5087-A	Smith	Christine	IL	
R-5089	Costello	Steve	CA	Chip Rack
R-5090	Brunori	Mae	NJ	
R-5091	Holtzman	Norman	NJ	Black, Archie
R-5092	Gerrie	Paul	OR	
R-5094	Warming	Don	ME	Web site
R-5095	Spence	John	CA	Amer Chip Ent
R-5096	Paulsen	Tom	TN	Casino Collectibles
R-5097	Chrzanowski	Carol	CA	Finn, Dennis
R-5097-A	Chrzanowski	Norman	CA	Finn, Dennis
R-5098	Cooper	Vicki	CA	Web site
R-5099	Klein	Donald	AZ	Rodgers, Charlie
R-5101	Beach	Clyde	NY	Web site
R-5102	Kuska	Steve	OH	Hartman, Scott
R-5103	Rieman	Philip	OK	Web site
R-5105	Wells	William	FL	Susong, Greg
R-5106	Ziegler	Bob	ND	Hartman, Scott
R-5107	Kernodle	Horace	FL	Lighterman, Mark
R-5108	Malone	Marvin	CA	Susong, Greg
R-5110	Butler	Geraldine	NJ	Web site
R-5111	Stendig	Jay	NY	Borenstein, Alan
R-5112	Blackburn	Scott		Steffner, Jim
R-5113	Fessenden	Richard	AK	Web site
R-5114	Citino	Dawn	FL	Amer Chip Ent
R-5115	Camire	David	MA	Web site
R-5116	Whittenbeck	Harris	CO	Hartman, Scott
R-5116-A	Whittenbeck	Denus	CO	Hartman, Scott
R-5118	Peebles	William	CA	Casino Collectibles
R-5119	Scott	Mark	NV	Amer Chip Ent
R-5120	Mottoros	Pierre	CT	
R-5121	Golden	John	NY	
R-5122	Johnston Jr	Charles	PA	Web site
R-5123	Jarashow	Daniel	NJ	Kaplan, Marty
R-5124	Witkowsky	Dan	CA	Black, Archie
R-5126	Keller	Brad	LA	Susong, Greg
R-5128	Harris	James	NV	Web site
R-5130	Johnson	William	OH	Web site
R-5130-A	Ohls	Megan	OH	Web site
R-5131	Slate	David	IN	Finn, Dennis
R-5133	Robinson	Oliver	IL	
R-5134	Baum	Stuart	TX	Weaver, Marvin
R-5135	Emmons	Larry	CT	Web site
R-5137	Kirst	Doris	CA	Weaver, Marvin
R-5138	Clouse	David	OH	Rodgers, Charlie
R-5139	Hewitt	Ward	CO	Web site
R-5139-A	Hewitt	Darlene	CO	Web site
R-5140	Allocco	David	NY	Amer Chip Ent
R-5141	Chang	Terence	CA	Hall of Fame

# Club Merchandise

## Official Convention Chips & Medal Sets



**2000 Official Convention Medal**  
\$5 - Bronze, \$17 - Silver, \$22 Set of 2



**1999 Official Convention Medal**  
\$5 - Bronze, \$17 - Silver, \$22 Set of 2



**1998 Official Convention Medal**  
\$5 - Bronze, \$17 - Silver, \$22 Set of 2



**1997 Official Convention Medal**  
\$5 - Bronze, \$17 - Silver, \$22 Set of 2



**1996 Official Convention Medal**  
\$5 - Bronze, \$17 - Silver, \$22 Set of 2



**1995 Official Convention Medal**  
\$5 - Bronze, \$22 Set of 2 (Silver)



**1994 Official Convention Medal**  
\$5 - Bronze, \$22 Set of 2 (Silver)

**2000 Convention Chip**  
\$4



Packaged sets are available from 1994 thru 2000

## Miscellaneous Items



**Member Pin**  
\$5

**2000 Convention Pin**  
\$4



**1997 Convention Pin**  
\$2.50

**One color Logo Sticker**  
\$2



**1999 Convention Pin**  
\$3.50

**3 1/2" Embroidered Patch**  
\$5



**Five color Logo Sticker**  
\$3.50

**1998 Convention Pin**  
\$3



**2000 Poker Tournament Set**  
\$15 - 5 chip Set



## Convention T-Shirts



**2000 Official T-Shirt**  
 XXL - \$11  
 M, L, XL - \$10



**1999 Official T-Shirt**  
 XXL - \$11  
 M, L, XL - \$10



**1998 Official T-Shirt**  
 L, XL - \$8



**1997 Official T-Shirt**  
 L, XL - \$8

## Casino Chip & Token News Back-Issues

Volume 6 issue 3	Volume 10 issue 2	\$5 each postage paid
Volume 6 issue 4	Volume 10 issue 3	
Volume 7 issue 1	Volume 10 issue 4	
Volume 7 issue 2	Volume 11 issue 2	
Volume 7 issue 3	Volume 11 issue 3	
Volume 7 issue 4	Volume 11 issue 4	
Volume 8 issue 1	Volume 12 issue 1	
Volume 8 issue 2	Volume 12 issue 2	
Volume 8 issue 3	Volume 10 issue 3	
Volume 8 issue 4	Volume 12 issue 4	
Volume 9 issue 2	Volume 13 issue 1	
Volume 9 issue 3	Volume 13 issue 2	
Volume 10 issue 1		

**11 inch gold rim battery operated clock with club logo**  
 \$25



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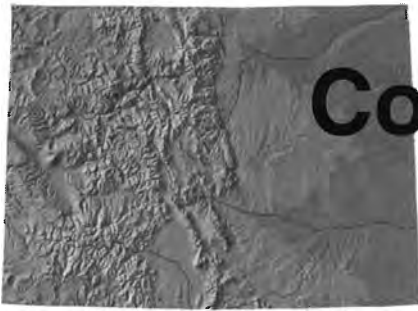
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## Casino Chip Auction Catalogs

(with prices realized)

1994	1998	\$10 each postage paid
1995	1999	
1996	2000	
1997		



# ColoradoChapter News

by Allen Banick

Colorado has some rather interesting gaming laws. We have a \$5 limit, which means that no single wager can be made for more than \$5. Have you ever wondered why games like multi action Blackjack and Three-Card poker were invented? In multi action Blackjack a player may bet on 3 separate outcomes and with our \$5 limit this game is acceptable under Colorado gaming regulations and allows the player to bet more than the \$5 maximum. Three-card poker also allows up to 3 \$5 bets per hand. It is not uncommon in Colorado to see a single player playing every spot on a table. The local high roller gets to play many simultaneous hands!

Roulette, Craps, Keno, Wheel of Fortune, Baccarat and Pai Gow are not legal in Colorado. Most variations of poker, with a \$5 limit are approved games. We recently added Bonus 6, Caribbean Stud and Let it Ride to our list of approved games. Since these games are all considered by gaming to be variations of poker, our gaming commission accepted them.

If the casinos ever want to increase the \$5 limit or introduce games like roulette and craps, a constitutional amendment must be passed by two thirds of the states residents. This is considered unlikely and according to some, is not something the casinos want. Most of the local gaming revenue comes from high dollar, low maintenance slots.

## New Chip and Token Releases

### The Lodge Casino, Black Hawk

The 50 State chip series ended in December 2000 with the release of the final 6 states. I believe this “monster set” of chips is the largest chip set issued anywhere. The set ended with the states of Alaska and Hawaii.



Utah 12/00



Oklahoma 12/00



New Mexico, 12/00



Arizona, 12/00



Alaska, 12/00



Hawaii, 12/00

### Black Diamond, Cripple Creek

The Black Diamond Casino in Cripple Creek minted 500 \$25 chips to support their new Streak Blackjack game. This is the first time the Black Diamond has minted a \$25 live play chip.



Black Diamond \$25



Black Diamond,  
Non-approved sample chip

The casino's original design was denied by gaming, but a few notched sample chips managed to find their way into the hands of collectors. The notched sample didn't clearly display the name of the town as required by gaming.

### Gilpin Casino, Black Hawk

Gilpin issued a very nice Christmas 2000 chip as well as a New Years 2001 chip. 500 of each chip were minted.



Santa and the Mrs. having a little fun!



New Years 2001

### Bronco Billy's, Cripple Creek

A couple of nice chips finished off this year's chips from Bronco Billy's. 500 of each of these chips were minted.



The great Mexican Bullfight of 1895, Yep it really happened!



New Years / Christmas 2000-2001

### Easy Street, Central City

The Easy Street Casino in Central City moved into the former Gold Coin/Lady Luck casino. The move into larger quarters gave the casino the room to introduce live gaming as well as \$5 slots. New \$5 and \$1 tokens were minted as well as a new \$5 chip.



Easy Street \$5 House Rack



Easy Street \$5 Token



Easy Street \$1 OC Token

### Womack's Casino, Cripple Creek

Womack's casino in Cripple Creek, while appearing from the outside as a single casino actually is a combination of two casino licenses. Womack's Legends and Womack's are each independently licensed.



Womack's \$1 2,500 minted



Womack's \$2.50 240 Minted



Womack's \$5 1,960 Minted



Womack's \$25 520 Minted

When the casino decided to move the table games from the Legends side of the building to the Womack's side, gaming required new chips.

### Gold Rush, Cripple Creek

The Gold Rush minted and destroyed a new tournament set that they used in the now closed Bobby C's poker room. A limited number of the chips survived, most were destroyed.



Gold Rush Tournament set

## Harvey's, Central City

Harvey's released a nice set of \$1 chips. These chips were given to players who came up to Harvey's on Christmas day, New Years Eve and New Years Day. The New Years chips are plentiful, but the Christmas chips are proving to be very difficult to obtain.



Harvey's Christmas 2000



Harvey's New Years Eve 2000



Harvey's New Years Day 2001

## Gold Rush, Cripple Creek and Colorado Central Station, Black Hawk

Poker 208, a new roulette type game that uses poker hands instead of a wheel is being trialed in both the Gold Rush and Colorado Central casinos. Gaming allowed the trial to use chips without the casino name or city on them. If the game is approved the casinos will probably be required to follow the same regulations that they must adhere to for other table play chips and include the name of the casino and it's city.



Gold Rush Poker 208 Set

## Upcoming Releases

Mardi Gras casino will be issuing a new 1st anniversary chip in March. This chip follows the casino's mask theme.

Harvey's will produce what is dais to be their last Bill Cosby chip. The Cosby "St. Patricks Day" chip should come out on or about St. Patrick's day.

## Club Meetings!

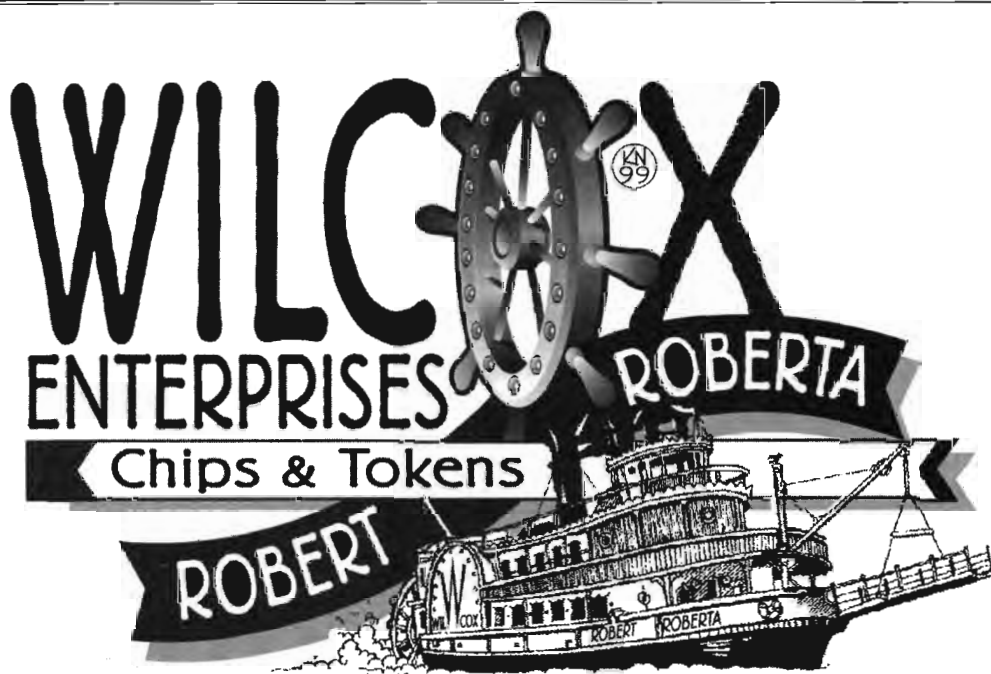
The Colorado Chapter meets on the third Sunday of every month, usually the meetings start at 11:30. Most meetings are held in Lakewood Colorado, but the location can change. For meeting information, please email Allen Banick at

allen@cochips.co  
or call club officers  
Ken and Sarah Fisk  
at (303) 361-6151.

Look for a special Colorado Chapter meeting at the National Convention this coming May. Members and non-members are invited. Please email or call in early May for details.

See you at national!

Allen ♦



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Robert Wilcox Cook

CC&GTCC # R-0577

Roberta Cook

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Silver Strikes & Tokens  
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for Silver Strikes \$0.65  
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Small display for 8 Zippo's  
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Chips

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Strikes and one big display for 42  
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# GAMING CHECK MANUFACTURERS

## HUNT & Co. - CHICAGO

by **Howard W. Herz**

Beginning in the late 1800's, a number of manufacturers in the United States produced gaming checks and chips. Several of these manufacturers sold their products through distributors who would offer their customers a "custom" mold that was reserved by the manufacturer for that specific distributor. Other manufacturers sold directly to customers. The history of manufacturing in the U.S. is fairly simple as the number of companies that actually produced gaming checks and chips was quite small. For the sake of future collectors, I believe that the history of these companies should be preserved while it can still be recorded. One of the companies that made its own chips was Hunt & Co. of Chicago.

*Based on an interview with the present owner of Hunt & Co.*

### Hunt & Co.



*Hunt & Co.'s location in 1999*

The founder of Hunt & Co., Eugene M. Stockton, began the company in the 1890's. As a producer of gaming equipment, the company advertised nationally in a number of the pulp magazines such as the *Police Gazette*. Hunt & Co. featured items such as magic dice, magic cards and a limited amount of gaming furniture. They had their own poker chip that was manufactured in house as well as a number of items that followed the "Blue Book" line of other companies.

Between 1930 and the early 1960's, Hunt & Co. produced their own chips using three types of "chain" molds. The checks were molded in an arcane set-up that consisted of a press, an ordinary press jack for pressure and a top and bottom apparatus that contained hot and cold water. By diverting the water alternately the chip cavities could be heated and then cooled allowing the pressed material to be molded to the design and then released. The resulting chips had to



*Hunt Chain Molds*

have their outside perimeter flash shaved off before being hot stamped. None of the chain mold checks used normal inlays with the exception of a star shape inlay (B201) and a clover leaf inlay (B202) that were used on two separate orders.

Checks were hot stamped in several different type styles using mostly gold and metallic green foil. Ten different colors were offered for regular orders. A number of checks were made in “mottled” colors that produced a “marbled” type of color effect. None of the checks produced had inserts. Hunt & Co. also used their “generic” mold “Stackrite” chips for hot stamping in several instances for private customers. Although some chip orders were in the thousands, most orders were in the mid-100’s and in some instances orders were for less than 50 chips.

As the checks were ordered by customers, a sample would be kept in a manila envelope with the order information written in ink. This information would generally include the mold type, quantity and colors ordered, customer name and address and the date of the order.

Although the manufacturing method used could produce a large quantity of chips, it was not suitable for the excessively large casino orders of the time. Most of the orders were for a moderate number of chips with generally three to four colors. Custom dies were used in a moderate number of instances, but the majority of the chips stamped were from die combinations of the standard hot stamp letter dies.

The records indicate that a vast majority of the chain chips were made before the mid-1950’s. Although several orders were filled in the early 1960’s, the chain mold can essentially be dated from 1930-1960. Orders were received from almost every state including Nevada. A few orders were sent to Canada and one to Puerto Rico. In a very few instances, hot stamps were duplicated for different customers - primarily in the “value” only checks. Several orders were repeated with a change of mold, but not dies.

### **The Hunt & Co. Molds...**

Hunt used four varieties of the “Chain Mold”. The record envelopes would include the name of the mold. Over the years some of the molds were described by different names and in some instances just “chain” was used. During the early 1940’s, the “chain” became the “victory chain” as a supporting propaganda move to support the spirit of World War-II. In 1960 Hunt & Co. purchased Taylor & Co. (T-mold and “Harp”-mold), and began to use the generic diamond-square mold provided by the Burt Company. In several instances Hunt used their “Stackrite” poker chips for monograms as well as the New Era mold from Ball & Co. In one instance a customer provided chip blanks that were monogrammed.

Gaming checks were weighted when requested and the hot stamping could be up-graded to heavier gold when requested.

**Hunt & Co. “Softclick”  
(light weight)**

A classic relief chain design with very high relief in the chain and a inner ring just outside of the chain. This mold was used through the 1930-60 period and was manufactured in-house by Hunt & Co. With most of the colors normally hot stamped in gold, colors of white, lavender and yellow were almost always stamped in metallic green.



**Hunt & Co. “Softclick”  
(heavy weight)**

The same classic relief chain design with very high relief in the chain but no inner ring just outside of the chain. This mold was used through the 1930-60 period and was manufactured in-house by Hunt & Co. With most of the colors normally hot stamped in gold, colors of white, lavender and yellow were almost always stamped in metallic green.



**Hunt & Co. “Hunt’s Chain”  
(Victory Chain) mold**

This check featured the chain design incused into the rim of the check. This mold was used through the 1930-60 period and was also manufactured in-house by Hunt & Co. With most of the colors normally hot stamped in gold, colors of white, lavender and yellow were almost always stamped in metallic green. Checks were issued in both dull and shellac finishes.



**Hunt & Co. “Woodlawn” mold**

A later chain design with lower relief in the chain and a broad rim. This mold was used through the 1940-60 period and was manufactured in-house by Hunt & Co. With most of the colors normally hot stamped in gold, colors of white, lavender and yellow were also stamped in gold.



**Hunt & Co. “Woodlawn” mold  
(variation)**

A later chain design with very low relief in the chain and a very broad rim. This mold was used through the 1940-60 period and was manufactured in-house by Hunt & Co. With most of the colors normally hot stamped in gold, colors of white, lavender and yellow were also stamped in gold.



**Hunt & Co. “Stackrite” mold**

This simple design features a raised ring with a center area for hot stamping. Hunt & Co. advertised this mold for “poker chips” and rarely used it for monogrammed checks. This mold was made in-house by Hunt & Co. and was offered the the standard colors.



### Balls “New Era” mold

This single ring mold was developed for Ball & Co. and was used in several instances by Hunt & Co. for orders. Note the differences from the “Stackrite” mold.



### “Star in Rings” mold

Hunt & Co. offered these “indestructible Poker Chips” in ten colors. We know of one instance where they were monogrammed.



### “Code” (diamond-square) mold

In the 1950’s and 1960’s Hunt & Co. used this mold that was a “generic” mold offered by the Burt Co. to distributors. The name “Code” may have been from the original owner of the mold (Code & Co.) before Burt made available to other distributors.



### Hot Stamp Type Styles ...

Hunt & Co. used a number of letter sets to create the monograms. The records do not show distinct names for these styles so we have used generic terminology. Our descriptions include a style comment in { } to indicate what type of lettering was used. We have used the following abbreviations:

- {bk} = block lettering
- {bkl} = large block lettering
- {bks} = small block lettering
- {cus} = custom lettering
- {lo} = logo
- {mg} = monogram
- {mgs} = small monogram
- {sc} = script lettering

Hunt & Co. was purchased in 1955 from E.M. Stockton by Carl Stahl and his son. In 1960, The Stahl family purchased Taylor & Co. and merged the two entities. After the acquisition of Taylor, the combined companies primarily used the T and Harp molds that were owned by Taylor and the Chain molds were discontinued. Both the T and Harp molded checks were produced for Taylor by the Burt Co., of Portland Maine. Hunt & Co.’s contribution to gaming history was long and significant. Their chain checks were sold throughout the United States with the majority of sales in the Mid-West and specifically the Chicago area. The preservation of Hunt & Co.’s records has added a significant piece to the puzzle of American Gaming History. ♦



{bk}



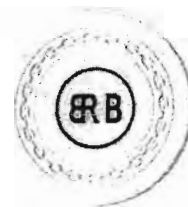
{bkl}



{bks}



{cus}



{lo}



{mg}



{mgs}



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# Late Breaking News...

by John Yee

## Ballots have been counted

A number of events have occurred in the last few weeks which we did not have time to place in their own article. A quick summary is described below.

We have winners! The members have spoken, well, at least over 700 or so have voted in your new Board Members.

**President:**

Nate Pincus

**Vice President:**

Neal Silverman

**Secretary:**

Marty Kaplan

**Treasurer:**

Dave Shron

**Membership Officer:**

Ralph Myers

The real winners are we, the members of this fine organization. Please extend thank yous to all of the candidates. Remember that these board members are volunteers, dedicating their time and energy to enhancing the enjoyment of chip and token collecting.

## Early Bird Banquet

Our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention at the Tropicana is just around the corner. As of this date, we have an unconfirmed report that our guest speaker for the Wednesday night Early Bird Banquet will be a prominent Las Vegas resident who is associate with gaming. Please remember that you must be a member to attend this event and payment must be received by April 30. Seating is limited and only advanced tickets will be sold. NO TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE THE EVENING OF THE EVENT. Seating is on a first come basis so please get your reservations in before it's too late. You won't want to miss this memorable evening. And those who have pre-registered will be receiving a goodie bag with great items donated from area hotels and casinos.

## New Convention Chairperson

A new Convention Chairperson has been appointed to produce next year's 2002 convention. The lucky individual is George Conrad of Henderson, Nevada. I'm not quite clear yet if Liz, his wife comes as Co-chair or confidant but George keeps telling us how happy he AND Liz are. I think we get two for the price of one, which is a good deal in anyone's book. Please give the both of them a heartfelt welcome when you see them at the convention. And while you're at it, please let Belinda Hixon and Wayne Thompson know how much we appreciated their effort over the last few years. ♦



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CC&GTCC R-4238**





# California Chips

by David Moore

The chip of most interest in the last quarter was the Commerce Casino's Year of the Snake \$5 and \$25. Although 2,000 of the \$5 reportedly were issued, more than one chipper reported not being able to obtain one at the cage.



The recently-opened Palace Indian Casino in Lemoore may be the most chipper-friendly Indian Casino in the state thanks to Chris Block, a CC&GTCC member who is in charge of table games at the casino. Chris has been making chips available to club members at face with no extra charges for shipping.

The Palace issued a \$5 and \$25 chip for Valentine's Day and is scheduled to issue two chips in the same denominations for Easter. The casino also recently issued a \$3 drop chip.



Artichoke Joe's in San Bruno reportedly issued a silver-strike-like token for the Year of the Snake, although this writer has not actually seen one yet.

The Central Coast Casino has issued three \$20 chips honoring "Player of the Year" J.B. Crosno ('98), Tom Hyland ('99) and Lu Fifer (2000). Two hundred of each LE were issued. The 2001 chip will be issued in October.

The Outpost Casino in San Ramon, which was ordered closed by the state was allowed to reopen by a judge so its chips are back in play.

The Jackson Rancheria Indian Casino closed its poker room, which was the only place its recently-issued \$1 chip was used. No word yet on whether the chip will be still be available at the casino.

Next Indian casino scheduled to open is the \$167 million, 2000 slot machine Chukchansi Indian casino near the south entrance to Yosemite National Park. It was scheduled to open in May but don't be surprised if the opening is postponed.

Thanks to Larry Odoms, Jim Noll and Jim Fuhlrodt for their contributions this month. If I've missed a new chip issued in the last three months or if you know of upcoming California chips, drop me a line, and I'll include them in the next issue of the club magazine. Contact me at: moored@pacbell.net or write:

David Moore  
1750 San Luis Road  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596. ♦

## CHIPS OFF THE OLD BLOCK

Terry Lazarus, R-2708...P.O.Box 57...Dallastown, Pa. 17313...1-888-CHIPS-97

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Cal-Neva Lodge \$100 T-Mold HS-Blue	\$250	Nevada Club (Carlin) "NAW" \$5	\$65
Ranchinn \$1 (Elko) Orange H&C(CJ)	\$79	Silver Spur (Carson City) \$1 pic of Spurs	\$28
Stardust (Tahoe) \$5 Arodie	\$99	Diamond Jim's (Jackpot) \$1 Gray N3728	\$49
Incline Village \$100 H&C(CJ) Drilled	\$250	Bill's (Lake Tahoe) 25 NCV Lime H&C	\$32
Tiki Club (Reno) \$5	\$12	Fiesta -Royal Flush Series of 24 \$5 Chips	\$230
Nevada Palace – Matched Set of 4 – 20 <sup>th</sup>	\$99	Share Cropper Club – 50c, \$1, \$5, \$10	\$35
Nevada Palace – Matched Set of 4 – 21 <sup>st</sup>	\$99	Mint (LV) 25c Purple 2-Yellow pic-Hotel	\$39
Opera House Unicorn Set – \$5, \$25, \$100	\$45	Claridge – Lighthouse Set: 8-\$5; 8-\$10	\$199
King's Castle \$1 & \$5 Free Play H&C(CJ)	\$49	Casino de Capri – Set of 3: \$1, \$5, \$25	\$39
Hard Rock "Rock 'N' Rods - Set of 4 \$5	\$50	New Frontier – Unlisted NCV Set of 5	\$99
Palace Club (Fallon) \$1 Purple Sm Key	\$25	Bally's Grand (AC) Hall of Fame Set of 5	\$65
Stork Club (LV) \$5 Circa 1940's	\$350	Lady Luck 3 Diff \$.25 Diecar, H&C, Nev	\$50
Stork Cluv (LV) \$25 Circa 1940's	\$375	Taj Mahal - \$25 Pavarotti – 300 Made	\$45
Stork Club (LV) \$100 Circa 1040's	\$395	Hollywood Park – Yr of Dragon – Set of 3	\$49
Poker Palace 1st \$5 Red 4-Yellow 4-Blue	\$44	Pink Pussycat (Reno) 1,2,5 – All 3 No "\$"	\$59
Jailhouse – Set of 4: 50c, \$5, 2 Diff \$25's	\$65	Hard Rock \$5 – ZZ Top	\$25
Joe's Tavern \$1 Navy TK None HS Gold	\$49	Laughlin – River Run 2000 – 8 Diff. \$5	\$88
Bladensburg (Md.) Complete: 60 R'ettes	\$169	Curzon House (London) 10 Pd Plaque	\$45
Railroad Pass \$.10 Navy Ewing None HS	\$22	Curzon House (London) 50 Pd Plaque	\$75
Ponderosa \$1 Navy LgKey 3-Pink	\$38	Curzon House (London) 100 Pd Plaque	\$90
Poor Pete's (Reno) \$5 – Navy SmKey	\$24	49er \$5 Fushcia H-mold None	\$50
Harrah's (Lghlin) \$2.50's DH #1, #2, #3	\$22	Mapes \$5 Brown & \$25 Green T-Molds	\$22
Sahara (LV) \$20 Baccarat Plaque (60's)	\$45	Bud Jones – 70's Promo ChipCoin-Inlay	\$22
Ritz Carlton (San Juan) \$5 Millennium	\$12	Trop (LV) – Brooks Robinson – SIGNED	\$49
Cal-Neva Lodge \$1 Black Rectangle	\$95	Scrubby's (Montana Illegal) TK Set of 3	\$29
Harrah's Reno: Set 13–Gaming thru Ages	\$105	Cedar Crest CC (Waco, TX.) – Black	\$25
Reno Hilton: Set 12-Countdown to Mill.	\$99	Sands 3 Chip Tournery Set \$5, \$25, \$100	\$95
Hyatt Regency – Set of 5- Full Graphics	\$45	Silver Nugget – Dated 25c 1996 to 2000	\$175
Harvey's Obsolete Brass - \$1, \$2.50, \$5	\$29	Terrible's (LV) \$1 + \$GO Set of 5 Diff \$5	\$45
Harvey's Obsolete \$25 Orange Brass	\$49	Jerry's Nugget 8-Suit NCV's – 5 Denoms	\$99
Carson Nugget – Millennium Set of 5	\$45	Caesar's (AC) – Cher \$25 – Year 2000	\$49
Cal-Neva/Virginian – Mill. Set of 4	\$38	D.T. Saloon 8-Suit \$1& \$5 – 1 <sup>st</sup> Issues	\$39
North Shore Club Zigzag "NSC 2" Navy	\$79	North Shore Club 50's "A" SmKey 3 Diff	\$129
Harrah's Tahoe Obs. NCV's 1,5,25,100	\$39	The Cove \$1 (Cal Illegal) Great Hotstamp	\$22
Harrah's Tahoe – Bud Ice – Matched Set	\$169	Continental 25 NCV Lime 8-Suits Mold	\$14
Harrah's Obsolete Brass - \$1, \$2.50, \$5	\$29	Stever's Social Club-Set 3 – Mo. Illegal	\$25
Nevada Club (Eureka) \$1 White Diecar	\$28	Foxwoods \$10 – Frank Sinatra	\$38
Nevada Club (Eureka) \$5 Red Diecar	\$45	Jim Kelly's Nugget \$1 Lg Key Maroon	\$28
John's Tahoe Nugget \$500 Brown Ewing	\$28	The Shack (Lake Tahoe) \$5 Diamond	\$69
Owl Club (Eureka) \$5 Red H&C	\$18	Meeks Bay (Tahoe) \$1, 2.50, 5, 25, 100	\$49
SaharaTahoe \$5 "TableGames"	\$19	Oliver's (Tahoe) 25c H&C(CJ)	\$19
Keystone Club (Fallon) \$10 H-Mold	\$28	Circus Circus - Emmett Kelly Set of 6	\$59
Joe's (Gerlach) \$1 Orange SqinCir	\$65	Monte Carlo (Reno) \$1, 2.50, 5, 25 O/S	\$39
Tahoe Nugget \$1 Red H&C(CJ) New!	\$49	Eddie's Fabulous 50's – 4 Diff Roulettes	\$35
Tahoe Nugget \$5 Yel/Brn Pie H&C(CJ)	\$49	Diamond Club (NY City) \$1 & \$5 Obs.	\$28
Sahara Tahoe \$100 Orange Lg Key NN	\$49	The Nugget (Reno) Grn H&C(CJ) 3-Red	\$49
The Nugget \$.25 Oran. Sm Key pic of Ng	\$69	The Nugget \$1Maroon Sm Key pic of Ng	\$69

\*\*\* Please add \$3 S&H on all orders. Money orders sent immediately. \*\*\*

# **Metro (Detroit) Chip Show!**

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**The hours for the show are 9AM to 5PM. Admission is \$5 cash or a current \$5 chip! All gate proceeds are to shared equally with the Great Lakes Chapter of the CC&GTCC. The Chapter may have a meeting at the Show. Watch for details. Free coffee and door prizes!**

**The three Detroit casinos (and the Windsor casino) are about 45 minutes from the hotel. Shopping and world class entertainment are available nearby and in the Detroit metro area. The Detroit Metro Airport is about 20 miles away and the hotel has free shuttle service for hotel guests. Special room rates are available: mention "Metro Chip Show."**

**For show details and dealer information, contact**

**Paul Cunningham  
Box One  
Tecumseh, MI 49286  
phone 517-423-8951  
email [cunninghamchips@hotmail.com](mailto:cunninghamchips@hotmail.com)**

# MARKET REPORT: SPRING 2001

by James Campiglia & Steve Wells

Chip action is heating up as we head into the pre-Convention months. Rene Nezhoda's Palace Station show held over Super Bowl weekend was very well-received. Several dealers reported that sales were higher than expected. Walk-in traffic was excellent and everyone expects the national CC&GTCC Convention to be the biggest and best ever. One of the factors that may be fueling this spike in growth is the issue of slabbing.

## Slabbing

Despite various protests by many long-time collectors, it is quite possible that the era of slabbing is here. If slabbing takes hold, the chip market will expand away from just collectors to a combination of collectors and investors. This means that prices will rise, but knowledgeable chippers will be poised to make sizable profits. Some investors from other collectible fields have quietly been buying better chips over the past few months. In addition, many others are waiting in the wings ready to go on a buying spree if slabbing expands to bonafide investment status. We probably won't know the final outcome to all this until after the Convention, but we expect some exciting times ahead. Unfortunately, many club members do not understand that this can be a great opportunity for them. All you serious collectors out there have knowledge - and that translates to dollars if you choose that path. Recently, an interesting trend has

emerged. In years past, collectors would buy any chip they needed when they ran across it. However, it is becoming more and more common for collectors to pass on chips due to condition and not price. This trend will continue and accelerate, especially if and when slabbing takes hold in the hobby.

## New Discoveries

The most exciting new discovery of a single chip this quarter was the appearance of a previously unknown & inlaid \$100 Orange/Lavender New China Club from Reno that was sold on eBay for \$3,000. This chip is in near perfect condition. This piece is unique and belongs with the 4th issue. Another neat eBay find was a notched 19th issue \$100,000 baccarat chip from the Sheraton Desert Inn. This sold for the memorable amount of exactly \$777.77. A lady on eBay has a box of previously unknown Blue \$5 Sm-key chips from Hunter's Lodge in Carson City. She sold two pieces and then failed to respond to various chippers inquiries about buying more! Only time will tell how this will shake out.

At Rene's Super Bowl show, David Sarles unveiled a previously unknown Maroon Nevada Club Arodie, with no denomination. Another truly spectacular find

occurred up in the Reno Area as an anonymous seller discovered exactly one set of brand new La Rue chips from Las Vegas. Then he discovered another unused set. Then, lo and behold, he discovered even more pristine sets, making a total of nine. He swears this is the last of the sets, but the chippers we know are already spooked at having been deceived twice. The real quantity is unknown, but the find itself is very noteworthy. There are seven denominations, five of which were previously unknown (10¢, 25¢, \$1, \$25, \$100.) The set also includes the 5¢ and \$5. All chips are hot stamped with the same style writing. All chips have 3 inserts. The seller is offering them for around \$500-\$600 each, but only time will tell if more sets will actually emerge.

Two rare undrilled \$25 chips from the Silver Slipper located in Pittman, NV surfaced, making a total of three known. These sold for nearly \$1,000 each, but the exact amount is unknown. At the Long Beach Show, James Campiglia obtained the second known drilled \$25 Pioneer HCE and found a home for it the very next day. Several coin dealers had chips for sale, but almost none were slabbed at this point in time. Some nice issue Railroad Pass \$100 Lgsqur mold chips surfaced, bringing the amount known to at least 15. James also bought a Beige \$1 C&J Pussycat A Go-Go with no inserts. Though rumored to exist



before, this is the first example we can actually confirm. In addition, James found two neat NCV chips from the Colorado Belle, Laughlin. There is a Lt Orange NCV1 (Mermaid mold) and a Pink NCV5 (Dragon mold). On the chip is written "49 and Holding". This slogan is also on a rare slot card from this club and these chips were given out with the slot card. This special card was for people who turned 49 years old. Both of these chips were previously unknown.



through the 4,000 or so EBAYchips currently for sale at any given time, that good buys can be had. The sixth known C&S 1932 Reno Commemorative went for \$1,800 on eBay, but had some surface color damage. A Blue \$5 HCE

Flamingo, in what appeared to be nice condition, went for \$1,580 and that's cheap. However, a drilled 6th issue \$5 Red Recl from the Flamingo brought \$610 - a very high price for a drilled Flamingo chip.

## Notable Sales

Some big chips changed hands for big money recently. A nice \$100 Golden Bank diecut from Reno went for a reported \$3,600. This is one of the highest prices ever paid for a Reno chip. Coincidentally, two rare Green Keno Bank-Palace Club Chips came out of collections and were sold for \$2,000 and \$2,500 each. A mid-grade \$5 Riviera C&J (Balloons) went for over \$2,500. A Bonanza Hotel \$5 (Miner & Girl Inlay) in top condition sold for \$1,200. The best known Sahara-Thunderbird \$5 brought \$1,100. A mid-grade 4th issue Sm-Key Flamingo \$5 went for well over book value at \$2,500. One

Last, but not least, Rich Burgel of the Tropicana Gift Shop, uncovered the only three chips known from the Apache casino. These are hotstamped chips with the Lcrown mold and no denomination, marked simply "Apache Casino". Many people did not believe that these chips existed, but others have searched for years. These were obtained from a previous employee of the Apache Bar (so named after the casino closed). This individual had rare matchbooks, a napkin, postcards, and other souvenirs from the Apache. The first sale exceeded \$5000, which is more than any other hot stamped chip has ever sold for! The asking price for the remaining two chips is much higher. Though far less spectacular, Rich also found one previously unknown Lt Orange Lcrown RLT from the Golden Nugget marked "GN" alongside three HCE roulettes in different colors.

## eBay Sales

A \$1 Scrown El Cortez appeared on eBay (now 3 known) and brought the bargain price of \$560. Speaking of bargains, a \$5 Four Queens Arodie in much better than average condition, was stolen at half price for \$600. A worn example then sold afterwards for \$500. This proves if one can wade



rare \$25 Pagni Bros. Jubilee chip, of 5 found along with 2 \$5 chips, from Pleasant Valley, NV (Key pieces for Nevada City type sets) sold for \$750.

### Hoard Report

Not much has happened in the way of hoards lately, which is just fine for most chippers. However, some more boxes came out of the Bonanza Club 25c, \$5 and \$25 HCE chips. These chips are now selling for about \$25, \$25, and \$65 respectively. Rene Nezhoda obtained 1 box each of the \$25, \$100, and \$500 Las Vegas Club chips with the baseball batter inlay. Sets are \$120 each. James Campiglia uncovered a box of nice inlaid Vegas World NCV 25 chips. They are priced at \$35 each. Along with these chips was a box of the last regular issue \$25 chips. These were priced at \$30 each for a dutch eBay auction. Bud Meyer uncovered 20 Gold Rush chips from Wendover. (Six \$1, Eight \$5, and Six \$25). He is asking \$1500 for the set.

### Slot Cards

Slot card action has been very strong. Better cards are routinely bringing \$10-\$30 on eBay and in person. Pat and Daryl Lamb started a slot card collecting club called PACK (People After Cards and Keys) and got over 70 members in the first three weeks of starting the club! Membership is only \$6 a year. Pat intends to do a quarterly newsletter updating members on new cards, exciting finds, etc. Write to:

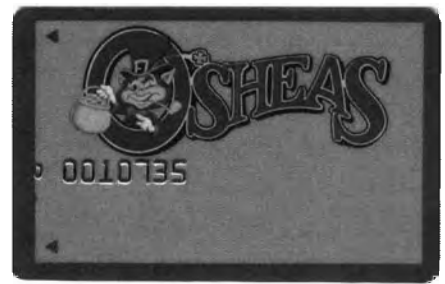
Pat & Daryl Lamb,  
6970 Jasmine St.  
Commerce City, CO 80022

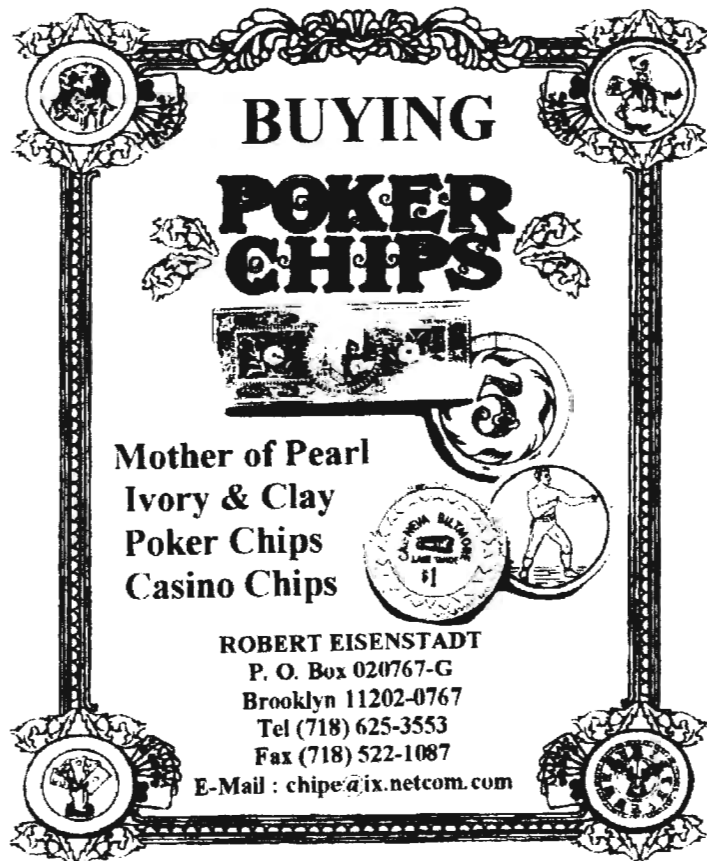
### New Website

James Campiglia and Randy Pisane have started a new website devoted to buying, selling, and just appreciating high-end chips. There are pictures, stories, and even a chip Hall of Fame. Also, consignments of rare chips are accepted. This site can be found at: [casino\\_rarities.com](http://casino_rarities.com)

As we head into the Convention, some big changes are coming: A new President and Board of Directors will serve the hobby as we see the effects of slabbing and big money entering the hobby. How this will end is anybody's guess, but things are heating up.

Happy Chipping until next time. ♦





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# Atlantic City Chapter begins A New Millennium

by **Jerry Birl**  
Chapter Secretary

The January 14th 2001 meeting of the A.C. Chapter marked the beginning of what we feel will be the most exciting year in the history of the A.C. Chapter as well as the National Club. All three candidates for the Presidency of the National Club were present at the meeting and spoke to a packed house of interested chippers. Local Chapter President Dick Brach thanked the three candidates for their informative presentations and said that we were fortunate to have such highly qualified men willing to lead our National Club. Whoever is elected will be an outstanding representative for the Chip and Token collecting hobby. After the regular meeting, which included a swap session, auction and 50/50 drawing all members were invited to the Baltimore Grill for the Chapter's Annual pizza party. All who attended the Annual gathering enjoyed the food and the fellowship and the Chapter picked up the tab for the entire group.

The Officers of the Chapter have come out in support of the "SLAB FREE" movement which opposes the grading and slabbing of Casino chips. We feel strongly that slabbing will have a very negative effect on Chip Collecting as it has with other hobbies such as coin collecting and sports card collecting. A donation of \$100 to the "SLAB FREE" fund was approved by the Chapter Officers. In addition, at the request of Chapter Secretary Jerry Birl the Chapter will donate another \$100 to the "SLAB FREE" fund in lieu of payment to Jerry for a \$100 Eldorado Plaque which was lost at the November 19, 2000 Chapter meeting.

Future meetings of the Atlantic City Chapter have been scheduled for May 6th and July 22nd of 2001. Any chip or token collector who is in the Atlantic City area on the above dates is cordially welcomed to attend our Chapter meetings and to meet many of our 350 members who regularly

attend our bi-monthly meetings. The meetings will be held on Sunday afternoons beginning at 12:00 Noon in the Starlight Room of the Resorts Casino in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

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**"any chip or token collector who is in the Atlantic City area on the above dates is cordially welcomed to attend our Chapter meetings"**

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Anyone who is interested in joining the largest and most active Chapter of the CC&GTCC should contact

Dick Brach  
32 South Avenue  
Fanwood, NJ 07023  
(908) 647-0814





# ATLANTIC CITY CASINO CHIPS FOR SALE

ATL-2.5	\$150	Mint Uncirculated	GOL-5	\$95	
ATL-5	\$150	Mint Uncirculated	GOL-5A	\$125	Mint Uncirculated
ATL-25	\$395		GOL-25	\$250	
ATL-100	\$95	Notched	HAR-100	\$395	
BAG-2.5	\$15	Mint Uncirculated	HAR-100A	\$350	
BAG-5	\$25	Mint Uncirculated	HIL-5	\$195	Mint Uncirculated
BAG-25	\$125	Near Mint	HIL-25	\$750	Mint Uncirculated
BAG-100	\$350		HTP-2.5	\$95	GEM
BOA-1	\$30	Mint Uncirculated	HTP-5	\$150	GEM
BOA-2.5	\$250	Mint Uncirculated	HTP-20	\$1,050	GEM
BOA-2.5A	\$95	Near Mint	HTP-25	\$650	
BOA-5	\$75		HTP-100	\$1,200	GEM
BOA-5A	\$60	Mint Uncirculated	RES-5	\$295	
BOA-20	\$1,950	Mint Uncirculated	SAN-5A	\$40	Mint Uncirculated
BOA-20A	\$1,200	Near Mint	SAN-20	\$150	
BOA-25	\$750	Mint Uncirculated	SAN-20A	\$100	Mint Uncirculated
BOA-25A	\$150		SAN-25	\$595	
BOA-100	\$2,500	Mint Uncirculated	SAN-25A	\$75	
BOA-100A	\$750	Near Mint	SAN-100	\$950	
BPP-2.5B	\$15	Mint Uncirculated	SAN-100A	\$350	
BPP-5	\$175	Near Mint	SHO-2.5	\$15	
BPP-5A	\$35	Mint Uncirculated	SHO-5	\$20	
BPP-5B	\$25	Mint Uncirculated	SHO-25	\$95	
BPP-25B	\$75	Mint Uncirculated	SHO-100B	\$350	
BPP-100A	\$450		TAJ-100A	\$200	Mint Uncirculated
BPP-100B	\$350		TPP-2.5	\$25	Mint Uncirculated
BRI-5	\$200	Near Mint	TPP-5	\$75	Mint Uncirculated
CAE-5 Golatta	\$50	Mint Uncirculated	TPP-25	\$595	Near Mint
CAE-25A	\$295	Mint Uncirculated	TPP-100A	\$595	
CAE-100	\$950		TRO-2.5	\$50	Mint Uncirculated
CAE-100A	\$850		TRO-2.5A	\$25	Mint Uncirculated
CAE-100B	\$850	Near Mint	TRO-5	\$95	Mint Uncirculated
CAS-2.5	\$25	Mint Uncirculated	TRO-5A	\$30	Mint Uncirculated
CAS-2.5A	\$20	Mint Uncirculated	TRO-5 W.Espin	\$75	Mint Uncirculated
CAS-5	\$35		TRO-25	\$350	Near Mint
CAS-5A	\$35	Mint Uncirculated	TRO-25A	\$75	
CAS-25	\$95		TRO-100	\$1,200	
CAS-25A	\$75	Mint Uncirculated	TRO-100A	\$950	
CAS-100	\$350		TRO-100B	\$350	
CLA-2.5A	\$25		TWD-2.5	\$20	Mint Uncirculated
CLA-5	\$15		TWD-5	\$25	Mint Uncirculated
CLA-25	\$350		TWD-25	\$75	Mint Uncirculated
GOL-2.5	\$85	Mint Uncirculated	TWD-100	\$350	

Chips can be viewed online at <http://accasinochips.com/ac.htm>

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Black's #'s used

# ...And God Created Harvey Fuller, So That We Might Have History With Our Clays!

by Douglas Saito

## HOLD ON TO YOUR HAT, HARVEY



*This photo is not the most flattering of Nevada's most knowledgeable historian, but it does capture a moment in time almost five years ago, when on a very windy day Harvey Fuller and I conducted a "chip deal" from the trunk of his car. That car-trunk always held a treasure trove of casino memorabilia, and few chip-hobbyists ever knew that Harvey Fuller was the original source for so many of Nevada's rarest and greatest chips.*

30,000 represents a helluva lot of days. But, for Harvey Fuller, soon to be a celebrant of his 30,000th day on planet earth, he knows he's already done a helluva lot of living, and how many more days that the eighty-two-year-old Harvey Fuller has left for breathing, eating, smoking, loving and writing are unknown. But one fact should be known; an eighty-two-year-old named Harvey Fuller should not remain unknown to any collector of Nevada chips. Because Harvey has already achieved something so extraordinary that few humans have done and that so few will ever do again; he's written a diary, an extraordinary diary.

For the last 21,000 straight days of his life on earth, Harvey Fuller has faithfully kept a diary of things that happened on each of those days. Every day he wrote. Come rain or shine, in sickness and in health, in good times and bad, whether as part of his duty as a policeman or as dutiful husband, Harvey would write what happened that day. Until he had compiled over ten volumes of daily events, with each volume representing five years of his life. The first volume was started a month prior to Harvey's twenty-third birthday on the first day of January in the World War II year of 1942. And the eleventh volume is still a work in progress, as Harvey details events of his life as they pass by today.

I have those diaries. I have read most of those diaries. And now I have made up my mind. I will publish the diaries of Harvey Fuller. Because those diaries prove that Harvey Fuller is, and will always be, the first and foremost authority on gaming in Nevada. That's a fact that no Nevada chip collector should ever forget. That Harvey Fuller will always be Nevada's finest gaming historian. As proof of my procla-

mation, I offer a sampling of just some of the yearly highlights that I have tabulated from Harvey's diaries:

**1981.** In this year, Harvey Fuller visits over seventy Nevada gaming establishments. Some become favorite haunts, such as the Club Bingo in downtown Las Vegas, which he frequents on 290 different occasions. Others are one-time-only occurrences, such as the Gem in Reno, and Cal's Jackpot Club in North Las Vegas.

**1987.** In this year, Harvey spends twenty-seven days at the Nevada Historical Society digging up casino info. Another Fourteen days are spent at the Clark County Commission, digging up casino info. Nine days are spent at the University of Nevada Reno, researching oral histories of Nevada casino owners. Twenty-one days are spent at the North Las Vegas city clerk's office, researching licenses and tax records of gaming establishments. The odometer reading on his Ford is 200,000 miles, nearly three quarters of that total comes from traveling in the state of Nevada during the 1980's.

**1989.** Add the totals from this year to the totals from the previous eight years, and the number of individual yard sales that Harvey Fuller goes to is well over 7,000. And from those yard sales, Harvey acquires well over 160,000 Nevada chips or tokens, hundreds upon hundreds of casino ashtrays, stir sticks that can be weighed by the pound and casino glassware that can be inventoried by the crates. Throw in casino matchbooks, funbooks, Keno cards, postcards, and there's enough kindling paper to keep Harvey's home in Los Angeles well-heated for years.


And yet the summary of utmost importance to all collectors of Nevada casino memorabilia is that which no pricetag can be affixed – the knowledge Harvey Fuller acquired from over a thousand interviews with casino owners and casino workers, and from info Harvey got from people and products that were indirectly related or connected to the workings of a Nevada casino.

From Fuller's diaries, I've learned that Harvey was one of the first to get chip identifications from TR King and Company, the manufacturer of small and large crown chips. From Fuller's diaries, I've learned that Harvey's research of Nevada Gaming Control Board records was so intensive and so complete, that agents of the gaming board would often ask Harvey for information.

Today, Fuller's diaries, all ten clothbound books, each with five year's worth of daily entries, sit beside my old word processor. They are near at hand because I'm still typing Harvey's handwritten entries, getting them prepared for eventual publication. Of course, it will be at least five years before every one of Harvey Fuller's 30,000 daily entries is in typeset book form.

In the meantime, with Harvey's permission, I've decided to publish portions of his diaries for this issue and possibly future issues of the CC&GTCC magazine. I do so because it's time that all Nevada chip collectors be made aware of what Harvey Fuller will always mean to the hobby. I do so for all collectors who seek to add casino history and background information to their Nevada collections of little round pieces of clay. But most of all, I do so because five years might be one year, one day or even one hour too late for Harvey Fuller to see all of his diaries in print.

For your reading pleasure, I present brief glimpses of Harvey Fuller's life in Nevada. Many are accompanied by editorial notes and explanatory comments. Some excerpts were selected because they introduce readers to meaningful people in Harvey's life. Other passages are like belly buttons, they show an inward side and an outward side of a person. Other diary entries were chosen because they capture how some of the 160,000 chips in Harvey's possession were dug up, discovered, acquired, identified, manufactured, or even destroyed.

I begin with a four-day event that took place in August of 1954. It is Harvey Fuller's first trip to Las Vegas. Reasons for going, Harvey cannot remember today. Reasons for going alone, neither Harvey nor his wife Eleanor can recall today. However important the reasons for why he did things in the past, they pale in comparison to what Harvey did and what he recorded on this first journey to Las Vegas. I hereby present portions of Harvey Fuller's diaries, accompanied by my editorial notes, which will be preceded by this symbol: 

**Los Angeles to Las Vegas.  
Friday August 6, 1954.**

*Vacation. Up at 6:30 a.m. Ate, then to downtown and got 9:00 a.m. Greyhound across desert. Bus is air-conditioned. No vegetation on the hills. Arrived in Las Vegas at 5:00 p.m. Stayed at Sal Sagev Hotel opposite Las Vegas Club. Ate dinner in their coffee shop. Wandered around. To bed early.*



See the Million Dollar

# GOLDEN NUGGET



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right out of the Gold Rush Days**

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Poker, Twenty-One, Bingo, Horse Race Book,  
Sports Dept., Race Horse Keno, Slot Machines

**THREE BARS** ★ **ENTERTAINMENT**

Dine at the **Nugget Restaurant** ★  
WORLD FAMOUS FOR FINE FOOD!

✍ The vacation Harvey mentions is a vacation from his lifelong occupation as a policeman in the Los Angeles police department.

✍ Seen here at left is a postcard view of the Sal Sagev, as it appeared around the time of Harvey Fuller's first-time visit to Las Vegas.

## Las Vegas. Saturday August 7, 1954.

*Vacation. Up at 7:00. Took Tanner bus trip to Boulder Dam. Took tour inside dam and power houses. Over 100 degrees. Back to Sal Sagev Hotel, rested. Had lunch at Wing's Silver Cafe opposite hotel. Saw "The Caine Mutiny" at Fremont Theater in afternoon. To hotel, had two-hour nap. Supper at the steak house in hotel. Went by Las Vegas police station for about an hour, Sergeant Kim showed me around. Tried slots and blackjack at the Golden Nugget, I lost \$6.25. Wandered around. To hotel at 11:50 p.m. Still hot at night, had air-conditioner on all night and needed it.*

✍ In later years, while conducting research for his Index of Nevada Gaming Establishments, a visit by Harvey to various law enforcement agencies in Las Vegas would be commonplace. However, Harvey has no recollection today of why he made this particular visit to the Las Vegas police department.

✍ At left, this photo of the Golden Nugget appeared on an early 1950's advertisement, and more than likely it's how the Golden Nugget appeared to Harvey Fuller during his first visit to Las Vegas. In a later interview with Harvey, he would recall that the sign above the Golden Nugget, when first constructed, was downtown's largest.

## Las Vegas. Sunday August 8, 1954.

*Vacation. Up at 9:30. Breakfast at Silver Cafe. Saw Sergeant Barber. Very hot day, about 108 degrees. Rested after lunch. Saw "Demetrius And The Gladiators" at the El Portal Theater. Rested and showered. Supper at Duffino's, then wandered around. Bought gifts. Gambled in each place on Fremont, and won back all money I lost last night. The gambling here goes on all night, and people wander around more at night than in the day.*

✍ Sergeant Barber was a former policeman who worked with Harvey at the Los Angeles Police Department.

✍ Duffino's, as listed in *Fuller's Index of Nevada Gaming Establishments*, was located at 3121 South 5th Street. At the time that Harvey dined at Duffino's, this restaurant hadn't been approved for a gaming license. A year later, in 1954, Duffino's was granted a gaming license to operate slot machines, and in 1956, a gaming license was granted to operate one blackjack table. A year later, this little restaurant/casino closed its doors. Not a single chip from Duffino's one and only blackjack game survives today.

✍ "Gambled in each place on Fremont." Such a simple sentence, so matter-of-fact in tone, and yet so wanting of details. Such as the names of all those joints that Harvey gambled in on his maiden journey to Las Vegas. Working from interviews and dusting off the cobwebs of Harvey's memory cells, here's a checklist of downtown casinos that Harvey was absolutely sure that he set foot in as well as a list of casinos that he can't be sure of:

The Boulder Club, California Club, possibly Khoury's Club Savoy, the El Cortez, the Fortune Club, Binion's Horseshoe, Las Vegas Club, Lucky Strike Club, Monte Carlo, Nevada Club, Pioneer Club, possibly the Silver Club, the Westerner.

### **Las Vegas. Monday August 9, 1954.**

*Vacation. Up at 9:00. Ate, then wandered around. Lost \$3.75 at blackjack and slot machines. Hot day, over 100 degrees. Then thunderstorms for about five minutes. Packed. Got 3:45 bus back to LA. Hot and quiet across desert. Supper at Barstow. Arrived Los Angeles about 11:30.*

Obviously at the time of his first visit to Las Vegas, Harvey Fuller had no idea that he would be spending three weeks of every month in the state of Nevada during his retirement years, compiling research on every known gaming club and casino in the Silver State. Eventually the fruits of his labor of love would culminate in a publication that would become, in my estimation, a Bible for all Nevada chip collectors, a reference work entitled, *Harvey Fuller's Index of Nevada Gaming Establishments*.

The next entries from Fuller's diaries are excerpts from the early 1970's. At this time, Harvey is still working full-time for the Los Angeles Police Department, but he and his wife Eleanor now make once-a-month visits to Las Vegas as gamblers, and each trip is accompanied by their pet poodle, Mimi. The following diary entries are from Harvey's July visit to Las Vegas in 1971.

### **Los Angeles to Las Vegas. Tuesday July 6, 1971.**

*Left at 6:40 in morning. Breakfast at Tip's, then lunch at Bun Boy in Baker, CA. Arrived Las Vegas at 2:30. Took Mimi to Poodle Parlor. Registered at Desert Villa, then unpacked car. Went to Union Plaza Casino that had just opened on July 2, 1971. Had dinner there, Eleanor won \$50 and I lost \$20 at craps. To Golden Nugget, Eleanor lucky and I watched. To Fremont, Eleanor lucky, I watched. To Golden Nugget, Eleanor won \$60. Hot day, 108 degrees.*

📍 The Desert Villa was a large motel on the Strip that occupied one corner of the intersection of Flamingo and Las Vegas Boulevard. At that time the other three corners were occupied by the Bonanza Hotel and Casino, the Dunes Hotel and Caesars Palace. The Fullers would become good friends with Phil Empey, the owner of the Desert Villa Motel. Empey would become instantly wealthy when he sold his prime location to the Gaughan family who would then build the Barbary Coast upon the property.



*Union Plaza Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada*

📍 Seen here is a postcard depicting the Union Plaza in the early 1970's. At the time of its opening in downtown Las Vegas, it was billed as the world's largest casino. And from the recollections of Harvey Fuller in a recent interview, he tells of interviews with several people who attended the grand opening of the Union Plaza, an occasion that marked the first time in Nevada gaming history that live gaming chips were distributed as gifts to first-time guests.

### **Las Vegas. Wednesday July 7, 1971.**

*Up at 8:45. Took Mimi to Poodle Parlor for trim and bath. Eleanor and I had breakfast at Mint, I played Keno, then got haircut from Mr. Cullen. To Fremont, Eleanor not lucky, I played Keno. Temperature 100 degrees. To El Cortez, Eleanor not lucky, I played Keno, no luck. Dinner at Las Scala Cafe at Fremont. Then we went to Stardust, Eleanor not lucky, I won \$20 at craps. I went to Silver Slipper, lost \$5.00, then to Frontier and lost \$20 at craps.*

✍ Mr. Cullen would become a prominent figure in later journals. At this time in Harvey's diaries, Cullen is operating a barber shop inside of the Fremont Hotel and Casino building. In later years, Harvey would rely on Cullen as a source for information when Cullen finds work as a casino executive for the Landmark Hotel and Casino.

✍ Notes on Keno and Keno notes. It's fair to characterize Harvey Fuller as being a fan of Keno. Not a big-time dollar-a-game player was he, but for forty cents a ticket he played hard. Plus Keno tickets also provided Harvey an opportunity to pinch pennies in a different manner. Harvey rarely used store-bought notepads. Instead, he used the backs of Keno cards to write down anything of importance. Many of those Keno tickets were originally issued from casinos that have long disappeared from Nevada's gaming scene, and over the years they have evolved on the memorabilia market from being trash tickets to becoming tickets to casino treasures.

### **Las Vegas. Thursday July 8, 1971.**

*Up at 8:30. Took Mimi to Poodle Parlor. Eleanor and I had breakfast at Golden Nugget, I won \$55 at Keno, Eleanor won \$100 at slots. We had lunch at Golden Gate, I played Keno. To El Cortez, Eleanor won \$63 and I won \$30 at craps. To Union Plaza for dinner, Eleanor not lucky, I lost \$12 at craps, then won \$15 at blackjack. Temperature is 105 degrees. To Stardust, no luck at Keno, Eleanor not lucky.*

### **Las Vegas. Friday July 9, 1971.**

*Packed car. Took Mimi to Poodle Parlor. Breakfast at Fremont, Eleanor lucky, I lost \$10 at craps, but won \$10 at blackjack. Check came to Empey's, cashed it as Horseshoe. We had lunch at Golden Gate, Eleanor won \$65 at slots. We picked up Mimi, then left at 6:00. Seven miles from Jean, NV, I lost oil pressure. Got car towed twenty-six miles to downtown Las Vegas garage. Rented a car, called station to get special day off. Got room #135 at Holiday Motel, unpacked car. Dinner at Stardust, I was lucky at Keno.*

✍ The check Harvey speaks of is his Los Angeles Police Department paycheck. Oftentimes, in order to prolong their stay in Nevada, Harvey would arrange with a fellow police officer to send his check to the motel in Nevada where they were staying.

### **Las Vegas to Los Angeles. Saturday July 10, 1971.**

*Got back to room at 1:45 in morning. Up at 8:30. Took Mimi to Poodle Parlor, took rental car back, cost \$18.65. Then to garage, repairs to car cost \$110.50. Back to Holiday Motel, packed car. Then to Horseshoe Club for breakfast, then to Golden Nugget, Eleanor won \$115 on nickel slot machine. To Fremont, I lost \$50 at craps, Eleanor lucky at slots, we had lunch there. Picked up Mimi, started home at 5:50. Dinner at Barstow. Home at 11:45. Mileage 653.*

✍ Recording costs. In most cases, Harvey nearly always wrote down his expenditures. Whether for room rates, cartons of cigarettes, or even as trivial as how much he paid for gas, there is a significance to those costs that Harvey recorded. When seen in diary form, they become age markers and mileposts of his time. They show to all who are younger than Harvey, a group that should be in the majority, that there really was a time when people paid 32¢ for a gallon of gas, and that cigarettes were \$5.00...for a carton. And it would show in later diaries that some of Nevada's finest chips were purchased for pennies.

The next entries were written in the early 1980's. At this time, Harvey has retired from the Los Angeles Police Department. And he has decided, like you and I have decided, to commit himself to an asylum called a chip hobby. This fascination with chips jump-starts Harvey's curiosity, and his need-to-know basis soon becomes a magnificent obsession. Harvey becomes determined to know the owners of Nevada chips that he acquires, to know exactly where each club was located, to know the dates of when they opened and when they closed. The following entries reflect a Harvey Fuller using his hunter-gatherer instincts to acquire chips and using his policeman's instincts to get casino info in 1983.

### **Las Vegas. Friday April 15, 1983.**

*Up at 9:20. Breakfast at Denny's. I took Eleanor to Club Bingo, some luck on machine #16. I went to Nevada Historical Society from noon to 4:30. Wayne Anderson brought out some 1906 to 1927 Tax assessor books. Went back to*



*Club Bingo, waited for Eleanor. We had dinner at Las Vegas Club, then to motel room at 8:45 to watch "The Reincarnation of Peter Proud" on TV.*



✍ Machine #16 refers to the number that was affixed to a slot machine at the Club Bingo. Since all slot machines in Nevada are assigned a designated number, usually seen on a face-plate near the top of the machine, Harvey would record which machines Eleanor won or lost on.

✍ From my interview notes with Harvey Fuller. Harvey informed me that Wayne Anderson was a retired deputy sheriff of Clark County. The tax assessor books owned by Wayne Anderson were official Clark County records that had been found at a dump site by Wayne's grandfather. They were shown to Harvey during his interview with Wayne Anderson. Although Harvey could have easily attained the records for a couple of tuppence in an expensive Tupperware bowl,

his conscience made him advise Wayne that the books were of immeasurable value and that they deserved to be seen by the public. Today, those tax assessor books are some of the earliest known documents that Nevada historians have of who, when and where the first-known businesses were established in Clark County. Wayne Anderson would donate the tax records to the Nevada Historical Society.

### **Las Vegas. Friday May 20, 1983.**

*Up at 9:00. Breakfast at Blue Onion. I took Eleanor to Club Bingo, broke even on slots. I went to fifteen yard sales, bought two hundred chips from Jennie V's Casino...*

✍ In a later diary year, Harvey would track down the owner of Jennie V's, and he would learn that the owner had named the casino after his daughter. Eventually all that remained of Jennie V's chips would be uncovered by Harvey and other chip dealers, an amount that would add up to less than a thousand total.

✍ This is a photo of Jennie V's Casino taken by Harvey Fuller in 1978, approximately a year after Jennie V's had closed. In my estimation, it is the only known photo of this small downtown casino. Today, its location has become a part of Binion's Horseshoe.

Harvey Fuller spent approximately 7,000 days in Nevada. Therefore it stands to reason that a disciplined diarist who wrote entries every day of his adult life has enough material to fill the book that I will publish some day. But, as I said earlier, in the meantime, bits and pieces of Harvey's diaries will appear in segmented fashion in future issues of the CC&GTCC magazine. Other diary entries I've selected for publication in the pages of my newsletter, *Chip Chat*. Consider those bits and pieces to be mere appetizers, like little wienies on toothpicks, that are served to you before you're treated to the full course of Harvey Fuller's diaries.

My thanks to Harvey and Eleanor Fuller for our Tuesdays together. Without those days, life would be boringly normal.

**Douglas Saito,**  
**Editor and Publisher of *Chip Chat* ♦**





## **Chip Chat Newsletters Feature:**

- Histories of Nevada Casinos & Their Owners!
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# **COTY/TOTY 2000 NOMINATIONS**

*by Archie Black*  
COTY/TOTY 2000 Chairman

As this report is being assembled in order to meet the deadline for this issue of the club magazine, well over 175 club members have submitted nominations of more than 212 different casino chips and more than 58 different slot tokens that have been issued during the year 2000 to be voted upon for Chip Of The Year 2000 and Token Of The Year 2000. The ballots are now in the hands of the Official Judging Committee,

which is comprised of every club member who has submitted a COTY/TOTY nomination. Only the top ten chips nominated, and the top ten tokens nominated, are eligible for the club's prestigious awards that will be presented to representatives of the two casino winners which will be announced during the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual CC&GTCC Convention Banquet in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Thank you, to all of this year's judges for their participation and valuable service. If YOU didn't nominate this year for whatever reason, I hope that you will re-consider doing so for next year's annual contest. ♦

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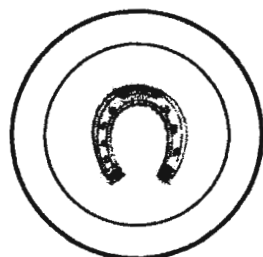



  
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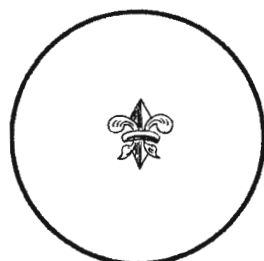
# ANTIQUE COLLECTIBLES

by Dale Seymour and Ken Craig

They just keep on coming! No, we are not talking about dissapointments from the stock market. We are talking about new finds of old poker chips. This article includes several new chip finds in both the ivory and clay categories. Some of the ivory finds below were submitted by Ernie Meador (IN), Ralph Strandwold (CA) and John Benedict (FL). We have assigned new codes as follows:



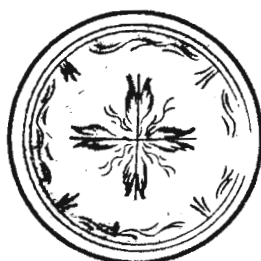
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Horseshoe / v:k



**ID-JQ**  
Fleur-de-lis / v:k



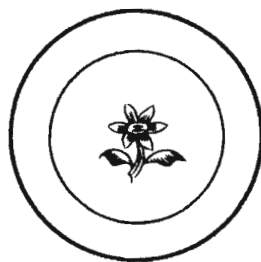
**ID-RI**  
Crown / v:p



**IE-EV**  
Mirror Leaves / v:l



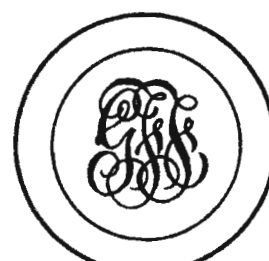
**IE-OD**  
Blossom / v:k



**IE-TAa**  
Flower / v:l



**IE-YQ**  
Five Border / v:l



**IM-EU**  
GJJ / v:p



**IM-JC**  
TW / v:p



**IN-WK**  
4/F/3/2 v:m



**IN-WL**  
4/3/S/2 v:m



**IN-XO**  
6/3/3/2 / v:l



**IO-BF**  
3/3/S/2 / v:l



**IO-BW**  
3/F/S/2 / v:l



**IO-CI**  
8/3/S/2 / v:l



**IO-DU**  
v:n



**IO-EM**  
v:m



**IP-SL**  
v:p



**IR-CA**  
California / v:t



**IR-CA**  
Reverse

Now for the antique clay chip finds. Ernie Meador found a new clay design chip which is interlocking with serrated edges, like a coin. We had great difficulty photocopying the chip because it had no contrasting color so we have recreated it with our Adobe Illustrator software so you can identify it. The 24 circles (ring of dots) are not actually in a different color, but it

helps you see them more easily. These chips were probably made in the late 1930's and into the 1940's as were most of the interlocking chips. These are not plastic, but a combination of clay and plastic. We don't code plastic chips.



**PD-RL Ring of Dots**  
Interlocking / v:d

Another of Ernie's finds was a paper horseshoe chip with the initials HJ or maybe JH. We have not coded non-ivory personalized chips so we won't start now — but nice find anyway, Ernie.

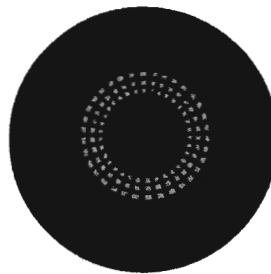


**Paper horseshoe chip with initials**

In the fall issue of this column, we mentioned a new Ralph Strandwold find of a series of small (24mm) advertising chips from Buss Fuses. The chips are made of a composition pressed paper material. Our previous attempts to photocopy or scan these chips resemble a full moon on a dark night — but, Ernie Meador, sent in some hand-drawn graphics which give us some idea how they appear. We assigned the entire set the same code, BY-BX.



David C. Smith (NH) found a new clay tiger chip at Brimfield. There may be some question as to whether the artist who drew this rendering meant it to be a dragon or a tiger. David, the finder, called it a tiger head and so we confirmed that with a coin toss.



**PA-AL 3 Dot-Circles**  
engraved / v:f

Don Lueders (OR) sent us a picture of some wooden swastika chips and a wooden box (shown above) that held the chips. As you know, clay swastika chips were made as early as 1913 by the United States Playing Card Co. and were symbols of good luck, not Nazism. This set appears to be hand-made. We have seen different hand-made swastika chips before. No code will be given to the chips.



**PA-TO Tiger Head**  
Engraved / v:g

Michael Par (AZ) found a new clay design chip. The chip contains three concentric rings of white dots near the center of the chip. Red and blue chips with white dots are known. Do you suppose the white chip contained blue dots? Let us know.



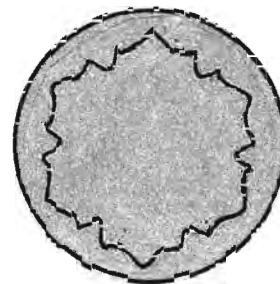
**Wood chips**  
Single occasion  
Sylvania advertising chips

Ralph Strandwold found a new Maple Leaf chip and a hub mold inlaid litho of a biplane.



**PL-MB Maple Leaf**  
**PT-BR Biplane**  
Inlaid litho / f:g

Finally, we show two more clay chips to add to a series of chips with somewhat crude geometric graphics.



**PD-CZ Snowflake**  
engraved / v:f  
**PD-DH Geometric**  
Engraved / v:f

Please send us your finds which might suspect are new finds. Your fellow collectors will appreciate your efforts.

See you at the BIG SHOW!!!! ♦

## Chip Collector TERMINOLOGY Round Robin

by **Robert Pardue**

“Round Robin” trading by mail has really become popular in the last few years. A “round robin” can be started by any chipper, usually by posting a notice on a chipper electronic bulletin board like [thechipboard.com](http://thechipboard.com). The initiator specifies the type of chips or other collectible, such as \$1 Nevada chips; roulette chips; slot cards, etc. and invites 10+ collectors to join in. The initiator starts the round robin with a supply of the designated item — say 30 or 40 \$1 Nevada chips — and sends it to the first person on the list. They take out chips they want and add a like number in return. The round robin is forwarded by mail to each person on the list, with 1-for-1 trading of chips occurring at each stop. When the round robin returns to the initiator, he has a new variety of chips for his collection or to start another round robin.

The cost to each participant is only the cost of mailing it to the next person. It’s a good way to trade some chips or other collectibles! Etiquette requires that chips exchanged are of a like quality and type; that the round robin be forwarded promptly; and that the specific rules of the initiator be followed.

If you’re interested in participating in a round robin, watch for announcement on [thechipboard.com](http://thechipboard.com) or other BB’s. Not online? Perhaps a chipping friend who is can add you to a round robin, as long as you can comply with the progress tracking of the round robin through your friend. ♦



# Dining Tidbits

## Harrahs' Hits the Jackpot with it's Reno, Lake Tahoe and Las Vegas Restaurants

by Lisa Jung

### Fresh Market Buffet, Harrah's Reno ☆☆☆

A new face greets you in front of Harrah's buffet in Reno: TV cooking personality and cookbook author, chef Martin Yan of PBS fame. He wasn't there in person, but you can't miss the larger than life cardboard cutout of Martin Yan and you immediately think, "Yan Can Cook"; well, Harrah's can cook, as well. A stroll past the buffet indicates hints of freshness and certainly enough variety. They have a wonderful salad bar with very fresh ingredients and include a large number of prepared salads, like potato, macaroni, pasta, pea, coleslaw, and fresh cantaloupe and honeydew melon. Their Italian pasta Alfredo was creamy and delicious. Also tasty was the chicken piccata. Up to Martin Yan's standards were the stir-fried beef with green beans, Szechwan chicken, and chow mein. Almost everything was good, except for the desserts, which could use some improvement. Desserts are not a strong point in Chinese cooking, but these desserts could use Martin's help. Still, the buffet is a good value at \$10 for dinner.

### Forest Buffet, Harrah's Lake Tahoe ☆☆☆

Located on the 18<sup>th</sup> floor of Harrah's Lake Tahoe is the Forest Buffet with one of the most beautiful views in the world. If you've ever

been there when it was snowing, you'll feel like you're on top of the world looking at beautiful Lake Tahoe and you almost don't mind the long wait in line at one of Lake Tahoe's most popular buffets. Harrah's emphasis on the importance of food is evidenced by the words written above their extensive buffet: "*Civilized man cannot live without cooks. One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well. There is no love more sincere than the love of food.*"

A good time to go to the buffet is 11 am, especially if some members in your party like traditional breakfast food and the rest like lunch; lunch is served at 11:30. Along with eggs, omelets, and Eggs Benedict, you can get pancakes, French Toast, waffles, biscuits, corned beef hash, bacon, sausage, ham, Danish, and other pastries, donuts, and fresh fruits. Some lunch items may include pizza, pasta, wonderful Asian dishes, like chow mein, Kung Pao chicken, spring rolls, pot stickers, spicy chicken wings, spareribs, and broccoli beef, a carving station with ham, turkey (at dinner, prime rib), grilled sausages, roasted garlic, grilled onions, delicious buttery mashed potatoes, a nice soup and salad bar, and a variety of pastries, cakes, pies, and soft serve ice cream. Breakfast is \$10 (except for Sunday brunch which is \$17), lunch is \$11, dinner is \$17 (except for the Friday night seafood buffet which is \$25, and Saturday dinner is \$20).

### The Summit, Harrah's Lake Tahoe ☆☆☆☆☆

I'm very stingy when awarding 5 stars to restaurants; that should be reserved only for restaurants that serve, not only excellent food, but provide impeccable service without being pretentious. (Well-trained waiters should anticipate your needs, but they should not hover over their diners, like refilling your water glass every time you take a sip or ask you how everything is before you even take one bite.) The appearance and ambiance of the dining room is important. Not only is The Summit well appointed, the 16<sup>th</sup> floor view (this location used to be known as the Star Suite, home to such celebrities as Frank Sinatra, Neil Sedaka, Sammy Davis, Jr., Liza Minnelli, Paul Anka, Wayne Newton, Bill Cosby, and Engelbert Humperdinck) certainly adds to the ambiance. The Summit at Harrah's Lake Tahoe, in my opinion, deserves 5 stars. We have dined at the Summit several times in the past 18 years (it used to be on the 18<sup>th</sup> floor, but was moved to the 16<sup>th</sup> floor in 1990). Sometimes we have brought other family members or guests; everyone has been equally impressed with the food, service, and appearance of the dining room. We have always felt welcomed by the staff, even when making a last-minute decision to dine there and we only had brought casual clothes. The waiters, in their tuxedos, were gracious as always, and said nothing about our casual attire. A

complimentary appetizer of salmon mousse with lavish, or thin crackers is served first. Mel likes to order the escargot; it is prepared with roasted garlic, butter and herbs. Before the entrees are brought out, diners are treated to an intermezzo of sorbet served in a flower-shaped serving dish; this time it was strawberry-rhubarb sorbet. Every entrée we've ever ordered was beautifully presented and was just as delicious as it looked. The Summit is the only restaurant I have been to where the entrees are presented with such a flourish: the silver-domed entrees are placed in front of each diner at the table; for every two entrees, a waiter stands at the table to remove both silver covers. It is quite dramatic, especially when dining with a party of eight and four waiters uncover all the entrees simultaneously. Mel usually has the rack of lamb served with an herb crust, garlic mashed potatoes, and baby vegetables (carrots, beets, yellow squash and zucchini). One memorable entrée that I had was seafood (lobster, a huge prawn, scallops, and white fish) prepared in a light cream sauce and served in a puff pastry shell; it was also served with garlic mashed potatoes and baby vegetables. Previous visits had included "turned" vegetables, which are vegetables cut with exactly seven sides, in the French tradition; this not an easy task, believe me, I've tried it. Most entrees are \$21-38; a few are \$65-75.

Their Grand Marnier soufflé is a specialty that must be ordered at the same time as the entrees to give the chef time to prepare it. It is served with two sauces in a silver boat: a Grand Marnier crème anglaise and a chocolate sauce. The last time I had the soufflé, it was a trifle heavy, probably due to the addition of too much flour in an attempt to stabilize it. The timing of a soufflé is tricky: it

must be eaten as soon as it comes out of the oven or else it will deflate; as no one knows how long a diner will take to eat their entrée, many restaurants will not even attempt serving this dessert.

If you can't finish your entrée, the waiter will gladly wrap your leftovers in foil and shape it into a duck or a swan. Sometimes I deliberately have a leftover to see how creative our waiter can be.

Complimentary assorted chocolates are brought at the end of your meal.

### **Friday's Station Steak & Seafood Grill, Harrah's Lake Tahoe** ☆☆☆☆

This restaurant had moved from the first floor to the larger 18<sup>th</sup> floor location that was the original Summit location. It also has great views of Lake Tahoe. It is nicely appointed, but is not quite as formal, nor as elegant as The Summit. Obviously, many diners must have felt more comfortable in informal surroundings resulting in the location switch.

The hot crab, artichoke and cheese gratinee, served with thin, crisp crackers, is delicious and could be a meal in itself (\$9). The crab bisque with roasted corn flan (\$7) had large lumps of crab in it and was made even richer with clarified butter drizzled on top. A house salad (with cucumbers, tomatoes, and Maytag blue cheese) comes with every entrée. The twin lobster tails (\$52) is served with clarified butter in a small container with a warming candle under it...a nice and unique touch! The seafood broil (crab, lobster, scallops, shrimp, \$38) is a very large portion.

Valrhona chocolate cake was served warm with a caramelized

banana, vanilla bean ice cream, and a shortbread cookie. The mocha crème brulee, rich and delicious, was served in a large coffee cup, but the mountain of whipped topping tasted suspiciously like cool whip. By this time, knowing they might have to roll us out the door, I had the waiter wrap up the chocolate cake that I couldn't finish; it came back in an aluminum foil rectangle, instead of a duck or swan.

### **North Beach Deli, Harrah's Lake Tahoe** ☆☆☆

This is an upscale, attractively decorated deli that offers more than your average snack bar fare. They serve interesting sandwiches, such as the Straight Flush (hot corned beef, pastrami, Swiss cheese, and dijon mustard on toasted rye bread), Black Jack (smoked barbecued beef brisket with cheddar cheese on sourdough), or Bay Bridge Club (turkey, peppered bacon, avocado, sprouts, lettuce, tomato, and garlic mayonnaise on Italian herb bread), or the Cable Car (chicken salad, peppered bacon, sprouts, and tomatoes on seven grain bread); most sandwiches are around \$6. Their thick and creamy clam chowder is served in a cup or in a toasted sourdough bowl for \$3.25.

### **Club Cappuccino, Harrah's Lake Tahoe** ☆☆

Besides numerous coffee and tea drinks, this small café offers a few desserts, pastries, muffins, and breakfast sandwiches. This is one of the few coffee roasters where you may buy decaffeinated espresso beans; coffee by the pound may be ground at your request.

**Seafood Cove,  
Harrah's Lake Tahoe**  
☆☆☆

Located on the first floor where the Friday's Station used to be, this casual restaurant offers a variety of seafood such as appetizers like crab California roll, popcorn shrimp, or oyster shooters, or soups like oyster stew or shrimp and sausage gumbo, salads like Snoopy salad with crab, shrimp, egg, tomato, and avocado, sandwiches such as Po' Boys with a choice of Cajun fried shrimp or oysters, blackened snapper or chicken, and entrees like cioppino or scampi and linguine. One special that was available when we dined there was a very good pistachio crusted salmon.

**American River Café,  
Harrah's Lake Tahoe**  
☆

This is the only weak link in Harrah's excellent Lake Tahoe restaurants. I did like the unique atmosphere with the river running through the restaurant; however, the quality of the food preparation could use some improvement. The menu is substantial; perhaps they are attempting to offer too many choices. Quality is better than quantity.

**Voo Doo Café, At The Rio,  
Las Vegas (a Harrah's property)**  
☆☆☆

This restaurant is located on the 50<sup>th</sup> floor; as you can imagine, it has a spectacular view of the strip. Before we arrived at the hotel, we called to inquire about the dress code and we were told that it was casual. When we arrived at the entrance to the restaurant's elevator on the second floor, there was a sign that said that men should wear a collared shirt and jackets are appreciated. The "bouncer" in front of the glass elevator (who looked pretty intimidating) was turning away any patrons who were not dressed appropriately; we were almost turned away as Mel didn't have a collared shirt, but he explained that we were misled by the spokesperson for the restaurant. We might have left except that we had to meet Estelle and Scott Hartman for dinner. I'm glad Mel is persistent, as the food and view are worthwhile. Entrees are a bit pricey (\$22-30), but they do include soup or salad. The soup that night was a thin, but delicious cream of wild mushroom soup flavored with a touch of curry. The salad of baby greens came with an excellent house dressing of hazelnut vinaigrette. My entrée of chicken breast and prawns was served on a bed of perfectly cooked penne with a

creamy tomato sauce. Mel's serving of rack of lamb was quite generous and beautifully presented. Unfortunately, Estelle's prawns were served in a sauce that was too spicy, even though the waitress had assured her that it would not be spicy. Scott's Shrimp Creole was also spicy; he thought it was okay, but not great. We were too full to order dessert, but they did look beautifully presented, especially the Voodoo crème brulee, white chocolate cheesecake parfait, and the Valrhona chocolate cake; all desserts were \$7. The service was attentive, but lacked finesse. Admittedly, our table was very close to the windows, however, because of this, the waitress had to reach across us to pass the plates. In clearing the table, the waitress placed a used soup bowl on top of my salad plate before removing them. I would expect this kind of service in a less expensive restaurant, but not here.

We have eaten in many restaurants on Harrah's properties, including those in Laughlin, Atlantic City, and Tunica (Robinsonville, Mississippi). Interestingly, we got a free buffet in Tunica just for showing them a slot card from another Harrah's property. The quality of the food at Harrah's restaurants has usually been a cut above the average, and often, has been outstanding. ◆

# Slap-bang, Slap-happy, Slap-jack, Slap-stick **SLAPPERS UNITE !**



**Do you love SLABBED CHIPS ?  
Do you hate SLABBED CHIPS ?**

**Or**

**Do you think people should have a CHOICE**

**Maybe you just don't care.**



**Does it make you chuckle inside?,  
Then you are a SLAP happy chipper!**



## **Or SLAPPER**



**Come on by to see me at the National Chip Convention  
(I will also be at the Tropicana Coin Show the weekend before)**

**HENRY GARRETT (CH-054)**

**P. O. Box 4334**

**No. Hollywood, CA. 91617**

**Phone (818) 989-0760 - E-Mail [suprrsting@aol.com](mailto:suprrsting@aol.com)**

# The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual International Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club, Inc. Convention and Show May 30 – June 2, 2001



The Tropicana Hotel & Casino  
Las Vegas, Nevada

It is not too early to start making plans to be in attendance at the Club's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention and help us celebrate our organization's 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We had over 2100 people attend the 2000 Convention and we expect 2001 to be bigger than ever! If you have not attended one of the Club's Conventions in the past, you are missing the premier event of the year.

Just like Las Vegas, our Club has experienced tremendous growth and that growth is reflected in the fact that the Club has evolved and prospered to the point that we will be in our 13<sup>th</sup> year as an organization. The 2001 Convention will reflect that growth and should have something for every member. Chips, tokens, casino memorabilia, educational exhibits, seminars, trading sessions and more!

The Tropicana Hotel & Casino will be the site of 2001 Convention and we know the staff of the Hotel is again anxious to assist the Club in presenting a first class convention. The Tropicana sits on the busiest corner in Las Vegas and is convenient to many amenities. The Grand Ballroom is beautiful; there is a large selection of top-notch restaurants, headliner entertainment, a spa, and

even swim-up blackjack. So plan on attending the 2001 CC&GTCC's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention & Show at the Tropicana Hotel & Casino and meet your fellow collectors in person and find that elusive piece for your collection.

## Hotel Reservations

Hotel reservation slips are included in this issue of the Club magazine. The room rate will be \$49.00 Sunday - Thursday & \$99.00 Friday & Saturday per night. I am sure there are a few members who receive a better rate than this, based on their casino action or some members may find a better price as part of "package", but you have to come and go on the dates specified in the package. The fact is the Club uses the number of rooms booked as a negotiating tool for show space and sleeping rooms for future shows. We hope you will elect to stay at the Tropicana. We would encourage each member to make your reservations as early as possible. **The special group rate expires April 25<sup>th</sup>**. So please support YOUR CLUB by booking your room at the Tropicana Hotel & Casino. The room rates are good from May 25 – June 5, 2001 for those folks who arrive prior to the show and/or would like to stay over after the

Convention concludes. To insure accuracy in booking a group room block, reservations should be made using the reservation slips. No Saturday arrivals or departures.

## Dealer Tables

**Dealer tables are sold out!!!!**

Wayne Thompson  
2001 CC&GTCC Convention  
191 Kentucky Avenue  
Lexington, KY 40502  
Phone (859) 252-5626  
Fax (859) 252-9168  
E-mail: wayne@casinocheques.com

## Volunteers

The Convention Co-Chair is now actively soliciting volunteers for the 2001 Convention. If you are planning on attending the Convention and would like to donate a few hours before, during, or after the show, we can always use assistance. The real need for extra help is during the setup period on Tuesday and Wednesday and on Saturday evening assisting with the tear down of the show. We also have other positions we need assistance with.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact the Convention Co-Chair

Belinda Hixon  
P.O. Box 1195  
Colleyville, TX 76034  
E-mail: txbel711@aol.com

### **Early Bird Banquet and Trade Session**

Wednesday, May 30th 5:30 p.m.

To be held on Wednesday May 30 at 5:30 PM, this is one of our most popular functions of the week. You should make plans to attend this fine gathering. We are making some changes to this year's reception that should make this event better than ever.

Because of the size of the crowd and the inability to predict how many people are going to attend we have decided to go to a ticketed banquet. We will have a sit down buffet along with a speaker or entertainer. The cost for this event will be \$20. A *ticket request form is included in this magazine*. Only regular and associate members may attend. If you are bringing a spouse who is not a member they can become an associate member for \$5. No one will be manning a membership table the night of the banquet so please join prior to the Convention. All tickets must be purchased by April 30. *There will no tickets sold at the door*. Tables of 10 will be available for \$200 and these tables will be reserved. Seating for individual ticket holders will be on a first come basis. Tickets are limited so please reserve early.

After the banquet ends at about 8:00pm the room will be opened to all members for the trade session until midnight. The reception and trade session is restricted to members only.

**PLEASE REMEMBER  
TO SEND IN YOUR TICKET  
REQUEST FORM**

### **Pre-Registration**

Another change to this year's Convention is the admission and pre-registration procedures. For the first time we will be charging members an admission fee. Part of the money from admission fees will be used for additional Convention promotion and part will be returned to pre-registered members in the form of raffle prizes. Members may pre-register for \$10, which includes admission to all days of the show and all educational seminars. Members who chose not to pre-register will pay \$4 per day.

*Enclosed in this issue of the magazine is a pre-registration form.* We are encouraging all members to pre-register. All pre-registered members will receive a registration package that will contain special offers from some of the Convention dealers. In addition we are planning to give all pre-registered members a ticket for a cash raffle to held during the show. Members who choose not to pre-register will not receive the pre-registration package of special offers. This procedure is typical of most Convention registrations and we hope that you agree that the pre-registration package is worth well more than the \$10 pre-registration fee.

**PLEASE REMEMBER  
TO SEND IN YOUR  
PRE-REGISTRATION FORM**

### **Auction**

Auction chairman Bruce Landau will have gathered another fine assortment of lots for our Friday night auction. The auction will be on Friday June 1st and begin at 6:30 PM and we ask that everyone be on time. In the interest of time, again this year you will be able to register for your Auction number during the normal

show hours, instead of everyone trying to get their number at 6:15 PM on Friday. Hopefully, this will help speed up the start of the auction. You will still be able to register the night of the auction, but why wait until the last minute. Should be another fine auction.

### **Club Business Meeting**

Again this year, in an effort to improve attendance, we will have the business meeting on Thursday evening May 31st at 6:30pm. The business of the Club is very important to all of us and we hope all members will make the effort to attend. This year the new Board will also be inducted at this meeting.

### **Last Dance Swap Meet**

On Saturday, June 2nd, after the conclusion of the Convention, the Club will sponsor another swap session for any interested members. The session will begin at 7:00 PM and last until midnight or until all traders throw in the towel, whichever comes first. There will be refreshments provided. So, if you have to get in another few hours of face-to-face trading before heading home, here is your chance to dance the Last Dance. Bring traders and have a good time!

### **Exhibits**

Archie Black has graciously volunteered to chair the Exhibit committee for the 2001 Convention. The exhibits will be of both competitive and non-competitive nature and there is no charge for entering an exhibit. We had some truly outstanding exhibits in 2000 and hope more members will offer to participate. If you have any questions regarding exhibits, please contact the Convention Exhibit Chairman.

Archie Black  
P.O. Box 63  
Brick, NJ 08723  
E-mail: [ablack2@optonline.com](mailto:ablack2@optonline.com)

### Trading Sessions

Based on input from the membership we have made another change to this year's Convention. We have expanded the availability of time and space for trading. At this time the following trade sessions are planned:

Wednesday May 30  
10am – 4:00pm  
Trade room will be open for trading all day

Wednesday May 30  
8pm – 12 midnight  
Trading will start at the end of the banquet

Thursday May 31st  
7:30pm – 12 midnight.  
Trade session will start immediately after the Club business meeting.

Saturday June 2nd  
7:00pm – 12 midnight Last Dance swap session.

### Meeting Space Available

There are still some time slots open and available for the use of the Club's meeting space. If any of the Chapters or any member in good standing would like to make use of this space for a meeting or presentation, please contact the Convention Chairman for available dates and times. *The purpose must be informational or educational*

### Car Rentals

We have negotiated some very good car rental rates for all attendees who will need a car while in Las Vegas. The agreement is with Payless Car Rental. To receive the Convention rate call 800-634-6186 and mention referral code CCGTCC. Rates start as low as \$125 per week. There is an advertisement located elsewhere in the magazine that shows the convention rate for all cars. 2001 Convention Committees. ♦

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<b>Auction Chairman</b>	Bruce Landau
<b>Auction Co-Chair</b>	Howard & Kregg Herz
<b>Auctioneer</b>	Jim Kruse
<b>Budget &amp; Finance Chairman</b>	Nate Pincus
<b>Catering Chairperson</b>	Eileen Landau
<b>Convention Chairman</b>	Wayne Thompson
<b>Convention Co-Chair/Program</b>	Belinda Hixon
<b>Educational Forum Chairman</b>	Michael Knapp
<b>Exhibit Chairman</b>	Archie Black
<b>Legal Counsel</b>	Eric Rosenblum
<b>Licensing &amp; Fees Chairman</b>	Liz Conrad
<b>Membership Registration Chairman</b>	James Steffner
<b>Promotions Chairman</b>	Richard Allard
<b>Publicity Chairman</b>	Rich Burgel
<b>Registration Co-Chairs</b>	Vernon & Alice Blanck Art & Muriel Sanderson
<b>Setup Chairman</b>	Paul Bender



# Gaming Token List

by Earl Donley

The following gaming tokens were approved for use by the Nevada Gaming Commission during the months indicated.

## November, 2000

Silverton Hotel	Las Vegas	10.00	S.S. Mustang / Flag
		10.00	S.S. Players Club
Terrible's Hotel	Las Vegas	1.00	Logo, Smartmark
		NCV	Paycheck Video Poker
Reno Tahoe Airport	Reno	10.00	S.S. 1st Man on the Moon

## December, 2000

Castaways Hotel	Las Vegas	1.00	Logo
		5.00	Logo
Flamingo Hilton	Las Vegas	10.00	S.S. Modern Building 2001
		10.00	S.S. 1946 Building 2001
		10.00	S.S. Flamingo Flower 2001
Primm Valley Resort	Primm	10.00	S.S. Dutch Schultz Car
		10.00	S.S. Bonnie & Clyde
Gold Ranch	Verdi	5.00	Train Robbery
Mr. B's Casino	Mill City	10.00	S.S. Cowboy / Horse

## January, 2001

Imperial Palace	Las Vegas	200.00	S.S. 25 Years
Riviera Hotel	Las Vegas	10.00	Valentine's Day Hologram
Union Plaza Hotel	Las Vegas	200.00	S.S. New Millenium
Pahrump Nugget	Pahrump	1.00	Prospector
Circus Circus	Reno	1.00	American bowling Congress
Eldorado Hotel	Reno	1.00	American bowling Congress
Empire Club	Reno	1.00	Logo
Reno Hilton Resort	Reno	10.00	S.S. January 2001
		10.00	S.S. Car
		10.00	S.S. Computer
		10.00	S.S. Space
Silver Legacy Resort	Reno	1.00	American Bowling Congress

Every state that has gambling has some form of a Gaming Commission that approves its operations. Check with your State and obtain their Token Approval List for publication in future magazine editions. This information is Public Records and is available on your request. A few states may charge a small service fee. In some states this can be found on the computer. In Colorado the address is, <http://www.gaming.state.co.us/chipstokens.htm> Let the rest of the members know where they can find the list in your state. ♦

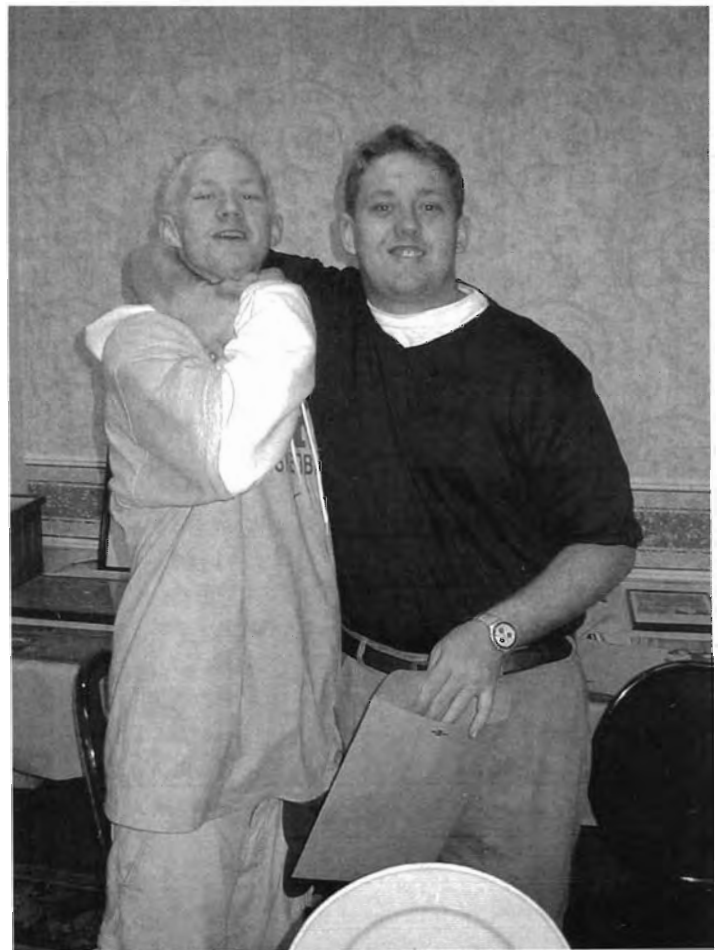


# Super Bowl Chip Show at The Palace Station

by John Yee and Allan Anderson

On January 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2001, fellow member Rene Nezhoda produced his first chip show at the Palace Station Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. Approximately, 45 Dealers rented 55 tables in the upstairs meeting room. The show was tremendously successful with approximately 900 people attending this two day event. Many veteran dealers were available to service many newcomers to the hobby. Rene should be applauded for his effort in producing the largest privately promoted chip show to date and only second to the National Convention.

A 6 chip set manufactured by Chipco was released by Rene to commemorate the show. At the same time Palace Station issued new house rack and a commemorative \$5 chip for the show.



Rene has September 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> slated for his next chip show at the Palace Station Hotel & Casino with a live auction Saturday night the 28<sup>th</sup>. If you need more information, please contact Rene Nezhoda, 702-432-6205, rene@vegaschips.com







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# News of Europe

by **Bob Hermans**

**Hi Fellow collectors,**

Here some news again from Europe. This time I want to enlighten you with some jetons and chips from Holland Casino. This is the sole legal casino group in The Netherlands. They opened their 11th casino on the 29th of September 2000, in the city of Utrecht. Lucky for us they had a GO (Grand Opening) jeton.



This jeton made by Bourgogne et Grasset (B&G) is the same size and model, with the gold filigre, like the red \$5 jeton in the Paris, Las Vegas (from the now obsolete French Roulette table). However, this one is blue, with the Holland Casino logo and the denomination of 10 (FL = Dutch Guilders) on the front and the Utrecht logo and an openings date of 29 September 2000 on the back.

I especially like this GO chip since it's a jeton and not a chip which they had already released earlier. There are very few European Casino operators who produce GO or LE (Limited Editions), but Holland Casino is one of the few who do. Holland Casino had previously released the Clemens Briels chip set consisting of 5 chips in denominations of 10 again, depicting 5 famous paintings from the famous Dutch painter Clemens Briels.

I was happy to get 1 set for my collection.

For the Slotcard collectors amongst us below is a scan of their Slotcard.



Lets hope when they open the 12th Casino in Enschede in the near future they will keep the tradition and also issue a GO maybe already in the EURO by then, who knows....

Coming back to the GO chips here are a few more I have in my collection.



This one was for the opening of the Casino Valkenburg in 1998.



This one was for the opening of the Casino Eindhoven in 1993.

Some of us remember the set of Aircraft chips Holland Casino had when they opened their small but nice casino on the International Airport of Schiphol/Amsterdam. Unfortunately, I do not have the complete set, but I am still looking to add it to my collection I also want to thank the cashiers and croupiers at Holland Casino Eindhoven who help me finding the GO and LE chips.



## Talking about airports.

Just into the year 2001 there was a newsflash that Frankfurt Airport opened the first airport Casino in Europe, I guess they did not know that there was already one for years at Schiphol/Amsterdam airport.

Anyway, on the last day of the year 2000, in Terminal 1, they opened their 3.770 square feet, Casino Frankfurt Airport. There are slots, two blackjack tables and an American Roulette table.

Rolf Schumacher, the manager who opened up the roulette and card tables and slot machines said, "There is a trend in Europe for more gambling, and people waiting for planes now have something other to do than go to the bar."

In regard to dress code, the casino will be more tolerant than ritzy venues such as Monte Carlo in Monaco and Spa in Belgium. Travelers in shorts and Hawaiian shirts will not be expected to change into evening dress.

And there is another break with tradition – clocks, hitherto banned from any self-respecting gambling den, are in evidence, even monitors with departing planes are available.

"We don't want people to miss their connections", said Schumacher. If the venture is successful, more airport casinos could be opened within a year at Heathrow, Paris, Rome and Berlin.

## More European news.

On the 9th of January 2001, the gaming tables of the celebrated Casino de Cannes, long-time playground of the idle rich, reopened after the owners finally diffused a year-long dispute with the croupiers angry at a slump in their tips.

For more than 80 years successful players, in the joy of the moment, have been in the habit of giving a nice tip to the croupiers and staff.

But since a change in French gambling laws last January, winners simply get a note entitling them to collect their winnings at the cashier's office. By the time they return, if they do, emotions have cooled and so has their instinct of generosity.

According to the croupiers' union, tips used to make up half of their earnings but have sharply diminished.

It wasn't only the croupiers who felt the pinch. Waiters in the casino's restaurant and supervisors of its 290 slot machines also complained of being out of pocket.

Their discontent culminated in an all-out strike, which obliged the casino on the fashionable La Croisette to close its gaming tables and all but 145 of its slot machines.

But after almost 12 hours of talks over the weekend, casino director Pascal Delcros succeeded in buying off the protesters with a pay rise and a

cut in working hours for the casino's 766 staff.

For the quoted Societe Fermière du Casino de Cannes, and its controlling company Groupe Lucien Barrière, resolution of the long-running discontent is a relief.

Here are some of there jetons who are in play again...



That is about it again for this time, as always if you want to contact me you can email me or just send me a letter.

Kind regards,

Bob Hermans R-4479  
Pobox 49  
2200 HERENTALS  
BELGIUM EUROPE  
Email : bs762345@skynet.be  
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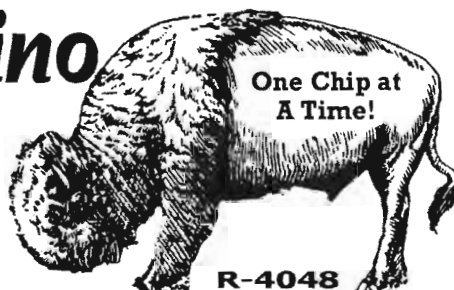
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# Indian Casino News

in New Mexico  
Steve Snowden



The Grand Opening of the new Isleta Casino and Resort on Friday, March 2nd, 2001 was the biggest Grand Opening of ANY facility the State of New Mexico has ever seen! All of the paved parking lots were full and folks were parking amongst the dirt and tumbleweeds in the overflow fields by 7:45 p.m. By the time the doors opened to the general public at 9 p.m., the right-hand lane of Interstate 25 south of Albuquerque was backed up more than 5 miles as cars queued up to try to get to the state's newest, largest and most beautiful casino. As we were leaving the casino around 9:45 p.m., I personally observed people abandoning their vehicles on the side of the road and hiking over half a mile to get to the casino!

When the travelers finally made it to Isleta Casino, they found over 300,000 square feet to explore including a Bingo Theatre that seats over 1200. The 100,000 square foot casino contains close to 1,800 slot machines, as well as a number of table games including blackjack, roulette, and craps.

## An Exciting Beginning...

Our evening began at 6 p.m. in the new Isleta Showroom that comfortably seats about 3,400 people. This was an invitation only event held prior to the official opening to the public at 9 p.m. Officials and dignitaries from most all of New Mexico's

Tribes were represented along with State legislators, First Lady Dee Johnson, and Governmental Relations folks including lobbyist Odis Echols. Veteran Comedian Rich Little performed for the crowd and assisted Isleta General Manager Gordon Dickie in presenting a number of Recognition Awards to Tribal Officials and others involved in the project.



Comedian Rich Little  
aka "Tricky Dick"



Isleta General Manager  
Gordon Dickie



Limited Release Grand Opening Token

As we filed out of the Showroom around 8:45 p.m., we were each given a special oversized Grand Opening Token. The gold-color metal token is not an actual gaming token, but rather a Commemorative piece measuring about 1 11/16th inches in diameter. These were not available for sale. Attendees of this VIP/Media event were also given information on Isleta's Na-Kha-Mu (which translates to "Good Luck"! ) Players Club and one of the new slot cards. This is the first slot card of its kind ever issued by Isleta since slot machines in their old facility did not have player-tracking capability.



Isleta's First Edition Slot Card

## Documenting Gaming History...

The nearly 1,800 slot machines have quite an appetite and they feed on slot tokens from RWM. There are a variety of denominations available which accept these tokens and others that are "coin-less" where payouts are made via vouchers. No more long waits to have your hopper refilled or waiting for a hand payout. Just take your voucher to the Cashier Cage and exchange it for \$\$\$!

The casino has about 30 table games including a couple of American (Zero & Double Zero) Roulette tables. Several of the Chipco roulette chips appeared to be a little too similar in color and I observed some confusion by players and croupiers alike as the Salmon, Pink, and Light Red roulette chips were in play on the Red felt.



New \$1 Isleta Token

Sadly, Isleta did not issue a special Grand Opening Chip. They have never issued any commemorative chip but we can hope that the Chipco representatives can convince the Isleta Table Games Manager of the publicity and commercial potential of commemorative and limited edition chips. Their new Chipco house racks feature a rendering of the new facility with a view to the South. The design is the same on both sides. The highest value chip ordered by Isleta was a \$500.



Isleta Roulettes Awaiting Action

## Looking Ahead

A splendid time was had by all as Isleta Casino & Resort became the closest thing to Las Vegas that New Mexico has to offer. The fate of the old Isleta Gaming Palace facility is still up in the air. Options being discussed include a training facility for new employees, a Day Care Center for the employees of the Casino, or maybe just a storage area with some tribal offices.

We are now looking forward to the Grand Opening of the brand new Sandia Casino located just North of Albuquerque. Their 200,000 square foot casino will open for business the last weekend in May, 2001. Sandia's payroll will jump from 900 to 1,500 to accommodate the increased customer load. Sandia has a strong

history of special edition and commemorative Chipco chips and we are hoping to see some great things featured on their new racks in May. We'll have a detailed report on their Grand Opening and great new facility in the next issue.

As always, you are invited to share casino and chip news from the Native American casinos in your area. Just email me at Snowden@thuntek.net. If your vacation plans bring you to or through New Mexico this summer, drop me an email in advance of your trip. I've got area maps and maybe we can fit in a little gambling and collecting while you are in the area! I hope to see you at our National Convention later this year in Las Vegas. Until then, Happy harvesting!

Steve ♦



New Chipco House Chips



## CHAPTERS

In some areas of the country, CC&GTCC members have formed local chapters and hold regular meetings with educational programs, swap meets, trading sessions, and auctions for their members. More chapters are being formed all the time, and every one welcomes members from other parts of the country when they happen to be visiting. Contacts for current CC&GTCC chapters are listed below.

Chapter web sites are another good source of information. Whether you're looking for directions to the next meeting, see what new chips have been released, want to join a chat board, or are just looking for information.

To keep the listing current, please send your information to [adesign@accesscom.com](mailto:adesign@accesscom.com).

**Atlantic City Chapter** - Dick Brach - 908-647-0814

**Casino Chip Collectors Club of New York** - Travis Lewin - 315-443-1222

**Colorado Chapter** - Lee Bruton - 303-279-1299

**Florida Chapter** - Mark Lighterman - 305-595-7086

**Great Lakes Chapter** - Albert Scalzo - 810-794-3378

**Greater Houston Chapter** - Vern Blanck - 713-587-0734

**Southern Nevada Chapter** - Mary Lou Fortner - 702-228-0827

**Mid America Chip Collectors Club** - Greg Susong - [greg@chipguide.com](mailto:greg@chipguide.com)

**NY Metro Chapter** - Charles Kaplan - 516-763-2327

**Nor-Cal-Nev Chapter (Northern California)** - Todd Dingley - 916-393-6464

**Ohio River Valley Chapter** - Amy Andrae - [andrae@earthlink.net](mailto:andrae@earthlink.net)

**Silver Strike Chapter** - Mary Lou Waterbury - [mlwaterbry@aol.com](mailto:mlwaterbry@aol.com)

**Southern California Chapter** - Scott Hartman - 800-582-5707 - Jim Munding

# The Hologram Tokens

by Earl Donley

A new generation of gaming tokens appeared on Valentines Day with the introduction of the Holiday Celebration Series token at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas. This series of tokens uses the new Hologram token design. A hologram is a 3 dimensional picture affixed to a metal token. The Riviera Token has a rose flower picture on one side and a picture of cupid on the other. It truly is a beautiful token.



Todd Wingate, an official at the Riviera, said the Riviera wanted to do something unique and special for their customers. They decided to do their new Holiday Celebration Series in Hologram tokens and Valentines Day would be the perfect holiday to start with. The Valentines Day token was designed to be played in a \$10.00 slot machine. Due to how delicate the

hologram is and how easily the picture scratches in normal machine use, each token had to be separately packaged in its own container and stored in the coin vault. Much the way a Silver Strike token is handled. Riviera's first hologram token can be purchased at the cashiers cage. Plans are still being developed as to how these tokens will be used in the future. Wingate said the next Hologram token most likely will be the Fourth of July. Again they intend to make only a limited edition of 500 tokens.

Art Olita, the manager at Osborne Coinage, explained in detail the Hologram manufacturing procedures.

Holography is a photographic process of bending and focusing light. Most commonly used to form light waves into a 3 dimensional image or picture. Holograms are made using a laser and a light sensitive material chemically similar to a photographic emulsion.

A hologram records a pattern of infinitesimal lines called an interference pattern that is made by the interaction of two beams of laser light. After processing, the hologram is illuminated at the same angle as one of the beams used during the original exposure. The hologram re-creates the second beam to redirect and form a 3-D image.

Unlike photography or painting, holography can render a subject with complete dimensional fidelity. A hologram can create everything your eyes see, size, shape, texture and rela-

tive position. However, if you try to touch a holographic image, all you'll fine is focused light.

The Riviera tokens are using a reflection hologram which are lit from the front, reflecting the light to you as you view it.

To create a hologram, you first produce a hand sculptured 3-Dimensional subject. A beam of laser light is optically separated into two beams. One, the reference beam, is directed toward a piece of holographic film and expanded so that the light covers the film evenly and completely. The second, the object beam, is directed at the subject of the composition and similarly expanded to illuminate it.

When the object beam reflects off the subject, it carries with it information about the location, size, shape and texture of the subject. Some of this reflected object beam then meets the reference beam at the holographic film, producing an interference pattern which is recorded in the light sensitive emulsion.

After the film is developed, the hologram is illuminated at the same angle as the "reference" beam during the original exposure to reveal the 3-Dimensional image.

At this time, Art Olita with Osborne Coinage, has presented this concept to Anchor Gaming in an effort to introduce holograms to their Silver Strike program.

Whether used as a Riviera Celebration Series token or as a Silver Strike token, the hologram is a beautiful gaming token. A token that everyone will want in their token collection. ♦

# Silver Strikers

## and Convention 2001



by **Mary Lou Waterbury**

We are all looking forward to an exciting Convention this year, especially for the Silver Strikers Chapter.

When my husband and I first attended the CC&GTCC Convention in 1995, we found little of interest for the silver strike collector. There were perhaps two or three dealer tables that had a few strikes. The best part was that we were able to meet some of the people we had been dealing with over the phone and also we were able to meet other collectors.

The next two conventions were similar and there were a few of us who began thinking about how we might make some changes. By 1998 there were enough of us silver strike collectors who wanted our own group or Chapter. WE DID IT!! And we have proved ourselves by our growing membership and our responsible leadership.

We also wanted representation and a say in the Convention itself. This last year we were invited to contribute our ideas and suggestions to the Convention committee and as a result, we will have a seminar, a separate table for our official business, OUR OWN AUCTION, and three trading sessions. This is what I call success, participation and growth. Also, there will be quite a number of silver strike tables which will be located in a common area.

So, we have achieved our goals; visibility, membership and respect from the parent organization. Along with this comes responsibility. It takes a lot of money, time and effort to put on a successful convention. We Silver Strikers need to carry our fair share of the load. We can all do this by continuing to belong, and to pay dues, to the CC&GTCC. Remember, without the CC&GTCC we would not exist.

This year members will not be permitted to attend the banquet if they are not a current CC&GTCC member. Your payment for the banquet must be received by April 30, 2001. We officers hope the few strikers who have not joined the CC&GTCC will do so, so that they can take full part in all of the scheduled events for the Convention 2001. Silver Strikers will be able to attend the trading session after the banquet.

\* \* \* \* \*

In other news, Nebraska is once again pondering the question of whether they should recognize the sovereign rights of the Indian nation and allow them to have casinos on their reservations if they so chose. Last year this bill was tabled and did not make it out of Committee for a vote.

Across the river in Council Bluffs, Iowa where we have the river boats and the dog track with a casino, there have also been some changes. Harvey's have bought Bluff Runs Casino and Dog Track. The Ameristar Casino has been bought by the Station Casino Group.

---

**“we have achieved our goals; visibility, membership and respect from the parent organization”**

---

Here in Nebraska we are experiencing rain, sleet, snow and ice — again and again. By the time May rolls around, we are going to be so relieved to be out in Vegas and drinking in all that sunshine. I look forward to seeing all of you and making more new friends — and getting in some great trades.

Viva Las Vegas! ♦

Interested in Silver Strikes?  
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# Silver Strikers



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# Around the Northwest

*How things can change in ten years*

by **Steve Goodrich**

Hi again friends. It has been a few issues since I wrote an article for the newsletter. In that time, I passed my landmark 10th Anniversary with the club. To celebrate, I thought I would recount some of the phenomenal growth in gambling that has occurred in the Pacific Northwest, in particular Washington state, during that time.

When I began collecting chips more than ten years ago, I had no idea that the hobby would become so popular. I thought I was the only one “crazy” enough to bring home souvenirs of my travels and travails through the gambling halls around the country. Though I have always enjoyed collecting Nevada chips, I have spent more of my time and effort roaming around the great Pacific Northwest gathering chips and information from the diverse clubs I found in these states. During the last decade, sweeping changes have affected gambling in Washington, changes that have enlarged the numbers and types of games available and the chips used to run these games.

## **A Brief History of Gambling in Washington State**

Gaming in Washington has gone through four distinct historical stages: tolerance, enforcement, legalization, and open casino gambling. The first stage, lasting from the earliest origins of the state until the 1960s, can be categorized as the era of wide-open

illegal games. Though illegal, gambling continued unabated in many locations and many clubs operated during these years.

This stage lasted until the early 1960s when enforcement rather than tolerance began to dominate. In some cities, the gambling statutes had always been enforced. In others, the “tolerance” that had once carried the day began to wane. Finally, in 1969 the state’s attorney general declared that gambling, officially illegal across the state, would no longer be permitted to continue. During this period, many long-running and historic clubs ceased to operate. However, this was not entirely the case statewide. In a few jurisdictions the games continued since uniformity in enforcement was difficult to achieve.

The desire for consistent law enforcement, and the revenues that could be generated by these clubs, led to the passage of the Washington Gaming Act of 1973 legalizing card clubs and establishing a statewide regulating body. This act ushered in the third stage, the “golden age of card rooms” and for two decades small clubs dominated the landscape with more than 100 licenses in operation during much of this time. These clubs were often operated in conjunction with restaurants, bars, bowling alleys, and other businesses and many were quite successful.

## **Changes during the 1990s**

The age of the small card rooms continued for nearly twenty years and produced many fine chips that still survive today. This stage came to an abrupt halt in 1991 with the opening of the first full Native American casino in Washington state by the Lummi Tribe in the northwest corner of the state. The effect was immediately felt. Small clubs began to fold, accentuated by the opening of more Indian casinos which could offer blackjack, roulette and many other “Vegas style” games of chance.

After fighting the full-fledged native casinos through most of the 1990s to survive, the state lawmakers acquiesced to the small club owners and allowed, with some restrictions, the non-Indian clubs across the state to expand and begin operating many of the same games that the Native American casinos offered. This process commenced in late 1997 with the opening of Freddie’s Club of Renton, the first non-Indian casino in the state.

What started as a trickle has now become a flood. As of today, there are more than 70 non-Indian casinos currently open with dozens of new licenses pending, in addition to the twenty-odd Native American casinos across the state. The number of smaller card clubs has been reduced to less

than 40 and the larger, expanded casinos dominate the landscape. In late 2000, the state legalized slot machines in the tribal casinos, though they are "paperless" and thus do not require the use of tokens. Profits in nearly every aspect of the industry continue to increase. All indications show that the larger casinos are "here to stay."

### Forward to the Year 2001

As I write, the era of open gaming is in full swing bringing Washington state to the forefront of the nationwide gambling boom, and with it has come a plethora of great chips. For example, a Washington chip (two, in fact!) made the club's "Chip of the Year" contest last year, a first for any Northwest casino. (If you would like to check back to last year to see which two, they are the Chips Casino-Bremerton "parrot" and the

Ruby's Casino-Kent "sparkling ruby," both outstanding looking chips.) The casinos in Washington are much more concerned with appearance and presentation than the old card rooms ever were and this has resulted in many great looking chips being issued over the past few years and judging by the many beautiful issues during the past year, I would expect this trend to continue. This year, I have seen great specimens from each of the major chip suppliers: Bud Jones, Paulson and Chipco. I have added a few scans of some of my favorites. Remember, the full casinos are all less than four years old and most Indian casinos have only been around a few years as well, but parts of the state already look like "mini Las Vegases." And this is all occurring in a state with less than six million people. As casinos continue to open and close, the future sure looks bright for us Washington chip collectors!

The following is an excerpt from my new comprehensive guide, *The Casino Chips of Washington State*, which includes listings for over one thousand chips and nearly 500 clubs covering the past century of gambling in the Pacific Northwest. It will be in print and available by the time you are reading this article. You can find me at [SteveMrPNW@turbonet.com](mailto:SteveMrPNW@turbonet.com) via email, or:

Steve Goodrich;  
P. O. Box 3162;  
Moscow, ID 83843.

Feel free to send me any questions, concerns or ideas you have, I love to hear from chippers! ♦

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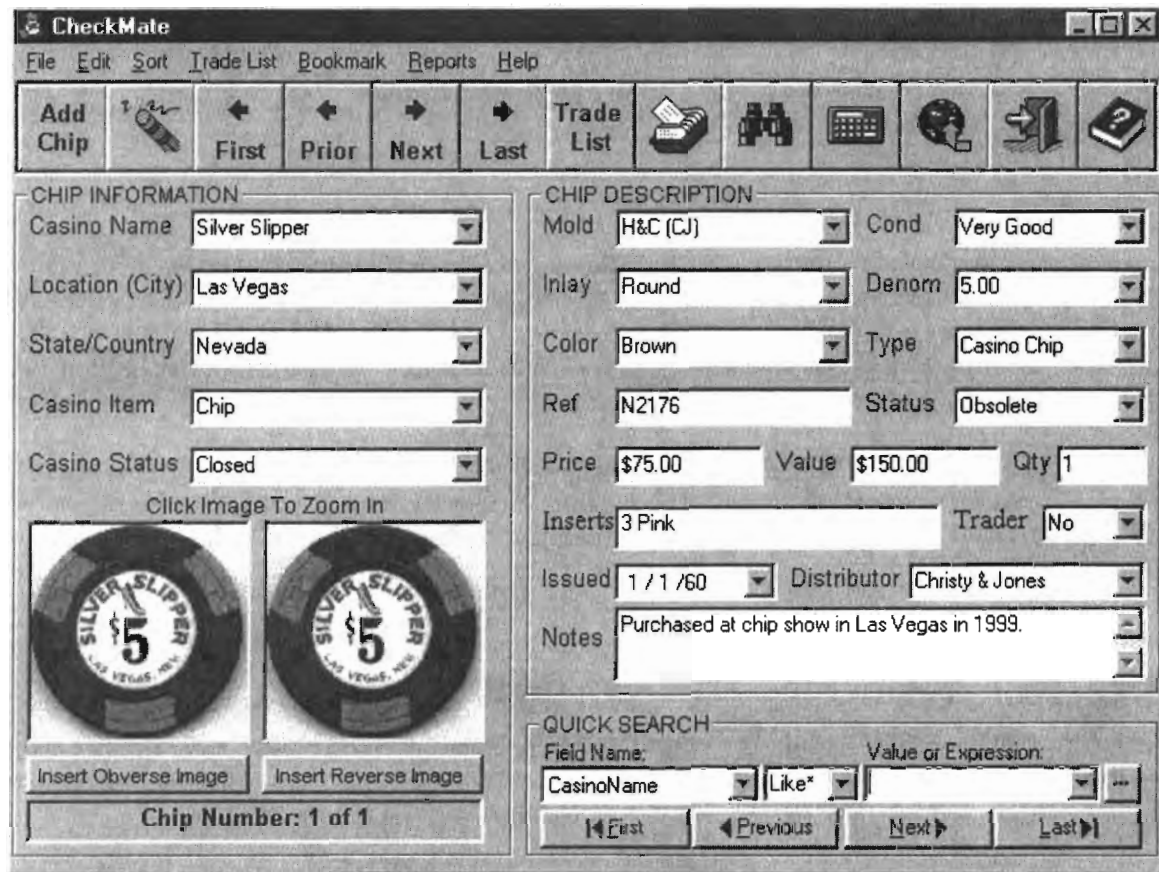
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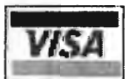
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# Third Annual Poker Tournament

## At The Orlean

### During the 2001 Convention

Custom-made Tournament Chips available to club members

by Robert Pardue



Arrangements are set to continue our tradition of a Thursday night Poker Tournament on May 31, 2001 8:00 pm during the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual CC&GTCC Convention in Las Vegas. This third annual tournament should be even bigger and better than the tournaments in 1999 and 2000! Since the convention headquarters Tropicana hotel/casino does not have poker facilities, we have arranged to hold the tournament at The Orleans hotel/casino, in an upstairs 2nd floor convention & meeting room especially set up for our tournament.

The tournament will be similar to last year's successful event, and we will have even more seats available - 10 tables and maximum of 110 players. Limit Hold-em is the game, with a \$55 entry fee and \$20 optional one-time rebuy. Complete rules and information are posted on the club website and will be available in writing at the club table on the convention floor.

Sign-ups for the tournament begin on Thursday morning, at the club table, when the convention opens. The tournament is open to club members and associate members only.

We are pleased to announce that custom-designed tournament chips are being produced for use in the tournament again this year. The Paulson chips, in no cash value denominations of 1 - 5 - 25 - 100 - 500 units, will include colorful graphics designed by club member Dick Covington.

Tournament players will receive one of the 5-piece sets of chips as part of their tournament package price.



Additional sets of chips are available for purchase by club members and associates, whether you play in the tournament or not -- up to 5 sets per person. You may reserve your sets in advance, for pick-up at the convention, by pre-paying for the chips. Send \$15 per set to: Dick Allard, Promotions Chairman, 7500 W. Lake Mead Blvd., No 9-124, Las Vegas, NV 89128. Payable to CC&GTCC and specify "hold for convention pick-up" on your check. Reserved chip sets MUST be prepaid.

Or you can purchase sets of chips at the club table beginning Thursday morning at the convention. Chip sets may be picked up after 10:00 am Friday morning, after the chips have been used in the Thursday night tournament. Please show your club membership card when picking up your chips.

If you aren't attending the convention, you still may purchase up to 5 sets per member or associate. Same \$15 per set. Add \$4.95 for insured priority postage for mailing 1-5 sets and include your mailing address. Send your payment to Dick Allard, Promotions Chairman, at the address above. Your order will be mailed after the convention.

Special thanks to Gene Trimble for making the tournament arrangements with The Orleans and coordinating chip production with Paulson. ♦

# New Books & Videotapes

## for the Club Library

by **Robert Pardue**

### CC&GTCC Library Adds New Videotapes

Thanks to Michael Ludwig for continuing to compile new videotapes of gaming-related programs. This quarter we received 3 additional tapes in the series of videos available to club members. The videos - #11 through #13 - contain the following programs.

#### Video #11

- "Beyond Closed Doors with Joan Lunden" - The Aladdin Implosion & Cirque du Soleils in LV (2000) - A&E - :30
- "Haunted History: Haunted Nevada" (2000) - *The History Channel* - 1:00
- "Extreme Homes" featuring Dale Seymour's home (2000) - *HGTV* - :30
- "E! True Hollywood Story" featuring Wayne Newton (2000) - *E!* - 2:00

- "E! True Hollywood Story" featuring Frank Sinatra (1998) - *E!* - 2:00

#### Video #12

- "E! True Hollywood Story" featuring Liberace (1998) - *E!* - 1:00
- "E! True Hollywood Story" featuring Dean Martin (1998) - *E!* - 2:00
- "Best Of" - "Las Vegas" (2000) - *The Food Channel* - :30
- "E! True Hollywood Story" featuring Donald Trump (2000) - *E!* - 1:00
- "FBI: The Untold Story" - Harvey's Casino bomb extortion case (1999) - *The History Channel* - :30

#### Video #13

- "Vegas Nights" (2000) - *The Discovery Channel* - 1:00
- "Biography" featuring Wayne Newton (1997) - *A & E* - 1:00
- "Casino Diaries" - #1 "Cat & Mouse" *The Discovery Channel* (2000) :30

- "Casino Diaries" - #2 "Executive Host" - *The Discovery Channel* (2000) :30
- "Travelers" - "Las Vegas" - *The Travel Channel* (1999) - 1:00
- "World's Best Places To Strike It Rich" - *The Travel Channel* (2000) - 1:00
- "Las Vegas: Get Lucky" - *The Travel Channel* (2000) - 1:00

For complete contents of the library, see the updated list posted on the club website, or request a copy by mail. If you have a donation to offer, or have questions about the library, please see me at the convention or write to me at:

Robert Pardue  
P.O. Box 2014  
Laguna Hills, CA 92654  
pardue@home.com





# Atlantic City REPORT

by Archie Black ("Mr. Chips")

With the changing of the calendar to the year 2001, chippin' in Atlantic City has slowed down to a virtual crawl. I left off in the Winter Issue of my last report at November, with the conclusion of the eight-chip Lighthouse Series from Claridge. Since then, Claridge has issued \$5 & \$10 Thanksgiving Day chips, \$5 & \$10 Seasons Greetings and \$5 & \$10 "Real Millennium" chips. Unofficial word has filtered down that Claridge will be suspending their Limited Edition chip program presumably due to the large number of chips that were eagerly purchased by speculators, who had no place to go to sell their over-purchased supply, having returned and cashed into the cage much of their unsold inventory, resulting in a huge accounting problem for the casino. Sometimes, we are our own worst enemy.

chippers were caught unaware of the release of this chip and by the time it was widely known, most chips had been made available and distributed to card players, employees, security guards, cocktail waitresses, etc. This was one of the most eerie and frustrating chip releases I've ever been accustomed to.

In order to purchase this chip, one had to go through a poker room supervisor, hand him the money. He then went to the poker table and purchased the ten limit max chips himself from the poker dealer, then handed the chips to the purchaser. Oh, there were times when an occasional chip or two was spotted sitting next to a player's winnings that perhaps could be bought from the player with the ever-present scowling floor person watching. In fact, the one poker room was declared off-limits to would-be chip purchasers because the players were on the clock, renting their chair space by the hour, and the floor people would not allow any interruption of the games to purchase chips so they said. So where do you think most of the LE chips were sent out in fills? You guessed it.



\$5 chips had been sold. An unfortunate bad-timing (for me) shut-out.

Next to Tropicana on the boardwalk, sits the Atlantic City Hilton. Chuck Tomarchio, former pit boss at Hilton who now resides in Illinois, must have left a well-lasting influence on his old crew. They could not have been more helpful to all chippers in making their four-piece Dizzy Dolphin set of chips available. The Dizzy Dolphin Beachfront bar is one of the most popular in the city. Neat graphics depicting cartoon-like images of dolphins at various games such as roulette, blackjack, craps, and my favorite; "cool lounge dolphin" with his sunglasses and cup of tokens.



Meanwhile, at the western end of the boardwalk, (yes, the boardwalk runs east to west, not north to south as is commonly perceived) Tropicana continues to do their own thing. A severely rationed, extremely difficult chip to obtain in any sizeable quantities was issued in Trop's Poker Room to commemorate the New Jersey Poker Championship Tournament that was being held on the property. Most

During the Palace Station chip show in Las Vegas, Tropicana A.C. issued a Year of the Snake Limited Edition Chinese New Year chip. Unfortunately, by the time my flight returned to New Jersey on Monday, and after a long wild-goose-chase ride down the Garden State Parkway; resulted in discovering that all 1000

At the Eastern end of the wooden way, is the majestic Trump Taj Mahal where a \$25 Pavarotti chip was issued. While Pavarotti's performance was not up to par, due to ill health, Pavarotti returned in early February for a make-up performance for everyone who held tickets to his disappointing November 11th show. No chips were available for his 2nd performance as they had all been sold out during his original engagement date in spite of an additional reorder of 100 chips.



Taj Mahal has also issued a 10th Anniversary \$25 chip with a photo graphic of "The Donald". Un-official word has it that all of Taj Mahal's future Limited Edition (LE) issues will be \$25 denomination chips.

Trump Marina issued a neat holographic effect "lenticular" design \$100 New Year chip. The design features a reported likeness of The Donald's current female companion and when the chip is rotated or tilted, the word "Happy" is visible, then "New" is visible in another position, followed by "Year" in the third position. To the best of my knowledge, these chips too are also sold out.

As I was preparing this report to be sent to Editor John Yee, I received word that Harrah's had issued a \$5 CHIPCO commemorative to celebrate their long overdue 20th Anniversary of gaming in Atlantic City. The chip features an illuminated building at night on one side and a champagne glass on the other side with the inscription, "20 1980-2000".

Token collectors finally got some long overdue action with the release of brand new .50¢ and \$5 tokens issued at Caesars plus FIVE DIFFERENT \$1 tokens. The \$5 version is very attractive with a four horses and chariot design. The dollar token designs are described as "Caesar's Towers"; "Skywalk Entrance"; "Temple Bar"; "Temple Lobby"; "Rotunda". All of the above tokens share a common reverse and have an RWM mintmark (Roger Williams Mint).

FLASH: Dr. Leonidas Tan has reported two formerly unknown Atlantis chips with metal center inlays. similar to those used at Playboy before the property became Atlantis. Three pairs of \$1 gray and



\$5 yellow Bud Jones Atlantis chips have been discovered. A unique characteristic of these two very interesting chips is the iNo Cash Value and iFree Play stamped on the metal inlay reverse sides of these two chips. It is suspected that these two chips are possibly manufacturer's prototypes as incorrect colors have been used for the denominations. All \$1 chips in Atlantic City must be white, all \$5 chips must be red.

Well, that's it for this quarter, chip-a-holics everywhere! I hope there will be more "meat" to report from Atlantic City in the next issue of "Casino Chip & Token News".

My personal thanks to John Yee and Allan Anderson for making this publication one of the finest of all club publications in ANY hobby that I'm familiar with. Unfortunately, my scanner is inoperable, so I am unable to accompany illustrations with this article. If anyone would like to help out in that regard, I'm sure that our Editors will be more than happy to hear from you.. ♦



Archie Black receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Ocean County Coin Club (NJ) president James Majoros.



# MEL'S CHIPHISTRY

## Some Milestones of the Past Century

by Mel Jung

I am still receiving mail about my first article of this century regarding key chips in collecting; and find that new, as well as old-timers had not added the Harrah's Sailboat chip to their collection. They have it now. The second article was even more gratifying since die hard (pun intended) brass core collectors called and wrote of their concern about how much they liked collecting them and their disappointment over the end of their production. I even got a note from Al Zaika, member #55, whom I had not heard from in over ten years! Nice to hear from him again and... that made me think that an article more about chippers and how collecting was enjoyed in the past would be appropriate. Here is a bit of chiphistry.

### **Pre-1990: How we collected chips**

During or after gambling, you buy them off the tables lose a few, and put one or two in your pocket or purse. That's basically how it was done. Roulette chip "harvesting" had not been termed, limited editions were unknown, and slabs were made of bacon. Before 1980, I don't recall hearing of very many "collectors" going to the cage to buy a chip or ask for an old issue.

I'm sure guys like Harvey Fuller, Howard Herz, Walter Dirzulaitus, Al Moe, and Phil Jensen had done this for years and pioneered many more skillful tactics; but I had not met them, yet. Besides current chips off the tables, most of us scoured the coin stores, antiques shops, junk shops, and flea markets of Nevada. I like to kid Bruce Landau a lot about his ventures in the garbage cans of Douglas Alley in Reno; but he refuses to confirm it. The only time I found chips in a garbage can was not in Reno. It was my third trip through Ely, at a small 2 table Blackjack casino to get their first issue chip when they ordered a new rack. The owner told me he had just thrown "the last of" 2 racks of worn chips in the waste bucket of his office and that I was welcome to take "a few". I took them all (32) and sold off or traded the \$25 chip for \$12 since most collectors had not walked with the "high" denominations. That was a lot of money for a chip in the early '80s and soon after I sold most of my "hoard"; another collector was selling the same chips for \$2 each because he had "boxes" of them. And they were in better shape. I can only guess that he was there first and got the better ones. Never believe casino owners that fail to tell the whole story.

For almost ten years, I would visit Dean Richmond and Jodi Sones in Reno. They had Washoe Antiques and were always stocked with thousands of chips to buy. Some of my best chips were traded to them and it was always a lot of fun. The pawn shops and trinket stores in Reno had boxes and baskets with chips at 3 to 8 for a dollar. Stupidly, we seldom offered to buy the whole lot. It was not uncommon to see a small barrel or washtub full of chips and to spend hours picking out 5 or 10 when the owner would have sold them all for probably \$100 or less. And that was as recent as 1975 because I recall the old timer, Frank Rosa, offering a huge box of chips to us for \$50...but that was too much money then.

Las Vegas was the same with a few locations downtown offering home game sets of obsolete Las Vegas chips. 500 for \$125 to \$150 and bargain baskets with chips at a dime or less if you would just spend a dollar or two. When you got into town, before the first dollar hit the gaming tables; I would get in touch with Bill Schmidt, Jim Gillette, Bill Payne or that new young kid named Jim Campiglia. They always had great chips to sell or trade. And of course the mandatory trip to the "Gamblers Store".

I vividly recall one trip in 1978 when I was more convinced that it was impossible to beat the tables and decided to spend more money getting chips than losing them. My plan was to take \$200 and allot \$20 per casino blackjack play. If I won over \$20, I would keep a five and two ones. If I began to lose the whole \$20, I would leave with at least two chips of one dollar denomination. And wherever they had fifty cent chips for blackjacks, I would take four. Playing with a short goal, and an afternoon that allowed my \$200 dollars to stretch over 14 casinos, I was amazed that I ended up with \$365 and 52 chips. Playing short sessions with defined goals and leaving whenever I doubled my \$20 was my new method. Quitting when I lost \$15-18 was the real secret...and it still works now except there are very few dollar minimum limit tables.

### **1988-1994: The Era of Archie Black,"Mr. Chips"**

The second issue of "The Atlantic City Chip & Token Newsletter", dated April 1988, and published by pioneer Archie Black reflected some revealing trends of the casino collectibles crowd. I chose to review this issue for two reasons:

First, it has responses to his first issue with great reader support (five pages of total 16 pages), and it announced the first organizational meeting for June 25, 1988 at the New Jersey Token & Medal Show. What we enjoy now as the CC & GTCC began with this issue.

Secondly, it's the earliest issue I have. Every issue published since then is in my collection, but number one of volume one has vanished. Over the years I have lent them out to fellow collectors and I guess one issue didn't make it back.

On April 1, 1988 Archie announced the formation of the "Casino Chips and Gaming Token Collectors Club. Dues were \$3 and Bruce Landau volunteered to be temporary Treasurer. Charter memberships were open to June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ads were sponsored by : Paul Cunningham, Washoe Antiques,, World-Wide Casino Exchange (Bill Borland , Starr Warrick), DEB's (Donald E. Bestle), Brad Compton, Matthews Money Tree, Bruce Landau, Jeffrey Stokes and Steve Passalacqua. There were sixteen sheets of paper, clipped together at the top and only the second issue which was to be the last because number 3 became the "Casino Chip and Gaming token Collectors Newsletter".

The Summer issue of 1991 was the first one bound with two staples and 44 pages. Archie now had a staff of Michael Knapp as Secretary, Janice O'Neal, Historian, and guess who was still "temporary" Treasurer. Yep, Bruce Landau (better than digging in those Reno garbage cans!) The goal of 500 members had been met. Archie reported on the first "chip" show with an attendance of 100 at Harveys Tahoe, sponsored by Howard Herz. That was the first show at which I had taken a

table and met most of the pioneers that would be stuck with me over years of future chip shows.

On page 13, Michael Knapp reported on the return of Mississippi riverboat Gambling with the new paddlewheelers in Iowa. Knapp had 7 pages of "Information Booth" which identified unattributed chips. And Janice O'Neal updated us with all the new issues of chips and tokens. And holding all this together, was the pioneering editor, Archie.

### **The Bill Borland "Blue-Book" Circa 1990**

Chips really didn't have much of a price structure until Bill Borland and Starr Warrick came on the collecting scene with the famous "Bluebook" that was priced at \$75 retail and offered to the fledgling chip club members at \$45 plus \$4.95 shipping. The copyright was 1988 and I was too cheap to put out that much money until 1990 when I got issue #324 and tried to buy through the mail. Before that, we would spend hours in his "Gamblers Store" and listen to all the tales Bill told about the famous celebrities he hosted in Las Vegas. Starr did most of the work on the Bluebook and included very colorful stories and quips with many of the chips available for sale. But Bill got the credit and if you had hours to spend in his store you would always end up meeting a few collectors that eventually became the core of the chip and token hobby.

Undoubtedly, the Blue Book was the largest work ever produced to present chips and tokens with values. From Atlantic City to Foreign chips, it included Calif, Cruise and gambling ships, sawdust joints of the 1800's all listed alphabetically with facts and embellishments. The Blue Book remained the largest work until some newcomers came out with the "Chip Rack". Prices were considered astronomical. Of course, we all felt he was way too high charging \$3 for a fifty-cent Green Ranch House brass!!! It's over \$220 now!! And we would all try to get discounts when we bought over \$10 worth of chips. I was trying to complete a brass core and Bicentennial collection in the late '80's and one of the outstanding chips I recall trying to buy was "The Casino" \$5 Bicentennial. He priced his at \$12 and I would not buy it until he reduced it to \$10. One sold last year for more than \$2000. I was too cheap to buy two.

Starr did most of the research and chip work while Bill spent most of his time being the showman. She died about 1992 and Bill could never find anything after that. Ordering from the Blue Book was impossible. You would wait a month and never get your chips until you went to Las Vegas and picked them up. Bill was finding chips everywhere in their house and store...even under the bed.

The infamous "Starr Warrick Memorial" set of 35 collectors chips that Borland made originally sold for a dollar each. He had seven denominations celebrating

opening and closing dates for 5 casinos. The El Rancho, Thunderbird, Silver Slipper, Mint and the Castaways were made in memory of Starr and the "Good ole' boys of yesterday. Some of these have shown up on E -Bay as obsolete casino chips at huge prices...don't be fooled. Eventually, Borland sold out the store and all his chips to Jerry Wall...but that's another milestone for a later article...much later.

### **1988- 1992 and the CC&GTCC**

Prior to 1988, most chip and token collectors communicated by phone or mail and developed friendships way before they met in person. I was fortunate enough to be near friends like Steve Passalaqua and Dale Seymour to be able to satisfy my growing addiction to chips.

The few that were able to make the Pittsburg, 1989 A.N.A convention and attend Archie Black's annual "chip" meeting were rewarded with a "swap" session. Howdy Herz and Washoe Antiques traveled a long way to provide chips and tokens and only 25 chippers were in attendance at the meeting (out of a total A.N.A attendance of 16,000.) The club membership had grown to 200 and 30 had been "purged" from the roster for not renewing dues.

Chip prices had begun to sky-rocket as evidenced by Bruce Landau's ad for the set of Ta-Neva-Ho chips, \$5, \$25, \$50 and \$100 went from \$30 to a new high of \$40!!!! Outrageous?

On March 17<sup>th</sup> 1990 the second "Casino Collectibles" show was held by Jim Munding in Bellflower and it was the first time we had 250 collectors attend. Don Bestle (DEBs) died the day of the show and the first pioneer had passed on and was dearly missed.

Soon after, we started "pioneering" chip collecting at coin shows, fairs, flea markets and gun shows. One of the earliest was the Long Beach coin show where I was introduced to the "ivories" through Stan and Betty Wilker. I think that trip expenses were over \$600 and I only sold about \$30 worth of chips. A few new chips showed up though and buying \$400-500 more chips made those shows a success. For the first 4-5 years of chip shows, you always bought ten times more than you sold. Sometimes we still do.

By Winter of 1992, Jim Munding had put on four "Casino Collectibles" shows and was on the verge of moving it to its present location called "Casinorama" in Arcadia.

Charlie Rogers and Armin Pfaender had launched the Van Nuys show and were publishing a new Western Casino Club publishing a monthly newsletter.. Gene and Arlene Grossblatt had just traveled across Northern Nevada with an article "Trekkling Across I-80. KMW had just published the first "Gaming Table" and the "Chip Rack" was the new standard of excellence for listing chips with values. Knapps list of UFC's had grown to 390. There was even

some talk that year of a national convention. Hopefully in 1993. The "national" club had gone over 700 members and guess who was still Treasurer...yeh, Bruce.

During this era, chip collecting had passed from a shoebox sized curiosity to a full garage sized addiction. May it continue to grow thanks to Archie and all those pioneers... ♦

**HAVE YOU TRIED  
BLACK'S  
ATLANTIC CITY  
NEW ISSUES SERVICE?**

For several years now, many collectors of Atlantic City casino chips and gaming tokens have taken advantage of my unique "New Issues Service" and have built excellent collections at a very reasonable price. You receive the chips and tokens as they are released from the casinos before any price increase takes place in the secondary market place.

**NO MONEY UP FRONT** if you are a Club member. I trust you. Simply send your name, address and CC&GTCC membership number to me on a postcard, telling me which denominations of new chips and/or tokens you wish to receive as they are issued and I will automatically send them to you.

You will receive the chips and/or tokens you wish to receive in brand new condition as they are issued by the casinos with a billing invoice, along with my popular "Atlantic City Newsletter".

The only charges are as follows:

\$1 chips / tokens	\$3.00@
\$2.50 chips	\$4.00@
\$5 regular chips	\$7.00@
\$5 commemoratives	\$8.00@
\$5 tokens	\$7.00@
\$10 tokens	\$14.00@
\$10 chips	\$15.00@
\$20 chips/tokens	\$25.00@
\$25 chips/tokens	\$30.00@
\$50 tokens	\$60.00@
\$100 chips/tokens	\$110.00@

Plus reimburse my actual postage/insurance

**Mr. Chips, Inc.**

P.O. BOX 63 - BRICK, NJ 08723  
E-Mail: [ablack2@optonline.com](mailto:ablack2@optonline.com)

"When the chips are down, you can bet that "Mr. Chips" will be there to pick them up".

*Rev.*: Chiseled façade of casino, with 100 FRANCS below and CASINO DE MONTE CARLO along perimeter.

39mm, sterling silver.

Struck by the Franklin Mint in 1977.

**m.** *Obv.*: Casino logo, encircled by SBM/LOEWS MONTE-CARLO CASINO. 100 FRANCS.

*Rev.*: Card hand composed of king of hearts, queen of spades, jack of diamonds, jack of clubs and queen of diamonds, with SBM/LOEWS MONTE-CARLO above in two lines and 100 FRANCS below in two lines.

41mm, sterling silver, 12-sided.

Struck by the Franklin Mint in 1980.

#### 9. 200 francs

**a.** *Obv.*: Numeral "200" with STE DES BAINS DE MER above in two lines and MONACO below.

*Rev.*: Same as obverse.

32mm, shimmering emerald green.

**b.** *Obv.*: Numeral "200" surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER MONACO.

*Rev.*: Same as obverse.

38.5mm, shimmering yellow.

This piece was revalued in 1960 and is known with the two zeros in the denomination crossed out.

#### 10. 250 francs

**a.** *Obv.*: SBM-LOEWS MONTE-CARLO across center. King of spades, numeral "250," a spade and FRANCS above; queen of spades, numeral "250," a spade and FRANCS below.

*Rev.*: Casino logo, with SBM LOEWS MONTE-CARLO and 250 FRANCS.

41mm, sterling silver, 12-sided.

Struck by the Franklin Mint in 1985.

#### 11. 500 francs

**a.** *Obv.*: Numeral "500" on elaborate gilt metallic filigreed overlay.

*Rev.*: Same as obverse.

48 x 68mm (oval), crimson with horizontal black security stripe and black or orange security dot above.

Note security stamp affixed to textured rectangle at right.

**b.** *Obv.*: Numeral "500" with SOCIÉTÉ

DES BAINS DE MER above and MONACO below. Diagonal design on left half of chip.

*Rev.*: Same as obverse.

43 x 62mm (oval), translucent grass green with beige, lemon-yellow and red security disks.

Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.

**c.** *Obv.*: Numeral "500" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above in two lines and MONACO below.

*Rev.*: Same as obverse.

46 x 63mm (oval), greenish-brown with red and yellow security disks.

Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.

**d.** *Obv.*: Large numeral "500" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above and MONACO below.

*Rev.*: Same as obverse.

44mm, pale blue with translucent yellow, grayish-blue and yellowish-green security disks.

**e.** *Obv.*: Numeral "500" in circle, with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER DE MONACO in five lines to right.

*Rev.*: Same as obverse.

42 x 62mm (oval), yellow ochre.

Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.

#### 12. 1,000 francs

**a.** *Obv.*: Numeral "1000" above "SBM" on elaborate silver filigreed overlay; SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER DE MONACO below.

*Rev.*: Same as obverse.

49 x 66mm (rectangular), maroon.

Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.

**b.** *Obv.*: Numeral "1.000" with STÉ DES BAINS DE MER above in two lines and MONACO below.

*Rev.*: Same as obverse.

42mm, shimmering white.

**c.** *Obv.*: Numeral "1.000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above in two lines and MONACO below.

*Rev.*: Same as obverse.

43mm, fuchsia.

**d.** *Obv.*: Numeral "1000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER DE MONACO



11a



11b



11c



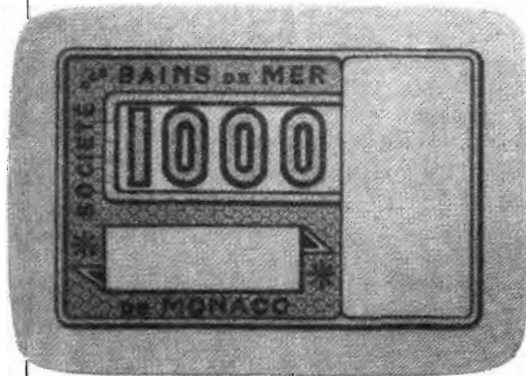
11d



12b



12c



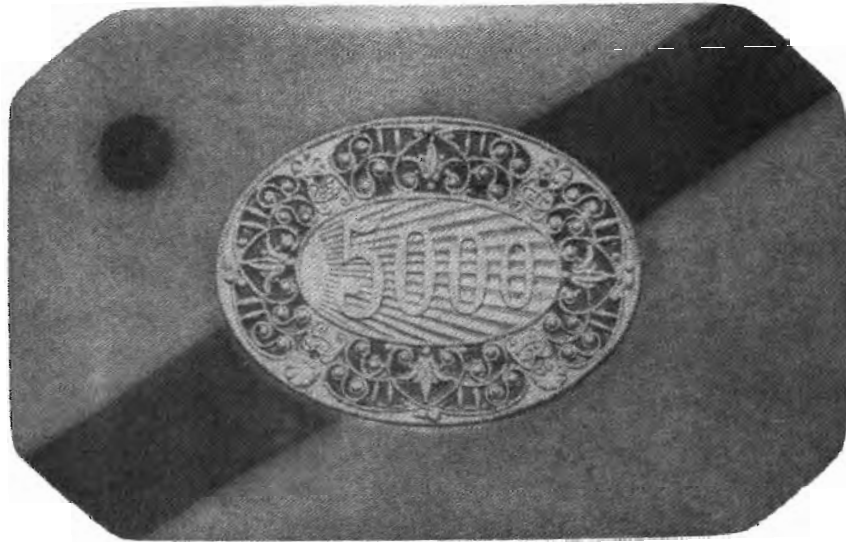
12d



12i

- in rectangular pattern around.  
*Rev.*: Same as obverse.  
 46 x 64mm (rectangular), grass green.  
 Rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.
- e. *Obv.*: Numeral "1000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above and MONACO below.  
*Rev.*: Same as obverse.  
 39 x 55mm (rectangular), shimmering, marbled red and gold.  
 Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.
- f. *Obv.*: Numeral "1.000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above and MONACO below.  
*Rev.*: Same as obverse.  
 48 x 63mm (rectangular), butter yellow with three translucent security disks, two olive-green and one red.  
 Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.
- g. *Obv.*: Numeral "1.000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above in two lines and MONACO below.  
*Rev.*: Same as obverse.  
 39 x 54mm (rectangular), crimson with three translucent security disks, two lemon-yellow and one red.  
 Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.
- h. *Obv.*: Numeral "1.000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above and MONACO below.  
*Rev.*: Same as obverse.  
 51 x 67mm (rectangular), mother-of-pearl yellow with three translucent security disks, two red and one orange.  
 Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.
- i. *Obv.*: Personification of Song, with numeral "1000" at left and FRANCS at right; CASINO DE MONTE CARLO along perimeter.  
*Rev.*: Chiseled façade of Casino with 1000 FRANCS below and CASINO DE MONTE CARLO around.  
 32mm, .500 fine gold.  
 Struck by the Franklin Mint in 1979; mintage limited to 7200 proofs.
- 13. 5,000 francs**
- a. *Obv.*: Numeral "5000" on elaborate metallic filigreed overlay.  
*Rev.*: Same as obverse.  
 67 x 107mm (rectangular), crimson.  
 Also known with diagonal translucent black security stripe.
- b. *Obv.*: Numeral "5000" on elaborate metallic filigreed overlay, with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER DE MONACO at lower left.  
 Textured rectangle at left for placement of security stamp.  
*Rev.*: Same as obverse.  
 59 x 93mm (rectangular), marbled olive green.
- c. *Obv.*: Numeral "5.000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above and MONACO below.  
*Rev.*: Same as obverse.  
 53 x 84mm (rectangular), marbled bluish-green with blue core and three translucent security disks, two lemon-yellow and one red.  
 Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.
- d. *Obv.*: Numeral "5000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above, DE below and MONACO sloping upward.  
*Rev.*: Same as obverse.  
 51 x 92mm (rectangular), brown.  
 Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.
- e. *Obv.*: Numeral "5.000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above and MONACO below.  
*Rev.*: Same as obverse.  
 43 x 73mm (rectangular), translucent reddish-purple with three translucent green, yellow and orange security disks.  
 Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.





13a



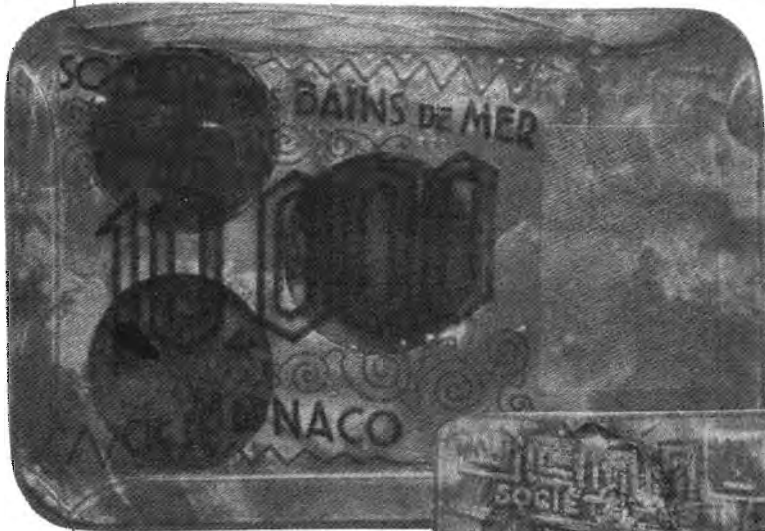
13b



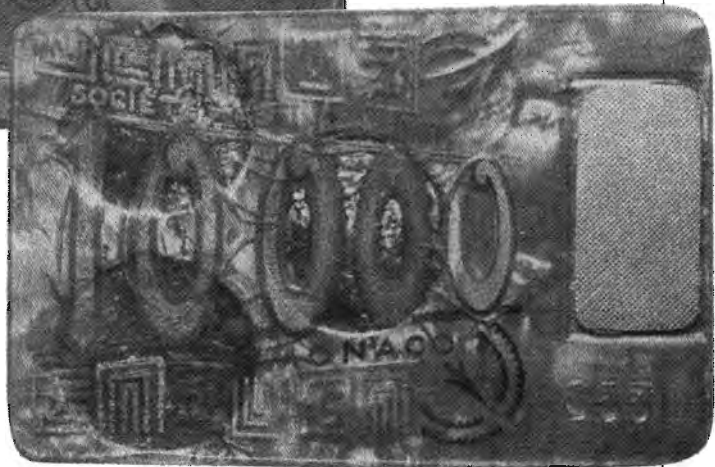
13c



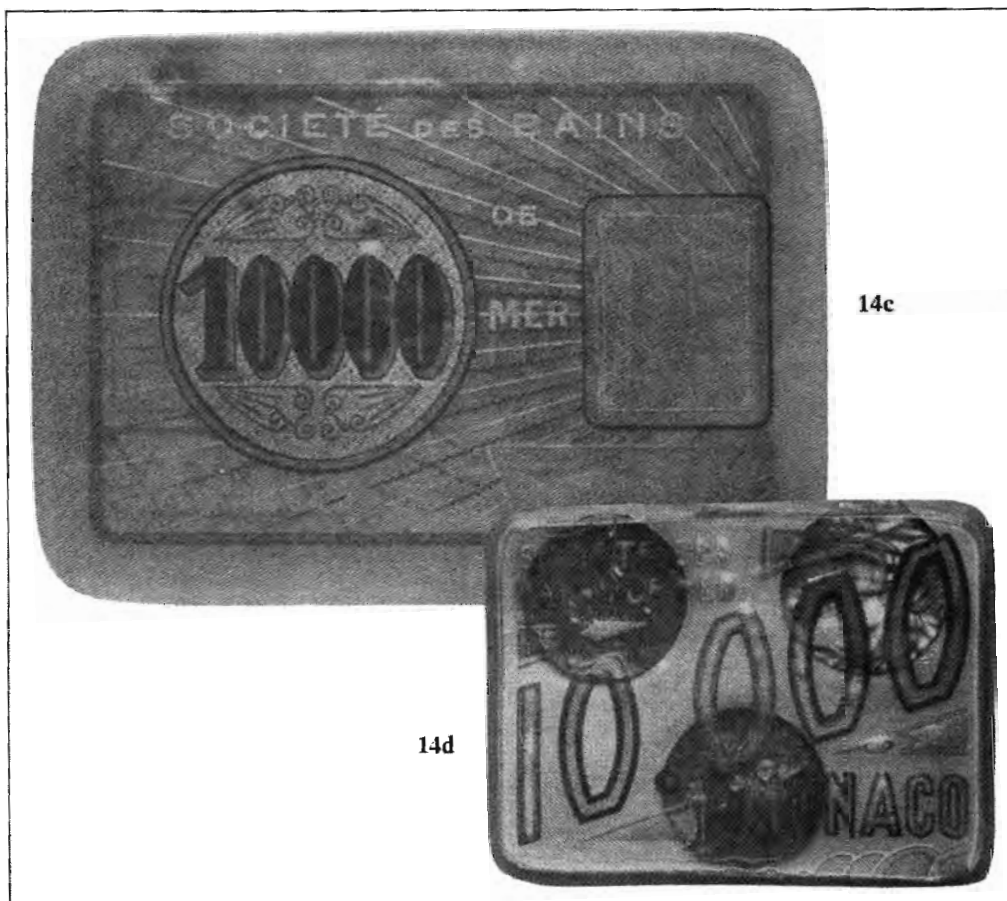
13d



14a



14b



**14. 10,000 francs**

a. *Obv.:* Numeral "10.000" sloping upward, with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above and MONACO below, both sloping downward.

*Rev.:* Same as obverse.

64 x 94mm (rectangular), orange with three translucent beige, green and lemon-yellow security disks.

Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.

b. *Obv.:* Numeral "10.000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER sloping downward and MONACO sloping upward.

*Rev.:* Same as obverse.

57 x 88mm (rectangular), shimmering grass green with three translucent beige security disks.

Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.

c. *Obv.:* Numeral "10000" in circle, with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS above, DE MER at right and MONACO below.

*Rev.:* Same as obverse.

70 x 109mm (rectangular), translucent light-brown.

Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.

d. *Obv.:* Numeral "10.000" sloping upward, with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER at upper left and MONACO at bottom right.

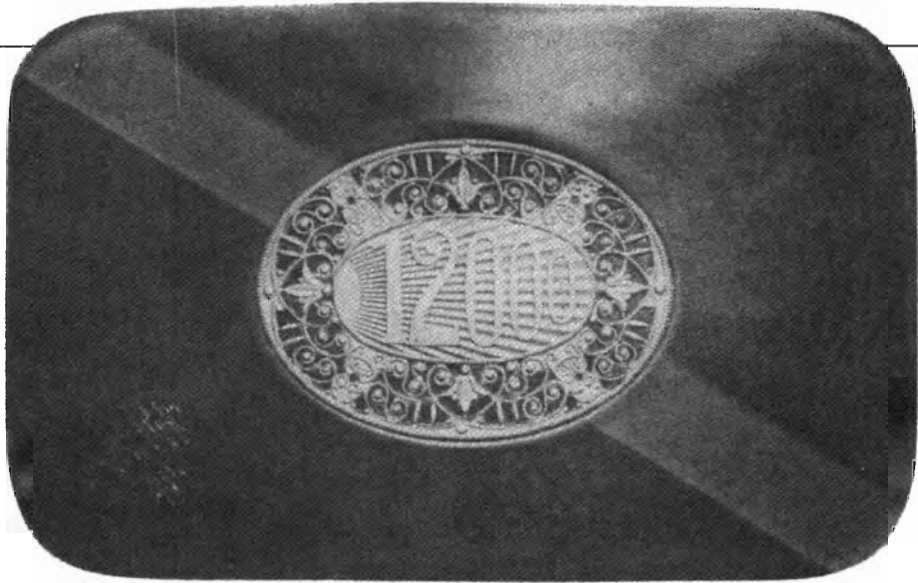
*Rev.:* Same as obverse.

47 x 63mm (rectangular), yellow with red core and three translucent security disks, two red and one yellow.

**15. 12,000 francs**

a. *Obv.:* Numeral "12000" on elaborate silver filigreed overlay.

*Rev.:* Same as obverse.



15a

80% Actual Size

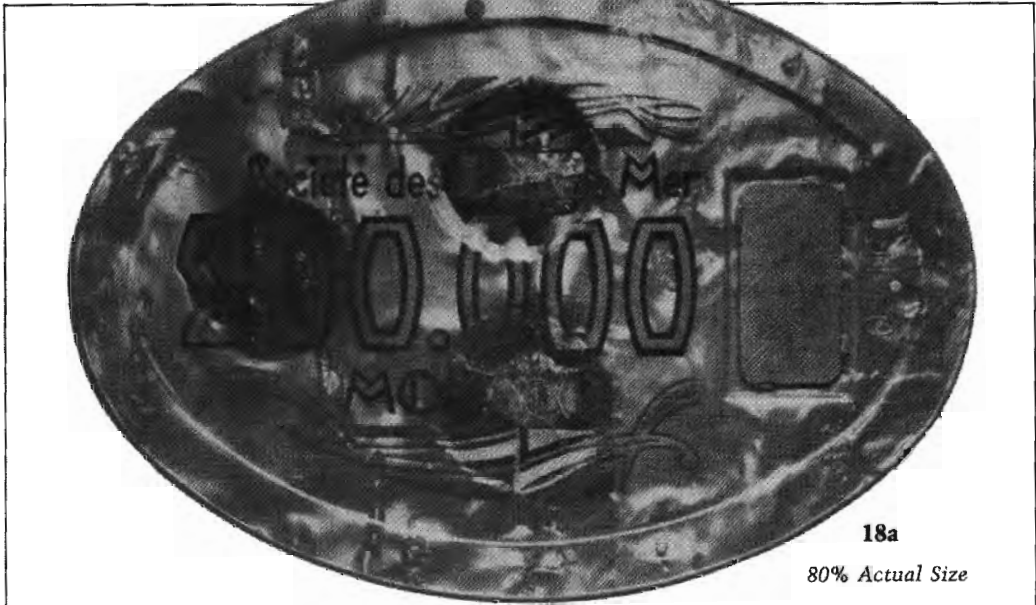


17a

65% Actual Size



17b



**18a**  
80% Actual Size



**19a**

**17. 100,000 francs**

a. *Obv.*: Numeral "100.000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER in small letters above and MONACO in larger letters below.

Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.

b. *Obv.*: Art-deco style numeral "500.000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES



20a



21a  
80% Actual Size

three translucent lemon-yellow, red and orange security disks.  
Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.

Rev.: Same as obverse.  
92 x 132mm (rectangular), gray with cobalt-blue core and three security disks, two beige and one red.  
Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.

- 17. 100,000 francs**  
a. *Obv.:* Numeral "100.000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER in small letters above and MONACO in larger letters below.

- b. *Obv.:* Art-deco style numeral "100.000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES



BAINS DE MER sloping upward above and MONACO below.

*Rev.*: Same as obverse.

68 x 103mm (rectangular), translucent olive green.

Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.

**18. 200,000 francs**

- a. *Obv.*: Numeral "200.000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER in small letters above and MONACO in larger letters below.

*Rev.*: Same as obverse.

94 x 137mm (oval), shimmering vermilion with white core and three translucent lemon-yellow, red and orange security disks.

Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.

**19. 500,000 francs**

- a. *Obv.*: Numeral "500.000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER in small letters above and MONACO in larger letters below.

*Rev.*: Same as obverse.

73 x 114mm (rectangular), lemon

yellow with three brown, red and lemon-yellow security disks.

**20. 1,000,000 francs**

- a. *Obv.*: Numeral "1.000.000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER at top left and MONACO at bottom right.

*Rev.*: Same as obverse.

77 x 123mm (rectangular), mother-of-pearl white with three red, rose and lemon-yellow security disks.

Many pieces were revalued in 1960-65 and bear a "10.000" counterstamp.

**21. 2,000,000 francs**

- a. *Obv.*: Numeral "2.000.000" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER at top left in two lines and MONACO at bottom right.

*Rev.*: Same as obverse.

94 x 137mm (rectangular), shimmering green with three translucent rose, grayish-blue and lemon-yellow security disks.

Many pieces were revalued in 1960-65 and bear a "20.000" counterstamp.

## ADDENDUM

Additional tokens not listed in the original article have been included in this reprint. As in the prior listing, the tokens are grouped in ascending order according to denomination and chronology. By using the pre-established system, the reader should have no difficulty in determining where these items would be listed in the previous catalog had they been available at that time.

**3. 5 francs**

- j. *Obv.*: "5 FR." surrounded by • AMERICAN SALON • CASINO DE MONTE CARLO. Along perimeter, three sets of letters "SBM" alternating with blue rectangles.

*Rev.*: Same as obverse.

40mm, blue and gray with nickel center.

- k. *Obv.*: Crowned numeral "5" with FR. below, surrounded by SBM LOEWS MONTE-CARLO. Along perimeter, two pairs of dice bearing "2" and "5," interspersed with spade, heart, club and diamond.

*Rev.*: Same as obverse.

40mm, blue and white with nickel center.

- l. *Obv.*: Crowned numeral "5" with FR. below, surrounded by filigreed pattern. SBM LOEWS MONTE-CARLO along upper periphery.

*Rev.*: Same as obverse.

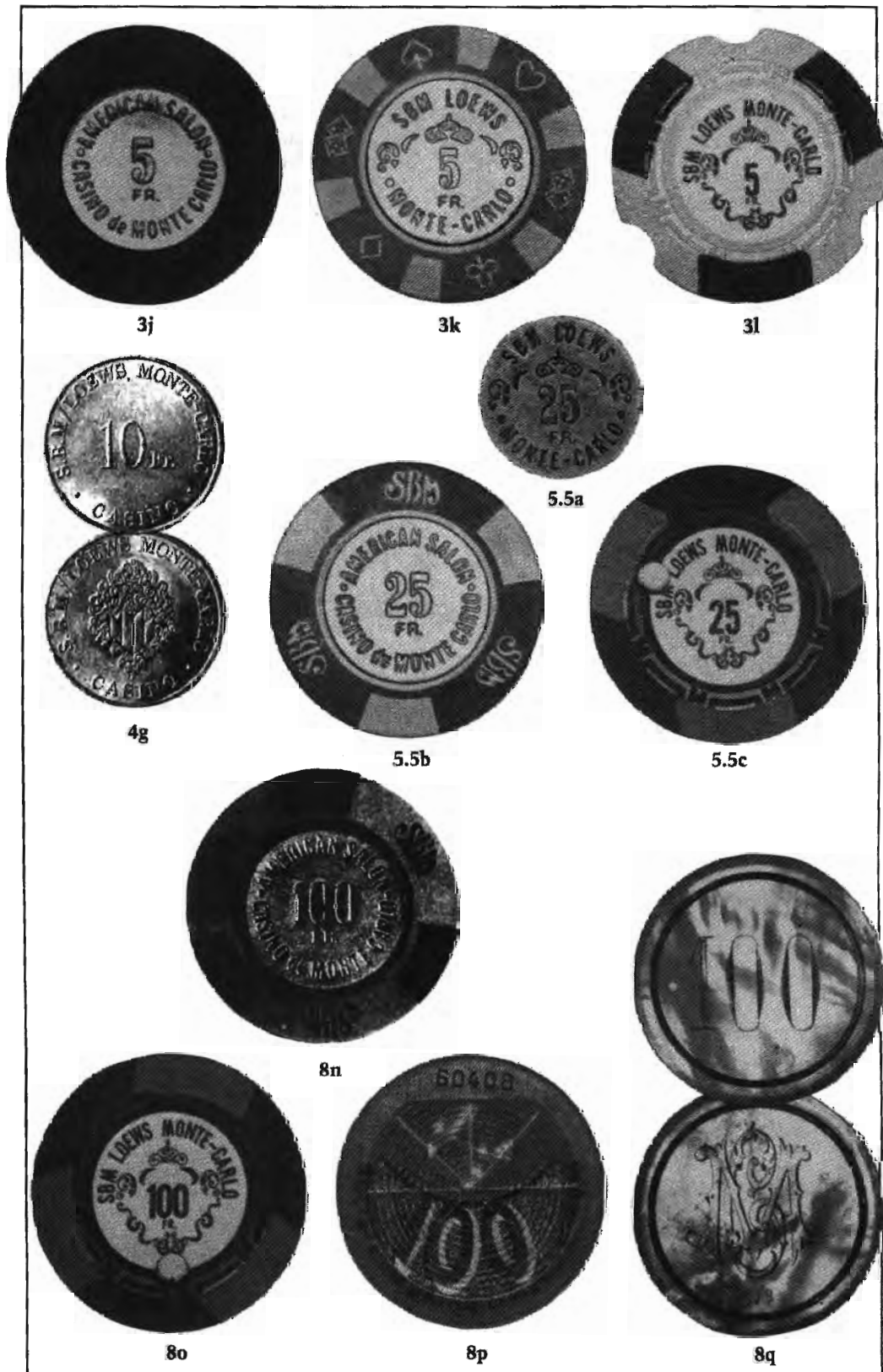
39mm, tan and blue with white center.

**4. 10 francs**

- g. *Obv.*: "10 FR." surrounded by S.B.M./LOEWS MONTE-CARLO • CASINO •.

*Rev.*: Casino logo surrounded by S.B.M./LOEWS MONTE-CARLO • CASINO •.





26mm, nickel.

Used from 1980 to the present.

#### 5.5 25 francs

a. *Obv.*: Crowned "25 FR." surrounded by SBM LOEWS • MONTE-CARLO •.

*Rev.*: Same as obverse.

24mm, nickel.

b. *Obv.*: "25 FR." surrounded by AMERICAN SALON • CASINO DE MONTE CARLO •. Initials "SBM" along perimeter.

*Rev.*: Same as obverse.

39mm, brown and white with aluminum center.

Used from 1980 to the present.

c. *Obv.*: Crowned numeral "25" with FR. below, surrounded by filigreed pattern. SBM LOEWS MONTE-CARLO along upper periphery.

*Rev.*: Same as obverse.

39mm, red and gold with white center.

#### 8. 100 francs

n. *Obv.*: "100 FR." surrounded by AMERICAN SALON • CASINO DE MONTE CARLO • along perimeter. Three sets of letters "SBM" alternating with black rectangles.

*Rev.*: Same as obverse.

39mm, pink and black with aluminum center.

Used from 1980 to the present.

o. *Obv.*: Crowned numeral "100" with FR. below, surrounded by filigreed pattern. SBM LOEWS MONTE-CARLO along upper periphery.

*Rev.*: Same as obverse.

39mm, blue and orange with white center.

p. *Obv.*: Gold and black numeral "100" in lower half, surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER DE MONACO; blue, crescent-shaped filigree around "100." Ivory sphere in upper half.

*Rev.*: Same as obverse.

39mm, orange plastic.

q. *Obv.*: Script initials "MC" enclosed in incuse, circular border.

*Rev.*: "100" enclosed in incuse, circular border.

36mm, mother-of-pearl with gold.

Possibly a token of the Casino of Menton, France, which began operating in the 1930's.

#### 11. 500 francs

f. *Obv.*: Numeral "500" within elaborate border.

*Rev.*: Interlaced "MC" within an inner circle of alternating diamonds and dots and an outer circle of stars.

30mm, silver. Dated 1894.

g. *Obv.*: Numeral "500" above "SBM" on elaborate silver filigreed, semicircular overlay.

*Rev.*: Same as obverse.

42 x 62mm (oval), maroon (not pictured).

h. *Obv.*: Numeral "500" on silver filigreed, oval overlay.

*Rev.*: Interlaced "SCI" (for International Sporting Club) on silver filigreed, oval overlay.

45 x 67mm (oval), beige.

Piece bears counterstamp in the form of a crescent moon.

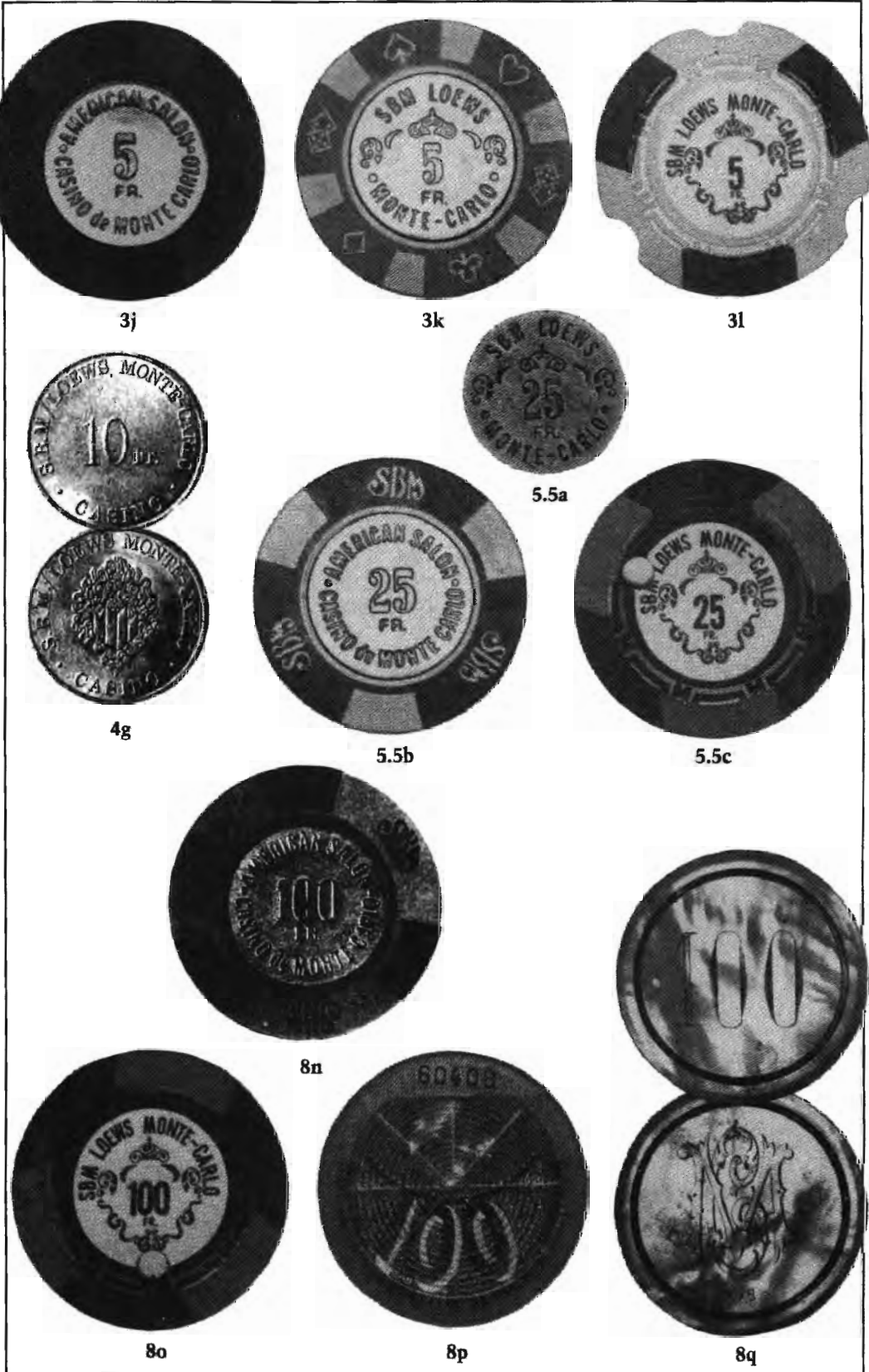
#### 12. 1,000 francs

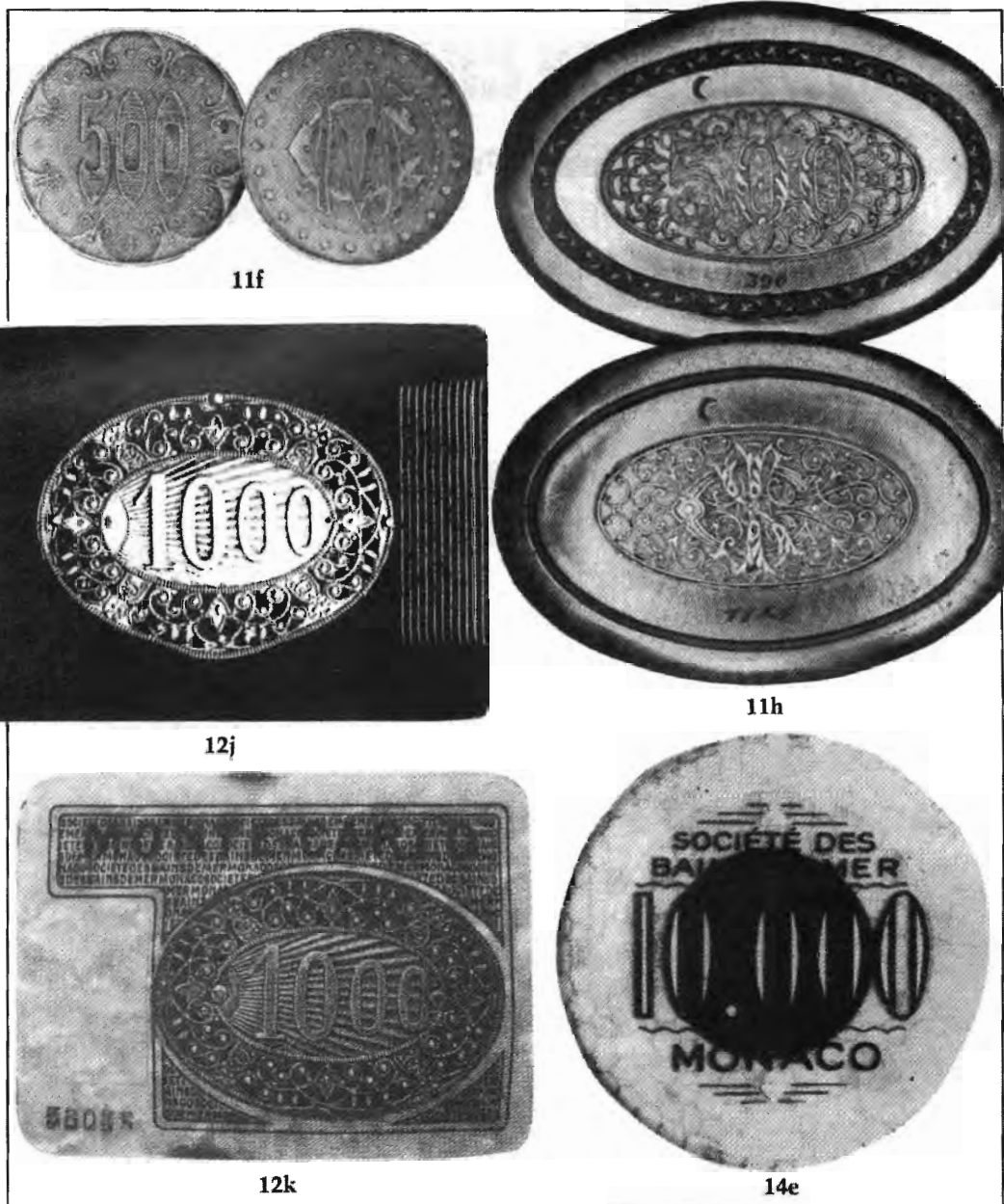
j. *Obv.*: Numeral "1000" on elaborate metallic filligreed overlay.

*Rev.*: Same as obverse.

49 x 69mm (rectangular), crimson.

Textured rectangle at right for placement of security stamp.





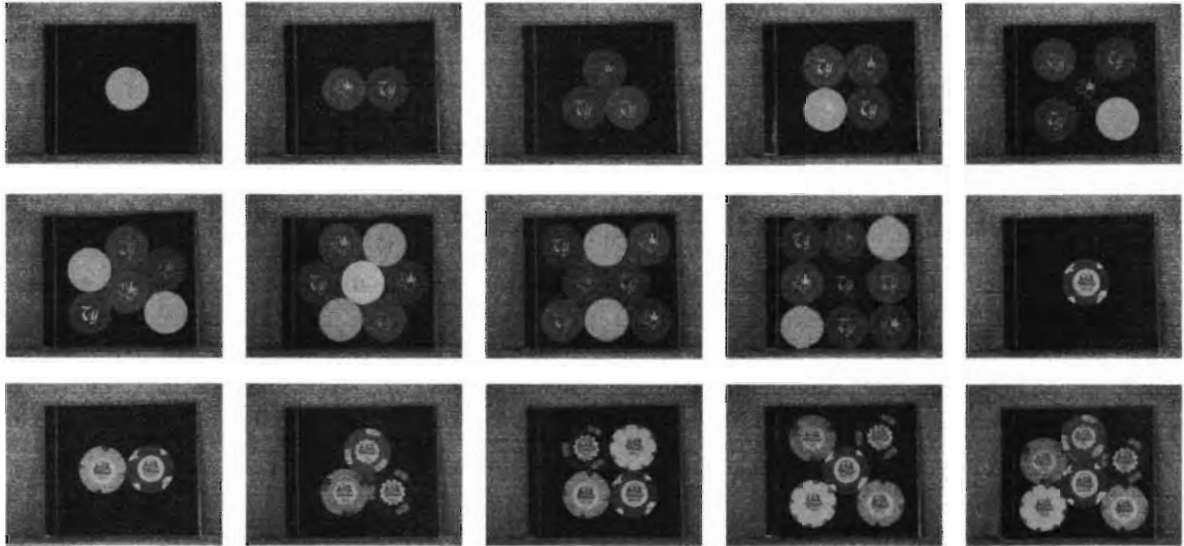
**k.** *Obv.:* Numeral "1000" on elaborate metallic filigreed overlay on continuous background of SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER-MONACO, with large MONTE-CARLO in red lettering above.  
*Rev.:* Same as obverse.  
 49 x 66mm (rectangular), pearly white.  
 Textured rectangle at bottom left for placement of security stamp.

**13. 5,000 francs**  
**f.** *Obv.:* Numeral "5000" on elaborate metallic filigreed overlay.  
*Rev.:* Same as obverse.  
 43 x 76mm (rectangular), baby pink (not pictured).

**14. 10,000 francs**  
**e.** *Obv.:* Numeral "10.000," with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above and MONACO below.  
*Rev.:* Same as obverse.  
 54mm, golden emerald. ◆

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# RIVERBOATS

by Greg C. Susong

A few years ago I was having trouble locating one of the 25 cent chips from Treasure Bay in Tunica, MS. I mentioned it to Jim Kruse and he started looking for one for me. He asked several of the guys that worked for him and one of them said that he thought he had one at home and that he'd bring it. Jim let me know that thought he had found me one and that he'd let me know when the guy brought it to him. A few days later the guy turned up with the chip and it ended up being quite a surprise. As it turned out, the chip wasn't the Paulson RHC inlay chip that Jim was expecting, but a hot stamped Bud Jones chip that we never knew existed. Needless to say, Jim didn't turn loose of his new find and I was left needing 2 chips instead of just one. I eventually found one of the Paulson 25 cent chips, but for a long time none of the Bud Jones chips ever came to the surface. Jim was the only person that had one and no one but him had ever even seen it. I finally made the trip to Kansas City to get pictures of a few of Jim's chips. I was preparing the first edition of my Riverboat book and wanted to include the ones that were in Jim's collection that I didn't have. Many people thought the chip was just an urban legend until they finally saw the picture in the book.

It's been nearly 3 years now since Jim discovered that chip and no

one has ever found any others, until now. A couple months ago Todd Desnoyers posted a message on The Chip Board (<http://www.thechip-board.com>) with a picture of the chip and an offer to sell. As it turns out, Todd beat the bushes in the Tunica area and found a few of the people that had been around for a while. He ended up finding 8 more of them, bringing the total known to 9. I found 2 more myself a few weeks later and now there are 11 known to exist. These chips weren't around very long. It seems that once the word got out in the Tunica area that Treasure Bay had those nice 25 cent Paulson inlay chips on their craps game, all the craps dealers in the area stopped by to load up on them so they would have something relatively inexpensive to practice with at home. Treasure Bay lost so many of these chips in such a short time they decided to change them out and put the much cheaper Bud Jones chips on the table. Within a few days they closed down suddenly so not too many of these got out.



Casino Aztar in Evansville, IN finally released the last two chips in their World War II series. The "We

Can Do It" chip was released on November 13, 2000 and the "Four Freedoms" chip was released on December 4, 2000. These are the last two in the series of seven.



Harrah's took over the Star Casino in Lake Charles, LA on December 7, 2000 and put these new chips on the tables. The \$5 Grand Opening is two sided.





Ameristar bought both of Station Casinos Missouri properties. They changed the chips at the St. Charles, MO property on February 15th, 2001.



The new Hollywood Casino opened in Shreveport, LA on December 20, 2000. All chips are two sided.

# HALF, QUARTER and EIGHTH PIE INSERTS

## A New Nomenclature

by **Ralph P. Pollack**

Over the past nine years, I was always confused with the use of the words 'PIE' and HALF PIE'. It seems that this arbitrary usage dates back to the 1960's. As an engineering student during the 1960's, I was taught the logic of describing the lowest common denominator in equations. When one orders a slice of a pizza, and asks for a certain amount of slices, one has to be able to communicate with the salesperson. If the circle or pizza is divided into the commonly understood eight slices, then if you order four slices, you ordered half of the pie. Well not according to the chip world. If you ordered a half pie, well you would be getting a whole pie!

In simpler terms, if the circle is divided in half it should have two *equal* parts, if the circle is divided quarters then there are four *equal* parts. On only two rare circumstances is the casino chip divided into eight *equal* parts and this should be classified as one eighth pie.

When one uses the term 'insert' this signifies an inclusion of a design, be it a square, rectangle, semi-circular, triangular or other shape in the rim portion of a casino chip. The inserts *length* along the edge of a chip determines the dimension of these inserts. A 'pie-type' chip has the 'insert' extending towards the center of the circle and not just embedded into the 'rim' portion of the chip.

Howard and Kregg Herz in their book 'A Collector's Guide to Nevada Gaming Checks and Chips' refers to a 'PIE' chip having two base colors as seen in the Tropicana and El Cortez chips shown below. For practical and innovative purposes, I would like to propose that since these are divided in two equal halves, that these types of chips with these inserts be reclassified as a 'HALF PIE' chip.



**Half Pie Paul-son**  
(Old nomenclature 'PIE')  
chip from the Tropicana  
Casino in Las Vegas, NV



**Half Pie Christy & Jones**  
(Old nomenclature 'PIE')  
chip from the El Cortez Casino  
in Las Vegas, NV



**"2x1" Paul-son Chip**

This chip was manufactured for the Golden Nugget Casino in Atlantic City. This chip has two base colors yet it is not considered as a 'pie - type' chip. This chip should not be confused with a QUARTER PIE insert. It has a one-inch insert, which does not extend past the inner part of the outer rim. The proper insert nomenclature for this chip is '2x1'.



**Quarter Pie T. R. King**  
Small Crown  
(Old nomenclature 'Half Pie')



**Quarter Pie T. R. King**  
Small Crown  
(Old nomenclature 'Half Pie')

The above two chips have four equally divided sections with two alternating colors. The T.R. King and Company manufactured both of them. The left hand chips has a white center inlay, while the right hand chip has a gold hot stamp without a center inlay.



**Quarter Pie Sample Chip**  
T.R. King & Co  
(Old nomenclature 'Half Pie')



**Overland Hotel, Reno**  
\$100 Chip  
(Old nomenclature 'Half Pie')

There are three colors in these unusual chips. Since this is a Black & White photo, the sample T.R. King chip has two side colors in white while the top color is red and the bottom is dark blue! This sample chip has identical colors to the

Overland Hotel Reno \$100.00 chip but with a slight 45 degree rotation to the left.



**Quarter Pie**  
Small Crown  
Lucky Casino Chip



**Quarter Pie**  
Small Crown  
El Ranch Vegas Chip

The above two examples have QUARTER PIE inserts. The Rare Lucky Casino brown and white chip shown has an irregular quarter brown insert due to a manufacturing flaw.



**Quarter Pie Speed Dice Chip**  
The alternating colors are light tan and maroon.  
(Old nomenclature 'Half Pie')



This QUARTER PIE \$500.00 chip from the Nevada Club in Reno, Nevada is the only chip from Nevada that was the first numbered chip. It can be considered the first numbered, Limited Edition chip. The faint impression is the number 45 out of 100 chips produced!

This chip exhibits rarity as well as the unusual 'sawtooth' center inlay. The alternating colors are red and purple.



**Half Pie Christy & Jones**  
from Curacao, N.A.



**Half Pie Speed Dice**  
from St. Maarten, N.A.

The above two chips from the Dutch Caribbean represent the Casino Royale of Curacao on the left side, while the Kalliste Casino's chip from St. Maarten is depicted on the right side. Both of these chips are rare. The Kalliste's casino chip, however, the denomination of US \$100,000.00 is

the highest known value for any Caribbean chip!



**Half Pie Christy & Jones**  
Dorado Del Mar  
from Puerto Rico



**Half Pie Christy & Jones**  
from Las Vegas

The above two chips are classified as Half Pie chips and have a distinctive integral 'dove tail' which acts as an interlocking mechanism.

There are, to the best of my knowledge, only two chips with eight equal divisions with alternating colors. It was first noticed on the Nevada Club's \$20.00 chip from Reno, Nevada and Las Vegas' Nevada Club chip. The manufacturer common to both chips is the T.R. King Company with the small crown mold. The colors are alternating yellow, black, white and purple in the Reno chip and alternating white, blue, white and purple in the Las Vegas chip.



The above two chips have eight equal divisions and thus are classified as EIGHTH PIE chips.

It is hoped that this brief article may shed a simplified modality of communication from one collector to another. ♦

# ATLANTA

## 2001 A.N.A. Convention

by **Archie Black**

Once again, I invite those of you who like to travel to large conventions around the country to put Atlanta on your itinerary for this August. This annual grand-daddy of all numismatic conventions (casino chip and gaming token collecting certainly falls into this definition) the American Numismatic Association, will be conducting it's 110th

Anniversary Convention on August 9-13, 2001 at the, Cobb Galleria Center, Two Galleria Parkway, Atlanta, Georgia.

If Vegas happens to be too far to travel for some of you southern and east coasters, Atlanta provides another opportunity to meet with some old and new chip & token collectors and

dealers who will be in attendance. An informal CC&GTCC meeting will be held on Saturday morning, August 11th. You need not be an A.N.A. member to attend this national convention.... And get this; admission is free. Bring the kids! ♦



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by Steve Piccolo

# KILLER CHIPS

## From the Las Vegas Strip

In this era of “specialization”, I’ve tried to put together what I think is a “Top Ten” list of must have chips from the Las Vegas Strip which happens to be one of my specialty areas to collect from. What I tried to do here was include chips that collectors have a chance to obtain for their collections if they are so inclined to follow my specialty area of the “Strip”. There are quite a few that would be on the list if they were readily available for purchase but while they may be known, they are practically impossible to obtain and only become available when a long time collector feels it’s time to sell which is once or twice every few years.

The list was compiled not by price (although most on the list are expensive) but by what I felt were historic and, most important, were simply GREAT looking chips! Some may agree, some will disagree but here’s the list anyway. See how many YOU can check off!

### 1 Flamingo “Bugsy Siegel” First Issue chips

Far and away the #1 Strip Chip to have in your collection! The aura of the Mob and “Benny” make this chip a must have. It’s not cheap, even in drilled condition expect to pay over \$1000 for one of these puppies but worth every cent!



### 2 Desert Inn “Wilbur Clark” Portrait chips

Another “classic” due to the popularity of the “owner” Wilbur Clark. You can get one of these chips with Wilbur on it from Havana, Cuba for under \$100 but expect to pay \$500+ for a Vegas example.



### 3 Dunes “Standing Sultan” chips

Great inlay of the Dunes sultan. Forget about the first two issue \$5’s and any of the \$25’s as they are impossible to get and even if you could expect to pay thousands for any example. You can however get the third issue \$5 for well under \$1000 and the \$1 for less than \$200. If all else fails, a hoard of roulettes with the same great logo were recently discovered and can be had for around \$50!





#### 4 Sands “H.N.O.” series chips

Out of all the Sands chips, why do I pick this one? Simple, Howard Hughes is credited with taking Las Vegas out of the “Mob Era” and starting the Corporate Era in casino ownership. While there are many Hughes ownership chips documented, this series of chips is the only one to have a Hughes ‘stamp’ on them as H.N.O. stands for Hughes Nevada Operations.

#### 5 El Rancho Vegas

No Strip collection can be without at least one chip from the casino credited with being the first strip ‘resort’. Opened in 1941 and burned to the ground in 1960, many of the chips from most series are readily available to add to your collection at a reasonable price. There is also some mystery attached to the ERV story...how the fire started and why the resort was never re-built are two of the most compelling.



#### 6 Caesars Palace “Caesar on Couch” chips

The first real ‘class’ joint and perennial “high-roller” establishment built on the Strip. A classic logo just adds to the beauty of these chips.



#### 7 Aladdin “Milton Prell” chips

Another popular person in the history of Las Vegas to have his name on chips ala Wilbur Clark. Another great inlay!



#### 8 Flamingo “Pre-Hilton” chips

These chips, while very desirable, had to be separated from the Buggy chips as they are a few notches below that particular series of chips from the most famous name on the Strip! Just about any one of these chips command a price of at least \$100.

#### 9 New Frontier “Building” chips

Second on the strip, just behind the ERV opened as the Last Frontier, chips from this casino usually get “no respect” as Rodney Dangerfield would say. These name change chips issued in the late 50’s have one of the best hotel picture inlays ever produced! Best part is you can still

add them to your collection at a reasonable price!



#### 10 Landmark “Tower” chips

While technically NOT on the Strip, many collectors add this casino as well as the International (LV Hilton) to any Strip collection. Highly sought after chips probably because of the Hughes connection and the great inlay on the chip! Not impossible to obtain but expect to pay at least \$400 and that’s for the \$1 chip!!





As I said earlier, there are many other chips and chip series that could have been on the list. Any "first issue" chip from any of the strip casinos would qualify as must have but many are unavailable at any price.

I also failed to include any early chips that were issued under the ownership of Kirk Kirkorian who, in my opinion, had as least as much if not MORE of an influence on the shape and look of the Strip as any other individual is given credit for having done. Bugsy had the Flamingo, Hughes only bought existing casinos and finished building only one and NONE of these individuals are still an influence as Kirkorian's MGM-Mirage still is. He built the International, original MGM and present MGM hotels and owned at one time or another just about every other major strip hotel. In my book he's surely and individual worthy of induction to the Legends Hall of Fame. ♦

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**If you would like your name added to the list because you also feel the same way, please let us know!**

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# Book Review

## Mastering Craps. "Self Learning Manual"

by Tony Badillo

Published 1996 by L.L. Davidson Co., Inc. \$19.95

by David Moore



Craps or dice is one of the oldest games in gambling, having been played in Roman times. Frequently the modern game uses chips available nowhere else in the casino. For example, in Harrah's Reno the only brass core chips still in use are the yellow dollar chips at the craps game. At casinos catering to low-rollers, 25 cent chips are sometimes in use that are only available at the craps game.

Although this book was designed for students hoping to find employment as stickmen or dealers, much of the material may be helpful for those who just want to learn the game, whether for recreation or in pursuit of the craps table's chips. Incidentally,

many of the examples used are for tables at the downtown Las Vegas casinos since most beginners get their first jobs there rather than on the Strip.

The book isn't a quick course in craps. Rather it is a super-detailed look at every bet and every procedure used in the game. Every bet is covered. When a player buys in you learn the dealer doesn't just toss down the chips on a whim. Depending on the number of chips purchased, there is a specific way the chips are to be stacked in front of the player.

The procedure for handling tokens is very exact. Although the player can give a token in the form of a bet, the stickman isn't allowed to let the bet ride. Bets must be placed in the shirt pocket and nothing else is allowed in the pocket of the shirt.

If any readers had considered attempting to "harvest" dice from a craps table, this book will definitely dissuade you. The staff of the table keep a very close eye on the dice at all times to make sure a player doesn't switch the dice. Getting caught pocketing a die in a pocket or purse could be a serious matter.

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"the book isn't a quick course in craps. Rather it is a super-detailed look at every bet and every procedure used in the game"

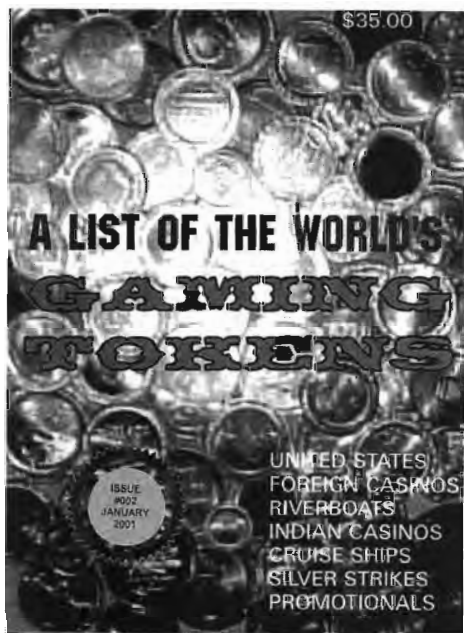
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In short, I recommend this book for readers wanting to become experts at the intricacies of the craps table or for those who enjoy seeing a view of the dice table from the other side. ♦

# Book Review

## A List of the World's Gaming Tokens

by Earl Donley



This book is a comprehensive listing of the gaming tokens that Earl has recorded in his computer files after years of collecting. With the last listing of gaming tokens that we can recall issued in the early 1990,s, this monumental effort is badly needed by the hobby. The format of the book is a computer listing. All of the basic information is provided in an easy to follow format that includes notes on varieties. The list is alphabetical and intermingles Nevada with all of the other jurisdictions in the world - thus making the list very handy to locate a token irrespective of the state or country in which it was issued. The listing is a great attempt to bring collectors a wealth of information that the hobby needs.

Earl's request in the introduction for assistance from the hobby for corrections and additions is well taken and will probably serve the author well as he contemplates publishing the list quarterly. Although the book does not contain photographs, it presents sufficient information to differentiate most varieties. The listing includes major varieties which might confuse beginning collectors, but for those who love detail, these entries are a bonus.

If you are a serious collector of tokens, Earls book will help you. Silver Strikes are listed in a separate section - something that unclutters the token listing and gives strikers their own territory. One of the best technical features of the book is the plastic coil binding that allows the book to lay open to any page.

Earl allows collectors to trade for copies of the book with tokens - provided that Earl needs them for his collection. This is a novel idea and will certainly help defray the cost of the book for some. The book does not contain prices, a small flaw that will probably irritate some collectors, but as Earl points out - pricing all of the tokens in the world in a constantly changing market is next to impossible. We give Earl's effort lots of thumbs up and hope that he will continue the effort. ♦

by Howard W. Herz

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“If you are a serious collector of tokens, Earls book will help you”

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# Obituaries

**For Richard Allen Vierra (Dick)**  
May 1, 1926 to February 3, 2001



Dick was a busy man all of his life. Among other things, he had been a Husband, Father, Cook, Ships Cook 3rd Class, Pipe Fitter, Builder, Hunter, Fisherman, Miner, Gold Panner, Rock Hound, Frankie Laine Fan, Coin Collector, Friend and self proclaimed...

## **Token Collector Extraordinary**

In the early 80's Dick had amassed what he thought was a complete collection of \$1.00 tokens from Nevada. He had gone to every casino in Nevada and got a \$1.00 token. He wrote to Janice O'Neal to tell her he had a \$1.00 token from every casino in Nevada and his collection was complete. Dick said he had a few extras and he wondered if anyone would need them for their collections.

Janice wrote back and asked Dick what he considered a complete collection. She went on to explain that slot machines were everywhere in Nevada from grocery stores to gas stations and all were suppose to have their own tokens. She also told him he would never have them all.

Well, that was a challenge to Dick. He decided that he would prove her wrong and that he would have a complete collection. He came pretty darn close. He left a collection of tokens that takes the breath away from any token collector. He studied each token in his collection with a magnifying glass and knew more about tokens and their origins than most. He was a great source of information and was collaborating with Earl on the token book.

Dick Vierra was a work in progress. He was always educating himself. Whatever he was interested in he wanted to know all about the subject. About two years ago he bought a computer and discovered the wonderful world of cyberspace. He was so excited to find a listing of the casinos on the Internet as well as other great information related to his hobbies. He also met new friends and was able to keep in touch with old friends.

As a fellow token collector, Earl and I invited Dick to stay at our house when he came to Las Vegas. Earl and Dick would stay up for hours discussing tokens. They would examine and compare what seem to be a zillion tokens and have such a good time doing it. He first stayed with us about 8 years ago. His last visit was last July when he came for the convention. He truly was a Token Collector Extraordinary.

Dick was laid to rest on February 9th in Paonia, Colorado. He left behind his children, Karen, Sharon, Micki, Marsha, Richard (Rick), many grandchildren, great grandchildren, and many friends. His is missed by all that knew him. Good-bye Dick.

Carolyn Donley



## For Cynthia Joan Malatinsky

Services for Cynthia Joan Malatinsky, 49 years of age, of Queens New York were held on December 28, 2000 at the Tolstoy Fountation, Russian Orthodox Church, In Valley Cottage, New York. Ms. Malatinsky passed away near her home in Queens, New York on Monday December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2000.

Cynthia was born and raised in Manhattan, New York, and moved to Queens, New York in 1979. Cynthia worked as an artist designing custom made rugs, She had also worked in the television industry as a technician. When Cynthia was younger she worked at a famous bar "Jilly's" which was Frank Sinatra's hangout in New York. She had met Mr. Sinatra many times. Cynthia was my older sister who was a free spirit, and kind hearted soul, who had a great sense of humor. Cynthia accompanied me on my trips to Nevada, where we drove to just about every casino in the state, large and small. Cynthia collected chips, silver strikes and slot cards from Atlantic City, N.J. and Nevada. We bith enjoyed going to shows in the casinos, and to the buffets in Nevada, and Atlantic City, N.J. With Harrahs in Atlantic City, Lake Tahoe and Reno being our favorite buffets.

Cynthia and I also visited casinos in Colorado, Montana, Minnesota, Kansas, Connecticut, Washington and Riverboats in Missouri, and Indiana, but our most frequent visits were to Atlantic City, N.J., casinos. Cynthia would also accompany me on trips to auctions in Kansas, and upstate New York, to pursue my other collecting interest in antique, porcelain advertising signs.

Cynthia and I had also spent a lot of time together with our father Joseph, and other sister Nadine, on summer vacations in Vermont together.

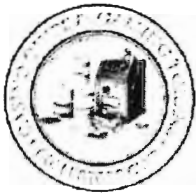
My earliest memory of my sister Cynthia, is when she used to read books to me when I was a small child.

She was always nice to me as we grew up together, and continued her kindness to me till the day she died.

Surviving are an older sister, Nadine, A nephew Andrew, and a younger brother Peter.



Rest in peace my dear sister Cynthia, till we meet again in heaven.  
Your brother Peter



**Dennis M. Finn**  
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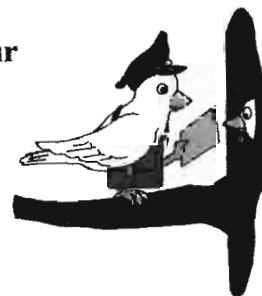
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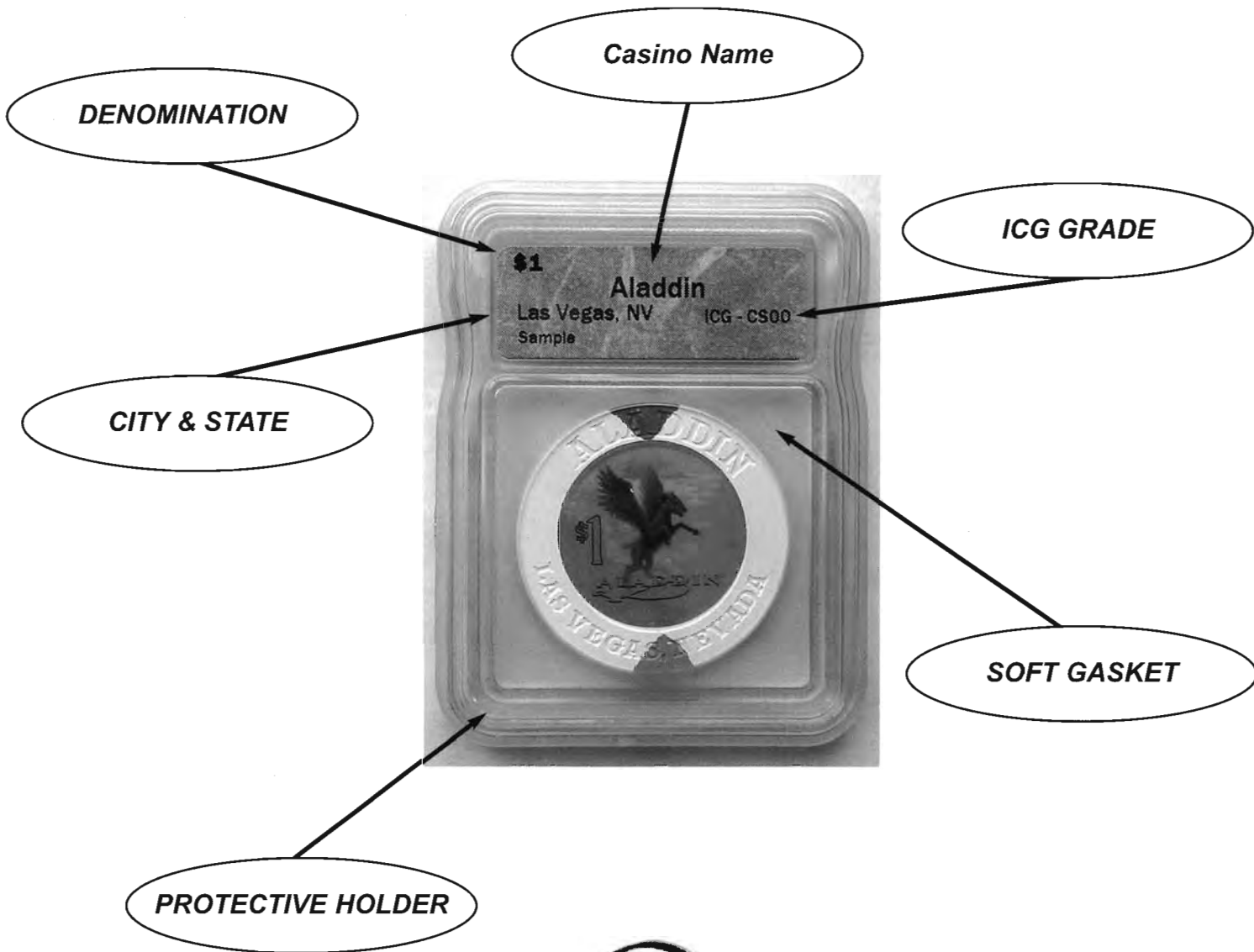


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