

ANTIQUE COLLECTIBLES

by Dale Seymour & Ken Craig

New finds of antique gambling chips seem to be "coming out of the woodwork" - - - or should that be "coming out of the internet". Recent chip finds are pushing collectors to get with it on their computers. Remember that this column just addresses non-casino chips that were made before 1940.

Jim Myers, from Worthington, Ohio, submitted four advertising chips for coding: 1) a hot-stamped "Dennison" on an H-mold clay chip, 2) a hot-stamped "Hollytex Carpet Mills" on a paper chip, 3) a hot-stamped "Nash Car Is a Sure Bet" on a paper chip, and 4) a Harley-Davidson paste on label on a rubber chip. It is our opinion that only the Harley-Davidson chip qualifies as a pre-1940 chip. That chip and its new code are shown below. By the way, don't generalize that all paper chips are worthless to collectors. Some paper chips were made nearly 100 years ago and some advertising paper chips are quite rare.

new code



PY-GI Harley-Davidson
Paste On Rubber/ v:e

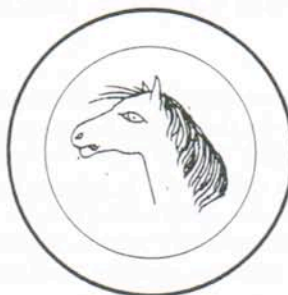
Al Zaika from Bellmawr, NJ informs us that the Giant/Big Chief Bonus chip (coded PZ-BG on p. 341 of the revised edition of *Antique Gambling Chips*) is not a gambling chip. Giant/Big Chief was a supermarket chain based in Pennsylvania. The chips were issued as a bonus when you purchased a set amount of groceries. The chips were redeemable as payment for future food purchases. The Thrifti chip (PZ-BC) on the same page was used the same way. Thanks Al, we shall "de frock" those chips.



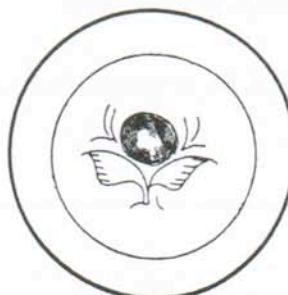
Chips not made for playing poker.

Jim Myers found a nice new chip depicting a horse head. This chip is very similar in artistic style to a few chips we believe were some of the first clay chips ever made. The chips were evidently hand-made because each chip is slightly different in some way. Other engraved chips of this style and era (1880-1890) are PL-GB Rose and PL-ME Maple Leaf.

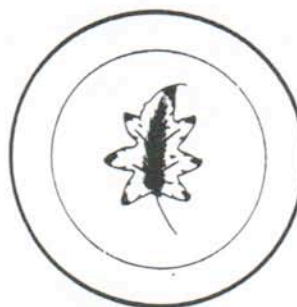
new code



PA-KY Horse Head
Engraved/ v:g



PL-GB Rose
Engraved/ v:f



PL-ME Maple Leaf
Engraved/ v:e

Ralph Strandwold of Oceanside, CA submitted a series of previously unknown engraved chips. These prototype (?) chips contain no contrasting color so it is very difficult to photograph or photocopy as a clearly discernible design. Collectors have two choices on reproducing the graphics of chips of this type on paper. You can make a pencil rubbing

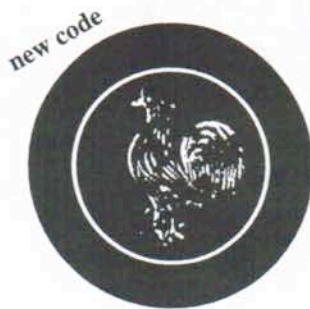
on paper or rub white chalk across the design and photocopy the chip. Ralph's engraved chip submissions are shown below:



PA-CL Dog Head
Engraved/ v:g



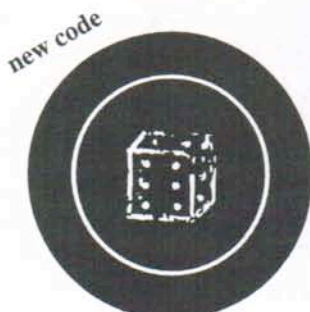
PB-CF Eagle & Heart
Engraved/ v:g



PB-RQ Rooster
Engraved/ v:g



PM-BR Anchor
Engraved/ v:g



PM-NN Die
Engraved/ v:g



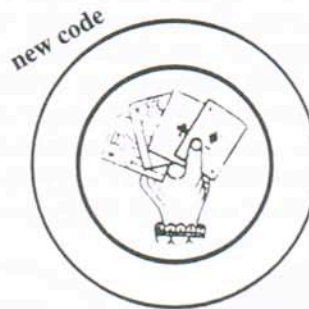
PM-MM Mason Symbol
Engraved/ v:g



PS-FG Equestrian
Engraved/ v:g

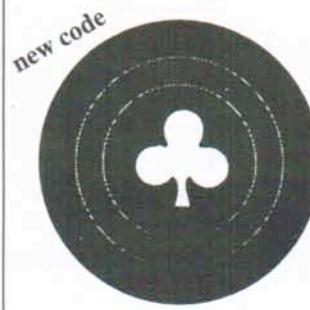


PA-LJ Horse Head
Engraved/ v:g



PC-KT Aces & Kings
Engraved/ v:g

Three new inlaid finds that are not simply variations and therefore need their own code are shown below:



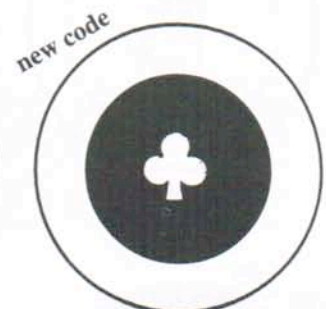
PW-CN Monarch Club
Inlaid-Embossed/ v:f



PW-WX Greek Key
Inlaid/ v:f



PW-RD Chain Star
Inlaid-Engraved/ v:f



PW-RD Club
Inlaid-Engraved/ v:f

Inlaid chips were commonly made in up to twelve colors with dark inlaid designs on a white center or with white inlaid designs on an entire dark chip. Rarely do you find an inlaid chip with a white design on a colored inlaid center. One such chip, a new code, is shown above.

ANTIQUE COLLECTIBLES (Continued)

Phil Flannagan of Lebanon, Ohio found a very unusual poker chip set recently. The chips were clay with a circular mother-of-pearl inlay. An odd combination to say the least. Sort of like those VW's they made with the Rolls Royce grill. We classify this in the category of "Unusual" chips --- so no new code for them. In one of these articles someday we will devote the entire article to "unusuals". Speaking of unusuals, what is the "My Break" clay chip? Maybe for shooting pool.

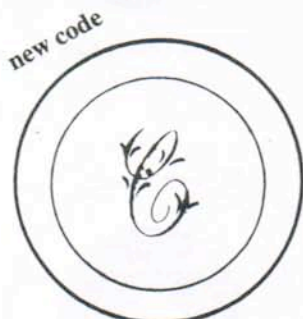


Clay chip with an inlaid mother-of-pearl center



PM-MB My Break
Engraved / v:h

Some recent ivory finds and their codes are shown below. The chip engraved with the name MATHER came out of Texas. It is an unusual engraving style and is engraved on only one side of the chip. The Clifton ivory chip is from England and was most likely a hat check chip not a gambling chip.



IM-CG
C / v:l



IM-IGb
R / v:l



IM-IC
Mather / v:m



Hat Check Chip?

And now for the "Boomers"! The larger the ivory chip and the larger the denomination the more valuable the chip. The three chips below, found by John Benedict from Florida, are large and very special. The twenty-fives are 42 and 45 millimeters in diameter. The fifty measures a whopping 47 millimeters. The values given are intended to be consistent with the codes in the revised edition of Antique Gambling Chips. Due to appreciation and increased interest in ivory chip collecting, the value of these chips and others on this page are considerably higher.



IP-LR
U/U/U/U / v:q



IP-OT
v:q



IP-TF
v:t