

Dice of the Caribbean

part 2

By Ralph P. Pollack #LM 749-13

The casino dice of the Caribbean has of today not been written about. The great hobby of dice collecting has been a passion of mine due to the history of the casinos and the logos that are so beautifully designed.



There are certain dice that do not have the names of the casinos on them and just the Island or location name on them. You might ask why? Well, if you were the first and only casino on an Island, then there is only one casino. The following Islands and areas have the name of the Island or country:

1. ARUBA

In 1959 the only casino for 9 years was the Aruba Caribbean Casino in the Aruba Caribbean Hotel. I suspect that the dice with the word "Aruba" on them were the first issue. The 'Bulls Eye' dots are indicative of early issue in the Caribbean.



2. CURACAO

In 1957, the Curacao International Hotel & Casino opened. Again, since it was the first and only casino for a few years, the dice had only the word "Curacao" on it. The dice shown have concave dots in them and are attributed to this casino.



3. PARAMIRABO

Paramirabo is the Capital city of the Republic of Suriname and is located on the Atlantic Ocean / Caribbean Sea just north of Brazil and between French Guiana and British Guyana. The Paramaribo dice are attributed to the Torarica Casino in the city of Paramaribo and was the first and only casino to open in 1962.



DICE DIES

The dice dies and their corresponding dice are of historical importance due to their rarity and lack of information and documentation. However with the aid of certain casino chip order cards with corresponding art logos, dates can be surmised and associated with the dice dies and thus their corresponding dice.

CUBA

WILBUR CLARK'S CASINO



According to Moruzzi, in Wilbur Clark's Casino, Wilbur Clark was the 'host' while Jake Lansky was the casino manager. Moruzzi further states that this casino was in the Hotel Nacional de Cuba around 1956. Therefore, these dice can be attributed to that era. The HCE mold on the Wilbur Clark's chip is also shown.



JOCKEY CLUB

The Jockey Club was, according to Moruzzi, an exclusive club in Oriental Park Racetrack in suburban Mariano. The approximate dates range from the early 1950's to the mid 1950's. The Jockey Club's chips are of the Crest & Seal variety.



PUERTO RICO

CARIB-INN

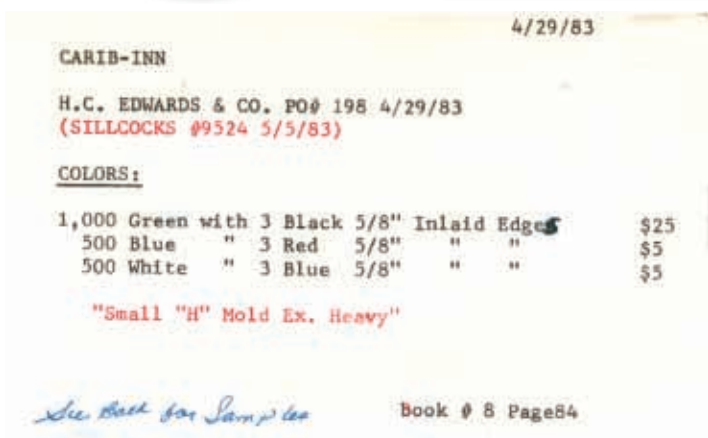
The Carib-Inn Casino of Puerto Rico was opened around 1983 with the chips from the H.C. Edwards & Company. The dice die from Lowell's Catalog was entered as number 040 and is depicted below. The original order card from the Burt Co. records is also shown with the order dates and quantities. Thus we have an approximate date of the dice that were used, which would correlate with 1983.



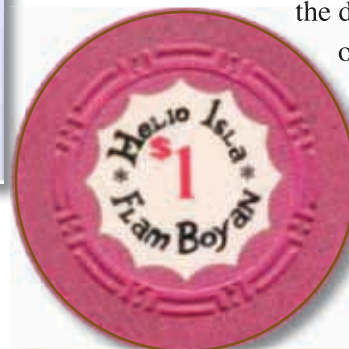
In the case of the Carib-Inn, an even more accurate way to identify the dice is from the actual manufacturer or tool and die maker, namely, AlCon. On this die not only is the name 'AlCon' and 'N.Y.C. 10012' stamped but also the date '2 82'. After examining all of the dice I have seen, only two of them are dated!



HELIO ISLA FLAMBOYAN

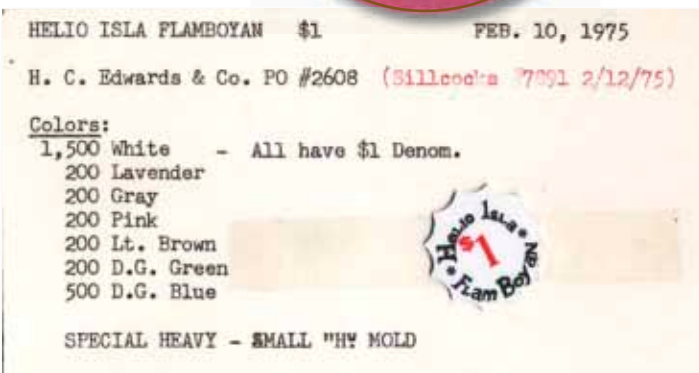
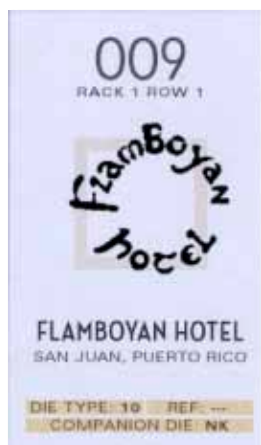


This great die and corresponding chip has a certain flair about it. The graphics and scalloped center inlay of the corresponding chip is great. The Burt Co. records date the chip as February 10, 1975 and assume that the dice die is of the same vintage.



FLAMBOYAN HOTEL

According to the Burt Co. records the casino chips were ordered on December 2, 1970. It is safe to assume that the dice dies were also of this era. Lowell's Catalog number can be seen on his 'positive' strike number '009'.



HOTEL LA CONCHA

The La Concha Hotel & Casino opened in San Juan around 1968 according to the Burt Co. records. Lowell's Catalog number is 016. The dice dies are shown and of all the dies that I have seen, this is the only one that had a screw retained top to the shank.



LA CONCHA OCT. 28, 1968
B.C.Wills & Co. R 12062 (Sillcocks #6339 10/30/68)

Colors:
6000 Red - 3 White 1/2" Inl. Edges, \$5
1500 Green - 3 White " " " \$25
1000 Green - 3 Black " " " \$25
1000 Green - 3 Red " " " \$25

GEM MOLD #100 (Old Mold) - Spec. Heavy



ST. MAARTEN

The St. Maarten Isle Hotel and Casino opened in 1968 and the dice and dice die can be attributed to that date. To further ascertain the date of the die, the Burt Co. records show the original order card for the Langworthy & Co. with the Horse Head Right mold on March 5, 1968. By the way, this casino is the oldest running casino in the same location on the Island of St. Maarten and is still in operation as the Great Bay Casino.



I wish to thank Pete Lowell for his permission to use some of his logos and Jim Blanchard for the use of his Burt Co. records.

Bibliography

1. Lowell, Pete, "Black Clay Dice Die Catalog" self published July, 2005
2. Moruzzi, Peter, "Havana Before Castro" Publisher Gibbs Smith, Layton, Utah, 2008

"I guess everybody has a 'bucket list' of things they want to do sometime. Playing in the World Series of Poker was the top of my list."



Club member Don Logerwell
and his experience at the
2009 Seniors No Limit Hold'em
World Championship.