

DATING CHIP MOLDS

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BEFORE I START THIS ARTICLE, I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT I KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CHIP (NO DENOMINATION) AND A CHECK (HAS A DENOMINATION). HOWEVER, I PREFER TO CALL THEM ALL CHIPS. A CHECK IS WHAT YOU WRITE WHEN YOU BUY A BUNCH OF CHIPS.

WE CAN EASILY DATE MOST CURRENT CHIPS THAT ARE PRESENTLY USED ON CASINO TABLES. THERE IS NO MYSTERY THAT CHIPCO INTERNATIONAL MADE THEIR FIRST SAMPLES AND PRODUCED CHIPS FOR EL SAN JUAN IN PUERTO RICO IN 1987. PAUL-SON STARTED MAKING THEIR HAT & CANE, WIDE AND FULL GRAPHICS IN 1993, FOLLOWED SHORTLY BY BUD JONES FULL GRAPHICS.

OTHER CHIPS STILL BEING MANUFACTURED ARE BUD JONES PLASTIC INJECTION MOLDS WITH COIN OR PAPER INLAYS, HOUSE MOLDS AND VARIOUS HOT-STAMPED COMBINATIONS OF DICE AND CARD SUITS. PAUL-SON IS PRESENTLY MAKING HOT-STAMPS AND PAPER INLAYS WITH HAT & CANE VARIATIONS. T. R. KING STILL TURNS OUT THEIR SMALL CROWN MOLDS FOR CLUBS AND CASINOS IN STATES OTHER THAN NEVADA. RELIABLE IS GOING STRONG MAKING PLASTIC COATED, BRASS CORE CHIPS. A NEW COMPANY, WICO, WAS FORMED IN 1995 BY A MERGER OF LANGWORTHY AND SUMMIT CORP. AND IS MAKING INJECTION MOLD INLAY CHIPS.

BUT, WHAT ABOUT THE MOLD DESIGNS THAT ARE NOT BEING MADE TODAY, THE OBSOLETES. HOW OLD IS THAT ARROW-DICE CHIP THAT YOU ARE DROOLING OVER? WHAT ABOUT LARGE CROWNS? DIAMONDS? HUBS? THESE MOLD DESIGNS HAVE BEEN OBSOLETE FOR MANY YEARS BUT DO WE KNOW WHEN THEY WERE USED IN THE CASINOS?

I HAVE RECEIVED SOME INFORMATION ON MOLD DATING FROM COLLECTORS, DEALERS AND MANUFACTURERS. THEY HAVE BEEN VERY HELPFUL BUT MOST OF THE DATES THAT I AM PRESENTING CAME FROM GOOD OL' DETECTIVE WORK. COLOMBO WOULD HAVE BEEN PROUD. DUE TO SOME GOOD CHIP BOOKS ON THE MARKET, I HAVE COMPARED THE OPENING AND CLOSING DATES TO THE ACTUAL CHIPS THAT WERE USED DURING THOSE PERIODS. SOME JOINTS WERE ONLY OPEN FOR A FEW YEARS AND USED A SINGLE MOLD DESIGN. WE CAN EASILY DEDUCE THAT THE MOLD WAS BEING MADE DURING THOSE YEARS, BUT HOW LONG BEFORE THE PLACE OPENED AND HOW LONG AFTER THEY CLOSED?

I HAVE SPENT MANY HOURS ON THE COMPUTER (AS HAVE MY PARTNERS, ERNIE WHEELDEN AND MICHAEL KNAPP) ENTERING THOUSANDS OF NEVADA CHIPS INTO "THE CHIP RACK" FILE (CURRENTLY WORKING ON THE 4TH EDITION) AND "THE GAMING TABLE", 2ND EDITION. I STARTED MAKING NOTES, KEEPING A LIST OF MOLD DESIGNS AND ADDING DATES TO EACH DESIGN AS I WENT THROUGH THE FILE.

I CAME UP WITH THE FOLLOWING LIST. IT IS INCOMPLETE AS SOME MOLD DESIGNS ARE MISSING. I HAVE INCLUDED THE MORE COMMON ONES. YOU, THE COLLECTOR, CAN HELP TO IMPROVE THIS LIST. YOUR ASSISTANCE IS WELCOME. AND WE DON'T EVEN NEED A WRINKLED RAINCOAT OR A BEAT-UP 1973 RENAULT.

- 3 DOTS & DASH-----1929-1930's
- ARROW DICE-----1950-1964
- B.C. WILLS
 - SM-KEY-----1937-1965
 - LG-KEY-----1962-1980's
 - DIE-CUT METAL INLAY-----1940-1949

BUD JONES

COIN INLAY-----	1971-PRESENT
DICE & CARDS-----	1970'S-1980's
HOUSE MOLD-----	1965-PRESENT
NEVADA DICE-----	1965-1980's
OVERSIZE BACCARAT-----	1980-PRESENT
FULL GRAPHIC-----	1993-PRESENT
CHIPCO-----	1987-PRESENT
CHIPCO IN NEVADA-----	1990-PRESENT
CHRISTY & JONES -----	1955-1970
DIAMOND (JACK TODD KILLED 1950)-----	1933-1950
DIAMOND SQUARE-----	1941-1960's
DOTS-----	1930-1946
EDGE INSERTS-----	1944-PRESENT
H.C. EDWARDS-----	1950-1968
HORSEHEAD LEFT-----	1950's-1965
HORSEHEAD RIGHT-----	1965-1995
HORSESHOE-----	1952-PRESENT
HUB (MASON)-----	1928-1956
LARGE SQUARES (JONES CO., N. O., LA.)---	1920's-1940's
MACHINED (SMALL CIRCLES)-----	1930's-1940's
MONARCH-----	1929-1930's
PAUL-SON	
HAT & CANE-----	1964-PRESENT
METAL INLAY-----	1973-1977
FULL & WIDE GRAPHICS-----	1993-PRESENT
PMSC (BRASS CORE)-----	1978-PRESENT
RECTANGLE-----	1950-1960
RECTANGLE HEART-----	1950's
S's-----	1930's-1940's
SQUARE IN CIRCLE-----	1948-1970's
SQUARE SQUARE RECTANGLE-----	1930's-1940's
SUMMIT CORP.-----	1994-1995
T.R. KING	
LG-CROWN (PAPER CHIPS)-----	1929
LG-CROWN (CLAY CHIPS)-----	1938-1967
SM-CROWN-----	1950-PRESENT
SM-CROWN IN NEVADA-----	1950-1978
T's-----	1930's-1951
TK-----	1940's-1970's?
WAVE-----	1930's-1940's
WICO (LANGWORTHY & SUMMIT MERGER)-----	1995-PRESENT
ZIGZAG-----	1944-1953