





Following Footprints in the Green Felt Jungle


by Howard W. Herz (Member Ch-85)

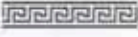
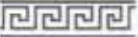
Tracking chips and checks through the green felt jungle is not the easiest of tasks. It is made easier by that fact that several substantial groups of gaming check records are still in existence today. By taking some of the information in our archives we can determine certain periods of time when checks were made, establishing the earliest known dates that a particular distributor's mold appeared. Some interesting molds and their first appearance dates are noted below.



 (HUB) Hub Mold: H.E. Mason & Company appears to be the first gaming manufacturer / distributor to use a distinctive mold. Their first color samples were produced by the U.S. Playing Card Co. in September 1928. It can be presumed that their register of gaming checks begins on or around this date.


 (3DOTS) Joe Treball Co. was the second distributor to offer a registered mold design in May, 1929.


 (LCROWN) T.R. King - Kansas City, Mo. was the third company to use a specific mold starting in November 27, 1929. They originally ordered black, yellow, green, lavender, white, brown, purple, red, blue blank chips in a quantity of 1,000 each. The large crown mold of T.R. King continued in use until the early 1960's when it was replaced by the small crown (SCROWN)  mold. Both large and small crown molds were apparently used for a short period of time. King discontinued sales in Nevada after 1979 although a few examples are known to have been made for Nevada clubs as late as 1982.

 (SDIAMD) Ringed Diamond was first made for Jack Todd, Kansas City, Mo. on February 9, 1933. Nine colors were ordered: red lt. green, orange, white, brown, black, lavender, blue and yellow. Todd's diamond mold were purchased by Christy & Jones shortly after Todd's death in the early 1950's.

Although B.C. Wills first order for crest & seal checks was made on February 24, 1926, their (SM-KEY)  mold did not appear until October 16, 1934 and continued in use until 1964. In march of 1964 Wills introduced the large key (LG-KEY)  mold.

The Hat & Cane (C&J)  mold started with Christy & Jones in the late 1950's and became the mold of the Paul-son company around 1965. The shiny hat mold was kept by the Burt Company and used for Paul-son until the late 1970's when Paul-son began to manufacture their own checks using (H&C)  a top hat & cane mold that had dull hats.

The (HHL)  mold was briefly used in Nevada around 1965 by Christy & Jones. It was taken over by Pat Sullivan but he was forbidden to do business in Nevada, thus most of the Horse Head left checks are from California.

The (HHR)  mold was used by Langworthy starting in the 1970's. Langworthy introduced the concept of "House" molds and was the first to customize checks in this fashion around the mid-1970's.

The following examples of original record cards from our archives might help some collectors date some of their checks.

MGM Grand - Note the size of the Lion logo and the corresponding dates (before and after the MGM fire). These original cards can help collectors date the MGM issues.

1st LOT on MGM GRAND

1st lot: Sillcocks #7479 5/2/73
 " #7486 5/8/73
 " #7559 8/21/73

PAUL-SON DICE AND CARD CO. ORDER #1147 APR. 4, 1973



MGM GRAND

Langworthy & Co.

Order #2005 Sep. 11/78

(SILLCOCKS #8734 9/8/78 - 1st Lot
 (SILLCOCKS #8775 11/3/78- 2nd Lot

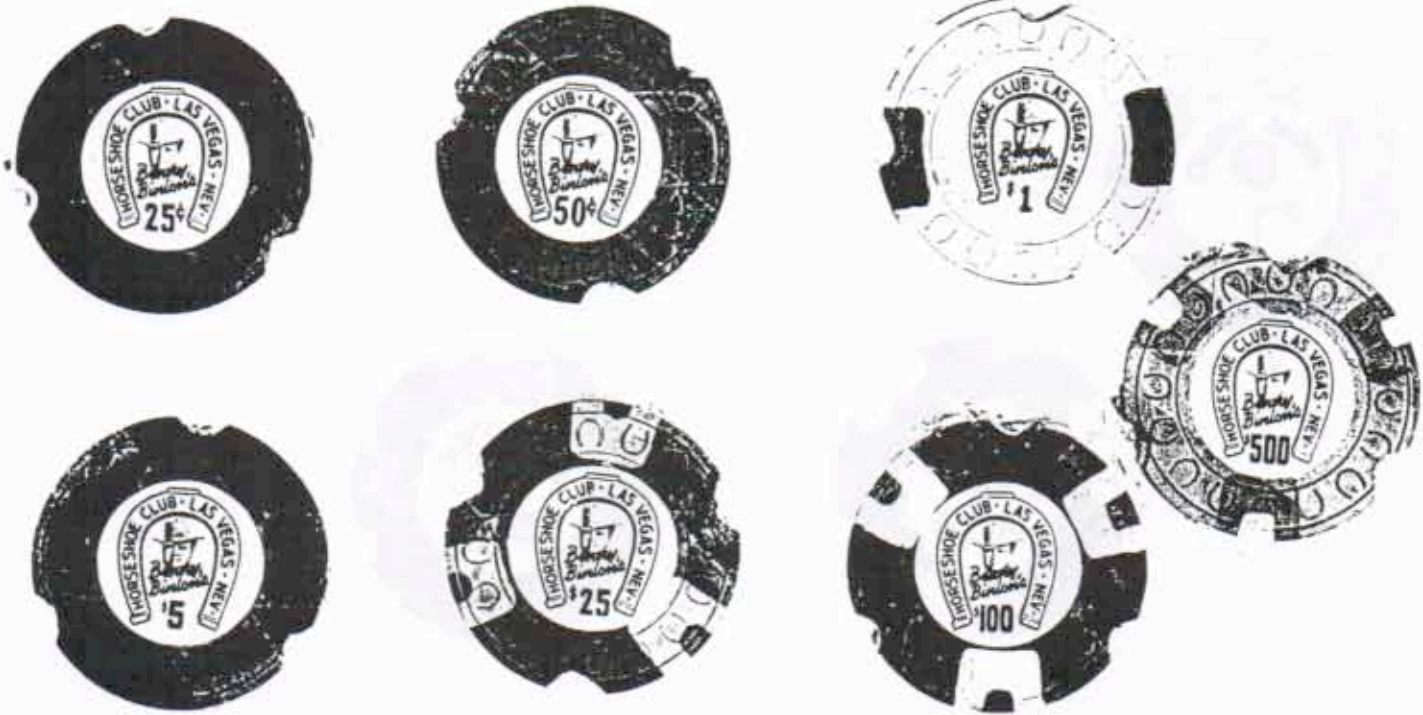
NOTE: Refer Also MGM Grand Hotel Order MR 05451 of Sep. 1/78)

Samples:



BENNY BINION'S HORSESHOE CLUB

SILCOCKS	#8166	4/5/76	25c, 50c, \$500
"	#8187	5/13/76	- \$1
"	#8223	8/2/76	- \$5
"	#8272	10/20/76	- \$25
M & M's	#8237	11/4/76	- \$100



ORDER #2415 JAN. 26/72

ALADDIN HOTEL & CASINO

H. C. Edwards & Co. #2415 1/26/72

SILCOCKS #7140 1/27/72

