

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 Gregg 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 its 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>CC 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!