

Casino Chip And Token News

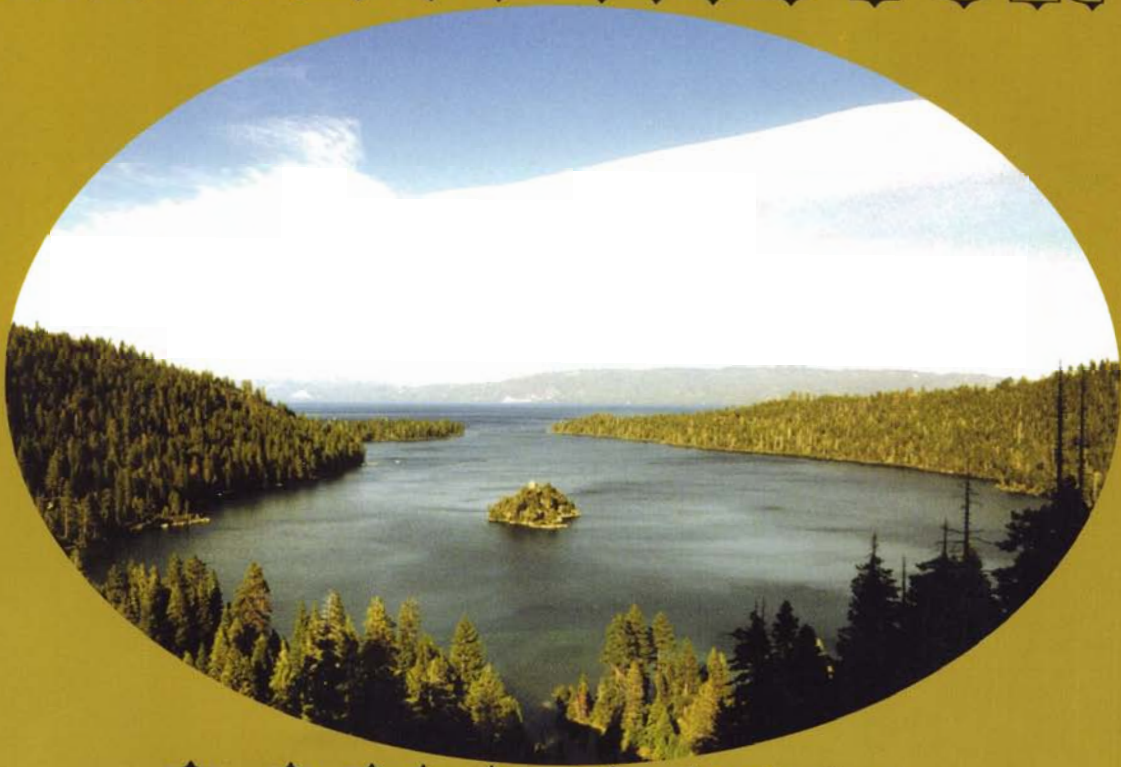
A Quarterly Magazine for Members of
the Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club



Winter Issue
Jan., Feb., Mar., 2001
Volume 14, #1

A Member of the
American Numismatic Association
(C-140538)

GAMING HISTORY



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CASINO CHIP & TOKEN NEWS C.C. & G.T.C.C MAGAZINE

OFFICIAL Quarterly Publication of
The Casino Chips & Gaming Tokens Collector's Club

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Previously unpublished, original articles are encouraged and are welcomed by the Editor. However, no assurance is implied that such material will be used or returned to the author. Proper credit for all materials that are published will be acknowledged. *No articles will be published without a byline*

SCHEDULE OF PUBLICATION DATES

1st Quarter January, February, March
Mailing Date: Early January

2nd Quarter April, May, June
Mailing Date: Early April

3rd Quarter July, August, September
Mailing Date: Early July

4th Quarter October, November, December
Mailing Date: Early October

CLUB OFFICIALS

Got a question or a problem? Listed below are the names and the addresses of the CC>CC officials and volunteer contacts to whom your requests should be mailed.

President

Complaints/Suggestions,
By Laws Changes,
Committee Reports

David Sarles

4680 Greenbriar Rd.
Williamsville, NY 14221
arrowdie@aol.com

Vice President

Chip & Token Update,
New Issues Report

Ken Hallenbeck

711 N. Nevada Ave
Colorado Springs, Co 80903
ken@myfavoritecoinstore.com

Treasurer

Finances,
Bookkeeping

Nate Pincus

P.O. Box 693
Havertown, PA 19083
npincus@home.com

Secretary

Chapter Club Info.

Barry Weintraub

5917 Nagle Ave.
Van Nuys, CA 91401
barrychip@aol.com

Membership Officer

Club Directory,
Address Corrections

James S. Steffner

P.O. Box 368
Wellington, OH 44090
casinojim@prodigy.net

Advertising Manager

"Chip & Token News"

Charles T. Rodgers

P.O. Box 4572
Lakewood, CA 90711
ctcoins@aol.com

Convention Chairman

Dealer Table Contracts,
Exhibitor Applications,
Hotel Reservation Cards

Wayne Thompson

208 Woodspoint Rd.
Lexington, KY 40502
wayne@casinocheques.com

Promotions Chairman

Commemorative club medal,
Club chips, logo patches,
Meeting woods, decals,
Back issues club magazine

Richard Allard

4016 N. Tenaya Way
PMB #123
Las Vegas, NV 89129
vegascasinoart@att.net

Publicity Director

Richard Burgel

282 Macsnap Ave
Las Vegas, NV 89123
rburgel@cs.com

Club Librarian

Robert Pardue

P.O. Box 2014
Laguna Hills, CA 92654
pardue@home.com

CC>CC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Phone Number _____

My collection interests are:

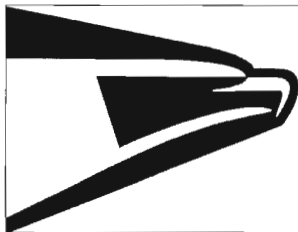
- Chips Tokens
 U.S. Foreign

I would like you to publish my . . .

- Name and address
 Phone
 Do not publish my name and address

I have enclosed my annual dues for:

- One year \$20.00 U.S.
 Associate \$5.00 U.S.
 Foreign \$35.00*
 * postal money order or U.S. funds



First Class Mail

Check here
 for First Class Postage
 Just \$12 more a year

Foreign mailings are at the First Class rate. All other mailings are via 3rd class mail.

Annual dues will be renewable in the same quarter in which the membership application was processed. Check our address labels for your membership expiration dates. Mail your completed application with your check made payable to CC>CC to:

CC>CC Membership Officer
 James Steffner
 P.O. Box 368
 Wellington, OH 44090

Sponsored by: _____

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Our club C.C.&G.T.C.C. is founded under the ANA, maybe you would like to join it too. It is the largest organization of coin collectors in the world.

Regular Student Junior Senior Associate
 Present or former ANA number, if any _____

Mr. Mrs Ms.

Name, please print _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Country _____ Date of Birth _____

ANA bylaws require the publication of each applicant's name and state.

Please check here __ if you DO NOT want your name and address forwarded to the ANA representative in your area. Please check here __ if you would like your name provided to companies with offers we feel may interest you. I herewith make application for membership in the American Numismatic association, subject to the Bylaws of said Association. I also agree to abide by the Code of Ethics adopted by the Association.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Proposer

Casino Chips & Gaming Token Collectors Club

Check Money Order Credit Card Type _____

Credit Card all Numbers _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature of Cardholder (Required) _____

Dues

- Regular (age 23-64) \$29* outside US \$36*
- Student (age 18-22) \$11 Junior (age 17 or younger) \$11
- Senior Citizen (age 65 older) \$25* outside US \$32*
- Associate (child or spouse of regular or life member living at member's address) \$4

*plus \$6 application fee, first year only

Forward completed application to:

ANA
 818 Cascade Ave.
 Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279

ADVERTISING RATES
CASINO CHIPS & GAMING TOKENS
COLLECTORS CLUB, INC.
QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

“Camera Ready” advertising deadline is the 1st of the month prior to the mailing date. These rates are for camera ready display ads only. Need help with your ad? See next the column over. Please allow 3-4 weeks delivery for 3rd class mail.

DISPLAY AD RATES

1/8 Page	(Business Card) Standard size 2" x 3.5"	\$12.00
1/4 Page	(Camera Ready) Width: 3.50" x Height: 4.75"	\$22.50
1/2 Page	(Camera Ready) Width: 7.50" x Height: 4.75"	\$37.50
Full Page	(Camera Ready) Width: 7.50" x Height: 9.50"	\$60.00
Back Cover with Full Color		\$300.00
Inside Covers with Full Color	Width: 7.50" x Height: 10.00"	\$250.00
Inside Facing Pages	Width: 7.50" x Height: 10.00"	\$100.00

Note a business card is a business card not a two inch ad worked up for this space.

CLASSIFIED AD RATES

These rates are for ads per column inch that are up to 3 1/2" in width and \$7.50 per inch in Height (about 6 lines). Additional overrun copy will be billed at the rate of \$1.50 per line for less than full inches, or fraction of an inch.

All ad copy must be accompanied by payment made out to “Casino Chips & Gaming Tokens Club Inc.” or CC>CC. No ad will be run without payment.

Publisher assumes no responsibility for statements made by advertisers and reserves the right to reject any advertisement.

CONTRACT DISCOUNT ADVERTISING RATES

Sign up for a full year of advertising and save up to 25% on some ads. Take a look at the table below and see how much you will save.

Full payment must be sent in with your contract ad request

<i>Ad Size</i>	<i>One Issue</i>	<i>Full Year</i>	<i>You Save</i>	
1"	\$7.50	\$23.50	\$6.50	21%
2"	\$15.00	\$45.00	\$15.00	25%
Business Card	\$12.00	\$36.00	\$12.00	25%
1/4 Page	\$22.50	\$76.50	\$13.50	15%
1/2 Page	\$37.50	\$125.00	\$25.00	16%
Full Page	\$60.00	\$200.00	\$40.00	16%

Just check off the type of ad you would like. You make changes in any of these ads in each quarter of issue. Full payment must be sent in with your contract ad request.

<i>Yes, I Would Like</i>	<i>Ad Size</i>	<i>Requirements</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	1"	\$23.50 with placement of ad
<input type="checkbox"/>	2"	\$45.00 with placement of ad
<input type="checkbox"/>	Business Card	\$36.00 with placement of ad
<input type="checkbox"/>	1/4 Page	\$76.50 with placement of ad
<input type="checkbox"/>	1/2 Page	\$125.00 with placement of ad
<input type="checkbox"/>	Full Page	\$200.00 with placement of ad

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

CC>CC# _____

Need help in working up your ad? Just give us a call at
 562-408-2463 and ask for C.T. Rodgers
 Fax - 562-634-8107
 E-Mail - ctccoins@aol.com

Send full payment payable to “CC>CC”
 with your advertisement to:

Charles T. Rodgers
 Advertising Manager, CC>CC
 P. O. Box 4572 Lakewood CA 90711

**WE NEED YOUR HELP
IN PUBLISHING THIS NEWSLETTER.**

PLEASE NOTE

- All ads must have your membership number and name someplace in the ad.
- Do not send in ads that are folded. May we recommend that you send in your ads by Priority Mail in a flat pack marked "DO NOT BEND", this will only cost you about \$3.00 and we will receive them in about two to three days.
- When you place a one inch or two inch ad for more than one issue, you may make changes in that ad for each issue. Once again try to get the changes to us well before the deadline of each issue.
- Need help with placing an ad, size wording, give me a call at 562-408-2463 and we will work with you for the best results on placing your ads.
- When ordering items from one of our advertiser let them know what issue of the magazine you noticed their ad in.

Send full payment made out to "CC>CC"
with your advertisement to:

Charles T. Rodgers
Advertising Manager CC>CC
P. O. Box 4572, Lakewood, CA 90711

NEXT DEADLINE

2nd Quarter Issue 2001
is March 1st 2001

Publication and Ad Deadline Dates

1 st Quarter: Jan-Feb-Mar	Deadline for Ads: Dec 1 st
2 nd Quarter: Apr-May-Jun	Deadline for Ads: Mar 1 st
3 rd Quarter: Jul-Aug-Sep	Deadline for Ads: Jun 1 st
4 th Quarter: Oct-Nov-Dec	Deadline for Ads: Sep 1 st

Club Shirts



Banded Mesh Shirt

Mesh shirts

\$35 or \$38 (tall sizes)
Available with either banded sleeves,
hemmed sleeves
or hemmed with pocket styles.
s,md, lg, xl, xxl



Pima Cotton Shirt

Pima cotton interloche shirts

\$40 or \$43 (tall sizes)
s, md, lg, xl, xxl



Colors vary by season. Please give 2 color choices when ordering. Popular colors include black, white, grey, and red.

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CC>CC

to:
Belinda Hixon
P.O. Box 1195
Colleyville, TX 76034



LETTER *from the EDITOR*

Let me first begin with a few apologies and thank yous which were absent from the last issue. I want to apologize to Archie Black for not publishing his Atlantic City article which although a bit late, will appear in this issue. There were also a few individual advertisements which were missing and unfortunately, one was the announcement of Jim Steffner's candidacy for President. And while I'm at it, I will apologize to those who I will undoubtedly forget or miss in future issues.

Due to the late insertions of candidate statements, this issue has been pushed back another two weeks. Do not despair if your issue comes a few weeks late. I've been told that the magazines are all mailed at the same time and depending on what area of the country you live in, you may receive your copy within a week but up to three weeks from postmark. Those on the Internet have the luxury of receiving and disseminating much of their information instantly and perhaps in the future, we may move in that direction.

Now for the thank yous. Thank you for all the fantastic comments regarding our first issue. Much of the credit goes to Allan Anderson. He has too much time on his hands to devote to this hobby. I'm not sure if I'm envious, jealous, or just plain lucky. I have had the fortunate pleasure of meeting some absolutely fantastic people in this hobby. Unlike any other hobby I've been involved in, CHIPPERS are truly fine people. A personal thank you to Mel Jung who was the FIRST chipper I ever met and the one to involve me in this insane hobby. Thanks for the guidance and hand-holding. I also want to give my appreciation to the former editor, Gregg Herz. This job is too large for one person to handle and I take my hat off to her for trying like hell and giving her best. Like many of the volunteer positions, I'm beginning to see how much work is involved. It doesn't happen by magic. There are a lot of officers in this club and out there in the chapters trying to make this hobby better for all chip and token collectors. Please show your appreciation by giving a helping hand and making them feel appreciated like so many of you have done for me.

In this issue, we are pleased to spotlight the area of Lake Tahoe, Nevada. Steve McLendon has provided photographs from his personal collection and we have showcased a few casinos from around the lake. Please contact Steve if you're interested in purchasing other original black and white photos from Reno, Tahoe, Las Vegas, and many other small towns from around Nevada. We are also fortunate to reproduce part one of a two part series entitled "Casino Tokens of Monte Carlo", written by ANA member Thomas C. Day and submitted by John Benedict.

This magazine is for all members of CC>CC and because our collecting interests are so diverse, we are making every attempt reach out to many different obscure collecting interests. If you have a particular interest and wish to share that with others, please contact me to find out if your article is appropriate for publishing. As always, I am open for any comments or criticisms regarding this magazine. I want to hear from you. If you're the secretary for your local chapter, I want to hear from you. If you're in management at a casino or casino related industry, I want to hear from you. If you're a collector who feels they are under-represented, I want to hear from you. But if you can't find anything that interest you in this magazine it's because these pleas are going unheard. This is your magazine and only with your participation will the content improve.

Lastly, there are a number of hand inserts in this issue. Please take the time to look at each one. They are there for a reason otherwise, we'd just put them in the magazine and save us a whole lot of money. The annual convention is just around the corner. Make your accommodations early and psyche yourself up. LET'S GET READY TO RUMBLE!!! Thanks, and see you in a few months.

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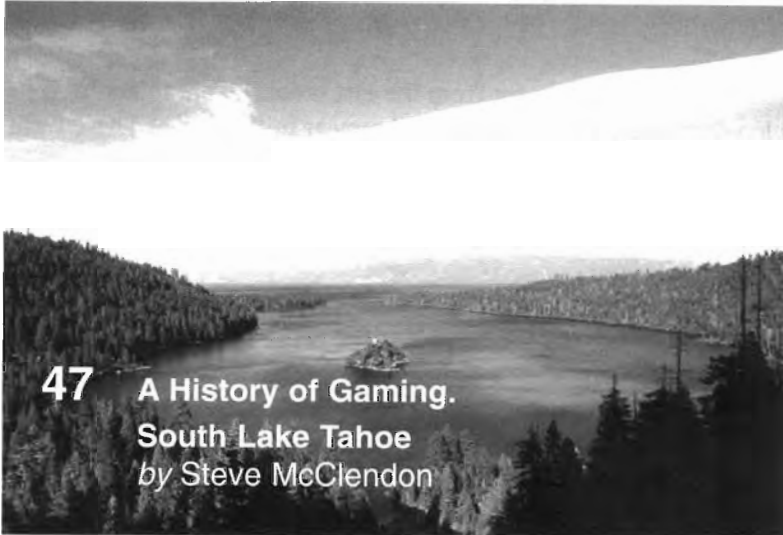
January · February · March 2001 Volume 14 Number 1

Emerald Bay

Photographed by Myles Balsamo

mason@accesscom.com

408-861-9430



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President's Letter



David Sarles

2001 - A Space Odyssey -When they made that movie, how many of us thought we'd be alive? Member R-1014 Marvin Weaver has submitted a proposal to amend our constitution. It is inserted in this issue. Marv's proposal is that all chapter members must be members of the National Club. The board previously voted to amend our bylaws and allow chapters to have non-national members. Now it is up to you! Should it be mandatory for all chapter members to be members of the National? Please vote!

Bulletin 2001 As I write this, the nominations are pouring in. We have quality candidates for all the club offices. Elections Chairman, Gene Trimble, is again hard at work, and will announce the slate of candidates in this issue.

Convention 2001 May 30th-June 2nd The Convention is fast approaching. If you have interest in a table, contact Wayne Thompson now! Remember, the best flights sell out early. Reserve now!

Building Committee – A committee has been formed to study the issue of a club building. Five of our members will gather information to determine the practicality of a permanent home that our hobby can call its own. This committee will be led by Chairman Jim Kruse. Neil Silverman, Nate Pinkus, Dave Seymour and Wayne Thompson will also serve on the committee. Please contact any of these five volunteers with input.

Convention Chairman 2002 – 2001 will be Wayne Thompson's last convention as our chairman. This is truly the hardest and most time consuming positions anybody can volunteer for. Archie Black, Mike Skelton, and now, Wayne Thompson, have given us 9 years of dedication. It is now time for a new member to step up and volunteer! Please, if you or anybody you know, has the know-how and dedication to fill this position, let Wayne or me know.

Superbowl. For those of us that can't live without a Vegas chip show for an entire year the Superbowl weekend has bridged the gap. Many chippers will descend on the Las Vegas area January 26th-28th. A show is planned at the Palace Station for Friday and Saturday. Hope to see you there!

Chip of the Year/Token of They Year – Archie Black has once again been appointed Chairman of COTY/TOTY 2000. This contest would not be possible without Archie's hard work and enthusiasm. The ballots should be included as an insert in this issue.

Finally, John Yee and Allan Anderson put together a spectacular first effort! Our fall issue was just bursting at the seams with good articles, information, and new advertisements. Keep up the good work.

Have Fun, David ♦

Treasurer's Report

Winter 2001



Nate Pincus

As of November 30, 2000, the balance in the club's operating account was \$36,298.00 after payment of all substantial expenses incurred. Included in the expenses is the payment for the printing, mailing and postage for the Fall, 2000 issue of our club magazine in the amount of \$15,956.00 and the deposit for our Convention 2001 at the Tropicana of \$5,000.00. The balance in our money market account as of November 30, 2000 was \$34,565.00.

The club's annual tax return was filed with the IRS in September. A big thank you to our fellow club member and CPA, Mitch Smith who again prepared our tax return, at no cost to the club.

Please feel free to contact me by e-mail, telephone or mail with any questions and comments regarding the club's financial position. Thanks again for your continued support.

Nate Pincus
Treasurer ♦

Call For Convention Exhibits

by Archie Black

Once again, it is time for those who are planning on setting up an exhibit for display during the club's annual 2001 convention, to begin putting their thoughts together about preparing their materials set up and layout design. June will be here before we realize it and this is not a project that should wait until the last minute to prepare.

Last year, the club membership was treated to dozens of excellent educational displays, which were viewed by hundreds of club members and convention visitors. Hopefully, this year we can again match or exceed the amount of participation and quality of exhibits. If you have exhibited at any of our past conventions, you have in all probability picked up a few pointers from other exhibitors so that your display can be improved upon this year. If you are a first-time exhibitor, and you don't know exactly how to go about putting together an attractive display.... I would be most happy to help you out with answers to some questions you may have.

The Exhibit Rules are published elsewhere in this issue of the club magazine. Please read them carefully and return the Exhibitors Application as soon as you have committed to bringing your exhibit to Las Vegas so that ample table space can be reserved for the number of display cases your exhibit will be required to house. More than one exhibit may be entered.

There will be a suitable "People's Choice" award presented to the owner

of the exhibit that viewers of all the exhibits on display will be asked to vote for the display of their choice they liked the best. All exhibitors will receive a handsome club appreciation plaque in recognition of their participation.

This year, silver strikes exhibits will be judged separately, in their own category, by the Silver Strikes Chapter. The Silver Strikes Chapter will also provide all awards for this new category of exhibits.

Also, for those exhibitors who are members of the American Numismatic Association, your exhibit in Las Vegas may be "recycled" and shown again during August at Atlanta, in the newly established "Gaming" category, where you will not be competing against rare coins, medals, and paper money. All exhibitors at ANA receive an impressive exhibitors medal and a free ticket to the very enjoyable and entertaining annual banquet. In addition, very attractive plaque awards are presented to all First, Second, and Third place finisher's in EACH category.... "Gaming"... being one just one of 24 categories. All 24 First Place finisher's are eligible for the prestigious Best In Show Award.

Hope to see many new faces at this year's Exhibitor's award ceremonies in Las Vegas and in Atlanta as well.

Archie A. Black,
2001 CC>CC Exhibits Chairman
P.O. Box 63 Brick, NJ 08723 ♦

Casino Chips & Gaming Tokens Collectors Club

Convention 2001 PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

The Convention Committee invites all members planning to attend the 2001 Convention to PRE-REGISTER. It is our hope that members will take advantage of this opportunity to expedite the registration process.

Those members who Pre-Register will receive a packet upon registration with their Convention credentials and Official Program, along with any other needed information. In addition, pre-registrants will receive a bonus packet of dealer specials and will be eligible for drawings for cash and other prizes during the Convention.

Please complete this form and send it with a check made out to "CC>CC" to:

CC>CC Convention Pre-Registration
C/O Belinda Hixon
P.O. Box 1195
Colleyville, TX 76034

Pre-Registration deadline is April 30, 2001

Please Print

Member Name: _____ CC>CC Membership # _____

Associate Name: _____ CC>CC Membership # _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Daytime Phone #: _____

Pre-Registration Fee \$10.00 per Member/Associate

Total Amount Included: \$ _____

Casino Chips & Gaming Tokens Collectors Club

EARLY BIRD BANQUET RESERVATION FORM

Reserve your place at the Early Bird Banquet to be held on Wednesday, May 29th, the evening before the opening of the 9th Annual Convention. Due to the cost of holding such an event, we must charge for admission. Cost for the evening which includes a dinner buffet and entertainment is \$20 per person and is open to Members and Associate Members only. Reservations must be made in advance and tickets will be held at the Registration table for those attending.

Seating is Limited. Only advance tickets will be sold.

NO TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE ON THE EVENING OF THE EVENT.

Tables of 10 are available and will be reserved. All other seats will be on a first come basis. The Wednesday Night Trade Session will be held after the banquet and will be open to the general membership. Members attending either function must have 2001 Convention Credentials.

Please complete this form and send it along with a check made out to "CC>CC" to:

Early Bird Banquet
C/O Belinda Hixon
P.O. Box 1195
Colleyville, TX 76034

Ticket requests and full payment must be received by April 30, 2001

Please Print

Member Name: _____ CC>CC Membership # _____

Associate Name: _____ CC>CC Membership # _____

Address: _____

Daytime Phone #: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Table (10x\$20=\$200) _____

Individual Tickets (x\$20) _____

Total Amount Included \$ _____

New Members Since Last Issue

	Last	First	State	Refferal		Last	First	State	Refferal
R-4928	Vallido	Gabriel	CA	Hartman, Scott	R-4971	Rudolph	Ted	CA	Web site
R-4929	Krebs	Richard	NV	Web site	R-4972	Garboski	Dennis	NY	Hall of Fame
R-4930	Gianino	John	MA	Hall of Fame	R-4973	Wasson	Mike	KY	Thompson, Wayne
R-4931	Stallings	Margaret	CA	Web site	R-4974	Williamson	Thom	MS	Web site
R-4932	Bigueur	Kim	CA	Bjorkquist, Rich	R-4975	Chandgie	Ric	NC	Web site
R-4933	Wharram	Steve	TX	Borenstein, Alan	R-4976	Wingren	Bill	WI	Web site
R-4934	Becker	Roger	NY	Web site	R-4977	Robison	Michael	OR	Weintraub, Barry
R-4935	Richardson	Curtiss	MI	Web site	R-4978	Holley	Jesse	TX	
R-4936	Brndiar	John	CO		R-4979	Magiera	Doris	OR	Susong, Greg
R-4937	Giannelli	Faust	NY	Kaplan, Charles	R-4981	Stoff	Richard	CA	Hall of Fame
R-4938	McMartin	Jason	MI	Chip Rack	R-4983	Morris Jr	Felix	TX	Hartman, Scott
R-4939	Dorsey	James	OH	Web site	R-4984	Wood	George	IN	Web site
R-4939-A	Dorsey	Pamela	OH	Web site	R-4985	Virusso	Charles	IL	Web site
R-4940	Harmon	Scott	NJ	Black, Archie	R-4986	Jamriska	Michael	IL	Steffner, Jim
R-4941	Latta	Kim	IA	Amer Chip Ent	R-4990	Luongo	Anthony	NJ	
R-4942	Ashby	Chuck	CA	Amer Chip Ent	R-4991	Petrone	Bruce	TX	Web site
R-4942-A	Ashby	Patti	CA	Amer Chip Ent	R-4992	Gilmer	Theresa	NC	Web site
R-4943	Bitner	Jill	AZ	Web site	R-4993	Bakonyi	William	FL	Web site
R-4944	Dagher	Mark	NV	Allard, Richard	R-4994	Schnell	Dave	CA	Hall of Fame
R-4945	Robbins	Marty	IL	Web site	R-4995	D'Addario	Joseph	NY	Haas, Michael
R-4945-A	Robbins	Michelle	IL	Web site	R-4996	Yakimoff	Greg	OH	
R-4946	Medlin	Eddie	NC	Hall of Fame	R-5000	Kumamoto	Tsutomut	CA	Amer Chip Ent
R-4948	Michele	Gioia	TX	Web site	R-5001	Slover	Raymond	IL	Web site
R-4950	Poppel	Ross	NJ	Web site	R-5002	Christiansen	Mark	MI	Web site
R-4951	Buntin	Robert	FL	Weaver, Marvin	R-5003	Gunderson	Karoll	CA	Nelson, Richard
R-4952	Grasberger	Frank	OH	Steffner, Jim	R-5004	Hall	Gary	MI	Susong, Greg
R-4953	Bueker	Thomas	AR	Web Site	R-5005	Koontz	Richard	OH	
R-4954	Rogge	Karl	CA	Web siet	R-5006	Eveland	Mary Lou	TX	Susong, Greg
R-4956	Franklin	Jerry	CA	Web site	R-5007	Crew	Tom	NE	Waterbury, Mary Lou
R-4957	Turnell	Leon	CO	Borenstein, Alan	R-5008	Stamp	Scott	CA	Web site
R-4959	Gregoire	Robert	NC	Web site	R-5009	Lindemann	Richard	NJ	Web site
R-4960	Kirby	Rusty	IL	Susong, Greg	R-5010	Bekoski	Frank	PA	Hartman, Scott
R-4961	Pate	Jimmy	AR	Web site	R-5011	Alonzo	Michael	MD	Susong, Greg
R-4963	Gibbons	John	NJ	Web site	R-5012	Karli	Bruce	NV	O'Neal, Janice
R-4964	Hunt	James	NV	Black, Archie	R-5012-A	Karli	Donna	NV	O'Neal, Janice
R-4965	Cody	Elizabeth	NY	Web site	R-5013	Caron	Scott	ME	Web site
R-4966	Bainbridge	Robert	TX	Web site	R-5014	Centenail	Donald	IL	Chicago Show
R-4967	DeQuardo	John	WI	Steffner, Jim	R-5015	Hynes	Stephen		Web site
R-4968	Covitz	Marvin	MA	Web site	R-5016	Pivinski	Robert	NY	Web site
R-4969	Garnier	Dennis	NJ	Black, Archie	R-5017	Niver	David	NM	Chip Rack
R-4970	Ballou	Murray	FL	SS Club	R-5018	Genazzi	Richard	KS	Web site

Auction Results

Lot	Description	Bid	Lot	Description	Bid
00	78 \$1 chips	\$65.00	44	\$5, Capones	\$400.00
0	Min House of Cards	\$10.00	45	\$500-\$1000 Caribe Hilton	\$115.00
1	Franklin Mint Proof Set	\$270.00	46	\$1,\$5,\$25, Fun Ships	\$45.00
2	1 & 25 MoP Jetons	\$200.00	47	\$1, Carson City Nugget	\$90.00
3	20th Century \$25	\$50.00	48	1000 Francs, EC	\$175.00
4	\$5, A-1 Casino	\$130.00	49	5, Casino De Paris	\$227.00
5	\$25, Aladdin, M. Prell	\$900.00	50	\$1000, Casino Del Rio	\$200.00
6	\$5, Aladdin	\$210.00	51	Casino De Vichy	\$59.00
7	\$500, Aladdin	\$500.00	52	\$1 & \$5, Casino Nacionales	\$35.00
8	\$5 & \$25 Alhambra	\$40.00	53	5pc, Panama checks	\$35.00
9	\$5, Alibi Club	\$110.00	54	\$25, Center-Fold Casino	\$100.00
10	\$5, Americana, Aruba	\$15.00	55	\$1, Christmas Tree	\$500.00
11	\$25, Americana, Aruba	\$25.00	56	\$5, Club Bingo	\$75.00
12	25¢ - \$20, Artichoke Joe	\$100.00	57	\$1 - \$500, Casino Royal	\$90.00
13	\$1 - \$5, 8pc Atlantic City	\$145.00	58	\$5, Colorado group	\$120.00
14	\$500, Azure Seas	\$60.00	59	\$1,\$5,\$25, Colorado Bell	\$83.00
15	\$100, Bally's	\$200.00	60	\$1, Colorado River Hotel	\$110.00
16	12pc, Arodie set	\$275.00	61	N.D., CC, (Copper Club)	\$175.00
17	\$1, Batista's	\$35.00	62	\$5, Cotton Club, Rectl	\$1,250.00
18	\$25, Bev Hills CC, KY	\$40.00	63	\$5, Cotton Club, SmCrn	\$350.00
19	\$5, Horseshoe HoF,22pc	\$270.00	64	1, Country-Club, Lk Tahoe	\$325.00
20	\$5, Black Diamond	\$375.00	65	Cruise Ship check group	\$70.00
21	\$5, Black Hawk Station	\$35.00	66	\$5, Crystal Bay Club	\$227.00
22	10¢ - \$25, Boon Docks set	\$250.00	67	Cuban check group	\$450.00
23	\$7, 6pc Premium Tokens	\$91.00	68	\$1 - \$25, Las Vegas checks	\$150.00
24	\$2.50, 20pc \$2.50 set	\$70.00	69	\$25, Desert Inn, W. Clark	\$400.00
25	25¢, Gaming Tokens	\$35.00	70	\$5, Desert Inn, W. Clark	\$550.00
26A	50¢, Group 50¢ checks	\$50.00	71	\$5, Desert Inn, Baccarat	\$400.00
26B	Lot of 25 cent chips	\$290.00	72	\$5, Desert Inn, Diecar	\$100.00
27	\$2.50, Boardwalk Regency	\$250.00	73	\$1000, Desert Inn, Baccarat	\$450.00
28	\$25, Boardwalk Regency	\$100.00	74	\$1,\$5,\$25, Desert Inn & CC	\$400.00
29	\$25, Boardwalk Regency	\$510.00	75	\$25, Desert Spa	\$60.00
30	\$25, Bowl of Gold	\$200.00	76	50¢, 2pc Diamond Jim's	\$70.00
31	Brighton Roulette	\$145.00	77	\$5, Diamond Jim's	\$175.00
32	50¢, Caesars Palace	\$105.00	78	\$1, Dunes Hotel	\$200.00
33	\$5, Caesars Palace	\$350.00	79	\$5, Dunes Hotel	\$825.00
34	\$5, Caesars Palace	\$175.00	80	Wood Chip Tray	\$190.00
35	\$25, Caesars, AC	\$290.00	81	\$25, Dunes	\$250.00
36	\$20 & \$40 Caesars AC SS	\$90.00	82	\$1, Las Vegas check group	\$75.00
37	\$40, 3pc SS	\$150.00	83	\$500, Eddie's Fab 50's	\$40.00
38	\$5, 3pc Cruise Line checks	\$30.00	84	25¢, El Cortez Hotel	\$25.00
39	\$25, Cal-Neva Biltmore	\$700.00	85	\$5, Paulson metal inlay grp	\$100.00
40	\$1, Cal-Neva Lodge	\$550.00	86	\$5, El Rancho Hotel	\$75.00
41	\$100, Cal-Neva Lodge	\$60.00	87	\$25, El Rancho Hotel	\$150.00
42	10pc, Cal-Neva Lodge	\$900.00	88	\$5, El Rancho Vegas Hotel	\$400.00
43	12 pc, California checks	\$40.00	89	\$25 & \$100, El Rancho Veg	\$500.00

Lot	Description	Bid	Lot	Description	Bid
90	\$25, El Rancho Vegas	\$275.00	141	\$1, \$5, \$25, Jackpot Casino	\$40.00
91	\$1000, El Ray Resort	\$60.00	142	\$1, Jerry's Pastime Club	\$40.00
92	\$5, El Ray Resort	\$125.00	143	\$25, Joe's Tavern	\$55.00
93	\$5, Las Vegas group	\$110.00	144	1 Nugget token, Ascuaga	\$20.00
94	\$25, Fiesta Hotel	\$50.00	145	\$100, John's Tahoe Nugget	\$500.00
95	\$5, Fiesta Hotel	\$140.00	146	\$20, \$25, \$100, King Intl Bacc	\$25.00
96	\$5, Flamingo, C&S	\$1,650.00	147	N.D., La Rue Restaurant	\$40.00
97	\$5, Flamingo, SmKey	\$1,200.00	148	\$1, Landmark Hotel	\$400.00
98	\$5, Flamingo, House	\$175.00	149	\$5NCV, Landmark	\$60.00
99	\$5, Flamingo car set	\$150.00	150	\$5, Main Street Gaming Hse	\$150.00
100	\$5, Flamingo Hilton legends	\$200.00	151	5,25,100, Mapes Hotel	\$80.00
101	\$5, Four Queens, Arodie	\$450.00	152	\$5, Mayor Willie's Saloon	\$475.00
102	Fremont Hotel group	\$190.00	153	\$5, MGM Grand, Hse	\$276.00
103	50¢, Fremont, Arodie	\$200.00	154	\$25, MGM Grand, House	\$150.00
104	\$500, Frontier	\$350.00	155	\$500, MGM Grand, H&C	\$500.00
105	\$500, Frontier	\$225.00	156	MGM Grand fight token group	\$96.00
106	\$5, Gamble's	\$60.00	157	\$5, MGM Sands	\$85.00
107	\$5, Gary's Casino	\$450.00	158	\$5, Miner's Club	\$500.00
108	\$5, George's Gateway	\$25.00	159	\$1, O'Meara's	\$700.00
109	\$25, George's Gateway	\$40.00	160	25¢, Mint, Pan Room	\$350.00
110	\$100, George's Gateway	\$227.00	161	N.D., Mint, Faro	\$250.00
111	\$5, Glitter Gulch	\$70.00	162	2.50, Mint	\$450.00
112	\$25, Gold Spike Casino	\$30.00	163	25¢, Mint	\$40.00
113	Bank Club roulette group	\$50.00	164	\$5, Monte Carlo, Hawthorne	\$200.00
114	\$25, Golden Club	\$600.00	165	\$1, Mother Load token	\$300.00
115	25¢, Golden Gate Club	\$650.00	166	\$5, Moulin Rouge	\$300.00
116	25¢, Golden Gate Casino	\$65.00	167	\$5, Nevada Club, Carlin	\$150.00
117	50¢, Golden Gate Casino	\$240.00	168	\$100, New Can-Vada Lodge	\$301.00
118	100, GN, Fill Bank Only	\$225.00	169	\$25, New Frontier	\$250.00
119	\$5, Golden Nugget	\$200.00	170	\$100, New Frontier	\$200.00
120	\$1 & \$5, Golden Nugget AC	\$150.00	171	\$1, New Town Tavern	\$70.00
121	\$5, Golden Slot Club	\$30.00	172	\$5, Norwegian Cruise 3pc	\$10.00
122	\$1 & \$5, Great Basin Casino	\$80.00	173	1, NSC, North Shore Club	\$151.00
123	\$5, Green Shack	\$275.00	174	10¢, Orbit Inn	\$40.00
124	\$1, Hacienda	\$150.00	175	\$5 & \$25, Our Bar	\$30.00
125	Hard Rock group	\$400.00	176	10¢, Palace	\$90.00
126	\$100, Harrah's Club	\$301.00	177	\$25, Park	\$475.00
127	\$1, \$2.50,\$5, Harrah's	\$28.00	178	\$5, Park Place	\$130.00
128	\$500, Harrah's, movie prop	\$125.00	179	\$25, Peoples Choice	\$100.00
129	\$100, Harrah's Trump Plaza	\$725.00	180	\$5, Pine Nut Casino	\$30.00
130	Harrah's Marina roulette	\$350.00	181	\$25, Pioneer Club	\$75.00
131	\$5, Harvey's Wagon Wheel	\$125.00	182	\$5, Playboy AC	\$75.00
132	\$25, Hawthorne Club	\$90.00	183	\$5, Playboy Club, Bahamas	\$90.00
133	\$1000, High Sierra Hotel	\$75.00	184	\$25, Playboy, Bahamas	\$175.00
134	25¢ - \$1000, High Sierra	\$401.00	185	\$100, Playboy, Bahamas	\$375.00
135	\$5, Hilton AC	\$200.00	186	\$5, Player's Club, Las Vegas	\$375.00
136	\$2.50, \$5,\$8, Hollywood Pk	\$50.00	187	50¢, Primadonna	\$225.00
137	\$25, Last Frontier 21 Club	\$1,100.00	188	\$1, QE2 & Club Royal tokens	\$25.00
138	\$100, Silver Slipper	\$125.00	189	Red Lion roulette, 5pc	\$20.00
139	\$20, Hunters Lodge	\$200.00	190	Red Lion roulette, 7pc	\$40.00
140	New Mexico Indian group	\$80.00	191	\$1, Resorts International	\$200.00

Lot	Description	Bid	Lot	Description	Bid
192	\$1, Riviera	\$300.00	A	Fiesta 2 chip set	\$175.00
193	50¢, Saginaw Chips	\$25.00	B	LA-LV Junket chips	\$60.00
194	Sahara Hotel group	\$290.00	C	Posters	\$10.00
195	Sahara french style placques	\$550.00	D	Pollack Book	\$30.00
196	Sands french style placques	\$2,100.00	E	Club medals	\$40.00
197	\$5, Sands	\$275.00			
198	\$5, Sands, Baccarat	\$200.00			
199	\$1000, Sands, Race/Sport	\$575.00			
200	\$20, Sands AC	\$100.00			
201	\$2.50 & \$5, Sands Casino	\$150.00			
202	\$1, Sans Souci	\$225.00			
203	\$100, Sans Souci	\$200.00			
204	\$5, Santa Anita	\$200.00			
205	\$1 & \$25, Savannah Lady	\$60.00			
206	N.D., Senator Club	\$99.00			
207	Sheraton Casino group	\$35.00			
208	25¢, Sierra Lodge	\$85.00			
209	\$25, Silver City	\$150.00			
210	25, Silver Club	\$125.00			
211	\$5, Silver Palace	\$600.00			
212	\$1,\$5,\$25, Skyline	\$100.00			
213	\$1,\$5,\$25, Star Casino grp	\$200.00			
214	\$1, State Line Casino	\$225.00			
215	\$25, Tahoe Palace	\$150.00			
216	\$5, Tahoe Village	\$150.00			
217	N.D., Trump Taj Mahal	\$265.00			
218	\$1, The Plantation	\$20.00			
219	\$5, Thunderbird	\$625.00			
220	Toledo Club	\$125.00			
221	\$5, Toll Gate	\$10.00			
222	\$25, Tonopah Club	\$30.00			
223	\$25, Town Hall Round-Up	\$50.00			
224	\$5, Town Tavern	\$50.00			
225	Trader Dick's roulette	\$55.00			
226	Treasury, 6pc	\$25.00			
227	\$5, Trocadero	\$150.00			
228	N.D.Tropicana	\$110.00			
229	\$5, Tropicana	\$175.00			
230	\$25, Tropicana Hotel	\$250.00			
231	\$25, Tropicana	\$350.00			
232	\$25, Tropicana	\$50.00			
233	\$1, Tropicana	\$150.00			
234	\$100, Tropicana	\$175.00			
235	\$1, Uncle Sam's Casino	\$50.00			
236	\$5, Venetian	\$125.00			
237	\$25, Willows	\$237.00			
238	\$5, Windflower	\$35.00			

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Selected Specials:

{*Catalog of over 80 pages, 1500+ chips ...\$4 }

Cal-Neva Lodge \$1 Navy S-Mold	\$60	Horseshoe (LV) – WSOP NCV's 1-5000	\$129
Cal-Neva Lodge \$100 T-Mold HS-Blue	\$250	Villa Sierra \$5 Arodie	\$95
Ranchinn \$1 (Elko) Orange H&C(CJ)	\$79	Bonanza Club 25c Fushcia H-Mold	\$49
Stardust (Tahoe) \$5 Arodie	\$99	Bonanza Club \$5 Navy H-Mold 2-Salmon	\$99
Incline Village \$100 H&C(CJ) Drilled	\$250	Bonanza Club \$25 Cream H-Mold 2-Sal.	\$249
Tiki Club (Reno) \$5	\$12	Fiesta -Royal Flush Series of 24 \$5 Chips	\$230
Nevada Palace – Matched Set of 4 – 20th	\$99	Share Cropper Club – 50c, \$1, \$5, \$10	\$35
Nevada Palace – Matched Set of 4 – 21st	\$99	Mint (LV) 25c Purple 2-Yellow pic-Hotel	\$39
Opera House Unicorn Set – \$5, \$25, \$100	\$55	Claridge – Lighthouse Set: 8-\$5; 8-\$10	\$199
King's Castle \$1 & \$5 Free Play H&C(CJ)	\$59	Casino de Capri – Set of 3: \$1, \$5, \$25	\$39
Hard Rock "Rock 'N' Rods - Set of 4 \$5	\$75	New Frontier – Unlisted NCV Set of 5	\$99
Palace Club (Fallon) \$1 Purple Sm Key	\$25	Bally's Grand (AC) Hall of Fame Set of 5	\$65
Stork Club (LV) \$5 Circa 1940's	\$350	Lady Luck 3 Diff \$.25 Diecar, H&C, Nev	\$50
Stork Cluv (LV) \$25 Circa 1940's	\$375	Taj Mahal - \$25 Pavarotti – 300 Made	\$45
Stork Club (LV) \$100 Circa 1040's	\$395	Hollywood Park – Yr of Dragon – Set of 3	\$49
Poker Palace 1st \$5 Red 4-Yellow 4-Blue	\$49	Pink Pussycat (Reno) 1,2,5 – All 3 No "\$"	\$65
Jailhouse – Set of 4: 50c, \$5, 2 Diff \$25's	\$65	Hard Rock \$5 – ZZ Top	\$25
Joe's Tavern \$1 Navy TK None HS Gold	\$65	Laughlin – River Run 2000 – 8 Diff. \$5	\$88
Silver Smith \$5 Yr of Dragon 250 Made!	\$22	Curzon House (London) 10 Pd Plaque	\$45
Railroad Pass \$.10 Navy Ewing None HS	\$22	Curzon House (London) 50 Pd Plaque	\$75
Ponderosa \$1 Navy LgKey 3-Pink	\$38	Curzon House (London) 100 Pd Plaque	\$90
Poor Pete's (Reno) \$5 – Navy SmKey	\$24	49er \$5 Fushcia H-mold None	\$50
Harrah's (Lghlin) \$2.50's DH #1, #2, \$3	\$22	Mapes \$5 Brown & \$25 Green T-Molds	\$22
Sahara (LV) \$20 Baccarat Plaque (60's)	\$45	Bud Jones – 70's Promo ChipCoin-Inlay	\$22
Norwegian Cruise Lines \$5 Millennium	\$12	Trop (LV) – Brooks Robinson – SIGNED	\$49
Caesar's Tahoe NCV Green 4-Tan HS	\$18	Scrubby's (Montana Illegal) TK Set of 3	\$39
Harrah's Reno:Set 13-Gaming thru Ages	\$105	Cedar Crest CC (Waco, TX.) – Black	\$25
Reno Hilton: Set 12-Countdown to Mill.	\$99	Sands 3 Chip Tourney Set \$5, \$25, \$100	\$95
Hyatt Regency – Set of 5- Full Graphics	\$45	Silver Nugget – Dated 25c 1996 to 2000	\$175
Harvey's Obsolete Brass - \$1, \$2.50, \$5	\$29	Terrible's (LV) \$1 + \$GO Set of 5 Diff \$5	\$45
Harvey's Obsolete \$25 Orange Brass	\$69	Jerry's Nugget 8-Suit NCV's – 5 Denoms	\$99
Carson Nugget – Millennium Set of 5	\$45	Caesar's (AC) – Cher \$25 – Year 2000	\$69
Cal-Neva/Virginian – Mill. Set of 4	\$38	D.T. Saloon 8-Suit \$1 & \$5 – 1st Issues	\$39
North Shore Club Zigzag "NSC 2" Navy	\$79	North Shore Club 50's "A" SmKey 3 Diff	\$129
Chuck's Golden Spike \$1 & \$5 Non-Neg	\$39	The Cove \$1 (Cal Illegal) Great Hotstamp	\$30
Harrah's Tahoe – Bud Ice – Matched Set	\$169	Corner Longhorn Saloon 25c, 50c, \$1	\$19
Harrah's Obsolete Brass - \$1, \$2.50, \$5	\$29	Stever's Social Club-Set 3 – Mo. Illegal	\$25
Nevada Club (Eureka) \$1 White Diecar	\$28	Foxwoods \$10 – Frank Sinatra	\$38
Nevada Club (Eureka) \$5 Red Diecar	\$45	Jim Kelly's Nugget \$1 Lg Key Maroon	\$35
John's Tahoe Nugget \$500 Brown Ewing	\$28	Jim Kelley's Nugget \$1 Lg Key Gray	\$30
Owl Club (Eureka) \$5 Red H&C	\$18	Meeks Bay (Tahoe) \$1, 2.50, 5, 25, 100	\$49
SaharaTahoe \$1 & \$5 "TableGames"	\$29	Oliver's (Tahoe) 25c H&C(CJ)	\$19
Keystone Club (Fallon) \$10 H-Mold	\$32	Circus Circus - Emmett Kelly Set of 6	\$59
Joe's (Gerlach) \$1 Orange SqinCir	\$65	Monte Carlo (Reno) \$1, 2.50, 5, 25 O/S	\$39
Tahoe Nugget \$1 Red H&C(CJ) New!	\$69	Eddie's Fabulous 50's – 4 Diff Roulettes	\$38
Tahoe Nugget \$5 Yel/Brn Pie H&C(CJ)	\$69	Diamond Club (NY City) \$1 & \$5 Obs.	\$28
Sahara Tahoe \$100 Orange Lg Key NN	\$49	The Nugget (Reno) Grn H&C(CJ) 3-Red	\$49
The Nugget \$.25 Oran. Sm Key pic of Ngt	\$69	The Nugget \$1Maroon Sm Key pic of Ngt	\$69

Please add \$3 S&H on all orders. Money orders sent immediately.

MARKET REPORT: WINTER 2007

by James Campiglia & Steve Wells

Thanks to all who sent us notes of praise for our premier column. Unfortunately, the Post-Convention period is never as dramatic, so we don't have quite as much blockbuster news to report. We have not heard of any large sales in the last quarter, but this is because, to our knowledge, no monster chips have been offered. Although, we can report that the finest known Dunes \$5 HHR (6th issue), formerly in the Phil Jensen collection, was sold for \$1,000 and an orange Flamingo die cut dropped a very high price of \$2,027.50.

Ebay Activity

Ebay is rolling along with approximately 3,000 chip lots for sale at any given time. This is quite a jump from a year ago when there was a little over 2,000 lots offered. The interesting thing to note is that prices have held firm overall, despite the 50% increase in material! This is a very good sign for the hobby.

Despite the preponderance of LEs and newer chips on eBay, many older chips have sold for good money lately. When there's a span of a few months between shows, we collectors get itchy. Since eBay is a 24 hour marketplace, it has caught on as the best way to find new material for many collectors. Here is a roundup of the most notable sales:

A Sands \$500 white, 13th issue (6 or 7 known, but previously unique)

sold for a reasonable \$382.77, although down from the \$676 it brought a month ago! Someone stole A 2nd issue Bonanza Hotel, \$1 miner & girl inlay, in VF condition for \$145. A third issue, hot stamped Tropicana \$25 & \$100 were sold in pairs in 3 different lots, bringing \$212.50, \$255, and \$270. None were sold after that, but who knows if more are lurking.

An unused \$500 El Rancho Hotel with a known population of 4 brought just \$517. A very rare and seldom seen \$5 Red Garter Las Vegas, brought \$555.50 in XF condition - A rather fair price for this rare chip. A last issue Dunes yellow \$1,000 brought \$250. A very strong \$375 price was brought by a 4th issue \$1 C&J Stateline, Wendover in very worn and chipped condition.

Atlantic City Playboy chips remained strong; a \$25 green with orange inserts and a \$100 Black brought \$1,625 and \$1,650 respectively. Also, a \$500 Purple, possibly a back-up that saw actual table play, went for \$1,600. The lower denomination \$5 and \$2.50 chips are still bringing around \$100, but the \$1 has sold recently for \$32, \$34, and even \$36! This is a significant increase from the \$20-\$25 it once brought.

A previously unknown Orange \$100,000 Sheraton Desert Inn sample chip with 4 notches and dated 1994 was auctioned off twice. This ultra-high

denomination chip only garnered a \$1,200 bid the first time around and did not meet the reserve. The seller tried again and the chip brought \$2,025, but still didn't meet the reserve. The word on the grapevine is that this chip was subsequently sold for an undisclosed amount after its eBay appearances. We will probably never know for sure if this chip was a regular issue or not as we don't know anyone who would have been gambling with the "real thing"!

A Green \$5 Dunes in block letters and zigzag mold was offered on eBay. At first, the word was there were 3 chips - then 6 chips. (This is the Dunes on Boulder highway, not the famous Strip Dunes.) The chip was offered at \$500 to \$250, but had no takers. The buyers were probably spooked. Will it end up like the Reno Sands \$5 & \$2.50 that go lower & lower every week with no takers? This is what can happen when once rare chips are manipulated by sellers who obtain a quantity, but won't disclose the exact amount. This tends to backfire because the buyers are forced to fear the worst and nobody wants to risk a purchase!

As we go to press, a possibly Unique \$1,000 Blue MGM-Sands was sold on eBay, with a winning bid of \$810. The seller claims to have purchased it 6 years ago in a chip auction, but we cannot substantiate this.

Another interesting eBay lot involves a group of El Rancho Counterfeits. The chips in question are a 25¢ Grey Lcrown and a \$1 Blue Lcrown, no inserts on either. The El Rancho windmill is on one side and the denomination on the other. These low denominations were unknown until now. The \$5, \$25, and \$100 have plagued the chip community for years. This group of chips was made for an anonymous lady by TR King between 20 and 30 years ago, well after the El Rancho burned down in 1960. Supposedly, she made these for her husband as he used to work at the El Rancho. The real El Rancho chips these were patterned after is the 9th issue Lcrown set made in 1948. The authentic, and extremely rare, \$5 chip is Purple with 2 Red inserts. The counterfeit is Navy with 3 Grey inserts. The authentic \$25 is red with 2, NOT 3, inserts like the counterfeit. The real \$100 chip is grey with 2, NOT 3, inserts like the counterfeit. Despite the detail applied to this example, it is important to mention that counterfeits are very rare in the chip hobby and generally not a problem.

Many collectors, especially on the chipboard, have discussed the high record breaking prices on Sands chips, particularly the last issue \$1 Blue and Orange. The highest \$1 Blue brought \$192.23 and the Orange \$225.77. Of course, these prices are insane - roughly 10 times what they should be. What happened is that a couple aggressive new collectors got into an emotional bidding war over the chips. After the "lucky" buyer cooled his head, he refused to pay for the chip, making up a flimsy excuse for not doing so. The seller, James Campiglia, knew the buyer had screwed himself and let him off the hook without repercussions. Who says dealers don't have beating hearts?

New Discoveries & Great Finds

New finds are always being made. In Las Vegas, James Campiglia uncovered three previously unknown \$5 Mustard Color Town Tavern Arodies along with three Black \$5 Arodies with 2 red inserts. Of interest is the fact that the Mustard chips have a gold hot stamp that is almost unreadable. We believe this is the first issue. After getting the chips back and seeing how hard they were to read, it is likely they ordered the Black chip with 2 red inserts and a white hot stamp which is very bold and distinct.

Another spectacular find was made by James who uncovered one inlaid \$5 Sneak Joint chip, bringing the known total to a mere three pieces! The Sneak Joint was a small club on Spring Mountain Rd. that closed in 1980, then became Sonny's Saloon. The site is now a parking lot for the Mirage.

Also in Las Vegas, 2 previously unknown \$100 Paradise Hotel H&C chips were unearthed by an old timer who "Had 'em for years". These chips are Black with 3 pink inserts and in almost new condition. (Also found with these \$100 chips were 6 or 7 \$25 chips, bringing the total known to about 10.) Not quite as exciting are the Red and Blue Stardust Faro T mold chips that popped up, exact quantities unknown at present.

David Sarles is now the proud owner of a Unique, previously unknown, \$5 Sm-key Happy Buddha from Reno. This chip is Light Orange with 3 navy inserts and valued around \$1,500. Coincidentally, Mel Jung has

come up with a Grey \$25 Happy Buddha with 3 black inserts. He swears it's unique, but at \$2,000 there are no takers yet at press time. Staying up in northern Nevada, Dave Steiner reports on a unique King's Castle \$1 Navy Free Play chip in the Scrown mold and of two Blue Scrown "B" Roulette chips. Both of these were sold on eBay. Farther North, in Idaho to be exact, chipper Steve Goodrich unearthed a Blue \$10 El Rancho Diasqr from Wells, Nevada - a great odd denomination find. However, he outdid himself by coming up with only the second known \$1 Lg-key Harold's Topaz

Lodge from Topaz Lake, NV.

Not much is known about this club, except that it only operated for a short time in 1965-66!

Seven previously unknown Red Las Vegas Club HCE mold Roulettes appeared, hot stamped "LVC 2". The price is around \$80.

Before closing this section, we should mention that a previously unknown Scrown Royal Inn \$100 red with 4 blue inserts sold on eBay for only \$371.

Hoard Report

Some later issue Sands chips we had previously not seen have come onto the market in small quantities. Various rumors exist as usual when high denomination chips come to light. James personally knows of people trying to get these chips which are supposedly sitting in the vault of a major strip casino. However, it does not look like they will get out. The big favorite is that they will be destroyed as per Gaming Commission regulations. Nevertheless, due to



some alleged light-fingered activities of certain fearless casino employees, some great, previously unseen Baccarat chips have come to light. Among these are two beautiful \$20 yellow Baccarats with 3 green & 3 Purple inserts which are unlisted, but belong with the 14th issue. We believe 3 are now known. One \$100 Grey Baccarat with 3 pink & 3 light green inserts was sold to James Campiglia for his collection. James obtained two \$500 Orange-ish color Baccarats which are the only ones known at press time. These have 3 gold & 3 purple inserts and the beautiful background “pin-wheel” colors. It is a striking chip! The next unlisted Baccarat (5 found) is a \$5,000 Light Brown chip which has 3 dark brown, 3 white, & 3 lighter brown inserts. All of these Baccarats have the round shaped center inlays that are consistent with the 13th and 14th issues. We will for now classify all the above as 14th issues. James talked to a man who worked at the Sands and actually designed these chips. Hopefully, he will provide some interesting information and clarification for a future article.

The last 17th issue Sands Baccarat chips have also surfaced. Only 3 full sets of the \$100, \$500,

\$1,000 & \$5,000 have appeared, although a couple odd pieces also exist. One unusual fact about the \$500 white with 6 brown inserts is that it has two “blanks” where one can tell inlay segments should exist. Therefore, the chip should have 8 inserts, making these specimens error chips. The \$5,000 chip is serial numbered. Three \$1,000 Blue Race & Sports issues have also appeared. The first auctioned for \$630 and the second for \$847.50 a month later. If you have additional information on these, or unlisted recent Sands chips please write us.



Also, we know that a box each of the 13th issue \$5 & \$25 has surfaced. Many, if not most, of the \$25's were water damaged on the inlays. The best were offered in a dutch eBay auction at \$100 each.

A small Sahara hoard was found recently which deserves a mention. Forty-Five Blue \$1 Scrown Sahara Hotel “Good For \$1.00 In Trade” Las Vegas chips were found and are now bringing \$60. In addition, twenty .25 HCE and six .50 Pan chips were also found and are now going for a minimum of \$25 and \$75 each respectively.

Slot Cards

After the publication of Carolyn Donley’s “The Slot Card Book”, activity in collecting casino slot cards has risen dramatically. Even high-end chip collectors are getting in on the fun. It appears that a large number of chippers have been secretly, or at least quietly, putting these away. This area is still in the infant stage where prices are cheap and one can make lots of trades and wheel and deal without pressure. Many chippers are finding this very refreshing, but at the rate Slot Card collecting is growing, higher prices are not far behind. In fact, cards that would have sold last year for a dollar or two are now \$10-\$20 as collectors realize that many of these cards are really hard to find. Stay tuned.

That’s it for this issue. Let’s hope CC>CC has less trouble electing its President! Good Luck and Happy Chipping! If any of you chippers would like to share significant new discoveries or other information with the club, please write to us at the following address: James Campiglia & Steve Wells, P.O. Box 14604, Las Vegas, NV 89114. Also, you MUST send us a clear photocopy of the chip and a way to contact you if we have questions. (You may also email: steve.chips@prodigy.net). That’s it for now, see you in three months. ♦

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NATE PINCUS

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT



MEMBER
LM-946-7



I am very excited to announce that I am a candidate for President of the CC>CC in the upcoming election. I am presently the club Treasurer, responsible for our financial viability. My business experience includes executive management and financial positions and I am presently the owner of a retail and financial services business. I have been married for 24 years and we have two children in college.

While my agenda is aggressive, our club needs to be proactive so that we continue to grow and remain strong and vibrant. I appreciate you taking the time to read my goals for our club and my personal philosophy.

MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLICITY

- Club will be receptive to all collectors of casino and gaming collectibles.
- Geographic and specialty chapters are encouraged.
- Strong enforcement of Code of Ethics - we can only grow if we have credibility.
- Continue to develop the club website and increase our visibility on the Internet.

CONVENTION

- The club will continue to sponsor great annual conventions.
- More trading time will be arranged for members at convention.
- Additional emphasis will be placed on the educational seminars and exhibits.
- Solicit donations from casinos and others to help defray convention costs.
- Look into promoting additional collectible shows throughout the year.

MAGAZINE

- Continue to publish an outstanding magazine.
- Include more articles from all collecting areas and interests.
- Improve the quality by utilizing technology.

LONG TERM PLANNING

- Investigate obtaining casino and gaming related historical items and records.
- Establish committee to study establishing a national headquarters.
- Utilize our tax-exempt status to solicit donations for the club.

PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY

- Our club must be inclusive. All casino and gaming collectors are welcome.
- I will be responsive to all members and will monitor the club internet message board.
- I will establish member advisory committees to advise the Board of Directors.
- I will bring enthusiasm and a vibrant approach to leading our club.

Nate Pincus P.O. Box 693 Havertown, PA 19083 610-642-6093 npincus@home.com
<http://www.chipcollector.com>



RIVERBOATS

by Greg C. Susong

Last issue showed you the first of a series of seven chips to be issued by the Casino Aztar in Evansville, Indiana to commemorate World War II and the part that the people of Evansville played in the war. This month I have the next four chips in the series. All the chips have a common side which is shown in the first photo. Number two issued on August 2, 2000 is "I Want You".

Number 3 issued on September 11, 2000 is "Victory Kiss"



The next two in the series are to be issued on November 13, 2000 and December 4, 2000 and will be featured in the next issue.

I also showed you the new \$1 and \$5 from the Isle of Capri in Lula, MS last month but didn't yet have the \$25 and \$100. I have them now and they are shown below.



Number 4 issued on October 2, 2000 is "P-47 Thunderbolt"



Number 5, issued on October 23, 2000 is "Landing Ship Tank (LST)"



The Isle of Capri in Marquette, IA opened its doors on September 1, 2000.

Isle of Capri has complete their takeover of the Flamingo Casino in Kansas City, MO and put these chips on the tables in October.



The Belterra Casino in Belterra, IN got off to a shaky start. After a suffering a collision with a towboat carrying two cement barges on July 31, the casino finally opened on October 23, 2000.

You can always view the chips shown, and more than 5,000 others online at [ChipGuide.Com](http://www.chipguide.com). Just point your browser to: <http://www.chipguide.com> ♦

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 it's 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! ♦

JIM STEFFNER

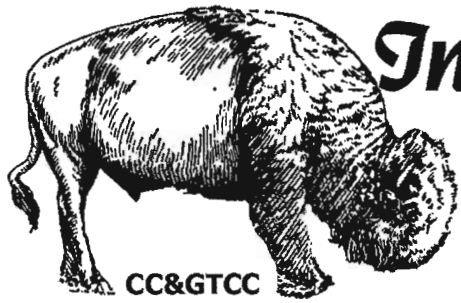
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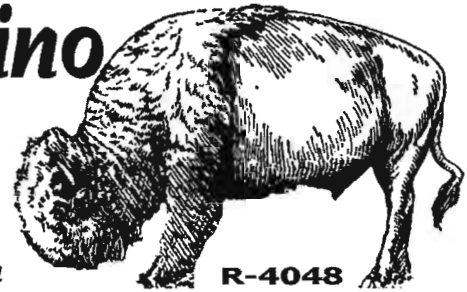
Together WE can build our club to be the great organization it should be.

VOTE for Jim Steffner for President



Indian Casino News

Steve Snowden



Hello again from New Mexico, the “Land of Enchantment”. There is great news on the horizon for gamblers and collectors in 2001. Indian Gaming is strong and growing stronger and larger by the day as more concrete is poured, stucco is applied, and carpet and tile is laid. Our 12 Indian casinos all seem to be in some stage of expansion or remodeling! Isleta Casino and Sandia Casino will all be in their brand new locations within a few weeks or months. Acoma Sky City and Santa Ana Star both have huge expansion projects underway. The computer mockup of Acoma’s proposed Olympic-sized swimming pool in the shape and coloration of traditional Acoma Indian Pottery is breathtaking!

Our 12 existing casinos here in the state will apparently soon be joined by a 13th Indian casino in March as the Santa Clara Pueblo opens their first casino in a 12,000-square-foot shopping center in downtown Espanola, New Mexico. There are still some things to work out with the City of Espanola regarding traffic, water rights, zoning, and other matters but the tribe is optimistic about a March opening. The planned casino will include a 24-lane bowling alley, about 350 slots and seven table games. The tribe has long term plans to replace this location with a much larger one in Arroyo Seco, NM several years from now.

Sandia Casino Specifics...

The always-busy Sandia Casino is still about to burst at the seams. It boasts over 800 slots and video poker machines along with the busiest poker room in New Mexico. They also host a \$20 Buy-In Blackjack Tournament 3 days a week that finds me standing in line to hand over a Jackson to personable Sandia Pit Boss “Jamie” and his team most every Wednesday! Gamblers, collectors, and all the Sandia employees are patiently awaiting the Grand Opening of the BRAND NEW Sandia Casino on Memorial Day weekend. It is located just across I-25 from the existing casino in the beautiful Sandia foothills.

The new casino will have some pristine views of the mountains to compliment the traditional Southwestern styling. I’ll hopefully have some photos and specifics on the new facilities for you in our next issue. By the way, Sandia Casino holds the honor of releasing the only new chip in New Mexico during all of last year. This new \$5 Chipco is

gradually replacing their \$5 Millennium Chipco. Since this newest \$5 features the year “2000” on it, we assume that it will be replaced along with all of Sandia’s current racks when the new casino opens later this year.



The existing building will be used for offices and storage and the parking lot will be exclusively for casino employees who will be transported to their jobs at the new casino via shuttle.

Isleta Casino to Open Shortly...

The Grand Opening for the new Isleta Casino & Resort was rescheduled from last New Year’s Eve 2000 to early February. Obviously a disappointment to its many fans and



customers in New Mexico but from the looks of the construction... it WILL be well worth the wait! A visit to the three-story, 300,000 square-foot gaming and dining facility will be a great Valentine Day excursion.

A review of the fact sheet on the property is sure to impress almost all non-Nevadans. We're looking forward to a 100,000 square-foot casino with over 1,750 slots and video poker games (up from the present 700) and about 30 table games. The Bingo Theatre will hold 1,200 players and then be converted to a Showroom/Special Events Arena that will seat 3,400. Boxing, music concerts and more are planned for the arena. All of this will replace the existing single-story prefab steel and tent structure. I've been told that the current structure will be converted into office and storage space for the Pueblo. I've been in contact with their Marketing folks and should have more details, photos, and scans of the new chips in our next issue.



I thought I'd try to go 'interactive' with my column this issue with some historical sounds. I ran across an interesting bit of Nevada history at a local record convention a couple of months ago. A "Souvenir Record" of "Fabulous Las Vegas" was stuck in the back of a box of odds and ends. This 45rpm from the 1960's was apparently given to casino visitors

and this one had been stored in someone's garage for the past 40 years. Side "A" features the voice of Gus Giuffre, a popular Las Vegas radio and TV personality of that era. He narrates the story of the beginning of Las Vegas and names off a menu of the grand old casinos of those days. Giuffre was known to all back in those days. He co-hosted the local Las Vegas Jerry Lewis Telethon from the 1950's to the 1980's and also hosted daytime movies in the 1960's and 1970's on Channel 8 on local television. Remember local afternoon movies? Las Vegas' David G. Greenspun (aka "Camera Dave") worked the camera with Gus during those live broadcasts. Greenspun was the man who helped bring the first television signals to the Las Vegas Valley in the 1950's by hiking to the top of Angel Peak with a 200-pound transmitter on his back. Gus Giuffre also worked with another pioneer of that era, Jack Kogan.

Side "B" of the record features

an interesting song from 1960's about Las Vegas along with sounds effects of the time.

If you'd like to hear this bit of gambling history, you can listen to the Gus Giuffre narration by going to <http://www.thuntek.net/~snowden/LasVegasNarration.mp3>. You can listen to the musical side "B" by



going to:

<http://www.thuntek.net/~snowden/LasVegasSong.mp3>. These links will remain active through the end of March 2001 and can be saved to your hard drive if you wish. I hope you enjoy this bit of gaming history! And while you are surfing the web, don't forget to visit Greg Susong's www.chipguide.com for color scans of chips from every state in the Union and say hello to the folks at Susong's chip collecting bulletin board, www.thechipboard.com. Chances are that Greg will have the new chips on his board before the publication of my article in the next issue of this magazine!

Please share your casino and chips news from the Indian casinos in your area. I'll have news on the Grand Opening of Isleta Casino & Resort along with scans in the next issue along with a progress report on the beautiful new Sandia Casino. Email me at Snowden@thuntek.net. If your vacation plans will bring you to New Mexico this summer, drop me an email in advance of your trip. I've got area maps and maybe we'll do a little gambling and collecting while you are in the area! See you at the Convention at the Tropicana in Las Vegas later this year... ♦

Dining Tidbits

Nevada: The Gambling and Eating Mecca

by Lisa Jung

Krispy Kreme Donuts at the Excalibur

While most people go to Nevada only for gambling, I consider it the eating capital of the world. Where else can you find such a diverse basket of eating places? We started our day in Las Vegas at the ultimate donut lovers' heaven, the Krispy Kreme donut shop at the Excalibur. The 15 minute wait in line was worth it, not only to hear the accolades of donut fans who were waiting in line with me, but to watch the donuts completing their parade through their shower of white glaze. A dozen donuts is the most economical way to go (\$6.49) rather than buying a single donut, and besides, who can eat only one, especially when they're still warm?

☆☆☆

Lotus of Siam

Our next food trek was to the Lotus of Siam, 953 E. Sahara, between Maryland and the strip. The location is not great; it is situated in a run-down Asian shopping mall. I recently read an article in *Gourmet* magazine (August 2000) that stated that the Lotus of Siam was the best new place to open this year in Las Vegas. It went on to state that it was "the single best Thai restaurant in North America!" The best bargain is the lunch buffet (M-F, 11:30 to 2:30) at \$6, but either get there early or late as a line started forming out the door at 11:50 and by noon the restaurant had run out of plates! There were 19 to 20 dishes offered, including two

soups; egg flower and hot & sour soup. The hot & sour soup is very good, but don't drink any until you have a glass of ice water handy as it is a bit spicy. An outstanding entrée is the glazed sesame chicken wings; it is possibly the best I have ever tasted! They are hot, crisp, and slightly sweet (perhaps from honey?). Another good dish is the pad thai; the thin noodles are delicious and seasoned just perfectly. The tempura vegetables (broccoli, sweet potatoes, and onions) are less successful due to a thick and heavy batter. Also good is the chicken curry with just the right amount of heat. An interesting item was the dish labeled, "banana rolls", which was actually plantains in a spring roll wrapper; that was unusual and very tasty. Worthy of mention is the orange chicken which, unlike most versions, has a definite unmistakable orange flavor due to shreds of real orange zest.

Dinner is served daily, but at a considerably higher price; most entrees are \$7-27. I would not go so far to say that it is the best Thai restaurant in North America, but it is very good and especially a great bargain at lunch.

☆☆☆

The Jade Room at the Nevada Landing

The Jade Room at the Nevada Landing in Jean, is a nicely appointed, intimate, yet casual and comfortable room. The knowledgeable hostess can advise you on unfamiliar dishes. I was warned about a lobster

and chicken kew entrée on the menu and was told that it was flamed with a 150 proof rum. She recommended the seafood combo (lobster, prawns, and scallops with mixed vegetables); this dish turned out to be a nice combination, but it was slightly on the bland side which I had to perk up with a little soy sauce and pepper. Tastier was the lobster Cantonese which was a dish consisting of two lobster tails cut up into chunks in a ground meat and vegetable sauce. The most outstanding dish that we tried was not even on the menu. I saw this dessert served at the next table. At first, I thought it was watermelon; upon closer examination, it turned out to be red sherbet with chocolate chips shaped like watermelon seeds with a layer of lemon sherbet and a layer of lime sherbet to look like watermelon rind. It was served on a chocolate cookie crust surrounded with a raspberry puree and a dollop of non-dairy topping. At \$5.50, it was a most refreshing finish to a rich meal. Most entrees are \$7-15.

☆☆

Hugo's Cellar at the Four Queens

A long-time favorite among many chippers is Hugo's Cellar at the Four Queens Hotel & Casino. We thought we would have a nice quiet and intimate dinner; after all, it was 8 p.m. on a weeknight. The restaurant was packed. Every table was full, and it was hard to hear above the din of diners. A nice touch, however, was that each female diner receives a single

long-stemmed red rose. At first, the entrees seem expensive, \$25-38, but the price includes a large salad prepared at your table from a salad cart in which you select your own ingredients, such as romaine, tomato, shrimp, eggs, mushrooms, marinated artichokes, hearts of palm, bleu cheese, pine nuts, croutons, and Parmesan cheese. You have a choice of Caesar dressing, honey-orange-walnut vinaigrette or house pepper dressing. Also included is a refreshing sorbet intermezzo, casually served in a mini-cone. A Chilean Sea Bass at \$25, was grilled New England style with bread crumbs, crab, and shrimp sauce; it was delicious and a nice combination. The roast duckling was rubbed with licorice spices and herbs and dramatically flambeed at our table with Courvoisier and anise liqueur and served with a Grand Marnier and mandarin orange sauce. (\$28) A finishing touch of light and dark chocolate-dipped fruits (that night it was dried apricots and figs and fresh strawberries) with whipped cream were elegantly served and is also included with your meal. Considering all the extras that are served with your meal, the table-side service, and the rose that you get to take home, Hugo's Cellar is quite reasonable and I can see why this restaurant is so popular.

☆☆☆

Suncoast Buffet

The new Suncoast Casino (take 95 north, Summerlin exit, then Rampart exit), next door to The Regent Hotel & Casino in Summerlin, offers an excellent buffet at a very reasonable price: \$7 for lunch and \$10 for dinner. The food stations include Mongolian, Chinese, seafood, barbecue, Mexican, and Italian. Everything is well-prepared; I especially enjoyed the salad bar, the Mongolian beef ribs, teriyaki pork

chops, sweet and sour pork, chicken Marsala, and a four-layer mocha cake. The service is excellent also. In fact, we found that all the employees in the Suncoast Casino were very nice, cordial, and very helpful.

☆☆☆

Postrio at the Venetian

Wolfgang Puck's Postrio Restaurant at the Venetian is every bit as good as his other numerous restaurants in San Francisco and Los Angeles. Their lobster club sandwich on their excellent bread with apple wood bacon was wonderful. A pasta dish with porcini mushrooms was a little on the bland side, however. Most entrees are \$10-18 at lunch. The service is always good and the location at the Venetian's St. Mark's Square allows you to be entertained by strolling singers. We also enjoyed watching the amazing man in white robes who looks like a marble statue; he stands so still that he often startles people who are passing by who don't realize he's real until he flinches a finger or follows them with his eyes.

☆☆☆

Great Moments Room at the Las Vegas Club

It's always nice to go to a restaurant with a large group; not only is it fun, but you can get a consensus of opinions about the food and service. Mel and I went to the Great Moments Room at the Las Vegas Club. We were joined by John Yee, Mark Bufton, Wayne Thompson, Paul Sax, Steve Wells, Barry Weintraub, Walt Gonski, and David Sarles. Since we had such a large group, we were given a small private room off of the main dining room. The consensus was that the cream of seafood soup was excellent and better than the Oriental chicken salad with honey mustard dressing. Soup or salad is included

with your dinner. The steak, prime rib, trout, and chicken angelo entrees were good, but not quite as good as in past visits. Mel & I have probably been to the Great Moments Room at least four to five times in the past; while it had been better, it is still a good value. Most dinners are \$9-18.

A favorite restaurant is certainly a personal opinion, and experiences can vary from visit to visit, night to night, and can even be influenced by a particular entrée one has chosen. I would have previously given four stars to the Great Moments Room based on previous visits; however, on this last visit, I felt that the food was good, but not as outstanding (except for the cream of seafood soup which was excellent) as before. The service has been and still is excellent and attentive.

☆☆☆



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The library keeps growing over the past six months with the generous donations from club members and book authors.

As a change of pace from the catalogs and price guides in the library, we received a copy of a book Loaded Dice, by John Soares,

Casino Chip and Token News, with back issues of nearly every issue since the first edition.

New Books & Videotapes for the Club Library

by **Robert Pardue**

Chip guides and catalogs and among the most popular volumes in the club library. So I am pleased to report that we have 2 copies of the newest (7th edition) The Chip Rack, donated by the authors/publishers, KMW Publishing. It's bigger and better than ever, with updated values on many older chips. Campiglia & Wells also donated a copy of their 2nd edition The Official U.S. Casino Chip Price Guide. This guide was expanded to include Riverboats and also many limited edition chips, in list form. The all-color format is great! A new Colorado Chip & Token Guide (4th edition) was donated by author Allen Banick. This price guide is designed to be used in conjunction with Banick's website (cochips.com). And Doug Saito donated a copy of his 6-part auction catalog of chips from the Harvey Fuller Collection Auction Catalogues. Much more than a simple auction catalog, this series includes lots of history on the chips/casinos included in the auction, plus color photos of the chips and prices realized (with high bidder names deleted). Ralph Pollack donated copies of his new Casinos of Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, St. Maarten, Suriname -- the Dutch Caribbean. This is an excellent 2000 expansion and update to his previous book on this area of chip collecting.

donated by Scott Ray. Published in 1985, this 217 page book is subtitled "The True Story of a Casino Cheat". It relates the adventures of a group of talented dice cheats who switched dice and beat the casinos with some major league wins. I don't know if the stories are truth or fiction, but its interesting reading as a diversion in any event. Another book, which I purchased and plan to donate to the library as soon as I finish it is Super Casino: Inside the New Las Vegas, by Pete Earley, published in 2000. This 386 page book describes the new "megacasinos" and focuses on the newer Mandalay Bay properties (Luxor, Excalibur, etc.)

Manufacturers catalogs are useful research documents for chip collectors. So I'm glad to receive a copy of the 1995 Casino Products catalog from Summit Casino Products, donated by John Benedict. Color photos of chips and casino items from this Colorado based distributor are shown.

As a reminder, the library continues to receive copies of The Numismatist, published monthly by the ANA. We also receive a copy of the monthly Nevada Approved Chips & Tokens list, for those interested in Nevada chips. And the library receives an extra copy of our own

Next category: Videotapes! We now have a number of new videotapes for collectors to enjoy. First, additional VHS copies of the Dale Seymour Collectible Treasures show (we also have a CD version of this show). Next, a VHS tape by Steve Passalacqua featuring interviews with Chip Collecting Pioneers and Dealers. Includes tapes from a Bellflower show and also the first annual CC>CC convention at the (original) Aladdin. Last but definitely not least is a 10 volume set (yes, 10 volumes and growing!) of video programs related to gambling. These tapes were painstakingly compiled and catalogued by Mike Ludwig. Each volume consists of approximately 6 hours of show and movies as seen on network or cable TV channels. The contents of each tape follows:

Video #1

- A & E's History of Las Vegas
- Part 1 - "Las Vegas: Gamble In The Desert" - 2:00
- Part 2 - "Las Vegas: House of Cards" - 2:00
- Vegas And The Mob" - A & E - 2:00

Video #2

- "High Rollers: A History of Gambling In America" - The History Channel - 2:00
- "Las Vegas And The Mormons" - The History Channel - 1:00
- "Las Vegas Hotels" - The Travel Channel - 1:00
- "High Rollers Vegas" - The Discovery Channel - 1:00
- "Adventure Crazy - Showgirls In The Desert" - The Travel Channel - :30

Video #3

- “Casino Technology” - The History Channel - 1:00
- “The Secret World Of Gambling” - The Learning Channel - 1:00
- “Las Vegas Uncovered” - The Learning Channel - 1:00
- “Collectible Treasures” featuring Dale Seymour - Home & Garden TV - :30
- “Las Vegas Showgirls” - E! - 1:00
- “Headliners & Legends” featuring Donald Trump - MSNBC - 1:00

Video #4

- “King of the Strip” featuring The Venetian - The Learning Channel - 1:00
- “E! True Hollywood Story” featuring Siegfried & Roy - E! - 1:00
- “High Rollers Vegas” - The Discovery Channel - 1:00
- “Atlantic City Casino” - The Discovery Channel - 1:00
- “On The Inside - Poker” featuring the 1999 WSOP - The Discovery Channel - 1:00
- “City Confidential” on Las Vegas’ Larry Volk’s murder - A & E - 1:00

Video #5

- “World’s Best Casinos” - E! - 1:00
- “FOX Files - Las Vegas Underground” - FOX - :15
- “48 Hours - Hidden Stories of Las Vegas” - CBS/The Learning Channel - 1:00
- “Casino Tech” - The Discovery Channel - 1:00
- “Secret World of Las Vegas” - The Learning Channel - 1:00
- “High Rollers” - E! - 1:00
- “Wild On” Las Vegas - E! - 1:00
- “Casino” - The Discovery Channel - 1:00

Video #6

- “Biography - The Rat Pack” - A & E - 4 parts @ 1:00 each
- “Hot August Nights” from Reno - Speedvision - :30
- “Rat Pack’s Las Vegas” - The Travel Channel - 1:00

Video #7

- “Gilda” (1946) (NR)
- “Ocean’s Eleven” (1960) (NR)
- “Any Number Can Play” (1949) (NR)
- “The Las Vegas Story” (1952) (NR)

Video #8

- “Rounders” (1998) (R)
- “The Great Sinner” (1949) (NR)
- “The Only Game In Town” (1970) (PG)

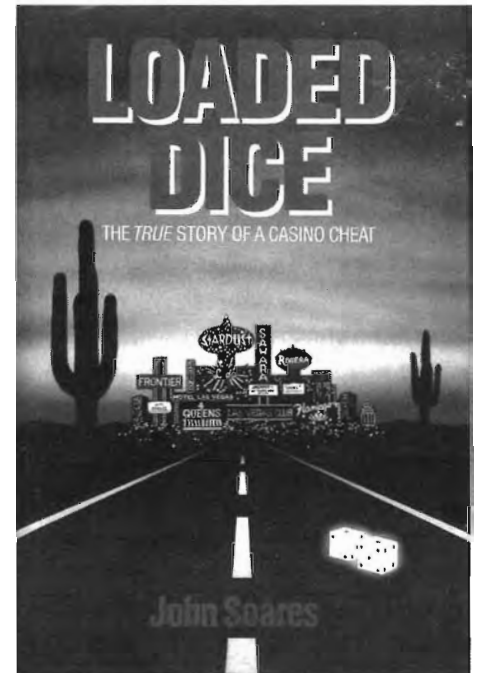
Video #9

- “High Rollers” (2000) - E! - 1:00
- “Geraldo Rivera Reports: Las Vegas” (2000) - NBC - 1:00
- “Biography Closeup: You Want To Bet?” (2000) - A & E - 1:00
- “On The Inside - WSOP 2000” - The Discovery Channel - 1:00

Video #10

- “Las Vegas: Follow The Money” (2000) - The Travel Channel - 1:00
- “Las Vegas: Beyond The Strip” (2000) - The Travel Channel - 1:00
- “Cheating Las Vegas” (2000) - The Learning Channel - 1:00
- “Love Chronicles - Love, Las Vegas Style” (2000) - A & E - 1:00
- “Seven Wonders of Las Vegas” (2000) - The Discovery Channel - 1:00
- “Venice In Vegas” (1999) - The Travel Channel - 1:00

Contact me if you want to check out any of these books or videos. Thanks again to all the donors. Preferred (and fastest) method is by email, but regular mail is fine too. My address is in the front of the magazine. Happy collecting to all! ♦



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1998 Official Convention Medal
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1997 Official Convention Medal
\$5 - Bronze, \$17 - Silver, \$22 Set of 2



1996 Official Convention Medal
\$5 - Bronze, \$17 - Silver, \$22 Set of 2



1995 Official Convention Medal
\$5 - Bronze, \$22 Set of 2 (Silver)



1994 Official Convention Medal
\$5 - Bronze, \$22 Set of 2 (Silver)

2000 Convention Chip
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\$15 - 5 chip Set

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 M, L, XL - \$10



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1997 Official T-Shirt
 L, XL - \$8

Casino Chip & Token News Back-Issues

Volume 6 issue 3	Volume 10 issue 2	\$5 each postage paid
Volume 6 issue 4	Volume 10 issue 3	
Volume 7 issue 1	Volume 10 issue 4	
Volume 7 issue 2	Volume 11 issue 2	
Volume 7 issue 3	Volume 11 issue 3	
Volume 7 issue 4	Volume 11 issue 4	
Volume 8 issue 1	Volume 12 issue 1	
Volume 8 issue 2	Volume 12 issue 2	
Volume 8 issue 3	Volume 10 issue 3	
Volume 8 issue 4	Volume 12 issue 4	
Volume 9 issue 2	Volume 13 issue 1	
Volume 9 issue 3	Volume 13 issue 2	
Volume 10 issue 1		

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Jim Steffner

Your Next Club President

LM-1508-30

Our club has shown substantial growth since its inception. I firmly believe that we can continue this growth in an accelerated path. We need to increase promotional efforts and increase the exposure of our club name and reputation in the collecting community, by recruiting new members and exploring related collecting groups.

I would like to develop corporate sponsors for our club by working with corporations, casinos, gaming manufacturers, etc. to establish a relationship, gain exposure, and develop mutual benefits.

We have a great staff of volunteers who devote a considerable amount of time to making sure that everyone enjoys themselves. I will actively cultivate additional members whose talents and areas of expertise can be shared for the benefit of all our members. At present our wonderful volunteer staff is doing a great job supporting our annual Las Vegas convention. There are many local shows in CA, NV, FL, IL, MI, MS, NJ, and other areas during the year run by our members. I feel that the club should help promote these shows. An additional convention or show put on by the club would interfere with those already planned and tax our volunteer help.

I am in favor of investigating the establishment of a permanent home for our club that would include a museum and archives. This would be a long range plan requiring extensive evaluation, site locations, funding, usage studies, costs, etc., but most important, feasibility.

Our club should consider the acquisition of manufacturing records, artifacts, and other historical and research documents. I am not advocating a blank check approach but would rather first work with those who now hold these documents for a possible non-profit tax based donation to the club. Alternately, I would look for a group who would publish the information in a resale book, or a private collector, who would purchase the information and make the records available to all collectors.

I am NOT in favor of increasing dues just for the sake of having a larger bank account balance. Additional dues should only be necessary if our cost of benefits provided "equally" to all members increase. Dues are meant to cover basic operational costs and our quarterly magazine. We should develop and promote other fund raising projects to build up our treasury to provide additional services such as educational and promotional programs, building funds, or major purchase efforts.

I am in favor of promoting the establishment of regional and specialty chapters such as silver strikes, roulettes, dice etc., and increasing our participation in, and promotion of, our local chapters.

I am not in favor of a formal grading system, changing our club name, or the club participating in an auction site, such as E-Bay.

I promise to improve the communication process between members and board officers for a better exchange of ideas and suggestions, and to provide a fast response to any members concern.

I would promote improvement of our club web site, additional reference material as available for research, links to casino collectible related sites, chat room, trade center, etc.

I bring you 5 successful years of club operation background as your Membership Officer and many years of management experience in private and educational business markets. I have been active in the collecting community for numerous years acquiring chips, tokens, ashtrays, dice, slot cards, and other casino collectibles. As a Life Member of our club and a Charter Member of the Great Lakes Chapter and the Ohio River Valley Chapter, I have a long term dedication and commitment to the betterment of our hobby. I promise to listen and respond to each member's suggestions, ideas, or complaints. Together we can make our club the great organization it should be. As your President I will represent all members in decisions on club operations. If you share my feelings and ideas, please give me your vote. If you have any questions or concerns, or comments please contact me at casinojim@prodigy.net, call 440-647-4335, or write to me at PO Box 368, Wellington OH 44090.

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Hard Rock

Report

by John Yee

HARD ROCK HOTEL & CASINO



LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

The Hard Rock Hotel is arguably the most collected chips in Las Vegas and perhaps the most collected in the world. Obviously a grandiose statement but where else do collectors line up a hundred deep when there's a new release. Pictured below are a few of the new chips that have been released over the last few months.

Lenny Kravitz Chip

Lenny Kravitz is a rock musician and son of actress Roxie Roker (best known for her role as Helen Willis on the TV sitcom *The Jeffersons*). Lenny has many hits with a musical style that has been described as being a derivative of rock, psychedelic, and soul. The quantities produced for the \$5 chip were 5,000 and the \$25 was 500. All chips were sold from the cage.



VH-1 Fairway To Heaven Chip

Although this celebrity charity event is in its 7th year, this is the fourth year that the Hard Rock has produced a chip for the VH-1 Fairway to Heaven. This tournament claims to be the only rock 'n' roll golf tournament featuring professional golfers and celebrities from the world of music, television, and film. This year's tournament was played out October 15 and 16 at the Royal Links Golf Club in Las Vegas. 2,000 chips were produced but only 1,000 were available to the public for this charity event, the lowest mintage of the 4 series.



Pindex Chip

Although this is not a gaming chip, the Hard Rock Hotel did produce and distribute this oversized chip at its annual pin collector's convention in September. One side depicts Vegas Vic from the Pioneer Club in downtown Las Vegas and the reverse is of the Hard Rock logo. Two prototype sets were produced and later sold to collectors/dealers. There were 1,200 of these hot pink chips produced and distributed September 6th and 7th.



Rocky Horror Picture Show

The Hard Rock produced two chips commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Rocky Horror Picture Show. The \$5 depicts Dr. Frank-N-Furter and the \$25 depicts Riff-Raff. Quantities produced and sold from the cage were 4,500 for the \$5 and 500 for the \$25.



Halloween Chip

The Halloween chip is very similar to previous year issues in that the same orange Paulson Hat and Canes with 8 black inserts are used. There were 3,000 chips produced and distributed from the cage. Occasionally a chip or two can be found on the tables.



Car Set Chips

The Rock 'n' Rods Set consists of 4-\$5 chips consisting of six "concept cars" and two with common backs. I would think a 6 chip set would have been more appropriate. The six vehicles depicted are the 1951 LeSabre, 1955 Lincoln Futura, 1954 Ford FX-Atmos, 1955 Ford Mystere, 1956 Firebird II, and the 1954 Dodge Firearrow. The 1,600 sets are manufactured by Paulson Gaming and come in a CD jewel case. There are two varieties of CD inserts, one with a picture of the exterior of the hotel and the guitar

Front



Reverse



Christmas Chip

The Christmas chip was released December 15 and went on sale at 10:00 a.m. Unlike previous releases, those depicting yearly holidays do not have the same cross collecting appeal as those with musical performers. This may be the most beautiful Christmas chip produced by the Hard Rock. There were 5,500 produced but only 3,000 were available to the cage. The remaining chips were available for the corporate office and the hotel as inserts in Christmas cards.



New Years Eve Chips

It is rumored that a \$5, \$25, and \$100 depicting Van Morrison will be out for his New Year's Eve performance at the Joint. As of this writing, approved quantities are 3,000 for the \$5, 750 for the \$25, and 100 for the \$100. It is anticipated that these limited number chips will also be very difficult for collectors to add to their collections.



Roulette Chips

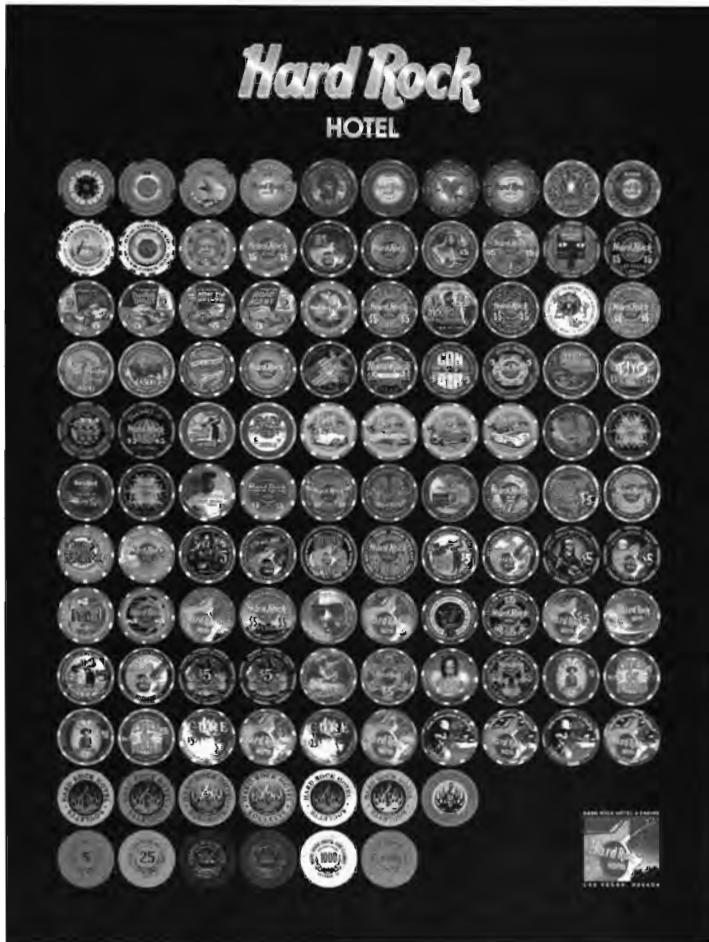
The Hard Rock replaced all their roulette chips with Paulson full graphic inlay Hat and Canes. They have seven different colors and have the various tables depicted by different colored flames on the chip. For example there is a black, gold, silver, and rainbow colored flame for each of the four tables. The Hard Rock is constantly reordering roulette chips to replace those that have mysteriously disappeared. Below is a picture of the old chip next to a new issue.

Old front & back



New front & back





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Atlantic City Chapter members hear from candidates for national offices

by Jerry Birl
Chapter Secretary

There was no endless wrangling over pregnant or dangling chads but rather lots of ideas for making improvements in the operation of our National Club, as candidates for Club offices discussed their views with A.C. Chapter members at the November 19, 2000 meeting. Nate Pincus candidate for President, Jim Episale candidate for Secretary and Marty Kaplan candidate for Secretary gave a brief description of their background and explained what they would do to better the Club. The candidates also answered questions from Chapter members. A written statement from Dave Shron candidate for Treasurer was also read to the members. Other candidates for National Club offices may attend our next scheduled meeting on January 14, 2001 and present their views. In light of what we have seen with the closeness of the vote for the President of the United States, Chapter President Brach urged all members to vote in the upcoming Club Officer elections. President Brach also announced that there was no opposition to the current slate of officers of the Atlantic City Chapter and that the current Chapter officers: Dick Brach - President, Russ Diaz - Vice President,

Jerry Birl - Secretary and Bill Kaar - Treasurer would serve another two year term from April 2001 through April 2003.

At the Chapter meeting held on September 17, 2000 many dedicated Chapter members answered President Brach's call for help in doing various tasks to keep this very large Chapter (over 300 current members) running smoothly. Russ Diaz will write the Chapter Newsletter, Ace Jack will pick up all Chapter mail, Jack Heiman will hand out member badges and register guests at Chapter meetings, Robert Montebello will handle 50/50 ticket sales, George Davis will handle nominations and elections of Chapter Officers, Mark Maahs will assist Bruce Landau with the Chapter Auctions, Charles Kaplan will handle Chapter membership record keeping and he also will handle distribution of the Chapter Newsletter by both email and regular mail and Frank Caccavone will assist all the other volunteers and fill in where needed. The only way that the Chapter can function properly and grow is through the efforts of active members. The Officers of the Chapter would like to thank everyone who has stepped

forward and volunteered their time to help in the operation of the Chapter.

“candidates for Club offices discussed their views with A.C. Chapter members”

The September 17th and November 19th Chapter meetings were once again held in the Starlight Room of the Resorts Casino in Atlantic City. As usual the Chapter meetings included a swap session, 50/50 drawing and an auction of chips and other gambling related items.

Anyone who is interested in joining the Atlantic City Chapter may contact:

Dick Brach
32 South Avenue,
Fanwood, NJ 07023
(908) 647-0814. ♦

Chinese Gamblers are a very superstitious and odd bunch of people. Among other things, the luck of the dice cards or slot reels can be determined by a number of superstitious signs throughout the year. I know this because I am one. Chinese that is!

Chinese too have their lucky and unlucky numbers. The number "4" is phonetically pronounced "say or sai", which rhymes with hay, in Cantonese. With a slight tonal difference, this can also mean death or die. And like how few buildings have a 13th floor in this country, you may have a difficult time

if you believe, you want the spirits on your side, even the gambling ones. Prosperity, wealth and happiness are common threads in many Chinese proverbs and often wished upon in prayers for the living and the dead.

Are you Superstitious?

by John Yee

For the Chinese, gambling or games of chance have been ingrained in their culture for thousands of years. Even when the Chinese were working on the Transcontinental Railroad, they were not only contributing fine cuisine of "Chop Suey" and Ketchup; they also brought forms of gambling to this new land of America literally translated as "Gold Mountain" in English. Keno is a game of Chinese origin dating back as far as 200 B.C. In fact the ancient Chinese used Keno

proceeds to help finance the "Great Wall" and their armies. Another ancient Chinese dice gaming making a reappearance is Sic

Bo, meaning dice pair and is played with three dice.

The study of numbers and their cultural impact is called numerology. Numbers play a very important role in Chinese culture too. Similar to the number "13" in this country as being unlucky and "7" being lucky, the

finding a 4th floor in Hong Kong. Another lucky number is "8" because again phonetically pronounced "bot" is very similar to development, eternity, or prosperity. Therefore car license plates in Hong Kong with the number, "888" are very expensive and highly sought after. Even quantity of chips targeted to Asian players come in quantities of 888. Nines are also lucky because that number refers to eternity and power. How important are numbers for the Chinese? From the period between 1973 and 1980, the Hong Kong government reported that auctions of auspicious car license NUMBERS raised more than \$3 million. Personalized automobile license plates ordered by Chinese owners with the numbers "8" or "9" symbolized longevity and prosperity for their owners.

There's even a philosophy called Feng Shui which allows for maximum energy flow (or qi pronounced chi) in the home and work by repositioning common objects and changing the surrounding environment.

Some would say all this is poppycock, ludicrous, even hilarious but

For example when Lucky Chances, a card room located in Colma, California, was built amongst several gravesites, a Chinese priest was summoned. Coma is the home to a majority of San Francisco's dead. After 1902 it became illegal to operate a cemetery in San Francisco. Burial plots in San Francisco were relocated to this area approximately 6 miles south of San Francisco. To this day, there are more dead residents than living ones in this small town (1.5 million people buried, 1,100 living). Anyway, the priest was summoned to make the Asian gamblers and anyone else who needed reassurance that the evil spirits had been cast away and only the good spirits were shining down on the cards.

"few buildings have a 13th floor in this country, you may have a difficult time finding a 4th floor in Hong Kong"

In another example of superstition having an impact on gaming was the remodel of MGM's entranceway on the four corners in Las Vegas. It is very bad luck to enter the mouth of a lion and therefore after a few years came a new entrance. I've also heard that the silver strikes at the McCarran airport depicting a black jack hand with the spades suit were pulled because in many cultures, the spade is a sign of death and I would



imagine that's not something a flying passenger would want on their mind prior to boarding a flight.

Here's my personal story of superstition and gambling. After Howdy Herz's dig in Gardnerville a few months back, my friend Mark Bufton and I decided to have dinner at the El Dorado buffet. As a beginning collector of plaques manufactured by Bourgogne et Grasset of France, I had to buy in for one at the baccarat table. The lowest denomination plaque is a \$100 and each is serial numbered. Upon looking at my new plaque to my amazement I received plaque #00444, which literally translates into "die-die-die" in Cantonese. Not even giving it a second thought, I asked the Asian pit boss to exchange the plaque for another. He examined the plaque and understood fully what the dilemma



was. I overheard a few Asian players asking the pit boss what I was doing because I was obviously disrupting their game. He responded "sai, sai, sai". When I received the second plaque it had the number #00013. I said to Mark, "This is an omen. I just don't know if it's a good one or bad one." I would soon find out.

I was staying at the Atlantis while in Reno and mark needed to get

some play on his slot card to keep those room comps coming. We scoured the casino floor and although I wanted to play 25¢ video poker to hone my skills, Mark led us to the \$1 Radical Royals, a progressive video poker machine. Normally not a video poker player, I was a bit apprehensive to feed the machine \$5 a hand. After placing my 3rd \$100 bill in the machine I started to complain to Mark that this machine was cursed. Then it happened! I held a 10, Jack, and King of diamonds and the Ace and Queen came up. A Royal Flush! My first ever and on a dollar machine. I sat in my usual calm composed self and said, "cool". I looked up and saw the jackpot at \$4,106.83. Mark said the odds of hitting a royal flush are somewhere near 1 in 40,000. We joke about the "omen" and good fortune the number "13" plaque had brought me and had a few laughs. ♦

NATE PINCUS for President

I, Barry Weintraub, current Secretary of CC>CC, wholeheartedly support Nate Pincus for club President.

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GAMING HISTORY OF LAKE TAHOE

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE

by Steve McClendon

Much has been pinned about Lake Tahoe's South Shore gaming establishments through the years. Since June of 1932 when the Nevada Club opened its doors for gambling on the east side of Hwy. 50 at State Line, over 30 "Clubs" have come and gone. Much



speculation has gone into exact locations of these establishments.

The East side of Hwy. 50 at State Line is by far the toughest to map out. At least 15 of these Clubs occupied the ground on which Harrah's now covers!

During the 40's and 50's the mortality rate was high for these joints on the South Shore, some lasting less than 1 year. The Twin States (45 days), The Main Entrance (2 Months), Villa Tahoe (2 Months) Itaha's (Sahati spelled backwards) 47 to ? . You get the idea. Their window of opportunity



was very small. Maybe 90 days of reliable weather to bring in enough gaming capital during the summer to survive the long harsh winters in the high Sierras. Hope you enjoy these rare and revealing prints that I've collected over the years that give us a glimpse of Nevada's Gaming past up at the "Lake in the Sky".

The Eastside Story

The Eastside of US 50 at State Line is a good place to start since gaming at the south end of the Lake

began here. The Nevada Club and the State Line Country Club both received their gaming license on June 1st 1932. Both had been serving more than trout and a cold beer before this date however. The State Line C.C. was geared more for gaming. It was larger and had more tables. The Nevada Club was more of a "locals bar" with several table games and a few slots.

These two Clubs had the South Shore much to themselves along with Carl's Club, the State Line Market and the Nevada Drug Store for the first 12 years . Slow traveling on a dirt road made access to these Clubs slow and challenging to say the least.



As the roads improved in and out of the Tahoe Basin, traffic began to flow up and down the old Placerville Rd (US 50) and business improved for everyone. The 40's brought with them a lot of growth to the State Line, The Main Entrance, Itaha's, The Twin States, The Colonial and later the Tahoe Bowl c1950, the Circus Room c1952, the Tahoe Plaza c1953, the Tahoe Palace Club c1956 and the Tahoe Colonial Club c1954...All of these at one time or another operated out of those 3 or 4 buildings between the State Line C.C. and the Calif./ Nevada border. AND all of those properties put together would easily fit into the Harrah's Tahoe of today.

The Westside Story

The year is 1944. Harvey Gross buys an older building on the west side of US 50 (Still not paved!) and has it moved up to the road. He puts in a 24hr gas pump, now the only service between Placerville and Carson City at this time. On the pump was a sign: "Ring bell for service" and out would come one of the dealers to fill'er up and take an order of refreshments. If the customer choose to come in, he could kill some time by playing one of THREE slot machines. Harvey's wife Llewellyn prepared most of the food served atop their 6 stool bar at their nearby home and the Wagon Wheel Saloon and Gambling Hall was born.



In 1945 joining the party with a sign twice as big as the Club itself was the Gateway Club soon to be George's Gateway in 49'. (See Steve Passalacqua's indepth interview with Barbara Canon in our July 98 Club magazine). Then Tony Grech (Tony's)



as well as Norman Reinburg (Dopey Norman's) Seems many of these owners/operators cut their collective teeth in California Clubs and Bars before putting it all "on the Line" at South Shore.

Down Around the Corner

About 2 miles up US 50 from State Line is Kingsbury Grade to the right and Kahle Dr to the left down toward the Lake. These intersections saw their share of gaming as well. The Tahoe Village 1946-51. Casino De Paris 52-57 and Oliver's 57-63 all occupied the same location. It's still operating today! No slots, no table games, it does have a book however...a booking station! It's the local Douglas County Sheriff Station. Down Kahle Dr. towards the Lake just west of where Lakeside Inn now stands was maybe the most unique club of them all. Sky Harbor c1947-54 stood at the north end of a runway which was heated to accommodate year round air traffic. Today this runway would dissect the Edgewood



Golf course. Eddie's Stardust which lasted only one year 57-58 was near by as was the Glass Crutch (1962-67) Bonanza (1966-67), South Shore Club 65-66 and the South Shore Riverboat which was open for less than 3 months in 1970. If you've stopped by the Burger King for a bite

in Zephyr Cove you can say you where in the Tahoe Nugget c1965-81.



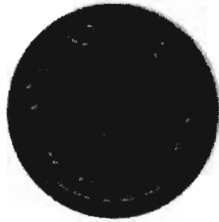
Last Men Standing

The cool winter winds of 1955 blew down off the Sierra's and over the Lake bringing a man like no other to the South Shore of Tahoe. Bill Harrah had visited the Lake on occasion and was amazed. " We walked into George's Gateway. It was really a crummy place, just terrible! Still the business was unbelievable! The crap tables were 2 deep. The 21 tables, the slots, it was busy, busy, busy. We had a very nice place in Reno and George's was a crummy place. But they did 3 times the business!" He had been involved



with gaming in Reno for over 18 years by now. He'd been sober for 9. Bill wanted a piece of the action at the Lake. His first

move was to buy the vacant Gateway Club (on the site where Harvey's of today sits) and smaller neighboring clubs (Tony's & Dopey's et al) as well and renovate the Lake Club to his high standards. What could Harrah's do to keep the customers flowing year round in this June to September playground? With a stroke of brilliance and the help of Greyhound, Harrah's started bussing up customers from California's heartland as well as the Bay area. Offering them a chicken dinner and a roll of nickels on their arrival and a bottle of champagne for the ride home. Next door Harvey Gross started running his own charters up and over Echo summit. At this time only the U.S. Army employed more buses than Harrah and Gross. This one promotion which started with only 2 buses and grew to over 40 per day (out of 31 cities), did more to put Bill Harrah and year round gaming on the map at South Shore.



Inside the Nevada Club

One year later Bill is at it again, this time on the East side of US 50. First buying the State Line Country Club, then the Main Entrance and eventually the Nevada Club and several smaller clubs, the Tahoe Plaza and Tahoe Palace. By 1959 Bill Harrah OWNED the east side of State Line. He truly was the "Last Man Standing" and Harrah's Tahoe was born. ♦



Pictures courtesy of the Steve McClendon Collection.

ATLANTIC CITY SILVER STRIKES FOR SALE

NOTE: *NO casino in Atlantic City offers silver strike machines any longer.*

Description	Price	Description	Price
Caesars \$10 Lincoln Memorial	\$20	Hilton \$10 Gold Panner	\$25
Caesars \$10 Jefferson Memorial	\$20	Hilton \$10 Train over trestle	\$25
Caesars \$10 Iwo Jima Memorial	\$20		
Caesars \$10 Tomb of Unknown Soldier	\$20	Taj Mahal \$10 Minuteman	\$25
Caesars \$10 Minutemen	\$20		
Caesars \$10 Declaration of Independence	\$20	Trop World \$10 Jefferson Memorial	\$20
Caesars \$10 Viet Nam Veterans Memorial	\$20	Trop World \$10 Iwo Jima Memorial	\$20
Caesars \$10 Paul Revere	\$20	Trop World \$10 Lincoln Memorial	\$20
Caesars \$10 Spirit of '76	\$20	Trop World \$10 Vietnam Vets Memorial	\$20
Caesars \$10 Boston Tea Party	\$20	Trop World \$10 Tomb of Unknown Soldier	\$20
Caesars \$10 Liberty Bell	\$25	Trop World \$10 Assayers	\$20
Caesars \$10 Rhode Island	\$20	Trop World \$10 Gold Panner	\$20
Caesars \$10 Massachusettes	\$20	Trop World \$10 Pony Express	\$20
Caesars \$10 Maine	\$20	Trop World \$10 Stagecoach	\$20
Caesars \$10 Connecticut	\$20	Trop World \$10 Train Over Trestle	\$20
Caesars \$10 Vermont	\$20		
Caesars \$10 Pennsylvania	\$20	Caesars \$20 1892 Pier	\$50
Caesars \$10 New Hampshire	\$20	Caesars \$20 1890 Boardwalk Roller Coaster	\$50
Caesars \$10 New York	\$20	Caesars \$20 1890 Gay 90's Boardwalk	\$50
Caesars \$10 Baltimore	\$20		
Caesars \$10 Delaware	\$20	Trump Castle \$20 Massachusettes	\$50
Caesars \$10 Virginia	\$20	Trump Castle \$20 Baltimore	\$50
Claridge \$10 1900 Riker Electric Victoria	\$25	Caesars \$40 Roman Coliseum	\$120
Claridge \$10 1903 Ford Model A	\$25	Caesars \$40 Marcus Aurelius	\$120
Claridge \$10 1915 Pierce-Arrow Runabout	\$25	Caesars \$40 Roman Chariot	\$120
Claridge \$10 1925 Six Brougham Studebaker	\$25	Caesars \$40 Head of Caesars	\$120
Claridge \$10 1929 Dusenbergl Convertible	\$25		
Claridge \$10 1940 Ford Coupe	\$25		
Claridge \$10 1941 Packard	\$25		
Claridge \$10 1949 Buick Roadmaster	\$25		
Claridge \$10 1954 Chevrolet Corvette	\$25		
Claridge \$10 1955 Chevrolet Bel Air	\$25		
Claridge \$10 1966 Shelby Mustang	\$25		

All strikes are subject to prior sale. Please allow for postage and insurance to be added.

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Chip Cleaning 101

An Introduction to Cleaning Chips

by Charles Kaplan

In the last issue of Casino Chip & Token News, Volume 13, #4, I published an article called “Chip Cleaning FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)”. The article was a compilation of experiences and suggestions from several chip collectors. While the information was valuable, it did not provide a clear direction for those who were thinking about cleaning chips for the first time. This article presents information more concisely for first time chip cleaners.

So you have some dirty chips and are wondering if it makes sense to clean them. There is no simple answer. Coin collectors are taught that cleaning a coin will ALWAYS lessen its value. That is because it is not possible to clean a coin without leaving behind some damaging marks. The same is not true for casino chips. Casino chips are fairly sturdy and are made to take a fair amount of abuse, but they do get dirty and unattractive. Cleaning a chip that is dirty, but is otherwise in good condition, can improve its appearance. However, there are exceptions. Cleaning a chip can actually damage it or give it an unnatural appearance. Not all dirty chips should be cleaned. There are two main issues:

1) When should a chip be cleaned?

and

2) How should the chip be cleaned?

Generally, you can clean a chip if:

- You are keeping the chip for your own collection
- The chip is dirty, but otherwise in good condition – little wear and no damage
- It is a not an old or expensive chip
- The chip does not have any delicate features that could be damaged in the cleaning, like a hot stamp or paper insert
- There is some feature of the chip that will prevent the chip from being fully cleaned, such as: very dirty chips, deep dirt in the mold that will not come out, brightly colored chips that will easily show any retained dirt.

How to clean a chip

There are several cleanser that have good results cleaning chips, including:

- Mild dishwashing detergent and water
- Armor All Multi-Purpose Cleaner (there are several Armor All cleanser, don't use any of the others, they are too strong for chips)
- Quick'n'Brite
- Sterling Magic

- Amway's L.O.C. (Liquid Organic Cleaner)

- Fantastik

Experiment with some inexpensive chips that you picked up from a local casino (and can return).

- After applying the cleanser to the chip, gently rub the cleanser into the chip with a soft toothbrush. If you are cleaning a chip with a hot stamp, do not use a toothbrush; it will wear away the hot stamp. Instead rub the cleanser in with your fingers.

- When the chip is clean, rinse the cleanser off with warm water, except if you use Sterling Magic or Quick'n'Brite.

- Finally wipe the chip clean with a soft towel or paper tower. Make sure that the chip is completely dry before storing it away.

- If the chip is faded, some of the color can be restored by with Baby Oil. You can soak the chip in the Baby Oil or rub it in gently with your fingers. Wipe the chip clean of any excess oil and set out until it is completely dry.



The two chips illustrated above are dirty. The chip on the top, from the Boardwalk Regency in Atlantic City, New Jersey, is in very good condition. There is very little wear; the

edges are in good shape, there is no damage to the chip. The chip on the left, from Bally's in Reno, Nevada, is well worn and is very dirty. There are several rim nicks, with a large one at

the 5 o'clock position. Let's see what these chips will look like after a cleaning.

The chips were cleaned with dishwashing detergent and water using a soft bristled toothbrush. The Boardwalk Regency chip cleaned up very nicely. It has the appearance of a slightly used chip. In a black & white picture it is difficult to see the true appearance of the chip. What looks like dirt on this chip is actually shadows. The Bally's chip looks better in the scan than it actually is. It was so dirty, all the dirt did not come out leaving part of the chip clean and part dirty. It looks very unnatural. Not a chip you would want in your collection. ♦

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Running for President of the CC>CC

Like most members of the club, I collect casino chips. I believe that the club is and should be, first and foremost, a club for collectors. Nevertheless, I also recognize that the club as we know it cannot exist in a viable form without the support of the collector-dealers who provide many of us with our primary source of chips and other casino collectibles. As CC>CC president, I will actively seek ways of promoting cooperation among collectors, dealers, casinos and chip manufacturers.

Casino chip collecting is a growing hobby. The continued success of the club is absolutely dependent upon our ability to grow with the hobby. As CC>CC President, I will actively seek ways of promoting growth of the hobby in general and the club in particular.

In support of the foregoing general principles, I support the following specific programs and proposals:

- The creation of nation-wide club chapters for specialty collectors, similar to the highly successful Silver Strikers Chapter.
- Closer cooperation between the national club and the chapters, both regional and specialty.
- Increased emphasis on advertising and promotion designed to increase Club membership.
- Consideration of the establishment of a mid-year or winter convention to be held at a location other than Las Vegas, perhaps moving the location from year to year.
- Expansion of the club website as a source of information about the hobby.
- The recent proposal by Jim Kruse to establish a permanent, physical home for our Club. Such a facility could serve as a combined museum, library and Hall of Fame. I also support the proposal by Neal Silverman to initiate a committee to study means of making this proposal a reality.
- The acquisition of chip production records by the club, if they can be obtained at a reasonable price.
- Both a modest increase in membership fees for the purpose of funding such acquisitions (\$5-10 a year) and the imposition of a modest fee to access the records once they are obtained (\$5 per request seems reasonable).
- The development and publication of some form of official CC>CC standardized grading definitions.
- A more active role by the Club in establishing and enforcing standards of ethical conduct.

Here are some fellow Club members who have endorsed my candidacy in this election

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| • Archie Black (HLM-001) | • John Benedict | • Andy Hughes | • Travis H. D. Lewin |
| • Neal Silverman | • Marty Kaplan | • Larry Hollibaugh | • Steve Blust |
| • Peter Sanders | • Bob Orme | • Katie Smith | • Michael Par |
| • Jim Gardner | • Paul Sax | • Jim Gaito | • Skip Sesling |
| • Robert Touts | | | |

It is with considerable pleasure and a high degree of confidence in their abilities that I endorse election candidates Neal Silverman for Vice President and Marty Kaplan for Secretary.





Neal Silverman for Vice President

CASINO CHIPS & GAMING TOKENS COLLECTORS CLUB

Working for chip collecting. Working for the club

- Co-founder of Chequers
- Contributing Editor of Casino Player Magazine
- Co-author Collector's Corner, monthly chipping column in Casino Player
- Developer and first webmaster of the CC>CC's website
- Writer for Gaming Times
- Moderator at the Electronic Chippers Conference at 8th Annual CC>CC Convention

Where I Stand:

- I am in favor of strengthening our Club's financial footing so that the funds will be available to help grow the hobby and for Club use when reasonable opportunities arise.
- I am in favor of enhancing the functions and events we have to make, or keep them, the best and most prestigious in the hobby. Simply put, I would not cut back on our magazine, the CC&TN, I would look to build upon it. I would not consider reducing the scope of our annual convention, but rather press to keep it the premier event that it is.
- I am very much in favor Jim Kruse's suggestion for a Club building to house a CC>CC museum, provided reasonable conditions to go forward are met. I solicited the current board to form a committee to research the feasibility of Jim's idea.
- I would strongly encourage the creation of specialty collector Chapters similar to the Silver Strike Chapter.
- I am not in favor of a grading system. However, I think the use of relative descriptions such as: uncirculated, used, worn are useful.
- With the Internet's growth, the web has become a primary form of communication and the Club should embrace it and take as full advantage of the Internet as is practical. I want to put in place new procedures and techniques to provide better communication between the Board and our Members.

It's time for a change.

I whole heartedly support Jim Reilly for President and Marty Kaplan for Secretary.





Marty Kaplan for Secretary

It was about a month ago that I got home from our Convention in Las Vegas, and while I have calmed down considerably since then, I find that I am still excited, pumped in fact, at the prospects for our Club's and the hobby's future. A future that I want very much to be a part of. With that in mind I would like to announce that I am running for Club Secretary in the 2001 election.

I like to 'roll my sleeves up' and get things done, and from my earliest days as a collector I have been working to promote the hobby and enhance communication between all chip & token collectors. That communication was the original concept behind Chequers – The Home of Chips and Tokens on the Web - of which I am co-founder. Chequers grew and we created Chequers Magazine, an online magazine of which I have been the Editor since its introduction. I am very happy and proud of its steady growth in both numbers and stature.

Currently, I am a Contributing Editor for Casino Player Magazine and co-author a monthly column for Casino Player Magazine entitled "Collector's Corner" where the focus is on our hobby. I have also emceed the Electronic Chipping Seminar (1999) at our Convention.

I believe it will take close attention, creativity, a hearty dose of technology, and hard work to steer a successful course through the growth our hobby is undergoing. When I attended our convention this year it was almost like going to a family reunion. I do not want that warmth to get lost in the expansion that is likely to come. I believe that well reasoned judgement and patience will go a long way towards making correct decisions for our Club's future.

Having personally been involved in volunteer organizations in the past, I feel I know the kind of effort it takes. I am willing, eager, and ready to provide that energy if given your support and elected as your Club Secretary.

I Support:

- I will work aggressively to improve communication between the Board and the Chapter Clubs.
- I will aggressively help to form new chapters both Regional and Special Interests, not unlike our Silver Strikers Chapter.
- I want to improve the Club's financial position and assure having funds available for special projects, if and when they are approved.
- I support a nominal membership dues increase of \$5.00 - \$10.00 per year is acceptable. Similarly, I support convention registration fees beginning with the 2001 Convention.
- I feel we should adjust the CC&TN advertising rate structure so that it can run in the black.
- I think we have to promote our organization with increased advertising and promotion. Casino gaming and our hobby are both growing, and we should be growing along with them.
- I support the continuing expansion of our Club's web site to attract new members and to provide information to all.
- I support Jim Kruse, our Club Auctioneer, who has a dream of a home, a facility, for the CC>CC. A committee is currently looking into that possibility and I look forward to their findings.

In the CC>CC elections there are no 'slates', there are no 'parties'. I do however feel strongly about two very good people among our candidates, and therefore I offer my full support and endorsement to both Jim Reilly for President and Neal Silverman for Vice President.





Silver Strikers. *What's Doin' in Biloxi & Gulfport?*

by Jerry Weisenbacher

The last year or so has truly been a bizarre time for weather in the Tampa Bay area. Minimal rain and dry as a desert much of the time. The same scenario has held true for most of the Southeast portion of the country. What, you may ask does this have to do with silver strikes. It would seem that the “drought” situation has not only affected the weather but also the current status of casinos that are issuing silver strikes. I personally have been concentrating on Nevada issues and a few ancillary locations and decided to pursue the “state of the state” in the Gulf of Mexico resorts in Biloxi and Gulfport.

It goes without saying that the casinos in both Biloxi and Gulfport that I had contact with really placed an emphasis on “Southern Hospitality”. The staff members were warm, friendly and the pace more than a few notches down from that found in Las Vegas. Hospitality aside, my mission was to find those elusive machines that drop our beloved silver strikes. While I will admit to advancing age, yes, the eyes are beginning to go also, I couldn't find a strike machine within shouting distance. Not being one to usually drop my tail and slink away I decided to dig a bit deeper. Due to time constraints (not

withstanding financial constraints) I was able to talk with various slot managers, slot shift supervisors and marketing people at five different casinos.

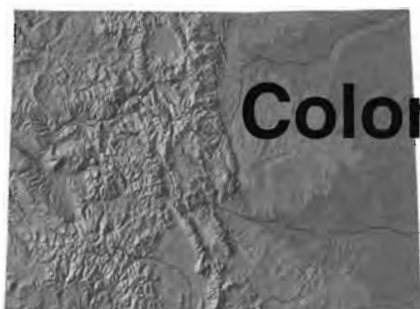
Out of the five casinos I was able to work, four out of the five had (as in past tense) silver strike machines that have since been removed. Here's the scoop on the results as given to me by the various slot managers and/or marketing gurus at the resorts. Boomtown Casino, Biloxi, tells me they have not had strike machines. Casino Magic, Biloxi, did have the machines in the past but believe they have been history now for about 2 years. The Grand Casino in Gulfport also had strike machines in the past. They are gone and I sure wasn't able to find out how long they have been a thing of the past. A couple of attempts to get information from the Imperial Palace, Biloxi, proved less than successful. Just couldn't connect with the slot manager. The Treasure Bay Casino in Biloxi is also among those who had the machines but no longer does.

As a final desperate move, I finally gave an old college try at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi. Once again, per the powers to be, the machines are now history. Beau Rivage tells me the machines were retired about a year ago at that facility.

All in all not what I wanted to hear. One of the things I really wanted to find out was what prompted the removal of machines. Was it lack of guest interest or more likely financial.

“It goes without saying that the casinos in both Biloxi and Gulfport that I had contact with really placed an emphasis on “Southern Hospitality”

Unfortunately, it seems that type of question is somewhat of a “don't ask, don't tell issue” and didn't elicit an answer anywhere. It sure is a wake-up call for me to start watching for those elusive strikes to show up. Look out Visa, I have a feeling we are heading for dangerous turf soon. ♦



Colorado Chapter News

by Allen Banick

It has been a long time since the Colorado Chapter submitted an article to the national magazine. In fact, I'm pretty sure we have never shared our club news with the rest of the collecting community. Colorado is relative to its size, what I believe to be the most active of all chip regions. We have 49 open casinos that range in size from the "Ma and Pa" slot parlors; to huge Vegas style casinos that just keep getting bigger.

I'll share more Colorado facts in future columns. I'll summarize new chips that have been released over the last 3 months, and for purposes of the magazine deadline, this will include the months of September, October and November 2000.

New Chip and Token Releases

The Lodge Casino, Black Hawk

The Lodge has been busy with their 50 chip "States of the Union" set. Each chip features the flag, map and motto of each state. Five hundred of each chip are being minted. The chips are being released at the rate of 4 per month with the final 6 being released on December 15th. This set is one of the biggest ever produced and is more popular than most collectors might think. Many coin collectors have been putting together the chip states set together to compliment their quarter collections!



Oregon, 9/00



Colorado, 10/00



Kansas, 9/00



North Dakota, 10/00



West Virginia, 9/00



South Dakota, 10/00



Nevada, 9/00



Montana, 11/00



Nebraska, 10/00



Washington, 11/00



Idaho, 11/00



Wyoming, 11/00

Sky Ute Casino, Ignacio

Colorado features two Native American casinos in the southwest corner of the state. The Sky Ute casino is located in Ignacio Colorado, very near the Utah border. The Sky Ute's hold a huge motorcycle rally each year and have been minting chips to honor this event for the last 4 years. They also issue an annual "anniversary" chip. In previous years, the casino has placed the chips in frames and sold them as sets. This year all the chips were loose and could be bought from the cage. The artwork for the Sky Ute chips is always some of the best in the state and this year's chips continue that tradition!



7th Anniversary \$1, 1000 minted



7th Anniversary \$5, 500 minted



Four Corners Horn Horse Rally \$5, 500 minted

Gilpin Casino, Black Hawk

The Gilpin continued a chip issue tradition started last year. They are issuing Holiday and Anniversary chips. This quarter we saw both the 8th Anniversary chip and a terrific Halloween chip! Notice anything "non-Colorado" in the Halloween chip?



8th Anniversary \$5, 500 minted



Halloween 2000 \$5, 500 minted

Bronco Billy's, Cripple Creek

Bronco Billy's "Chip of the Month" club has been the source for many of the great and unusual chip issues in Colorado. This casino's chips are often designed by its employees who's names are proudly featured on the edge of the chip that they designed. Recent releases include the "headless bronco" and Race for the Cure Golf chip. All money raised from the Race for the Cure chip is donated to the Race for the Cure Cancer Research Fund.



8th Annual Golf Chip \$5, 500 minted



Halloween 2000/9th Anniversary, 500 minted

Bull Durham, Black Hawk

The Bull Durham Casino, one of Black Hawk's smaller properties, recently destroyed and drilled their old Hat and Cane Bull Logo chips. They have replaced the old chips with a beautiful new Chipco "Bull" design. If this design looks familiar, it is because they used the same design on their old collector chip set. As often happens though, when a chip is re-minted it isn't exactly the same. These new \$5 bulls use a much darker red color and have a wider beveled border.



Bull Durham House Rack (2000) \$5, Unknown mintage

Upcoming Releases

Look for a new \$5 chip from the Easy Street casino in Central City. Easy Street is moving into “bigger digs” across the street from their current location. Easy street will also mint a shiny \$5 token for use in their new \$5 slot machines.

Otto’s casino in Black Hawk closed earlier this year. The same company that runs the Eureka Casino now owns it. It will re-open under a new, yet to be announced name in the near future.

The Black Diamond Casino in Cripple Creek has minted 500 green \$25’s for use in their new “Streak Blackjack” game. 3 sample \$25’s were minted that were rejected by gaming because it was too difficult to see the city name. These chips should be publicly available in December.

Bronco Billy’s will finish this years chip issues with a Bull Fight \$5 and in December a Christmas/New Year’s chip. We can also “pray” that the Bronco’s win this year’s Super Bowl so that we can get a new Super Bowl set from Bronco Billy’s!

Club Meetings!

The Colorado Chapter meets on the third Sunday of every month, usually the meetings start at 11:30. Most meetings are held in Lakewood Colorado, but the location can change. For meeting information, please email Allen Banick at allen@cochips.com or call club officers Ken and Sarah Fisk at (303) 361-6151. ♦

Atlantic City REPORT



by Archie Black (“Mr. Chips”)

Wasn’t that Vegas convention a real HOOT?? I can’t congratulate Wayne Thompson and his able assistant Belinda Hixon enough for the “best ever” show they put on for all club members. The fine spacious facilities at Tropicana proved to be a pleasant surprise for most in attendance after hearing all the pre-convention gloom and doom reports that were being circulated. Our large hotel room was tastefully decorated with mirrors on the ceiling and the swimming pool has to be one of the most gorgeous in all of Las Vegas.

New issues from Atlantic City continue to be few and far between ... with the exception of Claridge. Since my last report, both Claridge and Tropicana have issued 4th of July chips; Trump Marina has issued a \$10 Van Halen chip and Trump Taj Mahal finally issued (5000) of their long awaited \$5 Chinese New Year chip ... which also marks the Millennium on the reverse side. A new \$10 Titanic chip has been issued at Trop to celebrate the return of the popular Titanic Exhibit.

In my previous A.C. Report, I mentioned that Harrah’s had issued a mini-“i” version of their regular \$1 table issue, gray-ring, metal center chip. Well surprise, surprise! That chip didn’t last long on the tables as they were all pulled shortly after and replaced with the older black ring variety...which has some very subtle differences from the original black ring chip. One astute observer has

told me that the new black ring has Harrah’s at the top of the chip on both opposite sides when rotated (medal aligned)...while the original \$1 black ring chip has Harrah’s at the top on one side, but Harrah’s is at the bottom on the opposite side when flipped (coin aligned). What are YOUR observations?

We are presently awash in New Jersey Lighthouse chips! In May, Claridge continued their popular \$5 & \$10 Lighthouse issues with the commemoration of nearby Barnegat Lighthouse as the 2nd chip issued in this eight chip series. The \$10 chips are limited to only 500 of each being produced. The \$5 chips are limited to 1000 of each. Following Barnegat in May, was Sandy Hook Lighthouse in June; then Absecon Lighthouse in July and Cape May in August. Next up will be three Maryland \$5 & \$10 Lighthouse chips. Thomas Point in September; Seven Ft Knoll in October and Sandy Point Shoal will finish up the Lighthouse series in November.

No new slot tokens that I am aware of have been issued in Atlantic City during this past quarter. ♦

It would appear that quite a few chip series that were begun by Atlantic City casinos in the past have been short-lived. The “Mummers” series that was introduced by Tropicana each year to celebrate the New Year was interrupted earlier this year when no Mummers chip was

released for 2000. Later in the summer, the traditional Labor Day chip that Claridge began last year was not continued in 2000. The more recent chip casualty is the Miss America series that several casinos jointly issued over the past few years. Unfortunately, there were NO issues of a Miss America 2000 chip in the whole city! I suspect that the reason is possibly because Miss America pageant officials did not give their approval for a Miss America chip this year.

While many casinos are cutting back even more on their limited editions, Claridge has made up for the overall chip shortage in town. If it were not for the popular Lighthouse

Series I don't know how Atlantic City collector interest in chip collecting would have been maintained over this long otherwise dry spell. As most Atlantic City chip collectors know, Claridge releases a \$5 and \$10 chip of every L.E. issued. Just 1,000 of the \$5 chips are manufactured and a relatively smaller issue of only 500 \$10 chips are made. It will be interesting to note if new casino owner, Carl Ichan, will continue this aggressive chip issuing policy at Claridge.

With more than 2,500 members of the Casino Chips & Gaming Tokens Club presently on the rolls, and still growing, it's pretty easy to see that some of these smaller issues are going to be in short demand in the future for new collectors as the club maintains its steady growth.

Tropicana unexpectedly released a follow-up chip to their Titanic issue of last year. The Titanic Exhibition is back at Trop and a newly designed Titanic \$10 chip was issued for 2000 to mark the event.

New token releases in town have been sparser than I can remember in a long, long time. In one sense, this overall lack of activity on both the chips and tokens front is welcome news to some collectors. I've noticed several advanced collectors now scrambling to add a few of the more classical older (expensive) chips to their collections instead of spending their otherwise disposable hobby money on a lack of unavailable new issues. ♦

A most Unusual Chess Board!

by C. T. Rodgers

At a recent coin show, we had the opportunity to purchase some chips that one of our customers had come up with. He does not collect chips, but will trade for what he does collect.

Our customer handed me a plastic bag with about thirty chips enclosed, some were worn and some had cigarette burns on them and a few had an overprint in silver hot stamp that read \$1.00

"Where did you find these chips?" I asked. They were glued to the bottom of a chess board in an Elks Lodge. The Elks Lodge was selling off various items and the chess set and board were up for sale.

How did they get the chips? Back in the late 1950's, the members of the Elks Lodge wanted to purchase a set of poker chips. A member of the

lodge said he knew someone in Reno that would give them some chips. The Elks Lodge received several boxes of out of play chips from Reno, most were roulette, ten cent and twenty-five cent chips. They had some over-stamped with silver hot stamp to be used as \$1.00 chips in their poker game. They played with these chips for several years and in the late 1980's. they ordered their own chips with lodge number and an elk's head on them. The old Reno chips were placed in a back room and forgotten.

In the early 1990's they needed something to level a chess board. Someone remembered the chips and came out with about thirty of them and had them glued to the chess board. The problem was solved. They played many games of chess with that board and had no idea as to what they were playing on.

What happened to the boxes of chips they had in storage? At this point we don't know, but we are trying to find out.

A listing of the chips that were glued to the board. Oh yes, the glue did come off.

Palace Club Reno, Roulette

Purple, diamond mold

Palace Club Reno 10¢

Blue, hourglass with cowboy and slot machine

Brad's Palace Club 10¢

Red, Small greek key

Club Cal-Neva 25¢

Blue Gray, small greek key (overstamped \$1.00)

Cal-Neva 25¢

Purple, T Mold, (overstamped \$1.00)

RC (Reno Club) \$1.00

Green, large crown

There are goodies still to be found, just keep looking. ♦

GALVESTON ISLAND'S ILLEGAL GAMBLING GIANTS

"BIG" SAM AND ROSE "PAPA"

TEXAS **MACEO** BROS.

1385
KEVIN
NORRIS



ROSE

SAM

The Hollywood Dinner Club opened 1926 with partners Dutch Voight and Jackie Freedman. Freedman went on to open the Sands in Las Vegas.



At one time Maceo operations employed over 10% of the island's population. By 1948 the Brother's ruled a gaming empire, with controlling interests in over 100 clubs on the Island and mainland in Galveston County. As the Turf Athletic Club (TAC) syndicate. Clubs included the

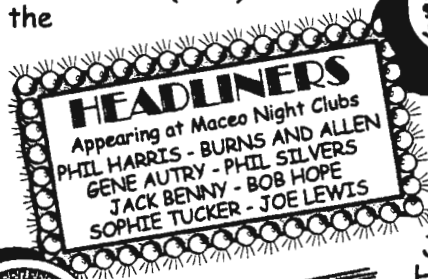
Balinese, The Studio Lounge, The Western Room, and the Turf building.



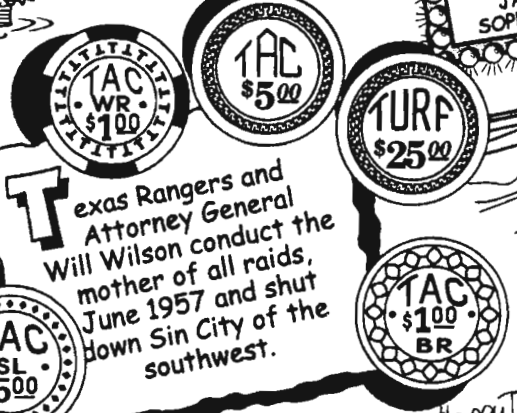
Salvatore and Rosario Maceo, two Sicilian Brothers came to Galveston in 1910. They started as barbers at the Galvez Hotel.

"Just a little off the top"

But soon went into bootlegging during PROHIBITION.

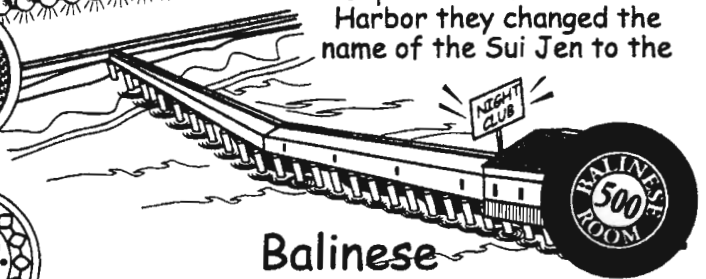


IN 1928 The Maceos opened a gaming club renamed the Sui Jen, on a pier in the Gulf of Mexico. When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor they changed the name of the Sui Jen to the



Texas Rangers and Attorney General Will Wilson conduct the mother of all raids, June 1957 and shut down Sin City of the southwest.

Happy Trails
Doc Finstuen



Balinese Room, a first class night club and casino that catered to rich oil and cattlemen.

The Rare Speed Dice (Diswirl) Mold Of the Caribbean



by Ralph P. Pollack

Ever since I was fortunate enough to purchase a rare Nevada 50 center originating from the Stateline Casino, I was fascinated by the **Speed Dice** Mold. The seller, a knowledgeable collector and writer, Doug Saito, educated me in 1993 to recognize this unique mold. Not long after that, my appetite was whetted again. I located a series of less rare chips with the **Speed Dice** mold from the Horseshoe Casino in Las Vegas. The common 25 and 50 centers, and the One-Dollar chip were readily available, while the Five and Twenty-Dollar denominations were more elusive.

It was John (Mac) Mc Mennemy, who started the Midwest Game Supply Company in 1945, originally sold dice, while going from casino to casino. Later Mac manufactured casino chips with the **Speed Dice** mold. The exact time that this mold was first introduced is unknown; however, 'The Chip Rack' lists both the Stateline and Horseshoe Casinos chips with the date in the 1950's. 'Mac' owned this company until 1986 when Linda Sohm took over the ownership.

In Bill Borland's 'Blue Book', he describes the Speed Dice Mold as 'Dice with a Comets Tail' while Howard & Gregg Herz in their 1995 book, 'A Collector's Guide to Nevada Gaming Checks & Chips' described this mold as 'Diswirl'. In either case, this mold is by far, one of the prettiest molds ever produced. Not many

casinos are currently using this mold primarily due to the added cost to produce them. Since selling casino chips is a highly competitive market, casino owners may not choose to assume the added cost. The Bud Jones Company, Paul-son and Chipco International companies are manufacturing the more popular and less costly designs.

In Puerto Rico, in the Caribbean, the Speed Dice mold was used on a chip in the Clarion Hotel & Casino. This casino issued a \$5.00 'No Cash Value', 'Non Refundable' chip.

(*SYMBOL KEY: 'PUR' stands for the Island of Puerto Rico, 'CLA' stands for Clarion Casino, '5' refers to the denomination. 'SPD' refers to the SPEED DICE MOLD, while '.1' refers to the first chip in a series. This classification is derived from Pollack's Reference Code System in Pollack's new book, 'The Casinos of Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, St. Maarten & Suriname', Copyright 2000*)

Two examples of the Midwest Game Supply sample chips are shown below:



PUR - CLA - 5 SPD.1 NCV
(Obverse side)



PUR - CLA - 5 SPD.1 NCV
(Reverse side)



USA - MID - SPD .1



USA - MID - SPD .2

In my research and travels to St. Maarten, in the Caribbean, the Kalliste Casino, now defunct, had issued and used casino chips with the Speed Dice mold. These beautiful chips were used as 'credit' chips. The denominations of the Speed Dice chips were \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1000, \$10,000 and \$100,000

in United States Dollars! To the best of the author's knowledge, the \$100,000.00 denomination is the highest known valuation of any chip in the entire Caribbean! The regular issue, non-credit table chips for the Kalliste Casino had the same center inlay logo but had the Large Greek Key mold.

As one can see, these Speed Dice chips are a knockout. The unusual

insert designs of the '1/4 PIE' on the \$10,000.00 chip and the '1/2 PIE' on the \$100,000.00 chip needs to be further explained. Only a relatively few casinos in Nevada had chips with the 'PIE' insert. Some of these casinos that had the 'dove-tail insert' design were the Diamond Jim, Castaways, Mint, and Fort Lucinda Casinos. However, even fewer casinos such as the El Cortez and the Golden Gate in Nevada ever used 'center inlays' with

the '1/4 PIE' and '1/2 PIE' inserts. Please note that the above high denomination chips from the Kalliste Casino have 'center inlays'.

In the next issue of our club journal, I will discuss in detail the chips with '1/4 PIE' and '1/2 PIE' inserts. Technically, Herz's description of inserts denotes the '1/4 PIE' is actually a '1/2 PIE' and the '1/2 PIE' is the 'PIE' insert. Happy Chipping! ♦



STM-KAL-5 SPD.1



STM-KAL-10 SPD.1



STM-KAL-25 SPD.1



STM-KAL-50 SPD.1



STM-KAL-100 SPD.1



STM-KAL-500 SPD.1



STM-KAL-1000 SPD.1



STM-KAL-10K SPD.1
(*'1/4 PIE-type' inserts*)



STM-KAL-100K SPD.1
(*'1/2 PIE-type' inserts*)



Common 'Reverse side' center inlay



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Silver Striker News



by Mary Lou Waterbury

In September my husband, Clayton and I decided to go up to the Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen, Minnesota. This little jaunt is approximately 1,050 miles round trip. We had been there in April and were able to win several sets of their new designs, featuring different fish on all four strikes. They were very popular traders at the convention this year. We eagerly entered the casino only to be informed that the strike machine had been removed and all the strikes returned. They had none to sell.

This is so disappointing as I had felt that this casino had come out with such innovative designs in the last couple of years.

I have learned that there is one other casino in Minnesota which does have strikes. That is the Firefly Casino in Granite Falls. If any of you know differently, please let me know and I will print it in the next issue.

Earlier in September, Les Hassel made a trip to Wisconsin to check on

the casinos for silver strikes. He reported that Bad River Casino of Odanah still had strikes. At the Lake of The Torches in Lac Du Flambeau, he found that they had removed their machines. He was able to buy some from the cashier, and he told a fellow collector about it, but when that person went to check, he was told that they no longer had any strikes. Lac Courte Oreilles of Haywood still has the silver strike machine. Les was relieved to find that the St. Croix Casino of Turtle Lake still had their machine.

Ed Mann gave me the report on the new Victories Casino in Petoskey, Michigan. They have started out with five designs. There is a race car plus a set of sports strikes which include a football player, a basketball player, a baseball player and a hockey player.

I talked with Ray Moritz and he said that all the strikes were out of Kansas City. The Flamingo, which was selling their strikes has now changed over to the Isle of Capri.

Supposedly everything with the Flamingo logo on it was destroyed.

In the last year or two so many of the Non-Nevada casinos have taken out their strike machines. Any time we are in a casino that still has strikes, we need to let the slot managers and personnel know how much we appreciate the fact that they have the strikes and how much we enjoy playing them. It is also very important that we are courteous to the staff who come to fill the machines, even though we may have waited ages for them to arrive.

I want to end on a HAPPY note. Our Silver Strike Chapter is alive and flourishing. We are steadily growing and we are already planning big things for the next convention which will be held again at the Tropicana. Be sure and read our newsletter and you will see that we are on the move, getting bigger and better every month. It is a joy to be an officer and member of this chapter. ♦

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() All () Nevada () Colorado () Atlantic City () Riverboats () Other _____

May we publish the above information in the club roster () Yes () No

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CORONA CLUB:

Emeryville, Calif. 1946-1967
 Chips in stock, Large Crown Red is fair , Blue is good
 Eastman's Value \$26.00 to \$35.00 **My Price \$6.00 Ea.**



E. M. GREEK:

Sacramento, Calif. 1947
 Chips in stock, Large Crown \$1.00 yellow, Blue
 Eastman's Value \$3.00 to \$7.00 **My Price \$2.00 Ea.**



UNITED CIGAR CLUB:

Bakersfield, Calif. 1940
 Chips in stock, Large Crown, Blue, Yellow, White, Red
 Eastman's Value ? Not listed **My Price \$10.00 Ea.**



RODEO CLUB:

Salinas, Calif. 1936 - 1991
 Chips in stock, Small Crown, Blue fair cond.
 Eastman's Value \$13.00 to \$18.00 **My Price \$5.00 Ea.**



MARKS CARD ROOM:

San Diego, Calif. 1968 - 1975
 Chips in stock, Small Crown, Red 25¢
 Eastman's Value \$13.00 to \$18.00 **My Price \$4.00 Ea.**



ELKS CLUB 2051:

Montebello, Calif.
 Small Crown and Zig Zag, White, Yellow, Red, Blue, Purple
 Eastman's Value Not listed **My Price 5pc set only \$12.50**



CLUB CASA Del Mar:

Los Angeles, Calif. 1925
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World Gaming Congress & Expo

by John Yee

The 14th annual World Gaming Congress & Expo trade show was held this year at the Las Vegas Convention Center October 18-20. The show promoters expected to draw over 25,000 attendees to visit the 700 plus vendors of various casino products. This show is the major event for slot manufacturers to highlight their new products. A few of the manufacturers with booths included IGT, Mikohn, SDG Gaming and all the major manufacturers of casino chips. Although this is not necessarily the place to obtain chips, there were a few sample chips to be found around the floor from Mikohn, Paulson, Bud Jones, Chipco and even the highly sought after Bourgoigne et Grasset plaques were available to the lucky few. Occasionally a new game was being demonstrated and sample chips were available to help promote their table games.

Also demonstrated was IGT's EZ Pay Ticket System which has been added to many slots at the Fiesta, Suncoast, and Terribles. Copies of these tickets are found in another story in this magazine. It is expected that the cashless/tokenless machines will be the future for casino slot machines in the larger casinos.

One confirmed rumor disclosed at the show was the acquisition of Bud Jones by Bourgoigne et Grasset. More information can be found on their web site at: <http://www.worldgaminglive.com/>

A few chip samples from the show are shown on the next page. ♦





Gaming Token List

by Earl Donley

The following slot machine tokens were approved for use by the Nevada Gaming Commission during the months indicated.

August, 2000

Aladdin Resort	Las Vegas	10.00	Smartmark
		100.00	Smartmark
		500.00	Smartmark
Flamingo Hilton	Las Vegas	10.00	S.S. Y2K, Building
Harry's Watering Hole	Reno	1.00	Logo
Lucha's Hideaway	Reno	1.00	Logo
Suncoast Hotel	Las Vegas	NCV	"Paycheck Payout"

September, 2000

Caesars Palace	Las Vegas	10.00	S.S. Trumpter
		10.00	S.S. Winged Victory
Country Roads	Las Vegas	1.00	Logo
Hamdogs	Gardnerville	1.00	Logo
Harrah's Hotel	Reno	5.00	Smartmark
		10.00	Smartmark
Las Vegas Club	Las Vegas	10.00	S.S. Basketball Jackie
		10.00	S.S. Baseball Jackie
		10.00	S.S. Hockey Jackie
		10.00	S.S. Golf Jackie
		10.00	S.S. Football Jackie
		10.00	S.S. Soccer Jackie
Union Plaza Hotel	Las Vegas	10.00	S.S. Main Club
		10.00	S.S. Cash
		10.00	S.S. Year 2000

October, 2000

Club Cal-Neva	Reno	5.00	Smartmark
		10.00	Smartmark
		25.00	Smartmark
Fiesta Hotel	Las Vegas	10.00	S.S. Garduno's
		10.00	S.S. Roxy's
		10.00	S.S. Festival Buffet
L.V. Auto Truck Plaza	Las Vegas	1.00	Logo
Las Vegas Hilton	Las Vegas	25.00	Smartmark, Building
		100.00	Smartmark, Building
		500.00	Smartmark, Building

Plaza Hotel	Las Veags	10.00	S.S. Millennium
Santa Fe Station	Las Vegas	1.00	Stagecoach
		2.00	Wild Mustang
		5.00	Big Horn Sheep
		10.00	Roadrunner
		25.00	Coyote

The next list are Tokens that were approved by the Colorado Gaming Commission since January, 2000.

Bronco Billy's	Cripple Creek	1.00	Happy Birthday & Present
Buffalo Billy's	Cripple Creek	5.00	Bucking Buffalo
Creeker's	Cripple Creek	2.00	Gold Panner
Easy Street	Central City	1.00	Street Sign
		5.00	Street Sign
J.P.McGills	Cripple Creek	2.00	Mountain
Wild West	Cripple Creek	1.00	Covered Wagon

Every state that has gambling has some form of a Gaming Commission that approves its operations. Check with your State and obtain their Token Approval List for publication in our future magazine editions. This information is Public Records and is available on your request. In some states this can be found on the Computer. A few states may charge a small service fee. ♦



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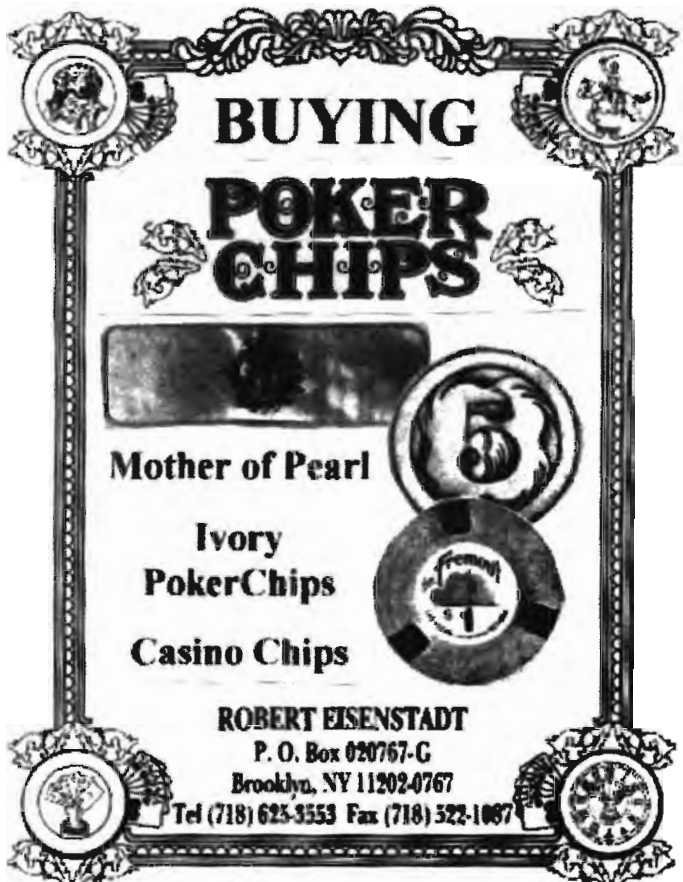
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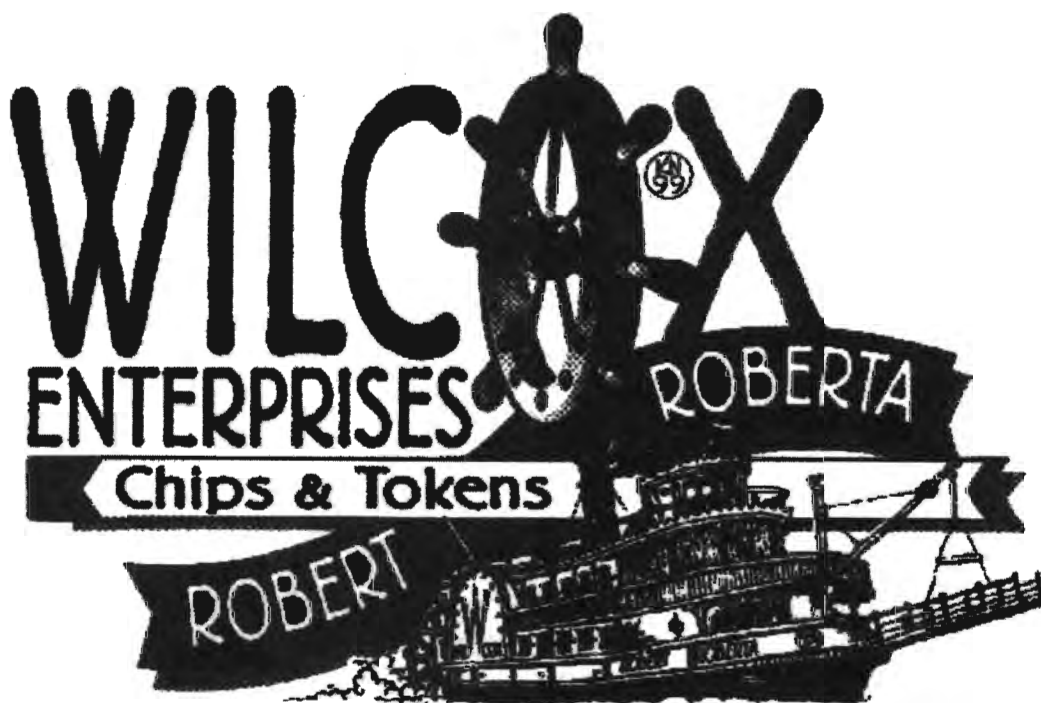
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Robert Wilcox Cook

CC>CC # R-0577

Roberta Cook

News of Europe

by **Bob Hermans**

Here again some news from Europe. I have just received these chips and I will provide some more info about them. They are from Monte Picayo Casino in Valencia, South Spain.

The casino is located in a hotel complex close to Valencia with a panoramic view of the Mediterranean Sea and the hotel has famous gardens. There are 46 slot machines, 25 video poker machines, 4 French roulettes tables, 3 American roulettes tables, 4 Black Jack tables, 3 Punto Banco and 6 Stud Poker tables.

The chips you see are a 200PTS (Pesetas) white chip made by B&G, note their logo on the chip. The beige chip is the reverse side of a 50PTS chip. The 200 has the same reverse side as the 50 and the 50 front is the same as the 200. (Can you still follow, I think you know what I mean)



Now for the slotcard and keycard collectors, here is a kind of predecessor.

Shown here is a photo of a daycard (carta valevole per la giornata) from Casino Municipale di San Remo.

In Italy, like in most European Casino's, you have to pay an entrance



fee. You then receive a daycard or when you pay for a yearly card you get a kind of pass that grants you entrance as many times you want for that period.

Now the card you see here was given to a Mr. Oedenkoren from Belgio (Belgium) and this for the day of 11 March 1933.

Note it also says below Casino Municipale di San Remo, aperto tutto l'anno, which means, open all year. In that era they had along the French and Italian Riviera several casino's which were only open during the summer when the rich and famous had their holiday's there.



Monte Picayo (Valencia)



Some other European news: Casino Ray have released details of the first annual Baltic Sea Blackjack Tournament. This new competition the format of which was agreed at the European Gaming Forum in Malta will see players competing for a \$20,000 first prize. The best national team will also be awarded an additional \$10,500. Qualifying rounds have started or are about to take place in Poland, the Olympic Casino in Estonia and at Casino Ray in Helsinki. The finals being held on the 18th of November.

The Rank Group who operate Grosvenor Casinos and own the Hard Rock Cafes are planning on bringing the name and theme to Manchester by transferring one their existing three licenses. Rank announced recently that sale of film and holiday subsidiaries were to concentrate on restaurants and gaming. The new location, the Printworks is a £150 million leisure and entertainment development. Stanley Leisure owns and operates the two other casinos in the city.

The Bucharest Business News details the opening of the impressive looking Paris Casino at the Bucuresti Hotel. The 20 table operation being financed by Israeli businessman Avshalom Zuman. The casino will be competing with the Partouche Casino in the Athenee Palace Hilton hotel that opened in 1999.

Despite these new openings, a high rate of taxation is cited as to why the number of casinos in the Romanian capital has declined to 7 from 17 in 1996.

That is about it for this time,
Take care and kind regards,
Bob Hermans R-4479 ♦

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\$10 tokens	\$14.00@
\$10 chips	\$15.00@
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Howdy's Dig in Gardnerville
 On November 4th, Howard Herz sponsored a chip show at Sharkey's in Gardnerville, approximately 45 minutes south of Reno. The previous night's trade session was fun and quaint for the two dozen or so people who attended. After about 5 hours of catching up on chipping and just getting together with friends, many of us gambled at the nearby Carson Valley Inn, just a couple of blocks down the road in Minden.

Saturday's show featured about 9 dealers with about 40 attendees. Although there was plenty of chips to go around, the highlight of the day was a guest appearance by Sharkey, the proprietor of Sharkey's. The heavy set individual with years of life experiences spent nearly an hour entertaining us with long forgotten tales from forty years ago when he and Bill Harrah were buddies. His stories were a unique opportunity to gain insight into a gaming lifestyle long forgotten.

An interesting item floating around the floor was a \$5,000 brass core chip from Harrah's Reno. I believe this is the largest denomination purchased at face from any casino for a personal collection. And Steve McLendon was selling oversized black and white original prints from Northern Nevada at an incredibly reasonable price. The coffee shop tables were also a fascinating item to view. Every one of the twenty or so tables have chips or other gaming memorabilia from all over Nevada encased in Lucite. Although there were only a handful of people, the atmosphere was less stressful than any chip show I've been to yet every bit as enjoyable. Thank you Howard and Sharkey. ♦

Howdy's Dig

in gardnerville

by John Yee



Tegan, Sharkey, & Steve



Howard Herz & Sharkey



Randi, Sharkey, & Marci



Steve Passalacqua



Joe Shaw & Mark Bufton



Storytelling



Dean Porter, Barry Weintraub, & Lynn Brooks



Audra Lemke & Jeff "Mr Diceman" Laudeman



California *Chips*

by David Moore

This is a big quarter for California chips, mostly from the Southern half of the state. Even bigger — 90 days for slot tokens, with most of the Indian casinos in the state issuing them for the first time.



Hollywood Park finally came out with their Year of the Dragon set before the calendar turned to the Snake. Looks like the Rabbit was the last of the brass core series as this set is regular Chipcos in the usual \$2.50, \$5 and \$8 denominations. The casino issued 333 of each chip.



The Hustler Casino came out with a set of twelve \$5 chips with the Asian New Year theme. Should be a much easier chip to obtain since 10,000 of each were reportedly made and the casino will sell the chips by mail. Hustler Casino, owned by Larry Flynt, also changed their \$3 rack chip.

Viejas and Sycuan, both Indian casinos, issued new racks in November. Jackson Rancheria in Northern California also came out with a new rack. The \$1 is slightly harder to get since it is only available in the club's new poker room.

A couple of Northern California card rooms seems to have dealt their last round. The Lake Bowl shut down, reportedly after a shooting in the Folsom card room. The Outpost in San Ramon closed the card room portion of the establishment after the owner's gambling license was revoked by the state. Mark Luciano,

was among 55 people charged after a massive police sting to stop the alleged influence of Asian organized crime at Garden City and Bay 101 in San Jose and at the Outpost. Charges against Luciano were later dropped. Charges stemming from the investigation of other suspects in the case included loan sharking, racketeering,



assault and witness intimidation, among other crimes. So far the San Jose clubs haven't been affected.

As mentioned earlier, California Indian casinos are moving to coin slot machines quickly, with many of them issuing tokens. Among those that reportedly have issued tokens are: Barona Casino, Black Bart Casino, Cahuilla Creek,; Casino Morongo, Cache Creek, Chumash Casino, Fantasy Springs Casino, Feather Falls, Jackson Rancheria \$1, Konocti Vista Casino, Palace Indian Gaming Center, Pechanga, Soboba Casino, Spa Casino, Spotlight 29 Casino, Susanville Casino, Sycuan Casino, Table Mountain Casino, Viejas Casino.



Newest Indian casino to issue chips should be the Palace Indian Gaming Center, scheduled to open December 18 with chips in \$1, \$2.50, \$5, \$20, \$25, \$100, \$500, \$1,000 denominations as well as a slot card.

Thanks for Larry Odoms, Greg Susong and Jim Munding for their contributions this month. If I've missed a new chip issued in the last three months or if you know of upcoming California chips, drop me a line, and I'll include them in the next issue of the club magazine. Contact me at: moored@pacbell.net or write: David Moore, 1750 San Luis Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.. ♦

The Great Lakes Chapter Supports
Jim Steffner
for President of the CC>CC

Tips to the New Collector from a New Collector

by Jill Bitner

As a new collector, I knew nothing. I knew no one. And worse of all — I HAD NOTHING. So where does a person go with a pile of beat up slot tokens and a desire to collect casino chips? Well... the INTERNET for starters!

“My start” in collecting is fairly common I hear. As Arizona gaming took off, a new casino would open and eventually I’d meander in and wind up pocketing a slot token or poker chip as a souvenir. Compounded with some work in Vegas, twelve years later this “non-collector” found she had quite the little collection going. My “collection” was contained to a Tupperware bowl -- tucked deep in a closet – filled with a variety of tokens, chips and casino memorabilia.

“SURELY”, I thought to myself, “... someone else collects this stuff! Maybe I can find SOMEONE who’ll trade my duplicates.” So I began to look. And surf. And see. To my amazement there was a whole WORLD of people who “collect this stuff”. I jumped right in!

To other new collectors? I did some things right and I did some things wrong. I have learned many things and not everything I learned has been good, but it has ALL been important. Here are MY suggestions if you are just getting started.

1. JOIN THE CLUB. Not only did I find honest, reputable contacts, I have met some of the nicest people I have

ever known. I also found that being a member suggested to others... dealers, businesses and other collectors “a sense of being serious”. (and by “serious”, I mean serious as in “intent”, not “serious” suggesting a depth of involvement.) There are TERRIFIC resources available like Chipology 101, message boards, pictures, meetings, Shows and chapters. The CC>CC is your guide to people, places and things and it is ALL GOOD STUFF!

2. DON’T BE AFRAID TO BE STUPID. <<I am laughing. >> Ask questions! LOTS of questions. Ask more than one person and if you don’t understand or get an answer, ask someone else. Accept those offers of “... if you need help, don’t hesitate to ask.” ASK ASK ASK! It works!

3. PLACE AN AD. Use what ya got and JUST GET STARTED. I had virtually NOTHING when I started. What I DID have was a local casino with nice looking chips. I bought 10 - \$1 chips and placed a “trade ad” on the ChipBoard. My ad simply read: New collector wants to trade “my \$1 chip” for “your \$1 chip”. AND LOOK OUT!

In 3 _ weeks, I acquired 67 new chips. 67 new chips!!! From all over the world! I e-mailed. I traded. I met people and asked questions. I traded as few as 1 chip and as many as 10. ALL the chips I traded were from one place: Bucky’s Casino in Prescott AZ. I had NO variety. Just Bucky’s.

Some people wanted the chip and others traded (I think) just to help me out. Others simply said, “I don’t NEED that — but send me your address and I’ll send you something.” And they did. (It was AMAZING!!)

“I e-mailed. I traded. I met people and asked questions”

4. GET REFERALS. And USE THEM. This is where I messed up. This is also where I found my greatest success. FOR THE MOST PART...if I did things on my own, I either paid too much, over or underestimated the value of something, put my foot in my mouth or wound up with something entirely different than I thought I was getting. <<big sigh!>> No big deal! Just part of my education.

But when it came right down to spending money, I learned REAL QUICK to JUST ASK someone before buying. Let’s say you want a book... based on your interests: WHAT book (would be best)? HOW much (should it cost)? Who has it? And WHY is better? This will save you money and shelf space. Trust me.

This especially goes for acquiring specialty chips. I made the mistake of immediately shopping on e-bay with NO information. On the “good deals” — I GOT LUCKY. More often, I paid too much, bought too much and

never realized how blindly I was shopping. When I wanted an ivory chip, I ASKED someone about them BEFORE buying one. I was immediately referred to someone who specializes in ivory chips. And the person who referred me DID NOT try to sell me one first! <<G>> I wound up with a perfect specimen (no cracks, chips or nerve holes) at a price far below what I had seen on e-bay for lower quality chips. I did the same thing (but later than I should have) concerning brass cores.

Regardless of what YOU are collecting, there is probably SOMEONE in the CC>CC who has

more, knows more and has what you want. Better this person be honest and ethical, right? RIGHT! Reputation (good or bad) seems to be earned and highly recognized in this circle of chippers. I have found that when praise is given upfront, my own experience with that person has been rewarding.

5. HAVE FUN! This is my hobby. I am not a dealer and prefer not to sell anything. I am a hobbyist. I like to have fun. Relax and enjoy it. It's that simple. I buy what I like and decline what I don't. And I acquire very little based on "investment" potential. See... THIS IS MY

HOBBY... not my livelihood. And who knows what bonuses are in store? One night on a chip run I dropped 2 bucks into a slot machine and it hit for \$20,000.00. IT HAPPENS! But the greatest thing I have gained from casino chip collecting is not in the form of money or rare chips. It is simply meeting and getting to know some of the nicest people I have ever had the pleasure to meet.

Jill Bitner, CC>CC 4943
Prescott AZ. ♦



ROULETTE CHAPTER

by Jerry Birl

I have received about 60 to 70 replies from Club members who are interested in forming a roulette Chapter of the CC>CC. In the next couple of months I will be sending a letter and an application for membership to all perspective members of the Roulette Chip Collectors Chapter (RCCC) - you gotta love all those C's. If you are interested in joining this chapter and have not yet sent in the Roulette Chapter Survey which was in the 2000 Fall issue of the Club Magazine on page 65, please send in your Survey ASAP or write, email or telephone me.

Roulette Chip Collectors Chapter
Attention: Jerry Birl
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Millsboro, DE 19966
r.i.c.h.-mr.roulette@prodigy.net
(302) 945-2397 Answering Service
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We are planning to have a meeting some time during the National Convention in May of 2001 at the Tropicana Casino in Las Vegas. Also we will be preparing the paperwork, etc. that is necessary to make a formal application to the National Club to be recognized as a Chapter of the

National Club. As a matter of policy, anyone who wishes to join the Roulette Chapter must be a member in good standing of the National Club. ♦

Monte Carlo

CASINO TOKENS OF

THOMAS C. DAY ANA 128895

Since ancient times, man has played games of chance in hopes of acquiring something of greater value than that he originally risked. Tokens of various kinds have served as stores of value and mediums of exchange during these games. Long overlooked by collectors, these pieces of currency represent a fascinating aspect of numismatics.

Of all the gaming establishments in the world, the most famous—and the one that has issued the most varied and beautiful chips—is the Casino of Monte Carlo. Located on the Mediterranean coast in the Principality of Monaco, the casino once saved Monaco from poverty and possible bankruptcy. Today, however, casino revenues represent only about 3 percent of Monaco's gross national product.

The circumstances that led to the creation of the Casino of Monte Carlo are rooted in European history. With the downfall of Napoleon in 1814-15, Europe's dynastic order, which had been upheaved by the French Revolution and the First Empire, was reestablished. After a lapse of almost two decades, the Grimaldis, rulers of Monaco since the 14th century, were able to return to their homeland.

However, the state to which they returned was in ruin. The ancestral palace had been ransacked during the Revolution and subsequently transformed into a hospital and poorhouse under Napoleon. Several disastrous winters had devastated the groves of olive, lemon and orange trees, from which many in-



Prince Charles III of Monaco (1856-89), after whom Monte Carlo was named.

PALACE ARCHIVES OF MONACO

habitants earned their livelihood. Tolls levied on vessels passing in Monacan waters, once an important source of revenue in pre-Revolutionary times, were no longer enforceable, for the country was now bordered on three sides by the larger, more powerful Kingdom of Sardinia.

Monaco urgently needed a new source of revenue. Prince Honoré V (1819-41) sought to build a textile industry that would include rope, sail, lace and hat works, but the venture failed when no market for the products

was found. An attempt to raise funds in 1837-38 through the issuance of coinage, which was intended to alleviate the shortage of small change in the area, also failed on the pretense that the coins were too debased to allow circulation in neighboring France and Sardinia. The final blow came when Monaco's two easternmost towns, Roquebrune and Menton, seceded in 1849 to later become part of France. Never a large country, Monaco was reduced to one-sixteenth its former size!

To alleviate the poverty and general discontent, Prince Florestan I (1841-56) and his enterprising, energetic wife, Princess Caroline, considered chartering a gaming establishment. Not too far north, a casino had transformed the German Langraviate of Hesse-Homburg from a small, uninteresting watering place to a prominent resort and health spa. Neither France nor the Italian states offered gambling casinos, and thus Monaco would have a monopoly in the immediate area.

In April 1856 a gaming concession was granted on a trial basis to a French

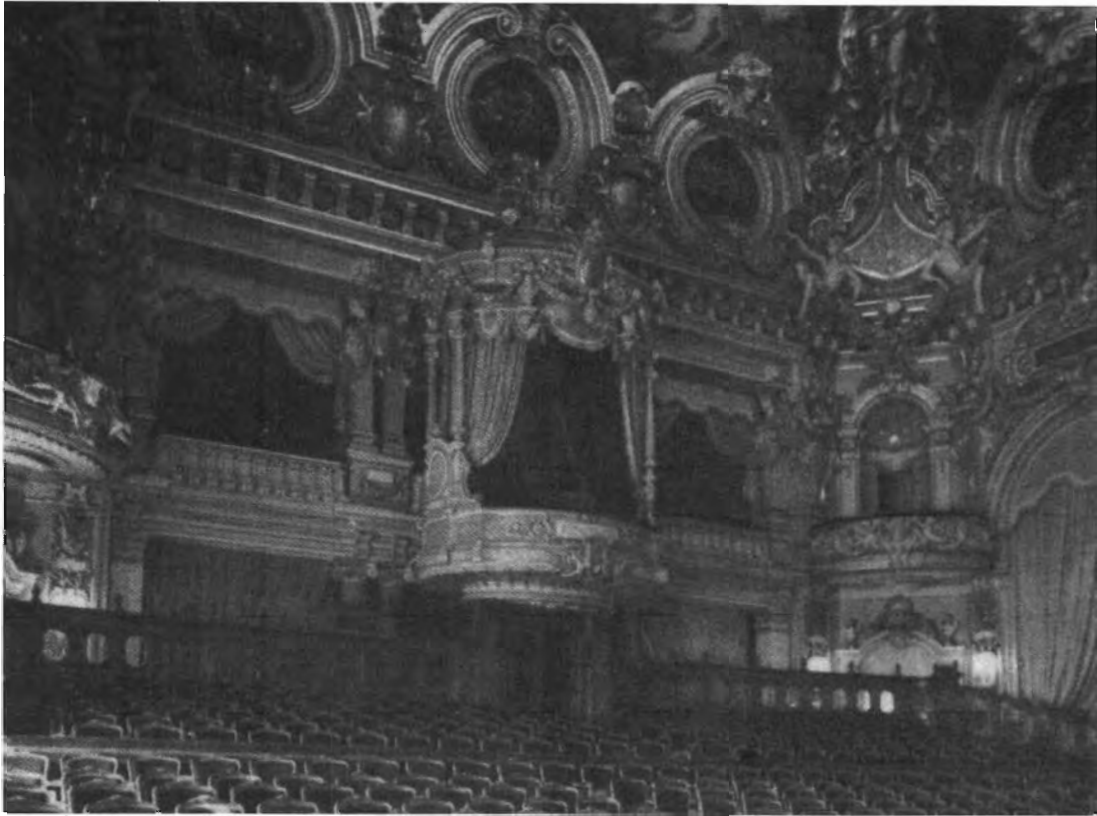
entrepreneur, who set up a casino in a converted villa on the Palace Square shortly thereafter. Two months later, Prince Florestan died. Nevertheless, Princess Caroline urged her son, Prince Charles III (1856-89), to persevere with the venture.

Following three attempts to develop the new resort, Prince Charles signed an agreement with François Blanc, the man responsible for the successful enterprise in Hesse-Homburg, giving him exclusive rights to operate a casino. A financial genius, Blanc foresaw the growing public opposition to gambling and the inevitable closing of gaming houses in Germany, and made his strategic move to Monaco in 1863.

By 1866 the hilly, barren rise beyond the City of Monaco, where the casino was established, was named Monte Carlo, or Mount Charles, in honor of the Prince. One of Blanc's first priorities was to improve transportation to the new casino. For several years, those wishing to visit Monaco departed from Nice and rode in an uncomfortable, 11-passenger omnibus or aboard an unreliable steamer, which proved exhaustive "on account of the constant repairs it required."¹ A railroad was the logical,



A view of the casino in the 1870s, with the pigeon shooting grounds in front and the train station at the extreme right.



The royal box inside the Opera House of Monte Carlo. With the approval of Prince Albert I, Princess Alice commissioned many of the impressive works of art that adorn the walls and ceiling.

PRESS CENTER OF MONACO

though audacious, solution.

Building the railway was no small feat of engineering, for it had to be cut along the face of the mountain as well as tunneled out from the rocky precipices along the uneven shoreline. Nevertheless, the railroad was completed by 1868 with funds provided by France to compensate for Monaco's earlier territorial loss.

The journey to Monte Carlo by rail, as recounted by a Victorian passenger, was not for the faint-hearted: "At one moment in darkness, the next in a blaze of light, with probably an exquisite peep landward or seaward, to be as suddenly plunged into darkness again, then careening along a shift on the mountain side with the sea underneath and hundreds of feet of precipitous picturesque wall of rock above, make this a singularly exciting railway journey."²

The increased facility of travel brought an influx of visitors to Monaco. So prosperous were affairs, that in 1869 all direct forms of taxation were abolished.

During the years before the First World War, 23 kings, 3 emperors and a multitude of the socially prominent visited the resort, and Monte Carlo became the capital of splendor, elegance and opulence *par excellence*. On the throne sat Prince Albert I (1889-1922), a famed oceanographer, and his American-born wife, Alice Heine, Duchess of Richelieu. While the prince was away on scientific expeditions, Princess Alice busied herself with transforming the Opera House of Monte Carlo, located on the sea-facing side of the casino, into one of the foremost in Europe. Under her guidance, many masterpieces were created expressly for the opera house, including Berlioz's *Damnation de Faust* and Massenet's *Jongleur de Notre Dame*.

The outbreak of the war brought an end to the frivolity and lightheartedness of the period, and the casino closed its doors for the first time in its

history. When it reopened six months later, its clientele had changed visibly. Gone were the Russian grand dukes who won and lost fortunes in the wink of an eye. Instead, Monte Carlo was frequented by the likes of Sir Basil Zaharoff, financier and munitions king, and the infamous Mata Hari, the alleged German spy who later was unmasked by a Russian counterespionage agent outside the casino.

In 1904 a new casino, the International Sporting Club, was inaugurated to cater to the increasing number of visitors. It was soon discovered that what was lost in gambling revenues during the winter months, when some wealthy individuals sojourned at Monte Carlo, could easily be made up from the great number of middle-class tourists who vacationed there in the summertime. Several new games were introduced in the casino, including baccarat, a dice game and "mechanical" horse racing; however, roulette and trente et quarante³ remained the all-time favorites.



The Opera House of Monte Carlo. Sarah Bernhardt's sculpture personifying "Song" is displayed in the niche visible to the left of the lamppost. PRESS CENTER OF MONACO

It was during the casino's early days that the first casino token appeared—a 28mm silver 2-franc piece, with CERCLE DE MONACO on the obverse and JETON DE 2 FRANCS on the reverse. The edge bore the counterstamp ARGENT, denoting silver. The piece was used to stake minimum wagers at the roulette and trente et quarante tables, the only two games available to casino patrons for many years.

The 2-franc token was later modified to include a beaded border on both obverse and reverse, and the denomination was spelled out as DEUX. A variation of this piece carries an image of a bee, a symbol used by Paris Mint Director Renouard de Bussière from 1860 to 1879, and edge counterstamps. Because the edges were handpunched at the Paris Mint, many tokens bear "knocks" on the edges opposite the counterstamps; however, such mint-made marks do not affect the desirability or collectability of the pieces.

The tokens sustained considerably more damage from their heavy use on the gaming tables, where they were "marshalled, counted and shoved about . . . by means of a little wooden stake."⁴ Flawless specimens are very rare. The March 1926 issue of *The Numismatist* recounts an interesting story about the 2-franc chip, reprinted from "The Ironic Monte Carlo," an article published in 1906 in *Appleton's Booklovers' Magazine*:

When the present Casino was organized, the players were compelled to purchase counters priced at two francs apiece from the administration, and to stake with these as tallies alone. At the close of the day's play, the counters could be redeemed at the "Guichet" at their face value. But, in practice, they were not always redeemed, and by degrees filtered into circulation in Monaco. M. Blank's [sic] counters were accepted everywhere by shopkeepers and "hoteliers" in lieu of cash. Two hundred thousand of them in all were issued.

This satisfactory state of affairs continued well into the seventies, until one fine day M. Blank decided to recall his counters and issued a mandate

announcing that they must be immediately redeemed, on pain of repudiation. His 200,000 counters had mysteriously grown and multiplied to 400,000. The shock would have irritated a smaller mind than M. Blank's. He shrugged his shoulders and paid out the two francs for each of the counters.

At the same date as the abolishing of the tally system, the minimum stake was raised from two francs at roulette to five francs, where it now stands [1906], and twenty francs was fixed as the minimum for the game of trente et quarante. M. Blank [had] no use for the small speculator who played often and lost little—especially when the small speculator was not even playing with genuine counters.

The existence of counterfeit 2-franc tokens may explain the appearance of a fourth variety in silvered brass. Probably redeemed in its totality, this base-metal variety (or counterfeit) is prized more than its silver counterparts!

Prior to World War I casino patrons most often employed the 21mm "louis," a standard French coin struck between 1802 and 1914 that contained .1867 troy ounce of gold. Also acceptable were any gold coins of the Latin Monetary Union that conformed to the same specifications, such as the Swiss or Belgian 20 francs, Italian or Papal 20 lire, Spanish 20 pesetas, or Greek 20 drachmai. Casino tellers exchanged American, British and Russian coins for their Latin Monetary equivalents; crown-sized silver French 5-franc pieces were used to place minimum wagers when stakes were raised from 2 to 5 francs. Bank notes also were used.

In 1878 and 1879, the casino's management requested the Paris Mint to strike for circulation 75,000 20-franc gold coins, which they felt would publicize the establishment as well as prove useful on the gaming tables. The obverse featured a right-facing bust of Prince Charles III, while Monaco's coat-of-arms graced the reverse. In 1882, 1884 and 1886, the casino ordered similar 100-franc gold pieces, with 5,000 coins minted the first year and 15,000 pieces struck in each of the remaining

two years. The tradition continued under Prince Albert I (1889-1922), who authorized the striking of 20,000 100-franc pieces in 1891, 1895 and 1896, 15,000 in 1901 and 10,000 in 1904. Instead of a portrait of Charles, the obverse showed a bust of Prince Albert facing left.⁵

The 100-franc coin, as well as any of the standard, larger gold pieces of the Latin Monetary Union, became known as a "monaco," just as the 20-franc gold coin was called a "louis" or "napoleon," even though it did not always bear the likeness of either King Louis or Emperor Napoleon.

It seems unlikely, though, that all wagers were made with coins or bank notes. Casino "plaques" surely were used in the *salons privés*, or private gaming rooms, where guests such as the Empress Eugenie, Andrew Carnegie and Alphonse de Rothschild plied the roulette or trente et quarante tables. The maximum wager stood at 12,000 gold francs, and playing with thousands of coins would have been unwieldy and distracting, not to mention uncouth. (Carnegie reportedly refused to play because the management would not allow him to stake more than 12,000 francs.) Supporting the author's theory is the existence of a 12,000-franc chip, believed to date from the turn of the century.

Following the French monetary reform in 1960, whereby 100 "old francs" were worth one "new franc," a number of chips were revalued. Instead of withdrawing all the chips from the gaming tables, however, the casino opted to cross out two zeros on several types. The chips then were put back into play.

Any successful undertaking is bound to have its critics, and Monte Carlo's casino was no exception. For example, a curious 45mm German 5-franc token in white metal depicts Mercury, who, as the god of commerce, also was considered the giver of wealth and good luck and thought to preside over the game of dice. A German legend translates as GAMBLING HELL MONACO.

Bearing the date 1910, the piece may have been issued following Kaiser Wilhelm's disastrous visit to Monte Carlo. The Kaiser arrived incognito at the casino with a supposedly infallible system for winning at roulette, and inflated expectations of breaking the bank. His system, like others before, failed, and he returned to Germany with a severely bruised ego. Another variety of this token is known, with SPIELHÖLLE (gambling hell) misspelled CPIELHÖLLE.

Of course, the casino has had its imitators, too. In 1968 the Monte Carlo Casino on Grand Bahama Island issued dollar and half-dollar tokens. However, these pieces have nothing whatsoever in common with Monaco's Monte Carlo or its casino.



At the request of the casino, in 1977 the Franklin Mint struck a sterling silver 100-franc chip featuring a personification of Fortune on the obverse, surrounded by CASINO DE MONTE CARLO. The reverse shows the façade of the casino and the same legend. Two years later, the Franklin Mint created a .500 gold 1,000-franc token to celebrate the centennial of the Opera House. The reverse is identical to the silver issue, while the obverse pictures a statue created especially for the opera's opening night by famed actress Sarah Bernhardt. Now displayed in a niche outside the southeastern wing of the casino, the statue personifies "Song" standing with a winged cherub at her feet.

In 1975 a third casino opened just below the Casino of Monte Carlo on a

plateau that once sported pigeon-shooting grounds. The new casino, owned by the Loews Corporation, offers games such as American roulette (which, unlike Monte Carlo roulette, has both single and double zeros and is divided into 38 compartments, rather than 37), blackjack, Nevada craps and slot machines, and uses its own gaming counters. The composition of all denominations appears to be similar—plastic with a metallic center—and resembles those pieces made in Las Vegas for use in Atlantic City.

For the 5th anniversary of the casino, the Franklin Mint struck a 12-sided, sterling silver token, the obverse of which features the hotel's logo encircled by SBM/LOEWS MONTE-CARLO and 100 FRANCS. The reverse features a hand of cards consisting of a king of hearts, queen of spades, jack of diamonds, jack of clubs and queen of diamonds. In 1985 the Franklin Mint produced another dodecahedral token for the casino's 10th anniversary.

The collection of early Monte Carlo chips poses special challenges. Dating the pieces is nearly impossible, and mintage figures are unavailable, as are records indicating the number of pieces retired from circulation and subsequently destroyed. In addition, entire series were sold to jewelers for use in key chains, bracelets and paperweights—the specimens that survive are either holed or imbedded in polyurethane. Many pieces were made of celluloid or formaldehyde, the unstable forerunners of plastic, and are quickly decomposing, soon to be lost to collectors forever.

The use of security stamps also seems to have taken its toll. Each night a colored stamp was pasted on the chips to ensure that all pieces in use were accounted for and had passed security inspection. The next evening, the stamps were scrubbed off and replaced with different ones. Because of this rather abusive practice, many of the pieces that exist today flake and crack easily. Nonetheless, these collectible chips and plaques that once were used



The Casino of Monte Carlo in the 1890s.

on the green baize gaming tables of Monte Carlo witnessed the phenomenal development of one of the most beautiful and intriguing places in the world.

Acknowledgements

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Alan M. Stahl, George Cuhaj and Frank Campbell of the American Numismatic Society for supplying information and photographs of pieces in the museum's collections; Paul Bosco, of the *Bosco Numismatic Quarterly*, and Archie Black for bringing to my attention several unknown chips; Marcel Barroero for sharing pieces in his collection; Victor Gadoury; and John Martinez and Mary Schroeder for their time and photographic expertise.

NOTES

1. John Polson, *Monaco and its Gaming Tables*, 4th edition (London: Elliot Stock, 1881).
2. *Ibid.*
3. A gambling game (translated as "thirty and forty") in which cards are dealt and added up for each of the two colors, red and black, on which bets have been laid. The winners are those who have bet on that color for which the total number of points is closest to thirty but not more than forty.
4. Polson.
5. In 1934 Prince Louis II (1922-49) planned to strike large-sized gold coins for the casino (as his grandfather and father had) and authorized a 33mm gold 500-franc issue. The project never materialized. However, an estimated 12 gold and 12 gilt aluminum-bronze essais were made, bearing a bust of the Prince on the obverse and the Monacan coat-of-arms on the reverse.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES

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A collector of world coins, THOMAS C. DAY specializes in the coins and paper money of the Principality of Monaco. His articles have appeared in *World Coin News*, *Coins* magazine and *The Numismatist*, and he has contributed to *The Standard Catalog of World Coins*. Day also has lectured and exhibited at the New York International Numismatic Convention.

A LISTING OF MONTE CARLO CASINO TOKENS

The following is by no means an exhaustive listing of the tokens used in Monte Carlo. The majority of the pieces bear the denomination, surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER DE MONACO, the parent corporation that runs the Casino of Monte Carlo. The tokens have been grouped in ascending order according to their denominations and by what is believed to be chronological order within these denominations. In cases where a chip is made of a synthetically produced substance, it is described by color and appearance.

1. 1 franc

- a. *Obv.*: Numeral "1" surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER MONACO.

Rev.: Same as obverse.
 32mm, shimmering pale green.

Rev.: Numeral "5" on silver filigreed overlay.

33mm, lightly grained bone or possibly ivory.

Exists with and without a fish counterstamp on one side; known with two distinct floral borders.

2. 2 francs

- a. *Obv.*: JETON DE 2 FRANCS in three lines.

Rev.: CERCLE DE MONACO in three lines.

28mm, silver.

- b. *Obv.*: Interlaced "SC" with SPORTING CLUB above and MONTE CARLO below.

Rev.: Large numeral "5" with SPORTING CLUB above and MONTE CARLO below.

36mm, copper-nickel.

- b. *Obv.*: JETONS DE DEUX FRANCS in three lines.

Rev.: CERCLE DE MONACO in three lines.

28mm, silver.

This piece is known with an edge counterstamp in the form of a bee.

- c. *Obv.*: Large art-deco style numeral "5" surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER-MONACO.

Rev.: Smaller art-deco style numeral "10" (or "29") surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER-MONACO.

32mm, yellow ochre.

- c. As above.

28mm, silvered brass.

No bee counterstamp.

- d. *Obv.*: Numeral "2" surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER MONACO.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

35mm, shimmering lemon yellow.

- d. *Obv.*: Incuse numeral "5" surrounded by STE DES BAINS DE MER • MONACO•.

Rev.: Same as obverse.

33mm, light beige.

Also known with bee counterstamp on both sides.

3. 5 francs

- a. *Obv.*: Interlaced "SC" (for Sporting Club) on silver filigreed overlay.

- e. *Obv.*: Art-deco style numeral "5" surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER-MONACO.



1a



2a

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

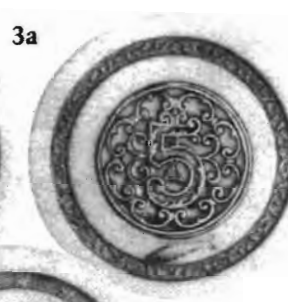


2b

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY



2d



3a



3b



3c



3d



3e



3f



3h



3i



4a



4b



4c



4e



4f



5a

Rev.: Same as obverse.
32mm, light olive with translucent
raw sienna security disk in center.

- f. *Obv.:* Numeral "5" surrounded by
SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER
MONACO.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
30mm, shimmering pink.
- g. *Obv.:* Bold numeral "5" surrounded
by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER
MONACO.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
38mm, mother-of-pearl gray.
- h. *Obv.:* Numeral "5" surrounded by
STE DES BAINS DE MER above
and MONACO below.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
40mm, shimmering pastel blue.
- i. *Obv.:* Crowned numeral "5" with FR.
below, surrounded by SBM
LOEWS·MONTE-CARLO. Along
perimeter, card hands of four
aces alternating with one pair
of dice bearing 2 and 5.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
39mm, orange and blue with
aluminum center.

4. 10 francs

- a. *Obv.:* Interlaced art-nouveau style
"MC" (for "Cercle de Monaco"
or "Monte Carlo") with MONA-
CO above, surrounded by CER-
CLE DES ÉTRANGERS. Engraver's
name appears at lower right.
Rev.: Large "SBM" arranged in shape
of inverted triangle, with "10"
below and Poissy Mint privy
marks on either side.
33mm, aluminum-bronze.
Varieties known with plain edge
(with and without the engraver's
name) and reeded edge. Minted
1924-26 at Poissy, France.
- b. *Obv.:* Numeral "10" surrounded by
SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER
MONACO in art-deco style.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
30mm, marbled brownish-orange
with red and yellow security
disks in center.
- c. *Obv.:* Bold numeral "10" surrounded
by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER
MONACO in art-deco style.

Rev.: Smaller art-deco style "29" sur-
rounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS
DE MER-MONACO.

32mm, emerald green.

- d. *Obv.:* Numeral "10" covering most
of chip, with SOCIÉTÉ DES
BAINS DE MER in four vertical
lines; DE MER falls in the zero
of "10."
Rev.: Same as obverse.
32mm, butter yellow.
- e. *Obv.:* Bold numeral "10" surrounded
by STÉ DES BAINS DE MER
MONACO.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
43mm, mother-of-pearl beige.
- f. *Obv.:* Numeral "10" encircled by
SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER
MONACO.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
39mm, pearly white with translucent
rose center.

5. 20 francs

- a. *Obv.:* Numeral "20" on silver
filigreed overlay.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
32mm, crimson.
- b. *Obv.:* Numeral "20" on silver fili-
greed square overlay.
Rev.: Interlaced "MC" on silver fili-
greed diamond overlay.
32mm, orange.
Known with two distinct floral
borders as on #3a.
- c. *Obv.:* Numeral "20" in upper half,
surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES
BAINS DE MER DE MONACO;
fan-shaped filigreed metal in-
sert in lower half.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
32mm, dark carmine.
- d. *Obv.:* Curvilinear numeral "20" sur-
rounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS
DE MER MONACO in art-deco
style.
Rev.: Smaller numeral "36" within
art-deco design, surrounded by
SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER
MONACO.
32mm, cobalt blue.

- e. *Obv.*: Numeral "20" surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER DE MONACO.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
30mm, Prussian blue.
Also known in black.
- f. *Obv.*: Numeral "20" in upper half, with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER DE MONACO in three lines in lower half.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
31mm, pearly beige.
- g. *Obv.*: Numeral "20" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above and MONACO below.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
29mm, purplish-red, with red and lemon-yellow security disks.
- h. *Obv.*: Numeral "20" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above in two lines and DE MONACO below.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
32mm, mother-of-pearl white with red core.
- i. *Obv.*: Numeral "20" in center, surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER MONACO.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
30mm, shimmering red with translucent yellow center.
- 5. 40 francs**
- a. *Obv.*: Numeral "40" on gilt filigreed circular overlay.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
41mm, crimson.
- b. *Obv.*: Curvilinear numeral "40" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER at top left and MONACO at bottom right.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
34mm, pinkish-orange with translucent blue and yellow security disks.
- c. *Obv.*: Numeral "40" surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER, with MONACO across center.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
34mm, brownish-maroon with translucent orange and lemon-yellow security disks.
- d. *Obv.*: Numeral "40" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER DE MONACO in three lines above.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
31mm, pearly gold with maroon core.
- 7. 50 francs**
- a. *Obv.*: Numeral "50" surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER in semi-circle above and MONACO below.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
32mm, shimmering, grained grayish-beige.
- 8. 100 francs**
- a. *Obv.*: Numeral "100" on circular silver filigreed overlay.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
46mm, red.
Piece bears a counterstamp in the form of a key.
- b. *Obv.*: Numeral "100" in upper half, surrounded by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER DE MONACO; silver, fan-shaped filigreed overlay in bottom half, with two "SBM's" forming a cruciform design in center.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
38mm, light green.
- c. *Obv.*: Numeral "100" on octagonal silver filigreed overlay.
Rev.: Interlaced "SC" (for "Sporting Club") on octagonal silver filigreed overlay.
43mm, pale blue.
Piece bears a counterstamp in the form of a crescent moon. Also known with gold filigreed overlay and in cobalt blue with two distinct floral borders, as on 3a.
- d. *Obv.*: Large art-nouveau style "MC" (for "Cercle de Monaco" or "Monte Carlo") with MONACO above, surrounded by CERCLE DES ÉTRANGERS. Engraver's name at lower right.
Rev.: Large "SBM" arranged in shape of inverted triangle, with "100" below and Poissy Mint privy marks on either side.
39.5mm, aluminum-bronze.
Minted 1924-26 at Poissy, France.



5b



5c



5d



5e



5f



5g



5h



5i



6a



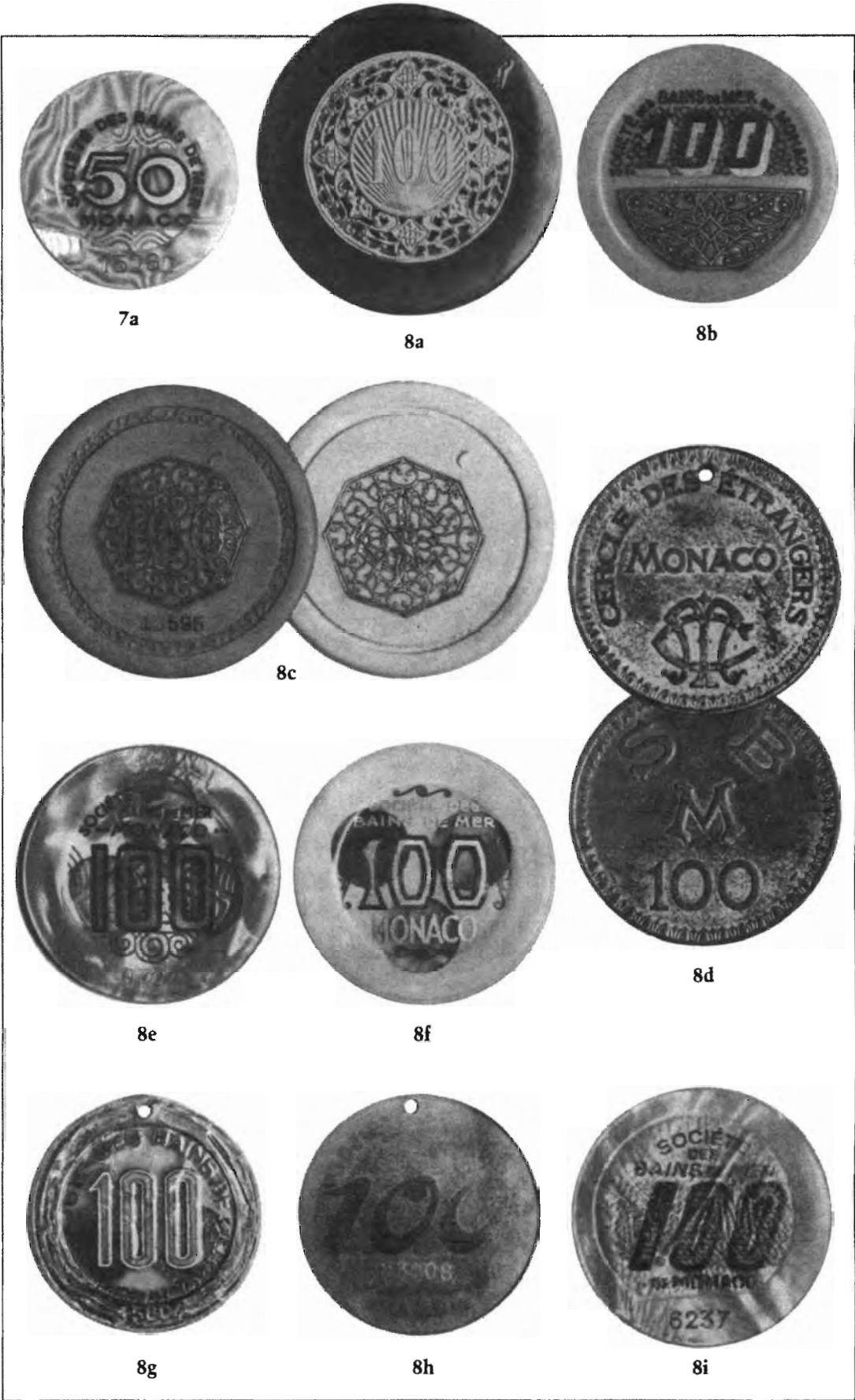
6b



6c



6d





- e. *Obv.:* Numeral "100" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER MONACO above.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
 38mm, shimmering sky blue with translucent red, lemon-yellow and olive-green security disks.
- f. *Obv.:* Large numeral "100" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above and MONACO below.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
 38mm, rose with translucent lemon-yellow, red and green security disks.
- g. *Obv.:* Large numeral "100" with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER MONACO.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
 35mm, translucent beige with translucent lemon-yellow, red and green security disks.
- h. *Obv.:* Numeral "100" with curlicued zeros, encircled by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER MONACO.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
 38mm, brown.
 Most known examples are holed.
- i. *Obv.:* Numeral "100" slanting to right, with SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER above in three lines and DE MONACO below.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
 38mm, shimmering beige.
- j. *Obv.:* Numeral "100" encircled by SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER DE MONACO.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
 37mm, shimmering gray.
- k. *Obv.:* Numeral "100" (last two digits crossed out) with STÉ DES BAINS DE MER above and MONACO below.
Rev.: Same as obverse.
 32mm, shimmering orange.
 When monetary reform was instituted in 1960, 100 old francs equaled one new franc. The casino administration revalued their tokens, sometimes crossing off two zeros in the denomination.
- l. *Obv.:* Personification of Fortune, with the numeral "100" at left and "Fr." at right, surrounded by CASINO DE MONTE CARLO.

Continued
 in the next
 issue

MEL'S CHIPHISTORY

The Last of the Brass - A Classic Chip

In the history of modern gambling, no major chip is more outstanding than the brass "slug core" chip. The same characteristics of luxurious weight and costly brass dazzle, caused its rise and demise.

For those of you that may have read a similar article a few years back, humor me and try to enjoy the new information I have in introduced to complete the picture of how this classic chip will no longer be made for Nevada casinos and how my addiction to collecting brass cores began too many years ago...

Brass Beginnings

Most of today's collectors lose sight that gaming was big in Northern Nevada way before it caught on in Las Vegas and the other "small towns" south of Tonopah. Reno and Lake Tahoe were the gambling centers of Nevada, just before and after WWII; and among the big names were Harold's and Harrah's Clubs. When Harrah's changed to brass cores in 1971-72, Harvey's soon followed. All those old timers that were trained with brass core chips never thought a better chip could ever be made. And, the owners knew that they would last way beyond the life of a clay or plastic. And they did. Except, they did not bet on the new demand for plastic "collectibles" introduced by Chipco in 1990 for less cost, greater profits; and equally important; the disaster of counterfeits in the mid-nineties.

In the early 1980's when I decided to specialize in brass cores, my obsession was so great that I decided to find and meet the manufacturer. I took a trip to the San Leandro city library and looked up and called Reliable Engraving, Inc. After a number of phone calls to a reluctant Jeff Ehorn, I finally received permission to view the "plant" and meet the die makers. Jeff is the son of the original Ehorn that contracted to make the dies and some castings for casinos. He sub-contracted die making from Kolster which had an order from Harrahs that would use 30 sets of dies. A number of contractors were involved in the process and Reliable had been involved mainly in doing the dies. Their specialty was precision industrial engraving....not making casino chips. Reliable, as well as other firms such as Freestone, Golden Gate, Kolster (original prime contractor), and BTS (Basic Tool Supply) were all Bay Area firms involved with the process of making the brass cores. A firm by the name of Nevada Chip Corp. produced a slick brochure promoting brass cores as the most modern and attractive chips of the 80's and professed to be licensed to manufacture and distribute them. Various sample chips made in aluminum and other metal samples have shown up over the years, but they never seem to have produced any chips and in the brochure, the Ranch House and Harrah's chips are depicted. I have never found out what place they



actively played in brass core history. By early 1980, Reliable had become a reluctant sole source for the casinos to trust with their rack chips. Only Harrah's had brass core to that date but others were soon to follow. The Ranch House in Wells ordered 6000 in 1980. John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, 19,007 rack chips, Aug 1984...and Harvey's first order came in 1986 which buried them in work for over a year to produce 272,000 rack and baccarat cores. Its not commonly known, but almost all the brass core plastic was injection molded by the casino in Nevada. In the case of large inventory orders, the casino would store the cores until they were needed and then have them injected. This enabled large run costs to be economical for the manufacturer and the casino did not put the chip into inventory until needed by casino cage demands. Differences in colors, error colors, and other defects, seldom were caused by the core manufacturers in California. .

The artwork, design, engraving, die casting, turning the diameter, double disc grinding, tumble cleaning and final injection of molding of plastic; took 6-12 separate operations and always required more than two sub-contractors to coordinate the process. No other chip had so many complexities to create a final product. For this reason and other economic factors (cost of brass and the EPA standards to work brass), they had been increasingly more difficult to

produce and instrumental to the failure of more than one producer or subcontractor. The first die-caster for Harrah's in 1972 experienced a major (over 75,000 cores) theft of a finished order that was waiting delivery from Oakland. Due to the value of its bond to Harrah's the company never survived the theft and was bankrupted. Since 1978, all brass cores were made in California by Reliable Engraving, which was owned by Jeff Ehorn. Reliable Engraving was a one man operation since his father retired in the mid-1980's and became a study in efficiency and integrity that was demanded by Nevada casinos.

The Brass Seven

Only seven Nevada Casinos have ever used brass chips and all but two have discontinued their use or closed

their doors. By far, Harrah's Lake Tahoe and Reno, with well over a half – million chips were the largest users and the closed

Ranch House (burned down) was the smallest with their rack of 6000. Second to Harrah's was Harvey's Casino Hotel across the street at South Lake Tahoe with about 310,000 chips. Just last year, Ascuaga's Nugget expanded their gaming area and discontinued

brass when they found out brass chips would no longer be produced. The Reno Ramada closed their pit games after only two years use of brass in the 80's. And that leaves only the Hyatt Regency of North Lake



Tahoe and the Silver Smith of Wendover with any brass cores remaining, and the latter has them only in the vault. The current rack chips on the tables are the 12 gram bi-metals that look identical to the original brass core rack chips. The re-order for the Silver Smith came when the cost of brass escalated beyond practical use and their new rack issues, made by Royce 600 are of bi-metals....not brass. In recent discussions with both these casinos, it does not seem they will be re-ordering bi-metals when they expand their pit areas and need another issue for their racks. Which brings us to the current status of manufacturing....bi-metals.

From Brass To Bi-Metals

After a number of visits to pester Jeff Ehorn and become more informed; he finally decided to have me be the liaison to the casinos using his products. His father had retired, and was the representative, delivery person and salesman. Jeff did not enjoy hearing from casino personnel and never wanted to contact them for new business. So, from then on....the casinos were visited by me and when they had any problems concerning the product; I fielded the calls. It enabled me to meet and plan the re-ordering of their chips for just a brief period before the Chipco Sailboat (Mel's Chipistry 1) floated into Lake Tahoe and changed the nature of casino chips forever. No one wanted to spend the extra cost for brass chips when they could more easily order a plastic sixty-cent item that sells for \$5. And they no longer wanted the chips to last twenty years since each new special issue or rack chip would walk off the tables and sell out of the cage in profitable numbers as soon as they were issued. Why not just make special issues and have the collectors line up at the cage to fight over a

"limited plastic edition"? They never even have to bother sending them to the pit in racks since so many collectors no longer care if the chip was ever in a sweaty palm at the tables.

We did get a few re-orders, but even those had to be made from bi-metals. So many of the original \$2.50 purples were bought by chippers at the Hyatt Lake Tahoe



(original \$2.50 order was 5100), that they re-ordered 5000 more in 1996 and the Silver Smith were delivered all new rack bi-metals in 1997. The basic difference was two-fold. Brass cores weigh 18 grams and bi-metals weigh only 12 grams; and the new cost averaged \$1 per chip

From Reliable to Royce 600

In the early 1990's, Reliable decided to sell the brass core process after a short time, and I was called by Jim Pontillo of Lebeck, Southern California. He was familiar with the chip from brief exposure at two California cardrooms; the Viejas Valley and 1,2,8 Pai Gow in Emeryville. Both issues were jinxed and short lived. A player had thrown the newly acquired brass at another poker player across the table at Viejas and almost put his eye out. They were all pulled off the tables (the chips) and since then there have been more stories of their fate than anyone can believe. I was able to acquire less than 20 sets when they were first pulled. Since then, the tribal attorney has insisted I return them since they were not to be out in the public. Good luck!!! Other chippers have told me they were drilled for tribal members and some hi-rollers (hi rollers in Viejas Bingo



....1991????) were given the higher denoms as gifts....whatever, very few sets have been seen to surface. Their denominations run from the \$1, \$2, \$5, \$25, \$100 \$500 and \$1000;, a total of 30,100 chips. The Pai Gow chips had even a shorter life. And somewhat suspect. The dies were ordered and prepaid in cash by some Asians that did not want to leave their names, phone, or address. When the chips were ready, they picked them up .The only time I personally saw them in play in Emeryville was in a pre-opening game while the licensing process was still questionable. They were located in the same site that would later become the King Midas across from the Oaks Cardroom. After they left town, I was asked by Nevada Gaming to cooperate with the Justice Dept of the State of California. to find the chips and to find out who owned them. It took me 4 years to buy the chips back (422 white dollars were

missing) and they were subsequently sent to Yokohama for use in a Japanese gaming enterprise. In 1997, they were a subject of discussion when Harvey's and Harrah's had their \$100 and \$500 chips counterfeited. The inserts and color of the dollar Pai Gow and Hundred dollar Harrah's match! Too well.

Royce 600, owned by Jim Pontillo, opened the Top of the Vine Cardroom in Lebeck, California. The rack chips were the first bi-metals, and made in .50, \$.150, \$2.50, \$3.50, \$4.00 . \$5.00 and \$25 denominations. The fifty cent chips were made when there was a necessity to drop .50 for the Jackpots. Unfortunately, Jackpots were outlawed about 3 days after the chips were made. In addition, a three year series (1997-1999) of Chinese New Years chips were made for Hollywood Park, in Inglewood , California. They were limited editions in the \$2.50, \$5.00 and \$8 (8 is lucky in Asian cultures) denominations with only 888 of the \$8 issued.

The Trocadero...Reno 1996

One cold day in Reno, 1995, my table partner and "really old time" chip collector, Armin Pfaender and I were walking back from a long day doing the after Sands coin show. For three or four years we had been doing every chip show anyone would sponsor and were trying to create interest to have chippers attend a show in Northern Nevada. Only one or two chippers used to drop by in those days and we would be stuck hundreds of dollars spent on buying chips from desperate coin dealers, stamp collectors, bag-women and just about any Reno old timer that had anything to do with past casinos. Walking past the historic El Cortez, we noted how that used to be an action corner and looked in the door

past the bar to the old "Trocadero Room". This was THE place to be in the later thirties thru WWII. When the El Cortez remodeled in 1941 the Trocadero became a celebrity gathering place with all the big names of showbusiness in performance including Sophie Tucker, Chico Marx and Victor Borge. We decided this would be a great place for a chip collectors gathering and show. The art deco original would be untouched and and the room was able to house at least 30 tables of dealers' collectors. At that time the glass pane corner area (now a flower shop) was empty and the El Cortez that owned it was willing to let us use it for part of the show. We planned to have the old game of "Faro" exhibited there with one of our chippers dealing the box and other chippers playing with chips made for that demonstration. The public walking by the corner would be entertained by the game and possibly come to the show...to sell us more chips!! Nevada Gaming cooperated with a one day use of the demonstration so we ordered marbled \$2 and \$5 denomination chips from Royce; but only 200 of each. We had the chip show in October 1996, but the Fargo game and its dealer did not show up and we ended up playing a few hands of blackjack at the bar to assure validity to see that the chip WAS in play at the El Cortez, Trocadero room.

Lucky Chance...The Last?

In 1998 a Northern California cardroom in Colma ordered an issue of four chips with bi-metal cores and a clear plastic cover with gold plating. A small number of \$100 Green, \$500 Blue and \$1000 Red's were delivered for their opening day. In addition, the owner wanted a 1998 Grand Opening chip to give to special customers and put in some pots. They were fore-

warned that the plated chips would not stand much wear and were all delivered in time for the opening. The manager, at that time, was Bee Estes. After counting down the delivered chips and placing them in the cage; he allowed me to buy a set of each denomination and to record the \$1,600 event; a picture was taken at the cage window where I offered to buy Grand Opening chips for \$25 each and posted the request at the cage. Imagine, paying \$1600 for 3 chips that we charged them less than \$5! The chips did not stand much wear and were removed from play less than 3 months later and were set in the new cement fountain in front of the valet parking lot...very few of these high denominations ever were collected.

That about covers all the issues of brass and bi-metal except for one brass issue made for the Crystal Bay Casino in North Lake Tahoe. A real maverick. Reliable has few records of this being made although they have surfaced in the \$5, \$25, and \$100 denominations. The injection molding colors are not standard Borg-Warner mixtures and were done somewhere in Nevada. I tried tracking these down for over 10 years and ended up finding the manager that supposedly drilled all of them while working at the Crystal Bay. At the time I found him, he was the bar manager at the Mustang Ranch and had one set drilled and one set not drilled that I had to pay over face to obtain. He maintained that boxes of these are still stored in the basement of the Ponderosa, but that they had never been used in the casino. Reliable had made the dollar die which was laying around for years before they were sold to Pontillo. I wish I knew more.

And Now, The Future...

With only two Nevada casinos with brass left and not a bi-metal in play anywhere, what does the future hold for the brass classics? Or even bi-metals. The Royce 600 sold to Chipco a year or so ago and Chipco decided it did not fit their operational scheme and Royce is in the market now for a new buyer. A small order by Hollywood Park for the year 2000 had to be filled with Chipcos instead of bi-metals and the machinery for future productions is back with Jim Pontillo who now lives in Colorado since his Top of the Vine closed after a kitchen fire.

You can go to Wendover and still buy the bi-metal issue of the Silver Smith, or to Lake Tahoe's Hyatt Regency which has always featured uncirculated brass for collectors after I encouraged them to keep a rack or two in the vault for collectors. Besides being one of most outstanding brass chips ever produced, they have maximized their value by catering to collectors requests for chips in uncirculated condition. Be sure and buy each denomination all the way to the \$500. The design of their chips is outstanding with the denomination noted on the reverse with solid brass lines, and pies. They may not last much longer due to plans to expand their gaming area that would require more rack chips that will cannot be made of matching brass or bi-metal.

The Highest Priced Chip Ever Purchased...

The highest priced chip ever purchased at the cage of a casino for ONE chip was a \$5000 Brown Harrah's oversized (43 mm) Baccarat.

And that was done just a few months ago by the owner of the most complete collection of brass core chips known. I had promised to sell him the complete exhibit of brass cores when I received the "Peoples Award" at our convention in 1995. He had always wanted the highest



denomination chip made in brass; the \$5000 brown which is serially numbered and was not included in my collection/exhibit. Harrah's had reported destruction of all their brass (except the dollar, which was needed when the new chips did not work out) core stock in 1998. We had dinner at the Harrah's Reno buffet and by habit, went to the main cage to check for any brass cores that may have been turned in (they are not supposed to accept any brass core chips after the 120 day redemption period...long past). We left him playing craps. The next day he proudly displayed the buy of his collecting life...Baccarat chip.#0081. While playing craps, Harrah's pit or cage person had told him he could get a \$5000 brown if no questions were asked and if he could produce \$5000 in cash. The transaction was completed within the hour. Why, or how that chip was still available at Harrah's is way beyond me. I would like to know if anyone has ever heard of anyone paying more for one chip...at a casino cage. I don't know of any and would like to hear about it....\$5000!!!. And that's the last of the brassy, brass. ♦

THE 9th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CASINO CHIP AND GAMING TOKEN COLLECTORS CLUB, INC.

C O N V E N T I O N a n d S H O W

May 30 – June 2, 2001

The Tropicana Hotel & Casino

Las Vegas, Nevada

It is not too early to start making plans to be in attendance at the Club's 9th Annual Convention and help us celebrate our organization's 12th Anniversary. We had over 2100 people attend the 2000 Convention and we expect 2001 to be bigger than ever! If you have not attended one of the Club's Conventions in the past, you are missing the premier event of the year.

Just like Las Vegas, our Club has experienced tremendous growth and that growth is reflected in the fact that the Club has evolved and prospered to the point that we will be in our 13th year as an organization. The 2001 Convention will reflect that growth and should have something for every member. Chips, tokens, casino memorabilia, educational exhibits, seminars, trading sessions and more!

The Tropicana Hotel & Casino will be the site of 2001 Convention and we know the staff of the Hotel is again anxious to assist the Club in presenting a first class convention. The Tropicana sits on the busiest corner in Las Vegas and is convenient to many amenities. The Grand Ballroom is beautiful; there is a large selection of top-notch restaurants, headliner entertainment, a spa, and

even swim-up blackjack. So plan on attending the 2001 CC>CC's 9th Annual Convention & Show at the Tropicana Hotel & Casino and meet your fellow collectors in person and find that elusive piece for your collection.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Hotel reservation slips are included in this issue of the Club magazine. The room rate will be \$49.00 Sunday - Thursday & \$99.00 Friday & Saturday per night. I am sure there are a few members who receive a better rate than this, based on their casino action or some members may find a better price as part of "package", but you have to come and go on the dates specified in the package. The fact is the Club uses the number of rooms booked as a negotiating tool for show space and sleeping rooms for future shows. We hope you will elect to stay at the Tropicana.

We would encourage each member to make your reservations as early as possible. So please support YOUR CLUB by booking your room at the Tropicana Hotel & Casino. The room rates are good from May 25 – June 5, 2001 for those folks who arrive prior to the show and/or would like to stay over after the Convention con-

cludes. To insure accuracy in booking a group room block, reservations should be made using the reservation slips. No Saturday arrivals or departures.

DEALER TABLES

All members who had a dealer table last year should have received information about the 2001 Convention tables. The deadline for receiving table applications was January 10th. Ever effort will be made to make table locations for returning dealers comparable to last year. Please keep in mind there are no guarantees on location on the floor for any member. There will be a limit of three (3) tables sold to any one member or members sharing table space. All table applicants will be notified around February 15 as to the status of their application. The final floor layout and list of dealers will be provided with notification. If anyone has any questions about the tables or the show please do not hesitate to contact the Convention Chairman.

Wayne Thompson
2001 CC>CC Convention
191 Kentucky Avenue
Lexington, KY 40502
Phone (859) 252-5626
Fax (859) 252-9168
E-mail: wayne@casinocheques.com

VOLUNTEERS

The Convention Co-Chair is now actively soliciting volunteers for the 2001 Convention

If you are planning on attending the Convention and would like to donate a few hours before, during, or after the show, we can always use assistance. The real need for extra help is during the setup period on Tuesday and Wednesday and on Saturday evening assisting with the tear down of the show. We also have other positions we need assistance with.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact the Convention Co-Chair Belinda Hixon.

Belinda Hixon

P.O. Box 1195

Colleyville, TX 76034

E-mail: txbel711@aol.com

EARLY BIRD BANQUET AND TRADE SESSION

Wednesday May 30th - 5:30 PM

To be held on Wednesday May 30 at 5:30 PM, this is one of our most popular functions of the week. You should make plans to attend this fine gathering. We are making some changes to this year's reception that should make this event better than ever.

Because of the size of the crowd and the inability to predict how many people are going to attend we have decided to go to a ticketed banquet. We will have a sit down buffet along with a speaker or entertainer. The cost for this event will be \$20. **A ticket request form is included in this magazine.** Only regular and associate members may attend. If you are bringing a spouse who is not a member they can become an associate

member for \$5. No one will be manning a membership table the night of the banquet so please join prior to the Convention. All tickets must be purchased by April 30. **There will no tickets sold at the door.** Tables of 10 will be available for \$200 and these tables will be reserved. Seating for individual ticket holders will be on a first come basis. Tickets are limited so please reserve early.

After the banquet ends at about 8:00pm the room will be opened to all members for the trade session until midnight. The reception and trade session is restricted to members only.

****Please remember to Send in Your Ticket Request Form****

PRE-REGISTRATION

Another change to this year's Convention is the admission and pre-registration procedures. For the first time we will be charging members an admission fee. Part of the money from admission fees will be used for additional Convention promotion and part will be returned to pre-registered members in the form of raffle prizes. Members may pre-register for \$10, which includes admission to all days of the show and all educational seminars. Members who chose not to pre-register will pay \$4 per day.

Enclosed in this issue of the magazine is a pre-registration form. We are encouraging all members to pre-register. All pre-registered members will receive a registration package that will contain special offers from some of the Convention dealers. In addition we are planning to give all pre-registered members a ticket for a cash raffle to held during the show. Members who choose not to pre-register will not receive the

pre-registration package of special offers. This procedure is typical of most Convention registrations and we hope that you agree that the pre-registration package is worth well more than the \$10 pre-registration fee.

****Please remember to Send in Your Pre-Registration Form****

AUCTION

Auction chairman Bruce Landau will have gathered another fine assortment of lots for our Friday night auction. The auction will be on Friday June 1st and begin at 6:30 PM and we ask that everyone be on time. In the interest of time, again this year you will be able to register for your Auction number during the normal show hours, instead of everyone trying to get their number at 6:15 PM on Friday. Hopefully, this will help speed up the start of the auction. You will still be able to register the night of the auction, but why wait until the last minute. Should be another fine auction.

CLUB BUSINESS MEETING

Again this year, in an effort to improve attendance, we will have the business meeting on Thursday evening May 31st at 6:30pm. The business of the Club is very important to all of us and we hope all members will make the effort to attend. This year the new Board will also be inducted at this meeting.

LAST DANCE SWAP MEET

On Saturday, June 2nd, after the conclusion of the Convention, the Club will sponsor another swap session for any interested members. The session will begin at 7:00 PM and last until midnight or until all traders throw in the towel, whichever comes

first. There will be refreshments provided. So, if you have to get in another few hours of face-to-face trading before heading home, here is your chance to dance the Last Dance. Bring traders and have a good time!

EXHIBITS

Archie Black has graciously volunteered to chair the Exhibit committee for the 2001 Convention. The exhibits will be of both competitive and non-competitive nature and there is no charge for entering an exhibit. We had some truly outstanding exhibits in 2000 and hope more members will offer to participate. If you have any questions regarding exhibits, please contact the Convention Exhibit Chairman.

Archie Black

P.O. Box 63

Brick, NJ 08723

E-mail: ablack2@optonline.com

TRADING SESSIONS

Based on input from the membership we have made another change to this year's Convention. We have expanded the availability of time and space for trading. At this time the following trade sessions are planned:

- Wednesday May 30 10am – 4:00pm
Trade room will be open for trading all day
- Wednesday May 30 8pm – 12 midnight
Trading will start at the end of the banquet
- Thursday May 31st 7:30pm – 12 midnight
Trade session will start immediately after the Club business meeting.
- Saturday June 2nd 7:00pm – 12 midnight
Last Dance swap session.

PROGRAM ADVERTISING RATES

It is time to place your ads for the Convention program. Those of you who attended last year's Convention will remember what a great publication this was. Before a solicitation goes out to non-members we want our members to have first opportunity. Not only is this a great opportunity for Convention dealers but collectors and Club chapters as well. Rates for members are as follows:

Full page - \$60

Half page - \$40

Quarter page - \$30

For details contact Convention Co-chair Belinda Hixon.

MEETING SPACE AVAILABLE

There are still some time slots open and available for the use of the Club's meeting space. If any of the Chapters or any member in good standing would like to make use of this space for a meeting or presentation, please contact the Convention Chairman for available dates and times. **THE PURPOSE MUST BE INFORMATIONAL OR EDUCATIONAL.**

CAR RENTALS

We have negotiated some very good car rental rates for all attendees who will need a car while in Las Vegas. The agreement is with Payless Car Rental. To receive the Convention rate call 800-634-6186 and mention referral code CCGTCC. Rates start as low as \$125 per week. There is an advertisement located elsewhere in the magazine that shows the convention rate for all cars. ♦

2001 CONVENTION COMMITTEES

Auction Chairman - Bruce Landau

Auction Co-Chair - Howard & Kregg Herz

Auctioneer - Jim Kruse

Budget & Finance Chairman - Nate Pincus

Catering Chairperson - Eileen Landau

Convention Chairman - Wayne Thompson

Convention Co-Chair/Program - Belinda Hixon

Educational Forum Chairman - Michael Knapp

Exhibit Chairman - Archie Black

Legal Counsel - Eric Rosenblum

Licensing & Fees Chairman - Liz Conrad

Membership Registration Chairman - James Steffner

Photographer - Mark Lighterman

Promotions Chairman - Richard Allard

Publicity Chairman - Rich Burgel

Registration Co-Chairs - Vernon & Alice Blanck

Art & Muriel Sanderson

Setup Chairman - Paul Bender

Call For Nominations

COTY/TOTY 2000

by Archie Black

NEW THIS YEAR..... "Silver Strikes" will be voted on in their own category by the Silver Strikes Chapter and will not compete with other casino tokens.

The annual contest for the "2000 Chip of The Year" and "2000 Token of The Year" is now underway. As COTY/TOTY Chairman once again this year, I'm calling for nominations of your favorite casino chips and gaming tokens that have been issued by hundreds, if not thousands, of casinos in various gaming jurisdictions from around the world during the previous year (2000).

Now is the time for ALL interested club members to send in nominations of your favorite five best chips and/or five best tokens, which were issued between January 1st and December 31st, 2000 that you would like to see appear on the club's official ballot. From those anticipated hundreds of different nominees that will be forthcoming, the top ten nominations received in the chip category and the top ten nominations received in the tokens category will be placed on the official ballot to be voted upon by the COMMITTEE of club member judges. A full color photocopy of the top ten nominees in each category will accompany the ballot. In the event of nominated chips and/or tokens which have different obverse/reverse designs (other than casino logos); both sides will be illustrated. This contest is open to ALL club members in good standing, including associates. In order to serve on the official COMMITTEE of Judges, a valid nomination, must be received by the COTY/TOTY Chairman on or before the deadline of February 29th.

In the event of sets of multiple chips and or multiple tokens within a series being nominated, only five individual chips and/or five individual tokens within that set will be eligible for nomination. Total nominations must not exceed five chips and five tokens or the nomination form will not be recognized. The committee chairman will have final disposition on any disputes that may arise.

The deadline for submitting nominations is February 29th, 2001. Nominations or SASE's should be sent to:

Arche A. Black, Chairman
2000 CC>CC COTY/TOTY Contest
P.O. Box 63 Brick, NJ 08723.

WANTED

We're looking for a few good people to volunteer as Committee Chairperson for the 2001 Convention and volunteers, before and during the Convention, to help make the event more enjoyable for everyone.

If you are interested in helping or need more information please contact:

Belinda Hixon
Convention Co-chair
P.O. Box 1195
Colleyville, TX 76034
TXBEL711@aol.com

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CC>CC # R-0278

ALBERT H. ROLLINS

P. O. Box 190449

San Juan, P. R. 00919-0449

Silver Strike Tokens of the Dutch Caribbean

by Ralph P. Pollack

Collecting Silver Strike Tokens has become a so popular that a new organization was recently formed and is called The Silver Strike Chapter of the CC>CC. My first introduction to these beautiful tokens was in 1996 in Aruba, the Dutch Caribbean, at the Masquerade Casino in the Radisson Aruba Caribbean Hotel. This beautiful \$10.00 token was issued in its 'Inaugural Year' of this casino in 1996. The Masquerade Casino was located in Aruba's first hotel and casino, the Aruba Caribbean Casino which was built initially in the late 1950's and officially opened in 1959 when it was the jewel of the Caribbean!



AUA – MAS – 10 SS.1 (OVB)



AU – MAS – 10 SS.1 (REV)

(SYMBOL KEY: 'AUA' refers to the location, the Island of Aruba, 'MAS' refers to the name of the casino MASQUERADE, '10' refers to the denomination, 'SS' refers to a SILVER STRIKE token, while '.1' refers to the token in a series. This classification is derived from Pollack's Reference Code in Pollack's new book 'The Casinos of Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, St. Maarten and Suriname', Copyright 2000)

The Masquerade Casino's logo depicts a mask in between two palm trees on the obverse side, while a silver chalice and mask are seen on the reverse side. Also noted on the obverse side below the word 'Aruba' are the initials 'LM' which stands for the Letcher Mint. The gold rim has the words 'Ten Dollar Redeemable Cash Value'.

The Masquerade Casino also had a Forty-Dollar token, which is the highest known denomination ever seen in the Dutch Caribbean. It is unique because the center of this token is in gold, while the rim is .999 Silver and it also has the 'LM' mint mark. Both the \$10.00 and the \$40.00 tokens must be obtained from the winnings of the machine and not from the cage!



AUA – MAS – 40 SS.1 (Obverse side)



AUA – MAS – 40 SS.1 (Reverse side)

The second casino in Aruba to issue a \$10.00 Silver Strike in Aruba was the Stellaris Casino in the Aruba Marriott Hotel. The Global Minting Company with its 'G' mint mark is seen near the bottom rim on the obverse side.



AUA – STE – 10 SS.1 (OBV)



AUA – STE – 10 SS.1 (REV)

The Crystal Casino in at the Sonesta Casino complex, in downtown Oranjesad, Aruba also offered the \$10.00 Silver Strike. The Obverse side has the 'GDC' mint mark of the Green Duck Company near the bottom rim. This token is unusual because it also has the same mint mark near the bottom rim on the Reverse side!



AUA – CRY – 10 SS.1 (Obverse side)



AUA – CRY – 10 SS.1 (Reverse side)

The Royal Cabana Casino in Aruba issued one of the prettiest Silver Strikes ever. On the Obverse side a couple dancing and the Global Mint's 'G' mint mark is located the lower rim. The reverse side has an Iguana facing to the right.



AUA – ROY – 10 SS.1 (Obverse side)



AUA – ROY – 10 SS.1 (Reverse side)

The former Grand Holiday Casino of Aruba used the defunct Scandinavian Dawn's Silver Strike. It had the Global Minting's 'G' mint mark.

In St. Maarten the Atlantis Casino issued a \$10.00 Silver Strike manufactured by the Green Duck Corporation. This casino is located at the western side of the island near Cupecoy Bay.

This token is manufactured by the Gold Duck Corporation with a 'GDC' mint mark.



STM – ATL – 10 SS.1 (Obverse side)



STM – ATL – 10 SS.1 (Reverse side)

One of the newest casinos in St. Maarten is the Diamond Casino. This casino is located at the foot of Front Street with an address of # 1 Front Street. The above token has the 'GDC' mint mark from the Gold Duck Corporation. There is also the same token from the Sunshine Mint with the 'S' mint mark and a PRC # STM – DIA – 10 SS.2.



STM – DIA – 10 SS.1 (Obverse side)



STM – DIA – 10 SS.1 (Reverse side)

The Pelican Casino is located on Simpson Bay it initially opened in 1987 and rumor has it that it may be closed. The 'GDC' mint mark is near the bottom rim on the obverse side.



STM – PEL – 10 SS.1 (Obverse side)



STM – ROY – 10 SS.1 (OBV)



STM – ROY – 10 SS.1 (REV)

The Casino Royale of St. Maarten has two varieties of Silver Strikes. One variety has the Green Duck Corporation 'GDC' mint mark while the second variety has the Sunshine 'S' mint mark!

The token on the TOP depicts the 'GDC' mint mark above the word 'FINE' while the token on the BOTTOMside depicts the 'S' mint mark in the same location. The PRC # of the 'S' mint marked token is STM – ROY – 10 SS.2. (Photos courtesy of John Genualdi). ♦



THE 2001 CONVENTION COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

We're looking for a few good people to volunteer as Committee Chairperson for the 2001 Convention and a few more who can volunteer a few hours during the Convention to help make the event more enjoyable for everyone.

The Committee Chairperson position that is open is PUBLICITY.

This job entails dispersing press releases to the media in the Las Vegas area and distributing information about the convention to casinos, local businesses and visitor information centers. The Convention Committee will provide the needed flyers and press releases; the Chairperson's primary responsibility is to oversee the distribution to the various entities.

During the Convention we need assistance with the following jobs. Early in the week we need help gathering necessary materials for the show – signage, flyers, odds and ends. Some one who could run these errands and/or be on-call for last minute needs would be most appreciated. The Tuesday before the show opens, registration packages have to be assembled. A few extra pairs of hands would make the process go much faster.

One vital area of need is on Wednesday evening, before and during the Early Bird Reception and the Trade Session that follows. We need volunteers to man the Registration table during the evening. This year we had 5 people who stayed at the table throughout the event. We need more so no one misses the entire event.

Paul Bender has volunteered to chair the Setup/Tear-down Committee. There is a need for people who can volunteer for a few hours on Tuesday and again after the show closes on Saturday evening. No heavy lifting is required. The setup will involve skirting the tables, adding uprights/signs and placing chairs at each table as well as assisting the Property Manager with distribution of the display cases. We will hire out the table setup. Tear down is the setup process in reverse.

If you are interested in helping or need more information please contact:

Belinda Hixon
Convention Co-chair
P.O. Box 1195
Colleyville, TX 76034
TXBEL711@aol.com

Nominations for CC>CC Officers

PRESIDENT

Nate Pincus - LM-946-7



I am very excited to be running for President of the CC>CC. I have a vision for our club that keeps us vibrant and growing. We will be an organization that welcomes all who treasure gaming collectibles and appreciate gaming history. This club should be the premier vehicle for bringing all of those with these common interests together. With my leadership, we will accomplish this and much more.

I am presently the Treasurer of this club. I have been a member since 1993 and was one of the first members to become a Life Member. My commitment is to the success of our club. My business experience includes corporate executive financial and management positions and I now the owner of a retail business. I have the experience, knowledge and dedication to accomplish the goals that I have set for my administration. My organizational background will enable me to build bridges and bring all together to meet our common goals.

I have put forth an aggressive agenda. I encourage geographic and specialty chapters. There will be strong enforcement of the Code of Ethics. The club website will be developed as a place to exchange information and to increase our visibility. Our conventions will continue to improve with more trading time and seminars. The magazine will have more articles with an emphasis on maintaining our high quality standards. I will find ways to subsidize the magazine and convention by soliciting donations and advertising from those who profit from our members. I will have a committee to investigate the establishment of a national headquarters and another to consider the prospects of obtaining historical gaming items. We will also start to use our tax-exempt status to solicit donations for the club. Member advisory and volunteer committees will be established to facilitate these initiatives.

I will bring an enthusiastic and vibrant approach to leading our club and ask for your vote as the next President of the CC>CC.

Please see my ad in this issue of the magazine and visit my web site at www.chipcollector.com for more information. ♦

Jim Reilly



Because most members of our club do not know me personally, I would like to use this article primarily to provide some personal information. My positions on issues facing the club are set forth in my campaign ad in this issue of the CC&TN, as well as on the Chequers website (www.chaquers.com) and Andy Hughes' Nevada Casino Chips website (<http://www.swiftsite.com/NevadaCasinoChips/jr.htm>).

I am 55 years old and have been collecting chips since February 22, 1992 (yes, I know the exact date!). The first chips I collected were the \$1, \$2.50 and \$5 Harrah's Reno-Tahoe PMSC chips. I became aware of the CC>CC while serving as one of the original Section Leaders of the Casino Chip section of the Collectibles Forum on CompuServe and joined the club in December 1994 (member # R1973). Subsequently, because of the illness of my wife, I dropped out of the hobby for several years, then rejoined the club in December 1997 (member # R3606). I am also a member of the Northern California - Nevada Chapter (# NCN-040). In January 1999, I was appointed the CC>CC Claims Director, a post I have held since that time.

Since October 1998, I have been a writer for Chequers Magazine. Anyone interested in learning more about my thoughts on the chip collecting hobby can do so by reading my Chequers "ChipBox" columns.

I am a 1967 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point. After graduation, I spent four years as an officer in the U. S. Navy (not a typo <g>), served a year in Vietnam and left the service as a full Lieutenant.

Following military service, I attended Pepperdine University School of Law at night, while working full time in advertising and public relations. I graduated from Pepperdine in 1975, then was a deputy district attorney in Orange County, California, for almost ten years. In 1985, I moved to Marin County in Northern California and established a private law practice. In that practice, I handled primarily criminal defense and appeals, personal injury and constitutional law cases. I closed my private law office in 1996 to spend more time with and care for my wife Sandy, who had breast cancer. Since then, I have worked primarily as house counsel (and in other capacities) for family owned businesses.

I am now a widower, Sandy having lost her battle with cancer in November 1999. I have three sons, a daughter and (darn) no grandchildren. Youngest son Sean, 21, is an associate member of the CC>CC.

Anyone who would like to know my position on any chip collecting issue need only ask. I will respond to inquiries sent by regular mail or email, or which are posted on any of the chip collecting bulletin boards. My regular mail address is PO Box 1338 Mill Valley CA 94942-1338. My email address is RunTam@PacBell.net.

In this campaign, I support Neal Silverman for Vice President, Marty Kaplan for Secretary and Ralph Myers for Membership Officer. ♦

Jim Steffner



As your present Membership Officer with 5 years of club operation background I am running for the office of President so that I can provide the needed leadership and expertise to take our club to the next level of excellence. I have many years of management experience in private and educational business markets and have been active for numerous years collecting chips, tokens, ashtrays, dice, slot cards, and other casino collectibles. As a Life Member of our club and a Charter Member of the Great Lakes Chapter and the Ohio River Valley Chapter, I have a long term dedication and commitment to the betterment of our hobby.

I will actively work to promote our club, our present chapters and their programs, the establishment of new regional and specialty chapters, our convention, and our educational programs.

I am in favor of investigating the establishment of a permanent home for our club that would include a museum and archives as well as the acquisition of manufacturing records, artifacts, and other historical and research documents.

I am NOT in favor of increasing dues just for the sake of having a larger bank account balance. Additional dues should only be necessary if our cost of benefits, that are provided "equally" to all members, increase.

I am not in favor of a formal grading system, changing our club name, or the club participating in an auction site, such as E-Bay.

I promise to improve the communication process between members and board officers for a better exchange of ideas and suggestions, and to provide a fast response to any members concern.

I promise to listen and respond to each member's suggestions, ideas, or complaints. Together we can make our club the great organization it should be. As your President I will represent all members in decisions on club operations. I ask for your VOTE and your support so I can direct our clubs growth and make it prosper for the benefit of all members. ♦

VICE PRESIDENT

Ken Hallenbeck



I hope I have been of help to CC>CC as VP this past term. I admit to not being as quick to respond as I should have. However, I'm partially retiring and getting computer assistance and expect to be far more prompt and effective if re-elected. My experience with ANA, TMAS, ISNA, CWNA and other numismatic organizations can be of real help.

Our hobby, and for a few people a business, should be fun, educational, stable and with integrity. I will strive for these goals.

I've been very impressed with the dedication and commitment of our current (outgoing) officers I'm saddened by the constant sniping and complaining of a very few individuals. It seems like we can't say "Good Morning" without opposition. The board and committee members weigh the facts, information, and opinions available and make their decisions for the best interest of the CC>CC and the whole hobby. The British use an expression something like "her majesty's loyal opposition." I stress the word loyal. Hopefully, we can come together as a team. As a team we can win. If we're not a team we'll lose.

My opponent for Vice President is a sincere person. The really good thing is that no matter who gets elected, the CC>CC wins. There will be excellent and dedicated leadership.

Yours for a better hobby. ♦

Neal Silverman



Shortly after I started collecting casino chips in 1994 I became aware that I was not alone. I first discovered the CC>CC back then, and learned that chip collecting wasn't just a fledgling hobby, but a growing hobby. I eagerly became a part of that growth by joining and receiving membership number R-1379.

Over these last 6 years I have been a fairly active member of the chipping community. I was online in the earliest days of the Internet participating in the CompuServe chats and auctions. I am a co-founder of Chequers, of which I am very proud. As time went by Chequers expanded to include Chequers Magazine, which is both an information and educational online archive. I have written columns for Gaming Times magazine, and currently I am a Contributing Editor for Casino Player magazine where I co-author The Collector's Corner - a monthly column in support of chip collecting. I originally developed our Club's web site and was the Club's first webmaster. I do like to get things done, to bring new things forward.

During this time my collection has grown and so have I. Now I would like to take what I have learned and work for the Club as your Vice President. I would like to bring the skills that I have

learned at business, where I own my own business in the electronics field, and blend those skills with my knowledge of chipping and work for you, actually, to work for us.

I am in favor of strengthening our Club's financial footing so that the funds will be available to help grow the hobby and the Club when reasonable opportunities arise.

I am in favor of enhancing the functions and events we have to make, or keep them, the best and most prestigious in the hobby. Simply put, I would not cut back on our magazine, the CC&TN, I would look to build upon it. I would not consider reducing the scope of our annual convention, but rather press to keep it the premier event that it is.

I am very much in favor of a club building to house a CC>CC museum, provided reasonable conditions to go forward are met. I would strongly encourage the creation of specialty collector Chapters similar to the Silver Strike Chapter.

With the Internet's growth, the web has become a primary form of communication and I believe the Club should embrace it and take as full advantage of the Internet as is practical.

I ask for your support in our upcoming election and want to assure you that I will work diligently as your Vice President if elected. ♦

SECRETARY

Marty Kaplan

My name is Marty Kaplan and I am running for the position of CC>CC Secretary in the upcoming election.



I would love to give you one easy answer to the question, "Why are you running?" But I can't. I actually have too many reasons. I have enjoyed my years in chip collecting, and the friends I have made along the way.

Aside from building my collection I have been very fortunate to work on some fun projects within the hobby, and those projects have done very well. I am a co-creator and developer of Chequers – The Home of Chips & Tokens on the Web. I am a Contributing Editor and co-author a monthly column ("Collector's Corner") about chipping for Casino Player magazine. In 1999 I emceed the Electronic Chipping Seminar at our annual Convention.

As Secretary a good part of the job involves communicating with the Chapters. I would like to improve and enhance that communication wherever possible, and will also foster the creation of more chapter clubs as we go forward. I feel that the special interest (not geographically tied) chapters, such as the hugely successful Silver Strikers Chapter, is a great direction for the club. I will work towards developing more special interest chapters where possible.

I enjoy working on projects and creating new things, and I have a strong footing in business and computers. I would like to use these skills in working for our club. Our hobby is growing and I believe

it will take sound judgement, effort, some creativity and a dose of technology to steer the club through this period.

Our club has a great 'feel' to it. I have made many friends in chipping, most as a result of the almost family like atmosphere at our annual convention. It is important to me that we do not lose that flavor as we grow. That feeling that our annual get together is more like a reunion than a convention not something we should let slip from our grasp.

Both in this CC&TN issue, and on the web at <http://www.chequers.com/votemart.shtml>, you will find additional information on my views about the issues that our new board will have to address.

I will work to both build and protect our club and I ask for your vote in this election to become Club Secretary. ♦

Jim Episale



I'll be running for the position of CC>CC Club Secretary. I will have two goals if elected (as well as taking minutes).

1. To establish a continuing line of communication with all chapters. I will do this through email and distribution of my 800 number.
2. Open debate to raise dues by \$5.00 to \$10.00 a year.

The extra money raised to be used to further the educational goals of the club i.e. purchasing records, bettering the magazine and convention establishing a building fund.

Thanks in advance for your support. ♦

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Harrah's \$15





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TREASURER

Dave Shron



I am seeking the office as Treasurer of your club because I am interested in maintaining fiscal control and responsibility for an organization that is growing by leaps and bounds. This fast growth makes it mandatory that the treasurer be a qualified individual capable of understanding the requirements of good sound accounting practices

I am a CPA in both New York and Las Vegas, and up until two years ago, I was the managing director of a CPA firm located in Poughkeepsie, New York. I held that position for about fifteen, until my wife and I decided to move to Las Vegas. Presently, I am involved in public accounting as a special consultant to other accountants and lawyers. Most importantly, I have been a chip collector for about fifteen years and have a very significant Atlantic City collection. My club # is 581, a number I was given many years ago.

If elected, I promise to carry out all the duties of treasurer, and be accessible to all the membership to answer any questions or provide any financial information requested.

I thank you for your consideration, and appreciate your taking the time to listen to this short message. ♦

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

Ralph Myers



Hello. My name is Ralph Myers and I am running for membership officer in the upcoming election. I have been a collector of “something” for as long as I can remember—i.e. coins, beer steins, stamps, license plates, casino chips and old cars.

I have spent the majority of my adult life in retail sales as a salesman all the way up to General Manager of an 18 store chain. I feel I have the management experience to step in and continue the great job that Jim Steffner has done in this position for so many years.

I support the following programs and proposals:

- The creation of specialty chapters nation wide like the Silver Strike Chapter and the proposed Roulette Chapter.
- The expansion of the club website so that it would be used more often for club-related business.
- A midyear or winter convention to be held at different locations each year other than Las Vegas. Perhaps a regional chapter could sponsor such an event.

- A permanent home building for the CC>CC. I am pleased to see a committee has already been formed to look into the possibility.
- I think we have to promote our organization with more advertising, and align ourselves more with casinos and chip manufacturers (the people who financially benefit most from our hobby).
- I am against an increase in membership dues, but I do support the idea of a convention registration fee to begin with the 2001 convention.
- I am against a standardized grading system, but I do believe certain terms can be applied i.e. new, slight table wear, worn, used, etc.

I look forward to being your membership officer for the next 2 years and I pledge to give 100% all the time, and help the CC>CC continue to grow and be the great organization that it is

I would appreciate your vote for Membership Officer in 2001. ♦

Tom Hartel

I'm very happy to accept this nomination for membership officer.

I think, this is the backbone of our club. This takes a large amount of time, but I would be very happy to give my time for a hobby I have been a part of for more than 20 years.

My Goals:

- To increase our club membership
- To make and keep renewing membership simple
- To have our club membership available at all chip shows

I sat on two board of directors, McDonald's owns & Rowland Hills School District.

I know I can and will work hard for you as your membership officer! ♦



T E A M W O R K





Tiny Treasures
5546 Camino Al Norte,
Suite 2-269
No. Las Vegas, NV 89031

Christopher Colangelo
CC>CC Member
R-1658

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Tiny Treasures News

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Two displays to choose from:

Small display for 8 Zippo's

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We have small displays for 1-15 Oversize Chips and one large display for 42 Oversize Chips

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Our new dice display holds 48 of your favorite casino dice. Both 5/8 and 3/4 sizes available.

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These incredible binders come with ten 20-pocket, 8" x 9" pages that hold a total of 200 chips snugly. Now available in two different colors, Brown or Black.

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Don't put your quarters in a binder, display them proudly in your favorite room. We have the only display that uses airtight holders to protect your quarters.

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Small Box - 50 items

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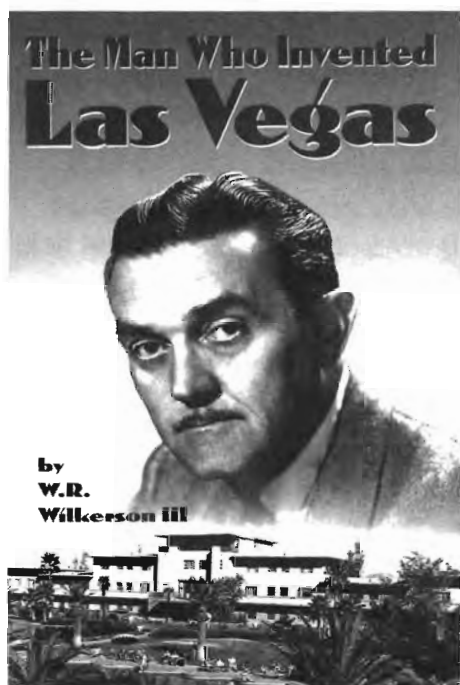
Book Review

The Man Who Invented Las Vegas

by W. R. Wilkerson III

Published by Ciro's Books, January 2000, \$17.00

by Robert Pardue



The story of W.R. “Billy” Wilkerson and his vision that resulted in the Flamingo Hotel is a fascinating one. Written by Wilkerson’s son, this book chronicles how Wilkerson was a publisher of *The Hollywood Reporter* during the golden days of Hollywood. As a man about town, Wilkerson also owned several restaurants and nightclubs in the Los Angeles area. He traveled widely and enjoyed the finer things in life, even though his finances took some pretty wide swings in doing so. Among other vices, he enjoyed gambling to the extent that he became an addicted gambler. He wagered large sums in the southern California area, and also took regular trips to Las Vegas when

it was still a dusty western town with a few small casinos in the 1940’s. During his travels to Las Vegas, he met such figures as Moe Sedway and gambled in the El Cortez.

The central theme of the book describes how Wilkerson — not Benjamin “Bugsy” Siegel — envisioned a swanky casino in Las Vegas. With a fancy nightclub theme, Wilkerson designed the Flamingo Hotel as entirely different from the other western themed casinos in Las Vegas at the time. He believed such a concept would draw the Hollywood and other upscale crowds that frequented his nightclubs in Los Angeles. He had a bold but sound design for the Flamingo, and he started construction on the project. But he was forced out by Siegel, who became his partner midway through construction.

Most histories of the Flamingo focus on Siegel and Virginia Hill, ending in Siegel’s untimely death and the ultimate success of the Flamingo, even though its grand opening was a disaster. Wilkerson’s key role in the project was virtually lost to history, and even the movie “Bugsy” (starring Warren Beatty in the Siegel role) overlooks Wilkerson entirely.

The book title — declaring Wilkerson as the man who “invented” Las Vegas — is an embellishment as

strict interpretation. As chip collectors, we know that the first licensed casinos opened in 1931 after Nevada legalized gambling. In fact, there were other casinos on the strip — the El Rancho Vegas and the Last Frontier — before Wilkerson created the Flamingo. But as a visionary who saw beyond the small western gambling joints to the new reality of posh casinos initiated with the Flamingo, Wilkerson is a pioneer whose ideas deserve credit alongside other pioneers like Jay Sarno and even Steve Wynn.

“The central theme of the book describes how Wilkerson - not Benjamin “Bugsy” Siegel - envisioned a swanky casino in Las Vegas.”

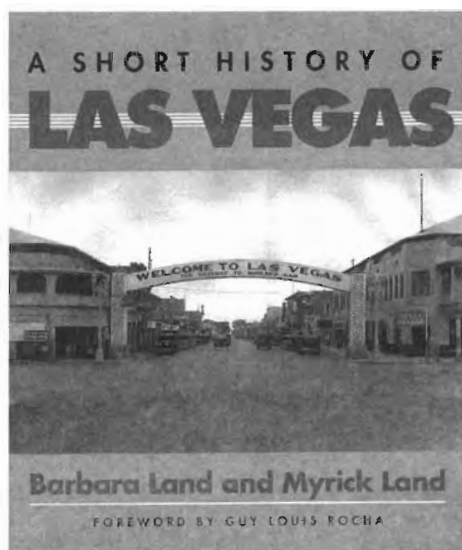
I won’t spoil the whole story by describing all the events in Wilkerson’s life in this book review, because I highly recommend that you read about it for yourself in this 160 page book. It is well organized and includes some interesting photos and memorabilia, plus a helpful index. The book is available at Gambler’s Book Store (Las Vegas) and other locations. ♦

Book Review

A Short History of Las Vegas

by Barbara Land and Myrick Land

1999, University of Nevada Press, Reno, Nevada 89557



The Lands attempt to cover a lot of ground in 240 pages. The first third of the book looks at Las Vegas history from 7,500 to 9,500 years ago when Ice Age humans occupied what is now Las Vegas through the time of basketmaking Indians in 330 B.C. to the modern tribe of the Paiute who helped the first Mormon settlers build Fort Las Vegas in 1855. One chapter looks at the building of the Hoover Dam. Another examines Las Vegas politics in the 1930s when Leonard Arnett was elected mayor. He disappeared before inauguration day and was later found to be the owner of a Petaluma, California chicken ranch, allegedly a payoff from powerful utility interests.

The somewhat dry description of the earlier days of Las Vegas should not deter readers from continuing to the last two thirds of the book, which will be of more interest to many readers of this magazine. A chapter tells the story of Howard Hughes days in Las Vegas. Although other volumes examine this period in much greater detail, readers wanting a short version will find it here.

The book includes 13 subjects in rough chronological order. The Buggy Siegel saga and the influence of the Mob after World War II form one section. A chapter concentrates on the entertainers most-closely associated with Las Vegas: Elvis, Frank Sinatra, Liberace, Wayne Newton and others.

A chapter titled "The Tycoons" looks at flamboyant Jay Sarno, creator of Caesar's Palace and Circus Circus, MGM's Kirk Kerkorian and Steven Wynn, who learned by watching his problem-gambler father that the only sure way to make big money in a casino is to own one.

The authors conclude by focusing on the changing history of the area and examining the city's satellites of Laughlin, Stateline and Mesquite as well as describing the Las Vegas metropolis of the 1990s.

by David Moore

This very generalized chronicle of Las Vegas includes numerous photos, many from the history collection of the University of Nevada.

"The book includes 13 subjects in rough chronological order."

Whether this volume is worth acquiring may depend on the scope of the collector's library. Obviously, those who buy every book on Las Vegas history will want it. Those compiling a more selective collection of books may prefer to focus on books narrower in scope covering subjects of special interest. ♦

Obituaries

For Tim O'Neill



On November 27, 2000 Tim O'Neill, R-3631, age 44 passed away suddenly near his home in Longmont, Colorado.

I first met Tim at one of the early Casino-Rama collectable shows in Bellflower, California. We clicked immediately because of our mutual interest in casino dice. Tim was one of the first people to really get into collecting casino dice and as such, his collection is one of the best. As the hobby and his collection continued to grow, I always looked forward to seeing Tim, as he would drive from Colorado for almost every show.

Tim's collecting interests expanded to include almost anything with a casino logo. The walls of his home were filled to the ceiling with his collections. His love of casino history pushed him to visit every casino in Nevada once a year. He loved taking a week or two driving around Nevada collecting stuff and taking pictures of all the casinos. Tim distilled these experiences into a unique question and answer quiz he would give to customers at his table. He would show a picture and ask a question, if the customer got it right, Tim would give a percentage discount. The more you got right, the bigger the discount! I remember fondly sitting with Tim and trading questions and answers.

Tim led a slower paced life in Longmont. I would always kid him about getting an answering machine because I could never reach him at home. He would laugh and say he still used a rotary dial phone! I was amazed one day last year when I got an e-mail from Tim saying that he had gotten a computer and was teaching himself to type. Tim progressed quickly and participated in the on-line discussions as well as buying and selling on eBay.

Tim has a great many friends in the club and I know that all of you will agree when I say that he will be sorely missed. So long, Tim, thank you for being a great friend.

Jeff (The Dice Man) Laudeman

For Jim Gellette

Jim Gellette moved to Las Vegas with his lovely wife Kelly in 1957. Jim & Kelly were dance instructors & owned a dance studio in the Chicago area where Jim was born (Rockford, IL.). Jim was an amateur magician & really had a thing for cards. When he came to Vegas he thought he wanted to be a dealer & landed a job at the Nevada Club downtown. This job wasn't like he thought it would be so only lasted a few months. The Gellette's decided to go with what they really knew & opened a dance studio in Vegas. Jim played Gin & was involved in tournaments where he & a lot of casino bosses & owners also enjoyed this pastime. Jim being an entrepreneur had a knack for being at the right place at the right time & met some powerful people. One of their friends was Moe Dalitz the owner of the Desert Inn. He was so interested in learning to dance as well as many of the other Desert Inn bosses that they were going to give them a studio in the Desert Inn. Space wasn't available & Jim wasn't the type who wanted anything handed to him. So Jim & Kelly rented a building where the Tam O' Shanter Motel is now, by the Sands. Their dance studio was a big hit & they became well known in Vegas in the great early years. The studio then became a talent agency as well & they put many Vegas shows together. They sold the Arthur Murray dance studio in the mid 80's, and Kelly went on to teach dance to instructors throughout the World, as she does today. Jim needed something to keep him busy & his interest in casinos motivated him to collect & deal in all kinds of old Vegas casino memorabilia. Most probably don't know that he liked to play roulette & wrote his own booklets on the subject.

As Kelly told me, he was a Libra and he believed in being fair. Jim was 75 when he suddenly became ill & passed away. Up until this time he was always in excellent health & of a good spirit. He always brought excitement with him to any visit. He really enjoyed teaching others about the casinos, chips, etc. & was always quick to help answer questions. The book Jim Perlowski was going to write with Jim's help would really of been something I am sure. I can remember all the times Jim would tell me to "write a book" on all this Vegas history or compile a price guide. And I did! I called him many times too when I was compiling my price guide & he helped out to the fullest extent every time. He always had time to help! Jim Gellette probably remembered more than anyone else around- he was there & he was smart! I remember when Jim started writing the pamphlets on each of the 12 first major casinos. Every few months he would come out with a new one. Always showing great pictures & noting the facts on the casinos. These will always be popular amongst collectors.

I first met Jim about 1986 when my friend Bo & I were running around every day collecting casino memorabilia. I was getting more into dice & Bo more into chips. I don't remember exactly where we met, but we became instant friends like everyone who met Jim did. Jim called one day & offered us a whole chip collection! We pooled our money together & got a great starter collection. We met with Jim all the time at the "meeting place" -Carl's Jr. on Boulder Hwy. I went broke for chips so many times, as he was always coming up with chips that back in those days had never even been seen! Later when I would find extra chips I could always sell some to Jim & get a fair price or trade & get more chips I needed. He really had a unique way of dealing with everyone- he seemed to know just what you would buy & know what you would spend to entice you with just the right amount of "goodies". He was at all the local shows with a bag of chips or dice or postcards. He didn't compete with the other dealers he just brought in good memorabilia that everyone would get a fair deal on. Many times he brought myself or friends some good chips that we were able to sell during the show for a profit.

My friend Bo later decided to collect dice instead of chips & Jim bought his collection & offered me first chance of which I bought about half. Jim always joked with me about buying all the good chips & what they must be worth now. Last time I saw Jim was at my house, I came home & he was over meeting with my Dad. My Dad was buying me some thing that Jim knew I would like for my birthday. It surely was something I liked, a 1950 Las Vegas phone directory with all kinds of great ads!

Anyone who had the great pleasure of meeting Jim Gellette knows we all really learned a lot from Jim. One of the things I know I learned was patience. He was a gentleman from the good old days. He believed in getting things done & would say something like, "We aren't going to be here forever." To me he was saying, be sure to make something great of yourself! I remember conversations with him about just life in general & now I look back & think he was like a Grandfather to me. I will miss him always. They just don't make them like Jim anymore!

James Campiglia

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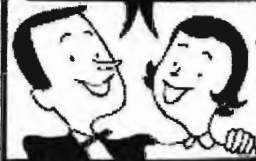
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