



# The Coin Courier

"Official Publication of the Baltimore Coin Club"

**Baltimore Coin Club**  
**P.O. BOX 43681**  
**Baltimore, Maryland 21236**

**March 2009**

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## BALTIMORE COIN CLUB

President:	Ken Finkenbinden
Vice President:	Sandon Cohn
Treasurer:	Joe Adam
Secretary:	Paul Efford
Editor, <i>The Coin Courier</i>	Nick Kurlick

## What You Missed

Don't forget to pay your BCC 2009 DUES!

Holiday party Mr. Wayne Schaumburg was our guest speaker gave an outstanding presentation on the Green Mount Cemetery. The party was well attendant and the food was great. You missed a nice evening if you decided not to come. **Green Mount Cemetery** is a historic [cemetery](#) located in [Baltimore, Maryland, United States](#). Established in 1839, it is noted for the large number of historical figures that have been interred in its grounds as well as a large number of prominent Baltimore-area families. The name comes from one of the streets that border the cemetery, [Greenmount Avenue](#). Green Mount is also a treasury of precious works of art, including striking works by major sculptors including [William H. Rinehart](#) and [Hans Schuler](#).

*Coin Courier* sadly reports **Walt Kitner passed March 9, 2009**. Walt was a friend to many of us and helped support BCC at many functions. Walt will be missed by the BCC membership.

## 2009 Baltimore Coin Club Calendar of Events

7	March	My Favorite Liberty Seating Coin
21	March	Dinner Night
4	April	Colorful Foreign Paper Money
18	April	Program Night
2	May	My Favorite Error Coin
16	May	Program Night
6	June	Indian Cents-
20	June	Program Night
4	July	
18	July	Program Night
1	August	Let Me Show You My British Coins
15	August	Young Numismatist Night
	September	
	September	Program Night
5	October	Foreign Tokens
19	October	Program Night

Note: Membership should send *Coin Courier Editor* list of tropics for theme night and programs!

**Meet the new Baltimore Coin Club Officers:** From left to right:  
 Paul Efford (Recording Secretary), Ken Finkenbinder (President),  
 Sandon Cohn (Vice-President), and Joe Adam (Treasure)



**List of Local Coin Shows 2009**

April 5	Pikesville	Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp & Coin Show
Spring	LaVale	Western Maryland Coin Club Show
June 21	Pikesville	Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp & Coin Show
June 28	Edgewater	Annapolis Coin and Currency Show
September 20	Edgewater	Annapolis Coin and Currency Show
Summer	Frederick	Francis Scott Key Mall Coin Show
Summer	Hagerstown	HAGERPEX Stamp & Coin Show
Summer	Hagerstown	Interstate Coin Show
Summer	New Market	Frederick County Coin & Currency Show
October 3-4	Ocean City	Ocean City 2009 Show
October 18	Westminster	Westminster Fire Hall Coin & Currency Show
November 29	Edgewater	Annapolis Coin and Currency Show
Fall	Hagerstown	Antietam Coin Show
Fall	LaVale	Western Maryland Coin Club Show
Fall	Middle River	Associated Coin Show
Fall	New Carrollton	Crabstate Coin Expo
Fall	New Market	Frederick County Coin & Currency Show
Fall	Timonium	Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp & Coin Show
Fall	Towson	BANC Towson Coin Show
Fall	Westminster	Carroll County Coin Show
Fall	Westminster	Westminster Fire Hall Coin & Currency Show
Fall	West Springfield	Semi-Annual Coin Show

Interesting Information

Does this sound familiar – when Chinese first used paper money they called their paper money ‘flying money’ because it would just fly from your hands. Did times really change?

Switzerland is the world’s sixth largest government gold repository.

Are tokens reliefs from financial pressure? Car wash operators in California are using tokens to reduce risk, economical impact, time savers, and other advantages to customers.

**Whitman Coin Show Baltimore Convention Center  
November 20-22, 2008**

**Public Registration**

<u>Thursday Nov. 20th</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>Friday Nov. 21th</u>	<u>Time:</u>
<i>Chairman: Bill Stratemeyer</i>	<i>1PM till 6PM</i>	<i>Chairman: Bill Stratemeyers</i>	<i>9 AM till 6 PM</i>
1. Karl Keller	1 – 6 PM	1. John McConnell	All Day
2. Walt Kitner	1 – 6 PM	2. Bill Lenz	9 – 5 PM
3. Don Levin	2 – 6 PM	3. Bryce Doxzen	2 – 6 PM
4. Ed Craig	1 – 6 PM	4. Joe & Margie Burford	9 – 1 PM
5. Ken Finkenbinder	1 – 6 PM	5. Gene Dixon	All Day
6. Steve Salabene	1 – 6 PM	6. Joe Adam	2 – 6 PM
		7. Ed Craig	All Day
		8. Ken Finkenbinder	9 – Till ?
<u>Saturday Nov. 22</u>	<u>Time:</u>		
<i>Chairman: Bill Stratemeyer</i>	<i>All Day</i>		
1. John McConnell	All Day		
2. Bill Ayres	All Day		
3. Bill Lenz	9 – 5 PM		
4. Nick Kurlick	9 – 5 PM		
5. Joe Margie Burford	9 – 11 PM		
6. Karl Keller	9 – 1 PM		
7. Don Curtis	9.30 – 3.30 PM		
8. Walt Kitner	10 – 1 PM		
9. Ron Sheradon	9 – 4 PM		
10. Larry Goldman	3 – 6 PM		
12. Frank Murphy	9 – 1 PM		

I would like to thank of the BCC members that helped at the show.

Bill Stratemeyer

Words from the Past - #16

*By: Don Curtis*

*The Year was 1944*

Excerpts from minutes of past Baltimore Coin Club meetings as written by the club Secretary Mr. Arnold M. Lohrfinck:

January 20th, 1944 – *The regular meeting of the club was held on this date, with 18 members and 1 quest Mr. Ezra C. Miller present.*

*The President appointed a nominating committee for the upcoming election of officers consisting of Mr. Cook Chairman, with Messrs. Austin and Schmidt*

*A motion was made by Mr. Cook which was seconded and passed to the effect: That a committee be appointed to investigate the possibility and costs of having a token or medal struck with the likeness of Frank G. Duffield on the obverse.*

*Mr. Duffield read to us a paper he had prepared reviewing the history of coin clubs in Baltimore City.*

February 3rd, 1944 – *The regular meeting of the club was held on this date, with 19 members and five quest present.*

*Mr. Perlitz talked about the 1913 Liberty Head nickel he had been shown. It was rather well worn but the owner had sent it to Mex Mehl who had stated it was genuine and offered two hundred dollars for it.*

*Mr. Hunter read a clipping from the News-Post of Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>. regarding the exhibit the Walter's Art Gallery would give including Greek and Roman coins.*

February 17th., 1944 – *The regular meeting of the club was held on this date, with 21 members and three quest present.*

*Mr. Brogden moved to approve and Mr. Heiserman seconded the motion which was passed for the report of the banquet committee to hold the annual banquet at the Blue Room of the Belvedere Hotel, tickets to be \$3.50 per plate.*

*The secretary was instructed to write the clubs of Washington, D. C., Cumberland and Frederick, Maryland inviting members of these organizations to attend the banquet.*

*Colonel Newton gave the club one of the most interesting evenings had. His talk on the South Pacific Islands, natives, and what our forces are doing was really worth listening to. Afterwards Colonel Newton was given a rising vote of thanks.*

Attached, Letter dated February 11, 1944 from Modern Stamp Mfg. Co., 298 E. Baltimore Street, Baltimore Maryland

*The letter referenced the clubs inquiry Silver finished coins 1-1/8" in Diameter, with a man's photograph reproduced on one side and wording on the reverse. The letter goes on to say "We would like to say that we specialized in this kind of work in the past, especially in reproductions of this kind. The only metal we can use for these coins, at the present time is domestic silver. The tentative price for 1,000 Coins, will be approximately \$1.75 ea."*

**Also attached a letter to the Baltimore Coin Club Inc., from the State Tax Commission, Union Trust Building, Baltimore 1, dated March 1, 1944**

*The Commission has received your 1944 franchise tax report, together with check for \$10 in payment of the tax. We are pleased to inform you that certain non-stock corporations mentioned in paragraph A-2 under the heading "instructions", as set forth on this report, are now exempt from the payment of this tax. This corporation, considered to be exempt, the Commission will issue a refund to you for the \$10 which you have already paid.*

**Also attached was a receipt from the State of Maryland for the enclosed check of the State Treasury in payment of your bill (s) to the State Tax Commission of Maryland in the amount of \$10.04**

**Also attached:**

### Financial Statement year 1943-1944

#### RECEIPTS

Dues		\$125.50
Auction Commissions	\$ 72.53	
Balance from Phillip G. Straus	\$ 3.24	\$201.27

#### DISBURSEMENTS

Rent paid to Municipal Museum	\$73.50	
Cards & cost typing notices & tickets	\$19.12	
Printing billheads, envelopes & applications	\$ 8.50	
New auction cards	\$ 1.50	
Paid Ben the janitor for Christmas	\$ 3.00	
A.N.A. for 1944 dues	\$ 3.00	
State of Maryland franchise corporation tax	\$10.00	\$118.62
Cash on Hand March 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 1944		\$ 82.65

#### STATEMENT OF THE BANQUET COMMITTEE

Thirty eight tickets sold		\$133.00
Twenty-four members, fourteen guests present		
Paid Belvedere Hotel for 39 persons at \$3.00	\$117.00	
Four waters at \$1.50	\$ 4.00	
Head-waiter	\$ 1.00	
Stanley Maynard for flowers	\$ 3.50	\$131.50
Balance		\$ 1.50
Turned over to Alfred Hunter	\$82.65	
	\$ 1.50	
Total	\$84.14	

## Casino token (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)



One dollar chips from various Las Vegas casinos.

**Casino tokens** (also known as **chips**, **checks** or **cheques**) are small discs used in lieu of currency in casinos. Colored metal or compression molded clay tokens of various denominations are used primarily in table games, as opposed to metal token coins, used primarily in slot machines.

Some casinos also use gaming plaques for high stakes table games (\$25,000 and above). Plaques differ from chips in that they are larger, usually rectangular in shape and contain serial numbers.

### History

Although the first gambling house was legalized in Venice in 1626, actual poker chips as we now know them were still not used for over two hundred more years. Back in the 1800s and prior, poker players seemed to use any small valuable object imaginable. Early poker players sometimes used jagged gold pieces, gold nuggets, gold dust, or coins as well as "chips" primarily made of ivory, bone, wood, paper and a composition made from clay and shellac.

Several companies between the 1880s and the late 1930s made clay composition poker chips. There were over 1000 designs from which to choose. Most chips were white, red, blue and yellow but they could be made in almost any color desired.

### Construction

The vast majority of authentic casino chips are "clay" chips but can be more accurately described as compression molded chips. Contrary to popular belief, no gaming chip going as far back as the 1950s has been 100% clay. Modern clay chips are a composition of materials more durable than clay alone. At least some percentage of the chips is of an earthen material such as sand, calcium carbonate, chalk and/or clay similar to that found in cat litter. The process used to make these chips is a trade secret, and varies slightly by manufacturer, most of them being relatively expensive and time consuming per chip. The edge spots, or inserts, are not painted on; to achieve this effect, this area of the clay is removed and then replaced with clay of a different color; this can be done to each chip individually or a strip can be taken out of a cylindrical block of material and replaced with the alternate color before the block is cut into chips. Then each chip receives a center inlay if desired, and are placed in a special mold that heats and compresses the chip at

approximately 10,000 psi (70 MPa) at 300 °F (150 °C), hence the term compression molded chips.

The printed graphics on clay chips is called an inlay. Inlays are typically made of paper and are then covered with a thin film of plastic which is applied to the chip prior to the compression molding process. During the molding process the inlay becomes permanently affixed to the chip and can not be removed from the chip without destroying it.

Ceramic chips such as those made by ChipCo International and Nevada Jacks were introduced in the mid 1980s as an alternative to clay chips and are still very common in casinos as well as being readily available to the home market. Ceramic chips are often referred to as clay or clay composite, but they are in fact an injection-molded chip made with a special plastic or resin formula that approximates the feel and sound of clay. These chips are of course far less expensive, and are common in home sets.

The *Bud Jones* brand is one of the very few injection molded plastic chips used in casinos. They are produced by Gaming Partners International and not produced for the home market.

The chips used in North American casinos rarely weigh more than 10 grams and are usually between 8.5 and 11.5 g. There is no official weight, however, and some, particularly coin inlaid chips, can weigh more. The chips sold for home use vary substantially more, sometimes weighing as much as 13.5 g, depending on manufacturer and construction.

Common designs for home use depict the six faces of a die or the suit symbols around the edge on the face of the chip. They are typically manufactured with injection molding technology using ABS plastic. Some chips are molded around a small metal disc, called a slug, for weight.

European chips often come in Mother of Pearl. The higher value chips are often shaped like plaques.



## Precious Metals Numismatic Products

from United States Mint on January 15, 2009



Washington - The United States Mint announced today it is implementing a new strategy for pricing numismatic products containing gold and platinum effective January 12, 2009. Non-precious metal products and bullion coins will not be affected by the new pricing strategy. "Transparency, agility, and customer service are the catalysts for our new pricing method," said United States Mint Deputy Director Andy Brunhart. "The volatile precious metals market prompted our customers to suggest that we re-vamp our process, and we listened."

The United States Mint published a Federal Register notice on January 6, 2009, that included an itemized pricing structure for gold and platinum numismatic products. (This notice does not affect gold commemorative coin pricing.)

Product prices will fluctuate within the new structure, which is based on a range of the average market price for gold and platinum. For gold numismatic products, the range will be within \$50 and, for platinum numismatic products; the range will be within \$100.

Pricing of gold and platinum numismatic products will be directly related to the average weekly London fix prices for these metals. If the market value of gold and platinum moves to a higher or lower range, the price of each product will be increased or decreased in corresponding increments. For example, if the weekly average price of gold rises to the next \$50 price range, the United States Mint will increase the price of gold numismatic products by \$50 for each ounce of gold in the product. Under this scenario, the price of a one-tenth ounce gold uncirculated coin would increase by \$5.

Previously, the United States Mint published a Federal Register notice each time the price of a product was changed. Under the new policy, the notice will be in effect throughout 2009. It encompasses a broad band of price ranges for the metals. The United States Mint's new pricing formula will be more responsive to changes in the market price of gold and platinum.

## Bob Ruby Roast Night



Bill Stratemeyer (left) and Ed Craig (right) hosted the evening, and we honored all the dedication to our hobby by Bob Ruby (middle). Bob will be deeply missed as he is retiring from the coin scene and that is stating it mildly. Photographs by Bill Stratemeyer.

Bob Ruby received:

1. A Presidential award from Barry Stuppler (President of ANA ) and Pattie Finner ( Vice-President of ANA )
2. Bill Horton - a letter form Past President of the ANA
3. Frank Murphy - Maryland State Numismatic Association President
3. Bill Stratemeyer - Baltimore Coin Club
4. Frank Goss - Catonsville Coin Club
5. Joe Burford - BANC
6. Ed Craig - Maryland Tams President

Hi Folks,

I just want to say "THANK YOU" for the tribute that I was given on Thursday, March 19 at the Baltimore Coin Club Annual Dinner. It was totally unexpected. Carl Ostiquy and Greg did a good job in setting me up. To all club officers and members, many thanks for the gift certificates to various restaurants in the Westminster area. I am 99.99% sure that Ed Craig and Bill Stratemeyer were the top two in getting the ball rolling and I am sure the Millard Hajek and Bill Lenz were also in on the project. Thanks Guys!!! Also many thanks to all of the club members that voted to approve this tribute. Over the years (30 of them) I held many offices or chairmanship's in all of the clubs. I enjoyed doing all of them or I would not been so active.. Thanks to everyone.

Bob