The Original Hobo Nickel Society’s 16th Mail and Floor Bid Auction
Saturday, January 12, 2008
10:00 AM
OHNS Membership Meeting
FUN Convention
In
Orlando, Florida
GREETINGS FROM THE AUCTION MANAGER

Once again we are able to present a nice offering of hobo nickels for our OHNS annual auction, ranging from the old artists to the modern masters. We have a nice selection of “Bo”s, Berts, “Peanut Ears” and unknown old artists, as well as works by 14 modern carvers. Plus, some hobo postcards, tokens, and pins round out the sale.

Scrutinize this catalogue carefully. If you will be at FUN, you can examine the lots in person on Friday, January 11 (at the OHNS bourse table) and on Saturday, January 12 in our meeting/auction room, just before the auction begins. Our General Meeting begins at 10:00 AM. The auction will follow, beginning about 11:15 to 11:45 in the same room.

Absentee bids should be mailed to: Stephen Alpert. P.O. Box 66331, Los Angeles, CA 90066, or emailed to me at “quadra@pacbell.net”. All bids should be received no later than Jan. 8th. No telephone bids accepted, but you can phone me at 310-836-2482 with any questions, or if you wish to fax your bids to this same phone number.

I hope you all enjoy this auction, and maybe add some nice hobo nickels to your collection.

Steve Alpert, Auction Manager

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DONATIONS

Steve Adams (50/50 donation), Lot 49
Amy Armstrong, Lot 87
David Boulay, Lot 21
Steve Cox, Lots 44 and 45
Cliff Kraft made a donation in 2003 that somehow was not acknowledged by OHNS – We apologize and thank him for his donation.
Lot 1
Kaiser Wilhelm
Unknown: Classic Average (H) ND VF
Fivaz/Alpert: Deeply-carved lines and zigzags form most of this carving along with finer parallel liner-tool lines. The subject has a curled moustache and a WWI helmet with a rather crude spike on top. The profile is unaltered and the field is dressed behind the figure and “LIBERTY” was removed.

Lot 2
Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Unknown: Classic Below Average (H) 15D F
Fivaz/Alpert: Low crowned derby with accent lines and an interesting hatband formed from a zigzag wriggle cut. The subject has an unaltered profile and just a hint of an ear and a bowtie (?) at front of collar. He has a sparse stubble beard and hair. The carving is not too well done, but has a nice eye appeal.

Lot 3
Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Tall Ear: Classic Above Average 13P II VF
Fivaz/Alpert: Fivaz: “This carving was done by an unknown artist nicknamed ‘Tall Ear’ for obvious reasons.” The subject’s ear is huge. The hair and Beard were well done with the beard coming to a point. He is wearing a plain crowned derby with a distinct hatband. This is a well-made hobo nickel with great eye appeal.

Lot 4
Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Unknown: Classic Average (L) 13P I F
Fivaz/Alpert: The hat and ear on this subject were done using very thin and superficial lines (no real depth). The top of the dome and the rear projection of the hat brim were unevenly done. The hair, beard and moustache were done with a small “beading tool”. The field was roughly dressed with a chisel.

Lot 5
Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Unknown/Tuffy: Classic Average (H) 13P I VF
Fivaz/Alpert: Fivaz: unknown artist. Alpert: “This piece was carved by the artist nicknamed ‘Tufty’ based on the tuft of hair on the forehead. The hat, ear, beard and collar are all characteristics of his work. Subject has a plain hat, a curved brim, a hatband, an ethnically altered nose, and a cauliflower ear like that of a boxer. It has a nice eye appeal.

Lot 6
Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Unknown: Classic Above Average 13P II EF
Fivaz/Alpert: Although this coin is dark, the work is rather good, with a hatch mark design on the crown of the hat. Subject has a large well-formed ear and long, thin nearly vertical parallel lines for hair and beard. He has a nice hat with a thick bold carved rim. The braid is still partly visible on the neck.
Lot 7

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Unknown: Classic Average ND F
Fivaz/Alpert: This carving has well-carved features, but the artist did not dress the Indian’s hair, feathers and braid, which are boldly visible. The hat, hatband and bow are rather well done with accent lines on each. The profile is unaltered, but outlined. Subject has a very small misplaced ear. He is wearing a jeweled stickpin on his neck.

Lot 8

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Unknown: Classic Average ND-P II EF
Fivaz/Farnsworth: This plate coin in OHNS Guidebook, pg 38, a simple carving with nice eye appeal, is completely carved except for the punched scar. The field is completely dressed and the profile is altered. It is unusual in that the subject is beardless, hairless, and without a moustache. He has a small ear and an Adam’s apple, a feature rarely seen.

Lot 9

Beardless Hatless Man
Unknown: Classic Above Average ND-P II G
Fivaz/Farnsworth: The carving has a very nice eye appeal. The initials “JK” is on the collar. The subject has a nicely carved very large ear and what appears to be knife-cut hair. He has an accented jaw line and no collar. The field is fully dressed.

Lot 10

Bearded Man Wearing Derby Smoking
Unknown: Classic Average (L) ND-D II VF
Fivaz/Farnsworth: Not much carving on this specimen as the hat crown, hat brim, coat, collar, portions of the beard were done with “linear” and a knurling tool. This plate coin illustrated in the guidebook (pg 38, top right) was used as an example of a specimen with low eye appeal. It has a nicely carved wrap-around hat brim and a completely dressed field.

Lot 11

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Unknown: Classic Above Average ND-P II EF
Fivaz/Farnsworth: Subject is wearing a stickpin and a plain domed hat with straight hat brim and a nicely carved hatband and bow. He has a large “cauliflower” ear and an altered nose. The field is completely (smooth) dressed. This is a nicely attractive carving.

Lot 12

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Unknown: Classic Above Average ND-P II EF
Fivaz/Farnsworth: The nicely carved hat has a straight brim and a plain crown. Accent lines are on the hatband and rear of the hat. It has a nice bow. Hair, beard, moustache, and eyebrow were punched and a large punch was used for the eye. The field is completely and smoothly dressed.
Lot 13

(No Subject – it is the original Indian)
Unknown: Classic Below Average (L) 15S VG
Fivaz/Farnsworth: Only the nose was carved. Most of the original design has been buffed or shaved off, leaving a parted hair on top. What appears to be “IKE” was carved where “LIBERTY” appeared.

Lot 14

Bald Bearded Man
Bo/Possible Bo: Classic Average 38D G
Fivaz/Farnsworth: Alpert, the auction manager, is of the opinion that it is a Bo. Farnsworth has not seen any of Bo’s carvings with such perfectly created letters “SS”. It is not a self-portrait of Bo; neither the hair nor the nose is of Bo’s style. This mostly punched specimen is similar to Bo’s post hand injury works.

Lot 15

Clown
“Bo” Hughes: Below Classic Average (H) 37P VF
Fivaz/Farnsworth: A similar carving is pictured on page 47 of the Guidebook. This is one of Bo’s favorite subjects, a big-eared clown with a high ruffled collar. It is mostly punched with the ruffled collar done with a large “S” punch. The red/brown color is characteristic of Bo’s works after his hand injury (post 1957).

Lot 16

Bearded Man Wearing Fedora Hat
Bo/Unknown: Classic Average (L) 20P AG
Fivaz/Farnsworth: Auction Manager, Alpert believes it is a Bo. Farnsworth stated: “The punched eye, the scraggy hair and beard do not appear to me to be Bo’s style – even after his hand injury.” It is a very roughly carved design with a shamrock (?) on the crown. The profile was drastically altered.

Lot 17

Bearded Man Wearing a Derby
Bert or Unknown: Classic Above Average (L) ND-S II F
Kraljevich/Farnsworth: Pictured and identified as a Bert in Romines’ second book on page 54. When this carving was QDed in 1997, both Kraljevich and Farnsworth stated that it was done by an unknown artist. In the opinion of the Auction Manager, Alpert, it is a Bert. As of 2007, we have no other corroborating evidence. It was carved by an experienced artist who put a lot of careful work into it. The field is a series of punched small circles. The hair and beard were created by alternating curved chisel lines – giving an impression of wavy hair – but with no shape or style.

Lot 18

Two Hobo-Related Tokens
Pictures may be seen at www.hobonickels.org.

Lot 19

26 Different Hobo Postcards
Pictures may be seen at www.hobonickels.org.

Lot 20

Three Old Hobo Pinback Buttons
Pictures may be seen at www.hobonickels.org.
Lot 21 Donation by Boulay

Woodman/Seated Man on Stump
David Boulay: Modern Superior 36P
Fivaz/Alpert: The obverse is of a woodsman wearing a typical lumberman’s skullcap. The reverse shows a hobo sitting on a stump, holding a walking stick and a backpack. It is named by the artist, “Waiting on a Dicer”. It is signed DB #42 on edge. “Dicer means a fast freight.

Lot 22

Bearded Man Wearing Derby/Walking Hobo
David Boulay: Modern Superior 36P
Fivaz/Alpert: This is an expertly executed two-sided carving. The obverse is a goateed man wearing a plain crown hat with a curved brim. The reverse is titled “Pounding the pavement” by the artist, and is a walking hobo with staff and backpack. Coin was nicely antiqued and signed “DB 43” on edge.

Lot 23

Beardless Man Wearing Derby/Whaler
David Boulay: Modern Superior 36P
Fivaz/Alpert: The reverse was named “New England Whaler by the artist. The coin has been antiqued and signed “DB #44 on the edge. The obverse shows a beardless man wearing a curved-brim hat. He has a finely crafted ear, hair, etc. The reverse depicts a bandana-clad seaman holding a harpoon with a tied sash at his waist.

Lot 24

Bearded Man Wearing Hat/Hiking Hobo
David Boulay: Modern Superior 36P
Fivaz/Alpert: The obverse resembles one of Bo’s works. The subject has a nicely detailed hair-beard-moustache and a very lifelike ear. The reverse was named by the artist “Smiling Jack”. The coin was nicely antiqued on both sides and signed “DB #41 on the edge.

Lot 25

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Unknown: Classic Above Average (L) ND G
Fivaz/Alpert: Wear on the center of the head after it was carved, probably due to being used as a pocket piece. It is rather well done with many accent lines in the hat, hatband, and back of coat and collar. Profile was unaltered, but lips and eyelashes were added. The field was nicely dressed.

Lot 26

Lot of Six Crude Classic Carvings
These carvings were QDed by Fivaz and Alpert. Five were graded Crude by both, and one was graded Below Average by Fivaz and Crude by Alpert. Each carving comes with a Quality Designation paper. Interested bidders should examine them at the FUN show. Two are pictured above.
Lot 27

Classic Carving Modern Carving
Lot of Eight Below Average Carvings
These carvings were QDed by Fivaz and Alpert. Seven are Classic Carvings and one is a Modern Carving (probably by J. Allen). Seven (including the modern carving) were graded Below Average by both, and one was graded Average (low) by Fivaz and Below Average by Alpert. Each carving comes with a Quality Designation paper. Interested bidders should examine them at the FUN show.

Lot 28

Lot of Five Average Classic Carvings
These carvings were QDed by Fivaz and Alpert. Four were graded Average by both, and the one on the left was graded Above Average by Fivaz and Average by Alpert. Each carving comes with a Quality Designation paper. Interested bidders should examine them at the FUN show.

Lot 29

Confederate Soldier
Amy Armstrong: Modern Superior 37D (F)
Alpert/Fivaz: This is a very nice ¾ view portrait of a bearded Confederate soldier, engraved “J Reb” at left, and with punched stars by LIBERTY. It has a stippled field and nicely carved facial features and hair. It has a nice eye appeal. It is signed “AA30 on the reverse.

Lot 30

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Bill Zach: Modern Superior 52D Cent EF
Alpert/Fivaz: This is a very nicely carved alteration of a Lincoln Cent (unusual). The hat, ear, hair, beard, and altered profile were well-done. The man has a (textured) apron, similar to that worn by a blacksmith. The shoulder is textured. The obverse has a fine sand-blasted sheen finish.

Lot 31

Hobo Stealing Pie
Cliff Kraft: Modern Superior 19P F
Alpert/Fivaz: A great humorous action scene was carved on the obverse – a hobo, who just stole a pie, is running for his life, with a galloping dog biting his posterior. The subject matter is greatly creative. The field is deeply recessed. The date and LIBERTY are all that remain of the original obverse.

Lot 32

Watson, Sherlock Holmes’ Associate
Cliff Kraft: Modern Superior 37P EF
Alpert/Fivaz: This is a nice full face view of Sherlock Holmes’ associate, Watson, with the high-crowned derby, moustache and long sideburns. The field was nicely burnished as well as the figure. LIBERTY is left on a raised panel. It has a classic “bulldog” look.
Lot 33

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Sam Alfano: Modern Superior 35P VF
Alpert/Fivaz: This is a wonderful modern carving by the very talented Sam Alfano. The hair-beard-moustache is finely detailed, as are all of the other features (ear, hat, hatband, etc.). The profile was altered and the classic Alfano “scroll work” is around the date. It has a nice smooth field and is signed “SA” behind the neck.

Lot 34

Hatless Man/Whimsical Animal
Bill Zach: Modern Superior 36P EF
Alpert/Fivaz: The obverse is a hatless old man with a weathered face (squint lines by eye, brow furrows, etc.). He has very detailed hair, drooping mustache, and a nice ear. The field is very smooth. The reverse looks like a smiling armadillo that got caught in a time warp. It is signed “Z” and “279” by FIVE CENTS.

Lot 35

Hobo Token
This is a depression-era token picturing a hobo. It is dime size and made of white metal.

Lot 36

Hunter with Dog
Elmer Villarin: Modern Superior 13P I VF
Fivaz/Alpert: This is an expertly carved obverse of a hunter standing with a shotgun and a dog beside him. LIBERTY is retained on a raised panel. The recessed field around the figure is dressed with parallel lines behind him. Very intricate work makes this an exceptional carving. It is signed “EV 2006-31 and “Hunter” on the edge.

Lot 37

Walking Hobo/Walking Hobo
Elmer Villarin: Modern Superior ND Buffalo
Fivaz/Alpert: The obverse depicts a very precise walking hobo with a cane and a backpack. The recessed background is dressed with horizontal parallel lines behind the figure. LIBERTY is retained on a raised panel. The reverse is a copy of a classic hobo nickel showing the hobo walking with a thick staff, backpack and a handkerchief. It is signed “EV 2004-5” and “Britt Iowa” on the edge.

Lot 38

Caboose
Elmer Villarin: Modern Superior 37P F
Fivaz/Alpert: This is a wonderful representation of a wood-slatted caboose, with all details very intricately carved. The diamond-shaped pattern below the caboose is probably shrubbery. The carving is attractively outlined below “US of A” and down to each side of FIVE CENTS. It is signed “EV 2006-9 and “CABOOSE” on a polished edge.
Lot 39

Mad Hatter

Elmer Villarin: Modern Superior 34P VF
Fivaz/Alpert: Full frontal view of the Mad Hatter from Alice in Wonderland. Top hat, high collar, polka-dot bow tie and checkered shirt are all characteristics of this fictional character. The field around the figure is dressed and filled with parallel lines behind the figure. It is signed “Mad Hatter” and “EV-2004-16”. It is also signed “EV” below the bison’s head.

Lot 40

Old Greyhound Bus

Elmer Villarin: Modern Superior 16P EF
Fivaz/Alpert: This is an image of an old Greyhound bus with “Greyhound Lines’ carved at the top of the bus’s canopy. The wheels and the grill are exceptionally well done. The seats can be seen through the windows. The bus appears to be moving along a plank road. It is engraved “EV 2006-6” and “Greyhound” on the polished edge.

Lot 41

Madonna

Elmer Villarin: Modern Superior 13P I AU
Fivaz/Alpert: This is a nice detailed carving of Madonna with her head covering and ornate designs around the figure. She has attractive, pleasant facial features. LIBERTY and 1913 remain. It is signed “Madonna” and “EV 2006-22” on the edge.

Lot 42

Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown: Classic Average (H) 26P VG
Alpert/Fivaz: The bold, smooth small hat, the nose-up altered profile, and the punched beard and hair give this work its character. The beard, hair and moustache were made with a “beading tool”. The hat brim has a bow on it. The carving has a single-punch eyeball and a nicely dressed field with LIBERTY removed. The owner found this coin in 1960 in a money exchange in Belgium.

Lot 43

Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown: Classic Above Average ND EF
Fivaz/Alpert: The low brimmed derby is the first thing that catches the viewer’s eye. It has a very nicely carved hatband, bow and ear. The hair, beard and moustache appear to be scratched in, but effectively. The profile is unaltered and the field is completely dressed. It is signed “SEELY N. LEVY” on the edge.

Lot 44 Donation by Cox

Pirate

Steve Cox: Modern Superior 36P VF
Fivaz/Alpert: This is an outstanding carving of a full face pirate, scowling, with an eye patch and a bandeau on his head, and a bird perched on his head. He has a wonderful hair, beard, eyebrow, etc. he has a 24K gold pipe and a 24K gold earring. The head is surrounded by a circular rope design. LIBERTY and the date remain.
Lot 45 Donation by Cox

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Steve Cox: Modern Superior 29D VF/EF
Fivaz/Alpert: This carving has beautiful workmanship in all respects. The subject has a dark hat with leaf-design hatband. He has delicate hair-beard-moustache, squint marks at eye, well-formed nose, and scroll-leaf design collar. The field is well dressed. The work has nice overall eye appeal.

Lot 46

Gladiator
Steve Cox: Modern Superior 1878 Trade Dollar P
Fivaz/Alpert: This is an outstanding image of a mean looking gladiator or a Roman soldier, complete with helmet, moustache, beard and rounded nose. The subject is surrounded by a 24K gold ring and by a typical Roman-Greek design. Alpert observed that the coin is only 37mm in diameter – possibly a fake Trade Dollar.

Lot 47

Charlie Chaplin
Steve Cox: Modern Superior 1921 Peace Dollar EF
Fivaz/Alpert: This carving of Charlie Chaplin as “The Little Tramp” is a wonderful representation of this popular motion picture character. His portrait is surrounded by a stippled background, a 24K gold ring and a spoke-like design around that. It is carved on a high circulated grade 1921 peace dollar!

Lot 48

Happy Hobo
Steve Cox: Modern Superior 1799 Bust Dollar VF
Fivaz/Alpert: An early (1799) Bust Dollar is the host coin for this modern carving of a “happy hobo”. The figure has a crooked top hat, a bindle stick, a rope belt, and 24K gold cigar, hatband and watch chain. The field around the subject is stippled and this is surrounded by a spoke-like design. Great carving! Editor’s note: The approximate retail value of a VF 1799 Bust Dollar is $2500 - $3500!

Lot 49 Donation by Adams (50/50)

Hobo Nickel Embedded in Engraved Railroad Spike
Steve Adams: Modern Superior 193x Buffalo
Fivaz/Alpert: This is about as unique a lot as we have had, an engraved real railroad spike (engraved on three sides), with a hobo nickel embedded in the top flange. The scroll work on the hard steel spike is extraordinary. It is very well executed in all respects and is signed “SA” on the shoulder by master carver Steve Adams.

Lot 50

General George Custer
Jon Dake: Modern Superior 37P EF
Fivaz/Alpert: This is a handsome carving of General George A. Custer. He is wearing his identifiable large-brimmed hat. His uniform has five gold buttons and a gold star. His hair, mustache and ear are well done. The field is nicely dressed with LIBERTY and the date remaining.
Lot 51

Owen Covert: Modern Above Average (H) 37P F
Fivaz/Alpert: This is a nice representation of a lighthouse with light rays emanating from both sides. It has a tiled roof, brick structure, two windows and ground at the base. The field is completely and neatly dressed. It is signed by the artist on the bison’s body.

Lot 52

Owen Covert: Modern Superior 37P VG
Fivaz/Alpert: This is a very well done carving of a knight, complete with an ornately decorated visor helmet. The subject has a small beard, a very delicately carved moustache, and a slightly altered profile at the top of his nose. His eye is nicely restructured. The field is smoothly dressed with the date remaining. It was signed by the artist on the reverse. This is based on a Steve Adams design - Ed

Lot 53

Owen Covert: Modern Superior 36P F
Fivaz/Alpert: This is a nice representation of a typical hobo nickel artist subject, with large ear, curved hat brim, and hat with hatband and bow. The hair-beard-moustache were nicely done and outlined. His nose was slightly altered and his eye nicely changed. He is wearing a checkered coat and a large bow tie. The field is dressed. It was signed by the artist on the reverse.

Lot 54

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Ray Castro: Modern Superior (L) 35P VG
Fivaz/Alpert: Many of Bo’s techniques seem to have been used, especially on the hair, bear, etc. The ear is quite similar to Bo’s style. The collar is single-lined. There is a hatband and small bow on the hat. The field is nicely dressed with LIBERTY and date remaining. It is signed “RC” on the reverse.

Lot 55

Hiking Hobo
Ray Castro: Modern Above Average 37P F
Fivaz/Alpert: This is a nice reverse carving of a hiker with “Bo-style” hair and beard. His hands and fingers are visible on the walking stick. His clothing is nicely carved. It is signed “RC” on the obverse behind the neck.

Lot 56

Dog
Ray Castro: Modern Above Average (L) 37P VG
Fivaz/Alpert: This is an unusual reverse carving of the head of what appears to be a bloodhound with large, floppy ears, soulful expression and large nose. The unaltered bison’s beard probably represents the dog’s tongue. It is signed “RC”.
Lot 57

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Unknown/Tufty: Classic Above Average 13P I EF
Fivaz/Alpert: Alpert “This coin was carved by the early unknown artist that has been nicknamed ‘Tufty’ based on the tuft of hair at the front of the forehead.” The subject has a notch at the top of his nose, a thick ear, a plain hatband, and a simple collar done by a chisel.

Lot 58

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Unknown: Classic Above Average (H) 13P II VF
Fivaz/Alpert: Fivaz: “While the beard and hair have similarities to some of the works by Bert, this examiner does not believe it was carved by Bert. The hat style and nose are not typical Bert, although very well done.” Alpert: “This specimen is illustrated in the summer 2007 Bo Tales, but is only slightly similar to the carvings attributed by Romaines as Bert prisoner nickels (see lot 17 in this auction).”

Lot 59

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Spiffy: Classic Average (H) 13P II VF
Fivaz/Alpert: This coin appeared in volume 16, issue 2, page 10 of Bo Tales, and was nicknamed “Spiffy” by Owen Covert. It has circular cuts for the beard, hair, etc. The subject is wearing a plain hat with hatband and bow. The profile is unaltered and the ear was punched. There is a large ragged hole in the coin at 7 o’clock.

Lot 60

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Unknown: Classic Above Average 1942 Canadian Half Dollar F
Fivaz/Alpert: This is a very well done carving on an unusual host coin, a Canadian half dollar. There are two large holes in the coin, which detract from the quality of the carving: at 12 o’clock and at 6 o’clock. The hat, hatband, nose and ear were very expertly carved. One of the nicest anatomically correct carving this examiner (Fivaz) has seen.

Lot 61

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Unknown: Classic Average 13P I VG
Fivaz/Wilson: Wilson: “It appears to be totally knife carved.” Fivaz: “It is lightly carved and the beard and moustache were punched.” There is no visible hair, a hint of an ear behind the sideburn. The nose was ethnically altered. Fine lines were used for the plain hat and collar. The coin had been circulated after being carved.

Lot 62

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Peanut Ear: Classic Above Average 13P II VF
Fivaz/Wilson: This is a classic example of the unknown artist we refer to as “Peanut Ear”. The ear shape, beard technique, hair on brow under hat, hat style and “V” collar easily identify this as a work by this artist.
Lot 63

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Unknown: Classic Above Average 26P VG
Fivaz/Wilson: This is a very nicely done piece with a good deal of carving (hat, collar, ear, and eye). The ear is a punched hole surrounded by a half circle punch. The subject has a fine, curly punched beard. The crown on the hat has an interesting and attractive stippled effect. The field is dressed with LIBERTY and the date remaining.

Lot 64

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Unknown: Classic Average (H) 13P II VG
Fivaz/Wilson: This carving has an unusual treatment to the neck area – the long stringy hair. He is wearing a very high, angular collar. Accent lines are in the otherwise plain hat. It appears to be totally knife carved which is more difficult than using punches or chisels. The coin circulated after being carved.

Lot 65

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Unknown: Classic Average (H) 13P I F
Fivaz/Wilson: This carving has an unusual cloth textured field dressing. The jaw line has been redone and the eye carved. The nose has been rounded and the hat has a curved brim. The subject is wearing a round collar and has a long neck. Other lines were made by knife point.

Lot 66

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Unknown: Classic Average (H) 13P I F
Fivaz/Wilson: The subject is wearing a hat with a raised hat brim (a sign of extra work). His ear is mostly hidden under the hat brim. His curly beard is punched, his nose is ethnically altered, and his collar was carved with simple lines. The field is entirely dressed.

Lot 67

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Peanut Ear: Classic Above Average (L) 13P I F
Fivaz/Alpert: This is a typical hobo nickel by “Peanut Ear” with all his usual features (including the notch in the border of the hat at top). The neck appears to have been dressed with a small chisel. The profile is unaltered. The coin received some wear after it was made into a hobo nickel.

Lot 68

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Unknown: Classic Above Average 13P I AU
Fivaz/Alpert: Nice workmanship. It is totally carved by a proficient hobo artist. The cheek and eye are enhanced. The ear is well back on the head. The entire field is dressed. The Hebrew characters add to this nice piece. According to the consigner, the Hebrew translates as “Moses”.
Lot 69

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Unknown: Classic Average (H) 13P II VF
Fivaz/Alpert: The large swirls that denote curly hair, beard and moustache were probably formed with a thin circular punch held at an angle. The hat and collar have nice details, but their overall shape is a bit rough. The profile is unaltered and no ear is visible.

Lot 70

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Peanut Ear: Classic Above Average 13P II VF
Fivaz/Alpert: This is a typical “Peanut Ear” hobo nickel, but without a moustache. The hat was boldly carved and the hair nicely punched. There are heavy but accurate chisel cuts in the hatband. The beard was probably punched and the nose was slightly altered (straightened). The nostril was punched.

Lot 71

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Unknown or Peanut Ear: Classic Above Average 13P II VF
Fivaz/Alpert: The subject is wearing a nice hat with unusual hatband. He has nicely punched hair, nice unusual ear, an altered nose, a smoothened neck, and a simple collar. All combine to form a nice hobo nickel. The field behind the hat and neck was nicely dressed.

Lot 72

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Unknown: Classic Average (L) 36D G
Fivaz/Alpert: All the hair is roughly punched. The large derby is the nicest feature. The derby has a hatband and bow. The profile is unaltered. The ear is not well formed and goes up under the hat brim. Two lines represent the collar.

Lot 73

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Unknown: Classic Average ND-P VF
Fivaz/Alpert: The field around the subject has been dressed to offer the appearance of a cameo carving. The subject is wearing a very plain hat with no hatband and two lines carved for the brim. The beard, hair, moustache and eyebrow were created by semi circular cuts. He has a plain neck and no visible ear.

Lot 74

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Unknown: Classic Average 13P I VF
Fivaz/Alpert: The small plain hat greatly reduces the size of the head. This work appears to be totally knife carved and punched (hair, beard, moustache). The left field was dressed. The nose and eye were altered. Simple lines were used for the collar and bow tie. The small ear is located toward the back of the head.
Lot 75

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Unknown: Above Average (L) 13P I EF
Fivaz/Alpert: The subject has a “textured” hat. The hair was punched with a small circular punch. He has a large C-like ear with details and a crude collar. The profile was altered. The eye is weak (present but not visible in the photograph lighting).

Lot 76

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Unknown: Classic Average (H) ND II VF
Fivaz/Wilson: This work is totally knife carved. The point of the knife was used to create the stubble beard. The field behind the head was carved and scraped. The subject is wearing a wing-tip collar and bow tie. The profile is unaltered. This is a nice work for a totally carved piece.

Lot 77

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Peanut Ear: Classic Above Average 13P I AU
Fivaz/Alpert: This is a nice example of a hobo nickel by “Peanut Ear”. The hair and beard are a bit dark and contrast nicely with the rest of the design. A single small punch was used to enlarge the nostril.

Lot 78

Beardless, Hatless Mustachioed Man
Unknown: Classic Above Average (L) 15P EF
Fivaz/Alpert: This is a carved, very finely punched representation of what is probably a European man, sans hat and collar. The upward curved moustache, eyebrow and hair were done with a very fine-pointed punch. The subject has a large well-formed ear. A broad-tipped chisel was used for much of the work. The diagonal streaking on both sides of the coin may be from slight planchet laminations.

Lot 79

Man with Cane and Backpack
Unknown: Classic Above Average 16D VF
Fivaz/Farnsworth: This is a nice reverse carving of a short legged man wearing a pocketed coat with three buttons. He has large shoes and is standing in the grass. The top of the line above FIVE CENTS was removed, creating a cane which the man is holding. The hump of the bison was used as the man’s backpack.

Lot 80

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Unknown: Classic Above Average 13P I VF
Fivaz/Alpert: This is an early hobo nickel with all the features nicely done. The hat has a 3-D wrap around brim, with the ear overlaps the brim. The nose and eye were altered. Accent lines are on the collar, which has a jeweled stickpin, and on the hat. The coin has received some slight wear after the alterations.
Lot 81
Five Modern Hobo Nickels by J. Allen
1. Angel Reverse Carving
2. Rodeo Clown
3. Lady with 1800’s Hat
4. Telegrapher
5. Judge

Lot 82
Five Modern Hobo Nickels by John Dorusa
1. Monique (JD)
2. Clown (JHD)
3. Indian Brave (JD)
4. Indian Brave (JD)
5. Bearded Man Wearing Tortoise Hat (JD)

Lot 83
Five More Modern Hobo Nickels by John Dorusa
1. Woman (JD)
2. Man with Headband (JD)
3. Indian Brave (JD)
4. Indian Brave (JD)
5. Indian Brave (JD)

Lot 84
Five Modern Hobo Nickels by Frank Brazzell
1. Clown (Not Signed)
2. Engineer (Not Signed)
3. Dick Tracy (Not Signed)
4. Standard Design (Not Signed)
5. Standard Design (Not Signed)

Lot 85
Nine Different Hobo Postcards
Pictures may be seen at www.hobonickels.org.

Lot 86
Walking Hobo
Amy Armstrong: Modern Superior 37P AU
Fivaz/Alpert: This is an outstanding reverse comical carving of a skinny, forlorn, striding hobo carrying a bindle stick with a bag of his possessions tied onto the end. He is smoking a “fag” (cigarette). The background is neatly stippled. It has excellent facial and other details. It is a very attractive piece with tons of eye-appeal. It is signed “AA” and “37” on the edge.

Lot 87 Donation by Armstrong

Sailor Smoking Pipe
Armstrong: Modern Superior 35P VF
Fivaz/Alpert: This is a wonderful carving depicts a sailor, complete with his white hat, smoking a pipe. Careful attention was given to details such as the ear, eyes, nose, etc., make this a classic piece by modern carver Amy Armstrong. The date and LIBERTY remain and delicate scroll work surrounds a stippled field. It is signed “AA” and “41” on the edge.

Lot 88
Railroad Cop
Armstrong: Modern Superior 37P AU
Fivaz/Alpert: This is a carving of a railroad cop (“Bull”), a subject that Fivaz doesn’t recall seeing before. The man has a derby, is smoking a cigar, and the furrowed brow offers a menacing look. This coin has been lightly buffed, enhancing its eye appeal. The field is stippled and has “Bull” engraved below LIBERTY and several hobo signs around the left rim. It is signed “AA” and “42” on the edge.

Lot 89
Middle-Age Bo
Bo Hughes: Classic Above Average 24P G
Fivaz/Alpert: This is a self portrait of Bo in his later years. It has the typical “Bo” hair, beard, ski nose, and slight orange tobacco toning. This coin was sold to the current owner by Del Romines back in the early 1980’s. It is a nice example of Bo’s work.
Lot 90

Donkey with Shanty in Background
Bo Hughes: Classic Above Average 27P F
Fivaz/Alpert: This is one of the famous and favorite reverse carving designs by Bo – a mule or donkey, head bent down, and a shanty in the background. This carving has nice eye appeal; it is not darkly toned.

Lot 91

Beardless Man with Hat and Glasses
Bo Hughes: Classic Above Average (L) 37P
Fivaz/Alpert: According to Del Romines, he feels this original carving by Bo is of the doctor who treated him after his 1957 hand injury. The ear, etc. is typical Bo, and the coin was acid treated after being carved. A couple of carving “goofs” as Del refers to them are noticed, but are not serious.

Lot 92

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Unknown: Classic Average ND-P G
Fivaz/Alpert: This carving is somewhat unusual in that the subject does not have a beard or hair. The profile was altered so that the nose looks broken, the nostril enlarged, and the jaw line enhanced. The ear is small and well done. He is wearing a high collar and a derby with a hatband. There is a square nail hole at the top.

Lot 93

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Unknown: Classic Above Average (L) 13P I EF
Fivaz/Alpert: The beard, hair and moustache on the subject are very light, probably due to some post-carving wear. He is wearing a textured high-domed hat with a hatband and bow. He has a small ear in negative relief and an altered profile, including nostril, eye and mouth. He has a nice collar and coat lapel. The fields were chisel-dressed with LIBERTY remaining.

Lot 94

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Unknown: Classic Average ND VF
Fivaz/Alpert: Heavy cut lines were utilized for the hat brim and collar. Interestingly, the hat has a bow, but no hatband. The subject has a very small ear, scraggly hair, beard, and a punch for the eyeball. The field is dressed – LIBERTY almost gone from wear.

Lot 95

Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Unknown: Classic Average (L) 2xP EF
Fivaz/Alpert: Several different techniques were used by this artist – large circular punch below the neck, knife point for the hair and beard, and heavier, broader implements for a good deal of the rest of the work. The ear is well done and the profile is unaltered. Recent light horizontal scratches are across the cheek. The field was crudely dressed.
Lot 96

**Bearded Man Wearing Derby**

**Peanut Ear: Classic Average (H) 13P I VF**

Fivaz/Alpert: This carving exhibits all the characteristics of the artist nicknamed “Peanut Ear, A very popular artist and quite collectible. According to Alpert, it is of lower quality when compared to Peanut Ear’s other carvings. It was quickly done. The dome of the hat is not dressed; the feather is poorly dressed; and the hat band is not sharp.

Lot 97

**Bearded Man Wearing Derby**

**Unknown: Classic Above Average (L) 20P VF**

Fivaz/Alpert: This carving is different from the vast majority seen in that the technique used is almost surrealistic, especially the hair and the beard. However, the design elements do not fit well together – the hat is too big for the head, sparse curved lines for the hair and beard, and no band behind the bow. The carving has low eye-appeal (it looks better in the photo than in the hand).

Lot 98

**Bearded Man Wearing Derby**

**Unknown: Classic Above Average 15P EF**

Fivaz/Alpert: The hat on this carving is particularly well done. The subject has a nice wrap-around collar, no hatband or bow on his hat, and his ear relatively well done. Semi circular cuts were used for his hair and beard (no mustache). His profile is unaltered and he has a plain neck. The field is nicely dressed.

Lot 99

**Bearded Man Wearing Derby**

**Bert Wiegand: Classic Average (H) 13P I F**

Fivaz/Alpert: This appears to be an early carving by Bo’s mentor, Bert Wiergand. The nose, hat and ear are classic Bert style. The coin is signed “BERT” by removing the LI and Y from LIBERTY. The profile is slightly altered. This coin is illustrated on page 38 of Del Romines’ second book.

Lot 100

**Bearded Man Wearing Derby**

**John Dorusa: Modern Average 35S G**

Fivaz/Alpert: This carving was done by the now deceased John Dorusa. He attempted to replicate Bo’s and Bert’s style with wavy hair and beard and with the ear and the hat. It is signed on the lapel “JHD”.

Lot 101

**Bearded Man Wearing Cap and Glasses**

**Lee Griffiths: Modern Superior 36P EF**

Fivaz/Alpert: There is no indication of who the subject is, but it looks like a turn-of-the-century motor car driver or, possibly, an artist. The glasses and line from them are gold inlaid. It is a nice character study. The coin is lightly polished. It is signed “LG” and “30” at the base of the carving.
OHNS Auction #16 Rules

Welcome to the fifteenth OHNS Hobo Nickel Auction! We hope you are successful in obtaining the lot(s) you bid on and that you enjoy the fun and fellowship of one of the fastest growing numismatic clubs in the country! Bid liberally and with confidence that each lot is described completely and accurately. We ask that you review the Auction Rules below and adhere to them closely which will make it a fun auction for everyone. GOOD LUCK . . .

1. All lots are guaranteed as described. Any typos or other errors will be called to your attention at the beginning of the auction.

2. Bidding is open to all paid up members of OHNS, and will be conducted on both a Mail Bid and Floor Bid basis.

3. ALL Mail bids and Fax bid must be sent to Steve P. Alpert, P.O. Box 66331, Los Angeles, CA. 90066 and received by January 8, 2008. NO phone bids will be accepted. Fax bids are acceptable (310-836-2482), as are emailed bids (to quadra@pacbell.net).

4. The certification or quality designation papers for lots examined by OHNS will accompany each lot.

5. There will be a 10% buyer’s fee and a 5% seller’s fee.

6. Owners may submit one (1) mail bid on each of their coins. This will serve as a “minimum bid” if the owner desires. NO floor bids will be accepted from an owner on his/her coins.

7. NO unlimited bids will be accepted. The Bidder’s OHNS number must be included on all Mail Bids. This number will also be your floor bidding number.

8. ALL payments must be made by check or cash only, with checks being made out to Stephen P. Alpert. PLEASE include your OHNS number on all checks. Have any questions about this sale? Telephone Steve at 310-836-2482 or email at: quadra@pacbell.net.

9. Postage and insurance will be added to the invoice for all successful Mail Bidders.

10. All sales are final, and payments must be made promptly.

11. A list of prices realized will appear in the next Bo Tales and will also be posted on our website: www.hobonickels.org following the auction.

NOTE: Some lots in this sale were donated, with the proceeds going to OHNS as noted in the catalogue.

OHNS Welcomes Nine New Members

RM-1003 Jon C. Dake AZ
RM-1004 C. Ash Harrison NC
RM-1005 Allen S. Swartz FL
RM-1006 Wayne Weaver AR
RM-1007 Charlotte Wolven IN
RM-1008 Duane Ash ID
RM-1009 Steven F. Dodin PA
RM-1010 Andrew Keene WI
RM-1011 Mike Hayes OR

From the Editor’s Desk

This is my last issue of Bo Tales after serving as your editor for seven years (including three years in the mid 90s). Bo Tales will now pass onto the capable hands of Ralph Winter, who I expect will be an outstanding editor. As a charter member, I watched our club grow from the original eight to our current membership of over 400 enthusiastic collectors and scholars of hobo nickel carvings, including both classic and modern. I am looking forward to serving this club in a new capacity. Donald “Sport” Farnsworth
THE ORIGINAL HOBO NICKEL SOCIETY, INC.
Membership and Quality Designation Form

Please ___ enroll or ___ renew me as a member in the Original Hobo Nickel Society, as indicated.

 ___ 1 Year...$15  ___ 3 Years...$42  ___ 5 Years...$65  ___ Life Membership...$250  ___ Youth under 19...$7.50
___ Associate...$7.50 (shares all mailings)  ___ I am enclosing _______ as a donation for the OHNS scholarship program.

2005 reprints of the Hobo Nickel Guidebook are available! They have a less elaborate cover than the original printing.

I am enclosing __ $28.00 for the Hobo Nickel Guidebook by regular mail and ___ $2.00 additional for Priority Mail shipping.

I agree to abide by the Society’s Code of Ethics.

Signature ___________________________ OHNS# ________ Sponsor (optional) __________

Quality Designation services ... send to an OHNS QD Examiner

Bill Fritz, P.O. Box 328660, Dunwoody, GA 30354-0660

Steve Alpert, P.O. Box 66331, Los Angeles, CA 90066-0331

Submission will be reviewed by two OHNS QD Examiners who will give independent opinions as to the quality of the carving (with explanation and/or observations), subject, and probable artist. A photograph of the coin will be taken to accompany the report. Originals of the report and photograph will be returned along with the coin to the owner and copies will be kept (1) by the first OHNS QD Examiner and (2) in the OHNS archives. Please fill out one form for each coin submitted and mail coin(s), form(s) and payment to an OHNS QD Examiner.

For ADDITIONAL INSURANCE and/or REGISTERED MAIL: Please enclose an additional $5.00 per coin, per each additional $500 of insurance (or fraction thereof), up to a maximum of $25 for all coins submitted). If Registered Mail is desired on a single coin submission, add an additional $10.

I understand the opinions rendered are strictly that, and are not a guarantee of value or authenticity. It is, however, the best considered judgment by qualified specialists in the field; but, others may reach different conclusions.

I authorize OHNS to use ___ a photograph of my coin and ___ my name (not address).

Owner’s Signature ___________________________ OHNS# ________ Date __________

Owner’s value of coin(s) (necessary for insurance) ... $ __________

Fees... $15 per coin, 10 or more coins @ $12.50 ea., $25 per coin for non-members.

Fee includes first class postage and $100 insurance per coin.

Personal Contact Information

Name ___________________________ OHNS# ________ Moniker (nickname) __________

Address ___________________________

City ___________________________ State ________ ZTP __________

Phone (optional)... Daytime ___________ Evenings ___________

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