The Original Hobo Nickel Society’s
17th Mail and Floor Bid Auction
Saturday, January 10, 2009
10:00 AM
OHNS Membership Meeting
FUN Convention
in
Orlando, Florida
Orange County Convention Center, North Concourse
**BoTales Banner Banter and Editor’s Remarks**

The nickel pictured on the left side of the cover banner is a beautiful classic hobo nickel by “Bo” George Washington Hughes. It is Lot 39 in Auction 17. This particular nickel comes from the OHNS grading set assembled by Bill Fivaz over twenty years ago. All but the five crude nickels from the set are being offered for sale in this years auction (Lots 33-58). In the catalog you will see these lots designated by a cartoon hobo holding a magnifying glass. This cartoon character was created by OHNS member from Solon, Ohio. Dubbed “Cartoon Scratcher Walrafen,” Fred says, “I think I’d prefer to be rather than OHNS’s ‘Artist Emeritus.’” In my background art for underground comic books, concert posters, town function fliers, and etcetera... but I could never lay claim to the title of ‘artist.’”

Thanks, Fred. We’ll be seeing more of Fred’s work in some future issues of BoTales. The hobo nickel on the right side of the banner was created by OHNS member Dave Boulay (RM 915) from Lewiston, New York. This superior carver of a bearded fisherman is Lot 77 in Auction 17.

At the bottom of the front cover is a collage of some of the hobo nickels, tokens and a postcard from Auction 17. This was created by Verne “V-Dubya” Walrafen. I want to offer a very special thanks to V-Dubya for all the help he has provided putting this issue of BoTales together. Verne has helped format and “clean up” most all of the photos in the Auction 17 Catalog. He has also created an online version of the Auction 17 Catalog on the OHNS website at www.hobonickels.org. There you can view color photographs of the lots including pictures of all the postcard lots. **Please check it out!** If you choose not to tear out (the page is perforated) the bidding sheet from the Auction Catalog, there is a bidding sheet provided on the website that you can print out. **GET YOUR BIDS IN EARLY!**

I would like to congratulate the OHNS Members who will receive a silver BoTales Editor’s Literary Award Token for their 2008 contributions of articles for BoTales. These members are Cliff Kraft, Vin Maloney and John Zulke. These members, if present, will receive their token at the OHNS Annual meeting in January at the FUN Show. Member Verne Walrafen will also be receiving a Literary Award Token for his substantial “graphic arts” contributions to the 2008 issues of BoTales.

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**Announcing Original Hobo Nickel Society’s Annual Meeting**

Saturday, January 10, 2009 at 10:00 A.M.
Florida United Numismatists FUN Convention 2009, Orlando, Florida
Orange County Convention Center, North Concourse
OHNS 17th Annual Floor Bid Auction following Annual Meeting (~ 11 AM)

**New Members Since BoTales 2008 #3**

| RM-1070 Nicholas A. Pyle | DC | RM-1075 Lee Dezan | CA |
| RM-1071 Craig Watanabe | HI | RM-1076 James Dronon | CA |
| RM-1072 David Consolo | OH | RM-1077 Todd Lundberg | NE |
| RM-1073 Larry Fryer | MD | RM-1078 Eric Lindquist | CA |
| RM-1074 Herschel Silver | VA | RM-1079 Steven Linn | IA |
Welcome to our 17th auction, offering a great selection of both old and modern hobo nickels. Featured in this sale are highly-desirable specimens from Bill Fivaz's “grading set” that has been exhibited at shows for nearly 20 years. To view enlarged color photos of all the lots, go to our website www.hobonickels.org; our Webmaster and Secretary Verne Walrafen has done an excellent job of illustrating the auction lots. And he usually has the prices realized posted within a day after the auction.

A secondary market has developed for modern hobo nickels by still-active carvers, and many modern carvings have been consigned to this auction by people other than the carvers. Those modern carvings that have been consigned or donated by the artist who created them are indicated in the Artist Index below by an asterisk (*) after the lot number.

Also, beginning this sale, as a privacy-security measure, the original Quality Designation Submission Forms will not be included in the QD paperwork accompanying each lot.

As a bonus for those attending the auction, after the end of the catalogue lots, we will (as usual) auction donation items consisting of hobo memorabilia, old hobo newspapers, modern carvings, and whatever else is donated by members at FUN prior to the auction.

The auction lots will be on display for viewing at FUN on Friday at the OHNS bourse table, and at our meeting/auction room on Saturday morning during the break before the auction.

So have fun perusing this auction catalogue to decide which specimens you’d like to try to add to your collection. Bids (by mail or fax or email) must be received by me no later than January 6th. (If you want to fax in your bids, phone me first so I can turn on my fax machine which is on the same phone line). GET YOUR BIDS IN EARLY!

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Lot 79, by Steve Cox
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Lot 89, by Don Wolfe
Lot 90, by Don Wolfe
Lot 134, by Amy Armstrong
Lot 136, by Cliff Kraft (50/50)
Lot 1 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown: Classic Above Average 1913-P Type I VF/XF  

Lot 2 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

“Peanut Ear”: Above Average 1913-P Type II XF  
Fivaz/Alpert: This eye appealing carving is one of the many by the prolific carver dubbed “Peanut Ear” because of the shape of the subject’s ear. All other attributes are also present – the hat/band/bow style, the hair under the hat, the pointed beard and the “V” collar. A very collectible piece.

Lot 3 – Lighthouse Scene Reverse Carving

Mike Pezak: Above Average Undated AG  
Fivaz/Alpert: A scenic view of a lighthouse, with cottage and distant hills. An unusual subject for a carved nickel, nicely and boldly done by a creative modern artist. Nice eye appeal. Entire reverse shows a recessed line all the way around the rim. “FIVE CENTS” remains. No evidence anywhere on the coin where the artist has signed his work.

Lot 4 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Mike Pezak: AboveAverage (H)/Superior 1936-S F  
Fivaz/Alpert: A very nicely executed carving by modernist Mike Pezak of a man with finely detailed hair and beard, well formed ear, nose and eye, and a “diamond” in the design of the hat. Attractive gold inlay on collar. Field has been expertly dressed throughout and the date remains. Coin “antiqued” after carving. Signed “MP” under buffalo.

Lot 5 – Mike Pezak Self Portrait

Mike Pezak: Superior 1935-S F  
Fivaz/Alpert: A creative self-portrait carving of artist facing left. Hair and beard delicately and expertly carved, as is the profile and glasses. All features are bold and in high relief. Signed “MP” on tie on Indian’s braid on obverse. Nice eye appeal.

Lot 6 – DONATION – Bearded, Bald Man

Owen Covert: Modern Above Average 1930-S VG  
Fivaz/Alpert: This modern carving by Owen Covert is said to represent a British officer. Partially bald, with a Bo-like small ear and nicely carved long strands of hair. The profile remains pretty much intact. The two round indents on the collar probably represent rank of the subject. Coin lightly burnished after carving.
Lot 7 – Beardless, Hatless Man (“Mr. Durant”)

Owen Covert: Modern Above Average 1936-P VG
Fivaz/Alpert: Named “Mr. Durant” by Covert the subject has a strong resemblance to Anwar Sadat. Partially bald and with a small moustache. The ear is small and somewhat pointed. Eye and nose have been altered and there’s a strong jaw line in evidence. Coin has been burnished after carving. Signed “OC” on buffalo on reverse.

Lot 8 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Owen Covert: Modern Above Average 1935-P VG
Fivaz/Alpert: A modern carving by Owen Covert, with an inlaid ivory hatband. The ear is small and muted and the beard is similar to that worn by an Amish man. Unaltered profile. Collar well done and field dressed behind the subject. Coin has been burnished after carving. Signed “OC” on buffalo on reverse.

Lot 9 – DONATION – Roman Official

Bill Jameson: Superior 1951-P 50¢ F
Fivaz/Alpert: A very unusual carving on a very different denomination, a Franklin 50¢. Ben has been transformed into what appears to be a laureate head Roman official by the talented modern artist Bill Jameson (Billzach). Very nice workmanship and eye appeal. Coin was antiqued after carving.

Lot 10 – Charlie Chaplin

Stephen Cox: Modern Superior 1921 Peace $1 XF
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 railroad track border. Excellent workmanship throughout.

Lot 11 – Happy Hobo

Editor’s Note: 1799 F/VF Bust $1 ranges in value from $1400 to $2500.

Stephen Cox: Modern Superior 1799 Bust $1 F/VF
Fivaz/Alpert: A very nice carving of a hobo from the waist up, ¾ left view. Hobo has a bindle stick and rope belt. The cigar, hat band and watch chain are 24k gold. There is a large circular railroad track border. Excellently carved features throughout.

Lot 12 – Alien

John Schipp: Modern Above Average (High) 1929-S G/VG
Fivaz/Alpert: This modern carving of an alien is by new carver John Schipp. The field has been deeply excavated with the date (1929) and LIBERTY remaining and darkened to create a nice contrast to the odd shaped alien head (big cranium, big eyes, thin neck, round ear.) . Signed “JS” and numbered (“10-2007”) on edge.
Lot 13 – Long Haired Woman

Bill Jameson: Superior 1956-D Lincoln Cent XF
Fivaz/Alpert: A very finely detailed carving of a long haired lady with “LIBERTY” on the hair band (upside down). The hair is very nicely defined, the profile nice altered and the dress stippled. Field totally uniform in appearance. A very impressive work by Billzach signed “Z” and numbered “346” on edge.

Lot 14 –“Thumbs Up” Jumping Turtle

Cliff Kraft: Superior 1937-P VF/XF
Fivaz/Alpert: A very expertly carved cartoonish hopping or jumping turtle with his hand giving the “thumbs up” sign. Very nice detail by modern carver Cliff Kraft signed “CK” and numbered “248” on the edge. Field smoothly dressed with date 1937 and LIBERTY remaining. Nice eye appeal.

Lot 15 – Two Dog Heads

Cliff Kraft: Superior 1938-D VF/XF
Fivaz/Alpert: The subjects of this lovely modern carving are two dog heads, possibly Huskies. The fur is finely detailed and the two dogs really stand out from the coin’s surface. Nice smooth concave field. Date (1938) and LIBERTY remain. Signed on edge “CK 227.”

Lot 16 – Man Wearing Hat/Dog Wearing Hat

Mike Branham: Superior (L)/Above Average (H) 1936-P
Fivaz/Alpert: This carving by modern carver Mike Branham is 2 sided with a man smoking a cigarette on the obverse and a dog wearing a hat on the reverse. Obverse field mostly dressed and reverse field deeply dressed with “FIVE CENTS” remaining. Zigzag reeding on the edge. Signed with “B” inside fish on reverse.

Lot 17 – Man Wearing Hat/Donkey

Mike Branham: Above Average (H) Undated 5¢
Fivaz/Alpert: The obverse of this 2 sided carving is of the typical “man wearing hat.” The profile and face have been altered, the ear is bold and the hat is checkered. A fancy scroll appears where the date was. LIBERTY removed. The reverse is a nice carving of a donkey with long ears and tail back across body. Field smoothly dressed on both obverse and reverse. Signed with “B” inside fish on reverse.

Lot 18 – Long Hared Woman

Ray Castro: Superior 1937-P F/VF
Fivaz/Alpert: This could be classified as a “modernistic” modern carving of a woman with long ribbon-like hair by Ray Castro. Very unusual and nicely executed, but somewhat difficult to see due to heavy matte surface. Profile completely altered with sharp pointed nose. Signed “RC” on reverse under bison.
Lot 19 – Long Haired Man Wearing Hat
Ray Castro: Superior 1937-P F/VF
Fivaz/Alpert: Very delicate long hair, sideburns and moustache characterize this modern carving by Ray Castro. Ear partially visible below hair. Unaltered profile. Simple 2 line collar. Hat is fedora style with hatband. Nicely dressed field at left, neck and to right of date. Signed “RC” on reverse under bison.

Lot 20 – Bald, Bearded Man with Pony Tail
Ray Castro: Superior 1937-P XF
Fivaz/Alpert: A very handsome and well done carving by modernist Ray Castro. The ear and lower portion of the long beard is reminiscent of the technique used by Bo and Bert on their better pieces. Moustache overlaps beard which is an interesting technique. Smooth bald head at top and nicely dressed field. Signed “RC” on reverse under bison.

Lot 21 – “Empress”
Ray Castro: Superior 1937-P XF
Fivaz/Alpert: This is a rather modernistic carving by Ray Castro of a female “Princess Leia” type subject. The profile has been completely altered along with lips, eyes and eyebrow. The subject has a long pigtail where the Indian’s braid was. Signed “RC” on the reverse.

Lot 22 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby
Ray Castro: Superior 1936-P VF

Lot 23 – Big-nosed Man Wearing Hat
Owen Covert: Superior 1935-S G
Fivaz/Alpert: Modern carver Owen Covert chosen subject for this coin is a long (and large) nosed man without a beard, but with a bushy moustache. Ear exceptionally well done and the profile has been completely altered. Unusual collar. Nice eye appeal. Field stipple dressed. Signed “OC” on buffalo on reverse.

Lot 24 – Priest
Owen Covert: Superior 1936-P G/VG
Fivaz/Alpert: A very handsomely executed carving of an unusual subject, a hobo wearing a skullcap with a cross on it. The facial features (eye, mouth, etc.) are very well done as is the ear. High collar with accent lining. Field smoothly dressed with LIBERTY removed. Signed “OC” on bison on reverse.
Lot 25 – Smiling Pig Head

Owen Covert: Superior 1937-P F/VF
Fivaz/Alpert: A very creative obverse carving, with the coin rotated 90°. Large smiling pig head, wording (“In God I Trust”) above, and 3 pawn broker balls below. Field completely dressed. Exceptionally long ears on pig. Signed “OC” on bison on reverse.

Lot 26 – King

Owen Covert: Superior 1935-P VG
Fivaz/Alpert: A wonderful carving by Owen Covert of a crowned king. Very regal looking with a handsome 5-pronged crown, fur mantle over the shoulders and long hair and beard. Eye and forehead slightly altered. Nicely carved hair. Nice eye appeal. Signed “OC” on the reverse.

Lot 27 – Lady (Monique?)

Owen Covert: Superior 1936-D XF
Fivaz/Alpert: This carving by Owen Covert is very similar to at least two done by Bo and/or Bert many years ago. The lady, who incidently has a few characteristics of an African-American female, has her hair in a bun with two strands hanging down underneath it. Smooth field with LIBERTY removed. Nice bold features create a nice eye appeal. Signed “OC” on the reverse.

Lot 28 – Bearded Man Wearing Top Hat with Cigar

Stephen Cox: Superior 1935-P VF/XF
Fivaz/Alpert: An incredible carving by expert modern craver Steve Cox portraying a delicately bearded man wearing a large curved-brim top hat and smoking a gold stogie (appears to be overlay). Profile completely altered. Wonderful workmanship. Subject is surrounded by a “cameo circle” with date and LIBERTY remaining. Signed “SDC” on the edge.

Lot 29 – Big Horn Ram Head

Stephen Cox: Superior 1934-P VG/F
Fivaz/Alpert: A very unique, expertly carved image of a face-on-view of a ram’s head. The carving completely fills the obverse, leaving only the date and LIBERTY. Very detailed and anatomically accurate work. Field dressed in two different techniques. Great eye appeal. Signed “SDC” on the edge.

Lot 30 – Indian Chief

Stephen Cox: Superior 1934-D F/VG
Fivaz/Alpert: The most impressive feature about this Steve Cox carving of an Indian with a war bonnet is the huge gold horn on the headdress. The subject has war paint on his face and expertly carved single feather hanging down below the horn. Attractive obverse toning. Signed “SDC” on the edge.
Lot 31 – Gladiator or Centurion

Stephen Cox: Superior 1936-P XF/AU
Fivaz/Alpert: This coin (which was polished after the carving was done) shows a Roman (?) Gladiator or Centurion soldier, complete with plumed helmet, chin strap and neck guard. Ear exposed and well done. Profile slightly altered. Field stipple dressed inside a “cameo ring” with LIBERTY and date remaining. Signed “SDC” on the edge.

Lot 32 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Stephen Cox: Superior 1937-P F/VG

Lot 33 – Old Check With Hobo On It

Old Check Printed by W. S. Haven, Pittsburgh, PA
An 1866 check from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania illustrating a probable hobo with a bindle stick. This may be the earliest depiction of a hobo. Hoboes first appeared after the Civil War. Returning soldiers traveled the country by rail looking for work. This check from 1866 is right after the war. The check writer was in Urbanna, Ohio. Size is 8 X 3¼ inches. There are six lines of writing on the back.

Lot 34 – “Bo” Self-Portrait

“Bo” Hughes Superior Undated XF
Farnsworth/Alpert: This is an excellent example of Bo’s early 1950s cameo carvings, an artistic highpoint of his career. All features are very nicely carved, especially the hair and beard and raised metal ear. The chiseled field has an attractive appearance, and the obverse has wonderful toning. This is a plate coin described on page 43 of the Hobo Nickel Guidebook. It is signed “GH 51” below the bust. This nickel was part of the original OHNS grading set assembled by Bill Fivaz.

Lot 35 – Portrait of Bert Weigand

“Bo” Hughes Superior Undated AU/BU
Farnsworth/Alpert: This is a rare impressive, desirable, cameo portrait of Bert by Bo. There is great iridescent toning on both sides. Well carved, with a raised –metal ear and nicely chiseled field. This is Bo at his best. This is a plate coin described on page 49 of the Hobo Nickel Guidebook. It is signed “GH 52” & “BERT” below the bust. This nickel was part of the original OHNS grading set assembled by Bill Fivaz.

Lot 36 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

“Bo” Hughes Above Average 1913 P Type II F
Farnsworth/Alpert: The curly hair is a bit unusual for Bo. Nice ear, angular nose and nostril, lips enhanced, simple collar. LIBERTY removed. Field is a bit roughly dressed. Coin has nice iridescent toning. This nickel was part of the original OHNS grading set assembled by Bill Fivaz.
Lot 37 – Clown

“Bo” Hughes Below Average (High)/ Average (Low) 1934-D
Farnsworth/Alpert: A bald clown with a ball nose and clown makeup around the eye and mouth. Large ear and earlobe. Large diagonally-lined collar. Field is roughly dressed. This is a plate coin described on page 84 of Hobo Nickels by Del Romines. From the original OHNS grading set assembled by Bill Fivaz.

Lot 38 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

“Bo” Hughes Above Average 1913 P Type I XF
Farnsworth/Alpert: A nice carving by “Bo” with a raised-metal ear (with internal detail), simple hat and collar, and nicely carved hair and beard. Lots of hair on forehead. Profile is unaltered. Field is dressed above the hat and behind the head. This is a plate coin pictured on page 9 of Hobo Nickels by Del Romines. This nickel was part of the original OHNS grading set assembled by Bill Fivaz.

Lot 39 – Bearded Man Wearing Feathered Hat

“Bo” Hughes Superior Undated VF
Farnsworth/Alpert: A nice signed and dated work by “Bo” with a raised-metal ear, nicely carved hair and beard, altered nose, double collar. Deeply chisel-dressed field with LIBERTY removed. Nice eye appeal. This is a plate coin described on both page 36 and 75 of The Hobo Nickel by Joyce Ann Romines. It is signed “1947 GH” under the collar. This nickel was part of the original OHNS grading set assembled by Bill Fivaz.

Lot 40 – Man Wearing Feathered Hat

“Bo” Hughes Superior Undated XF
Farnsworth/Alpert: A very nice cameo carving by “Bo” with a small raised-metal ear and feathered fedora hat. Unsigned. Nice toning. Slightly altered nose. Long sideburns but no beard. Great eye appeal. This is a plate coin found on page 27 of The Hobo Nickel by Joyce Ann Romines. This nickel was part of the original OHNS grading set assembled by Bill Fivaz.

Lot 41 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

“Bo” Hughes Superior (High)/Superior 1927-P AU
Farnsworth/Alpert: A beautiful partial cameo carving by “Bo” with a raised-metal ear, hat brim in center, and collar. The profile. Eye, nostril and smiling mouth are all altered. There is a gap between the sideburn and neat beard. A desirable signed and dated nicely toned carving. This is a plate coin seen on pages 48 & 49 of The Hobo Nickel by Romines. Signed “GH 28” under the collar. From the OHNS grading set assembled by Bill Fivaz.

Lot 42 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

“Bo” or “Bert” Above Average/Above Ave. (High) Undated F
Farnsworth/Alpert: Several carvings just like this are known and believed to have been made by Bert or possibly “Bo.” Long fine wavy hair covers most of the head, face and neck. Finely punched field. Profile altered at top of nose to forehead. Light orange toning. The derby hat has a nice hatband with a ribbon in it. Nice eye appeal. From the OHNS grading set assembled by Bill Fivaz.
Lot 43 – Indian Chief

“Bo” Hughes Average (Low)/Average 1923-P G Farnsworth/Alpert: This is a “re-carved Indian” in which “Bo” turned the Indian into an Indian Chief. All the narrow carved lines are zigzag wriggle chisel cuts. The features may have been made with wide punched lines. Profile is unaltered. This is a plate coin pictured on page 90 of Hobo Nickels by Del Romines. From the OHNS grading set assembled by Bill Fivaz.

Lot 44 – Woman

“Bo”/Unknown Above Average (Low)/Above Ave. Undated F Farnsworth/Alpert: This carving of the bust of a woman is bold, with nice contrast and great eye appeal. Nicely altered profile. LIBERTY removed. Heavy punches define and accentuate the hairdo. Several old women carvings like this have the “J.T.” initials (either the carver or the name of the woman depicted?). “91-19” also appears on the shoulder. This nickel was part of the original OHNS grading set assembled by Bill Fivaz. Bill states this carving is “probably by Bo.”

Lot 45 – Rabbi

Unknown Classic Average/Average (L) Undated Type II F Farnsworth/Alpert: The carver neatly converted the Indian into a bearded man wearing a skull cap, possibly a Rabbi. Possibly made by the same artist who did the “J.T.” woman (Lot 44) – similar overall appearance and punches in hair and beard. Profile slightly altered. Nice contrast and eye appeal. From the OHNS grading set assembled by Bill Fivaz.

Lot 46 – Indian Wearing Feathered Hat

“Bo” Hughes Below Average (L)/Below Average 1936-D G Farnsworth/Alpert: This is a plate coin pictured on page 93 of Hobo Nickels by Del Romines. The Indian is wearing a flat-topped hat with feather hanging down the back. A simple post-injury carving by “Bo” with dark orange tobacco toning. This nickel was part of the original OHNS grading set assembled by Bill Fivaz.

Lot 47 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

“Bo” Hughes Below Average (L)/Below Average 193_ _P VG Farnsworth/Alpert: A post-injury “Bo” carving. Typical “Bo” style nose. Punched hair, ear and beard. An “S” punch was used for the hair behind the ear. Simple hat and collars. Field dressed by rough chisel work. LIBERTY chiseled off. Toned dark. Has low eye appeal. This nickel was part of the original OHNS grading set assembled by Bill Fivaz.

Lot 48 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic Above Average/Average (H) Undated P XF Farnsworth/Alpert: This carving has nice eye appeal in spite of some dark toning spots on the hat and the field around the hat. The hat brim and ear are slightly raised which enhances the appearance of the carving. Slanted ear. Punched hair, beard, moustache and eyebrow. Bold collar. Deeply dressed field with LIBERTY removed. Profile unaltered. This nickel was part of the original OHNS grading set assembled by Bill Fivaz.
Lot 49 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat and Glasses

Unknown Classic Above Average/Superior 1913-P Type I VG
Farnsworth/Alpert: A partial cameo (dressed field surrounds the subject except for his shoulder). Nice flat-topped hat with 3-D brim (like infinity symbol). Glasses with both lens. Flattish profile (nose and lips). Nice ear. Nicely carved hair. Double collar. Dressed field with LIBERTY removed. Coin received some wear after being carved. Lots of character in the artwork and face. From the OHNS grading set assembled by Bill Fivaz.

Lot 50 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic Average (L)/Average 1913-P Type II F
Farnsworth/Alpert: The shallow hat has a combined band-brim with bow. Faint crosshatching on dome. Narrow zigzag wriggle cuts form the hair-beard and moustache. The small ear is hidden in the hair. Simple collar un-dressed neck. The artwork has nice contrast. From the OHNS grading set assembled by Bill Fivaz.

Lot 51 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

“No Neck” Classic Average 1913-P Type I AU
Farnsworth/Alpert: This coin is one of the specimens illustrated on the cover of the April 1996 issue of BoTales where Bill Fivaz nicknamed “No Neck.” The artist created an awkward raised oversized collar. The carver weakly dressed the braid in the collar area and didn’t remove the feather. This nickel was part of the original OHNS grading set assembled by Bill Fivaz.

Lot 52 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic Average (High) 1914-P VG/G
Farnsworth/Alpert: This carving has very nice eye appeal. The hat, hatband, neck and shoulder are all accentuated with lines that add to this appeal. Subject has an altered nose and a well positioned ear. Punched hair-beard-moustache. Nose and nostril slightly altered. Simple collar. Nice contrast and eye appeal. From the OHNS grading set assembled by Bill Fivaz.

Lot 53 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

“Flat Nose” Average (H)/Above Average (L) 1915-P XF
Farnsworth/Alpert: This work has most of the characteristics of the artist nicknamed “Flat Nose” – shallow hat, bow on band, incuse outline of ear, the hair-beard texture and on a 1915 5¢. However the double collar line and flattening of the nose is not present. Profile is unaltered. Good eye appeal. From the OHNS grading set assembled by Bill Fivaz.

Lot 54 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

“Flat Nose” Average (H)/Above Average 1913-P Type I VF
Farnsworth/Alpert: This is a very nice example of the classic carver dubbed “Flat Nose” by Stephen Alpert in the April-May-June 2000 issue of BoTales. All the diagnostic features are present although the nose is only slightly flattened – vertically, not in profile. Nice eye appeal. From the OHNS grading set assembled by Bill Fivaz.
Lot 55 – Bearded Man Wearing Cap

**Unknown Classic Below Average (H)/Average 1935-S AG/G**

*Farnsworth/Alpert:* A small arc-punch was used to create the hair, moustache and goatee. No ear. Nose profile is altered. Simple lines form the collar. Probably created circa 1960-1980. Artwork has some similarity to the late works of “Bo.” Toning is also somewhat like that by “Bo.” This nickel was part of the original OHNS grading set assembled by Bill Fivaz.

Lot 56 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

**Unknown Classic Average (H)/Average Undated D F**

*Farnsworth/Alpert:* This is a plate coin described on page 44 of *Hobo Nickels* by Del Romines. All features are well carved – the hat and brim, large round ear, the profile, and the narrow neck-collar-shoulder. LIBERTY removed. Hair created by short crossing cuts. Nice eye appeal, but the coin is dark. From the OHNS grading set assembled by Bill Fivaz.

Lot 57 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

**Unknown Classic Average (L)/Average Undated P F**

*Farnsworth/Alpert:* Bold ear and pointy nose. Nostril, mouth and eye also altered. The hat, field at left, collar and shoulder are all chisel-dressed. LIBERTY removed. Crosshatching forms the hair and beard. Simple collar. There are lots of marks that distract from the eye appeal. This nickel was part of the original OHNS grading set assembled by Bill Fivaz.

Lot 58 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

**Unknown Classic Average (H)/Average 1913-P Type II AU**

*Farnsworth/Alpert:* The entire field is dressed with overlapping zigzag wriggle-cuts. LIBERTY removed. Dome of hat not well dressed. Ear is awkward – slanted and too far back on head. Simple tall collar. Punched beard, moustache and eyebrow. Simple lines for hair by the ear. Good eye appeal. From the OHNS grading set assembled by Bill Fivaz.

Lot 59 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

**“Big Ear” Classic Superior/Above Ave. (H) 1914-P XF/AU**

*Alpert/Fivaz:* This is a very nice example of the classic carver nicknamed “Big Ear” by Stephen Alpert in the Fall 2002 issue of *BoTales.* Small hat high on head with a thin raised wraparound brim, and bow on band; large ear; diamond-punched hair and beard; creases in cheek; simple bold collar. Carving has great contrast and eye appeal.

Lot 60 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

**Unknown Classic Average/Average (H) 1937-P F**

*Fivaz/DelFavero:* A later original carving done with gravers, liner tool and heading punch. Although very light in detail, this is a very nice stylized rendering complete with long brimmed hat, outlined profile, detailed eye, collar, ear, hair and pointed beard. The field is stippled. Partial date remains.
Lot 61 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic Above Average/Average (H) Undated F/VF
Fivaz/DelFavero: Altered profile, nostril, eye and mouth and nicely shaped hat with accent lines on crown and hatband. Scraggily beard, ear set well back on head. Accent lines also on collar and coat. Field behind figure partially dressed with portions of Indian’s feathers showing. Nice eye appeal.

Lot 62 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic Average/Average 1919-P VG

Lot 63 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic Average (High) 1935-P XF
Fivaz/DelFavero: The work on this coin resembles the artistry of the carver dubbed “Smoothie.” Certain variances in technique keep it unknown status. Crescent shaped punch used to create beard and hair. Nicely graved hat, ear and collar. LIBERTY and partial date remain. Good over all eye appeal.

Lot 64 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic Average (L)/Average Undated P VF
Fivaz/DelFavero: An interesting specimen with lightly graved in detail over a smoothed out host coin. Nice flying saucer shaped hat with band and ornament. Sparse hair, beard and moustache. Good light detailing on shoulder and collar. Though light in detail, this coin has great eye appeal.

Lot 65 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic Average/Average (H) Undated-P XF
Fivaz/DelFavero: A nice original with a domed hat and single line brim. Point punch used to create hair, beard and moustache. Nice ear with canal. Slight attention to eye. Good detail on collar and shoulder. Great field work with LIBERTY removed. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and E PLURIBUS UNUM removed over bison on the reverse

Lot 66 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

John Dorusa Average 1936-P VG
Lot 67 – Balding Man (Anwar Sadat?)

John Dorusa Average 1935-P F
Fivaz/DelFavero: Signed “J.D.” on the collar, this rendering looks a lot like assassinated Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. Good alterations in field and to the profile, but Dorusa leaves a lot of the original host coin’s definition showing throughout. Collar complete with bow tie. Stippled hair and moustache. LIBERTY and date remain.

Lot 68 – Long Haired Man with Prayer Cap

John Dorusa Average 1937-P F
Fivaz/DelFavero: Modern carving by John Dorusa, probably Libyan leader Moammar Kadafi. Typical round, brimless cap and actually a very good likeness of the leader. Field behind figure nicely dressed. Punching and engraving techniques used. LIBERTY and date remain.

Lot 69 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Frank Brazzell Below Average 1908-P Liberty 5¢ VG
Fivaz/DelFavero: Carved by the late modern carver Frank Brazzell on a 1908 Liberty Nickel. Long sweeping hair and moustache. Bow on hatband. Choppay work behind head and neck. Frank Brazzell may have been the first carver to use Liberty Nickels as a canvas for some of his renderings. Signed “FB” on reverse.

Lot 70 – 10 Different Hobo Postcards

Various Artists
Minimum bid of $50.00 required. Pictures of all ten postcards (in color) can be found on the OHNS online Auction 17 Catalog at: http://www.hobonickels.org/fun2009/page07.htm#lot70.

Lot 71 – Original Oil Paintings of Nick O’Honis and his Girlfriend

Artist Pauline Arterburn Hugo
The portraits of Nick O’Honis and significant other appear to be generic or public domain images that have been painted by several artists over the years. They were also made into framed prints. These two original oil paintings are signed by Pauline Hugo 1963 (Nick) and Pauline Arterburn Hugo 1965 (girlfriend).

Compare the images of similar paintings/prints on the cover of BoTales issue #1 of 2008. Note the difference in the size and the amount of the image appearing in each. The image of Nick is a closer enlarged view on this Hugo painting. Note that the hat touches the top visible edge, and the stogie in his hand is not in the picture. The paintings are on 9X12 inch canvas panels (overall size including the wooden frames is 12X15 inches.).

A Google search revealed that Pauline Arterburn Hugo was born October 15, 1909 in Gerty, Oklahoma and died October 31, 1996 in Coal Hill, Oklahoma. There was no mention of her being an artist, so she probably painted as a hobby.
Lot 72 – Wabon Eddings Carving Tools

Hobo Nickel Carving Tools used by Wabon “Slim” Eddings

What's more rare than a hobo nickel? The carving tools of a late era original hobo nickel artist. All tools offered in this lot belonged to the late Wabon “Slim” Eddings (1917-1999), who carved and punched nickels from the early 1980’s to mid 1990’s. This set consists of over 60 pieces used by this historical, master artist. Included in this lot are various punches, blades, knives, vise, punch surface, anvil, sharpening stone, cup holder, Del Romines book #1 with notes by Wabon Eddings himself, a tin of test coins, hammer, and of course 2 punches which the artist signed some of his works with (WE). This rare lot comes with the original shipping box from an Eddings's Estate representative.

The chronology of ownership of this item is stated as follows: 1) Wabon Eddings, 2) Owen Covert, 3) Arturo (Cinco) DelFavero, 4) Lot Winner.

Lot 73 – 2002 OHNS Gold Hobo Token

Modern Artist Ron Landis

Tenth Anniversary Limited Edition Gold OHNS 2002 Hobo Token designed by Ron Landis. This is one of only seven struck in 22 carat gold and weighs approximately 9.5 grams. The obverse depicts “Bo” George Washington Hughes and the reverse is a steam engine with “ORIGINAL HOBO NICKEL SOCIETY” above the engine and “1992-2002” and “HOBO TOKEN” below the engine. Editor’s Note: At a market price of gold at $750 a ounce, the gold value of this token alone is worth approximately $210.

Lot 74 – DONATION

Long-haired Beardless Man Wearing Hat

Dave Boulay Superior/Superior (L) 1935-P VF/F

Fivaz/Alpert: This is an attractive carving by a relatively new modern carver from upstate New York, David Boulay. The subject has a derby with a feather in the hatband, no beard and long hair. Unaltered profile. Field has been nicely dressed and the entire coin has been attractively antiqued. Signed and numbered on edge. Craved at the FUN 2008 OHNS table.

Lot 75 – Indian/Altered 3-Leg Reverse

Dave Boulay Superior/Above Average 1937-D VF/F

Fivaz/Alpert: Redesigned hair on Indian, feathers remaining. Unaltered profile, but heavy eyebrow shows. Reverse has the buffalo’s right front leg altered creating a “3-Leg variety.” Signed “DB 52” on edge. The finished coin has been expertly antiqued.

Lot 76 – Short-haired Hatless man

Dave Boulay Superior 1936-P VF/F

Fivaz/Alpert: This fellow looks like he just came from the barber, with his neat and perfect haircut. Nice facial features and strong jaw line. Very nice ear. Nice border around the cameo head. This carving by Dave Boulay is #63. The coin has been antiqued and has great eye appeal.
Lot 77 – Bearded Fisherman

Dave Boulay Superior 1937-P VF

Fivaz/Alpert: A very well done example of an old fisherman decked out in foul weather gear (high collared coat, hat). Beard is Amish style with no moustache. Unaltered profile, heavy eyebrow. A nice bold work with great eye appeal. Nice very smooth field. Coin antiqued after work was done. Signed and numbered on edge.

Lot 78 – DONATION Bearded Golfer Wearing Hat

Stephen Cox Modern Superior 1913-P Type I XF/AU


Lot 79 – DONATION Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Stephen Cox Modern Superior 1913-P Type I XF/AU

Alpert/Fivaz: The most noticeable feature about this carving by Steve Cox is the 24 carat gold overlay hatband on the raised metal hat. Delicately done hair/beard, eye, nose, mouth, etc., a true work of art. Finely stippled dome and nicely dressed field. Date remains with scroll surrounding it. Signed “SDC” on the edge.

Lot 80 – DONATION 1992 OHNS Hobo Token

Modern Artist Ron Landis

Struck on Jefferson nickel, hard to find 1992 OHNS Hobo Token designed by Ron Landis. Bearded man (hobo) wearing hat and 1992 date on obverse. “ORIGINAL HOBO NICKEL SOCIETY” and “HOP ON! JOIN THE FUN” on reverse along with train and hobo with bindle stick. This is the first in a series of OHNS Annual Hobo Tokens.

Lot 81 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic Superior 1937-P XF/AU

Fivaz/Alpert: A great, eye catching, Superior original carving by a talented unknown artist. The hat is extremely well done with a hatband and small bow. Ear is large and true to life. Profile (nose) is enthusiastically altered as is the eye (round punch), nostril and mouth. Furrows in brow. Hair, beard, etc. very nicely done. Subject smoking cigarette with smoke curling upward.

Lot 82 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

“Bo” Hughes Superior/Above Average 1913-P T-2 F/VG

Fivaz/Alpert: A lovely totally carved coin by “Bo” – typically done with long sweeping lines for the hair and beard. Eye and nose altered, bow on hatband. Very attractive toning on obverse/reverse from long time proper storage. Field completely dressed.
Lot 83 – Iroquois Indian

Unknown Classic Above Average/Average 1934-D G
Farnsworth/Kraljevich: The entire portrait has been carved. The head was shaved except for a narrow top band of straight hair going from the forehead to the neck. Two feathers were attached to the hair. Hair and feathers nicely carved.

Lot 84 – Beardless Man With Feathered Hat

Unknown Average/Below Average 1918-P G
Farnsworth/Kraljevich: Clean shaven man with sideburns wearing a hat with a feather. There is a difference of opinion by the authenticators. Farnsworth believes it is a classic carving with some visible goofs. Nose is altered. Eye and mouth unaltered. Entire portrait carved. Kraljevich feels coin was altered using a power tool. Age is questionable. However it is NOT one of the modern mass produced copies.

Lot 85 – Watch Fob Made Using 3 Hobo Nickels

“The Fobber” Above Average
Two 1913-P XF & Undated P Type II XF
Fivaz/Farnsworth: Nicknamed “The Fobber” on page 24 of this issue of BoTales, three virtually identical hobo nickels (bearded man wearing derby) assembled into a watch fob. The top two are on raised ground (1913) P and the bottom coin is on a P-mint Type-II nickel. All the coins areXF. The ears are slightly different on each nickel as well as a small difference in the notches carved onto the hat bands. All three coins are carved with “cross-hatched” design throughout. A very interesting and desirable piece. Larger individual photos of the three nickels are found at the top of the next column and again on page 36.

Lot 86 – Woman

Unknown Classic Superior Undated P Type II XF
Alpert/Farnsworth: Beautiful female portrait with craved “JK” and “1921” on neck which slopes down to left. Nice large wavy hairdo. Altered profile, eye and mouth. LIBERTY removed as well as date. Nicely textured field. Totally carved old classic hobo nickel. Great eye appeal. This specimen illustrated on page 35 of Hobo Nickels by Del Romines. There is a nearly identical carving engraved “JK 1922” pictured on page 85 of The Hobo Nickel by Joyce Ann Romines.

Lot 87 – 2-sided Progression Set in Holder

Owen Covert Average/Average (H) Five 1935-P Nickels
Fivaz/Alpert: A very interesting and educational 5-coin set by modern carver Owen Covert showing steps in creating a finished hobo nickel. First coin of Indian Chief (obverse) and hobo (reverse) has the basic design outlined in ink by marker pen. Four more nickels illustrate the various degrees of completion of both sides. Last coin (finished product) was brushed and “antiqued.” In nice custom holder (almost 6 by 2½ inches).
Lot 88 – Set of 8 Hobo Nickels

“The Traveler” Average (H) to Above Average
Alpert/Farnsworth: This lot consists of eight individual hobo nickels in a custom white plastic holder. On the holder is the title, “Series Of yearly Self-Portraits By Unknown Artist,” however, this particular artist was nicknamed “The Traveler” by Stephen Alpert in BoTales 2005 #2. This early artist apparently created dated self-portraits during his travels in the late 1920s to mid 1930s. Illustrated here is a “date set” of carvings, 1929 through 1936. The man portrayed on each nickel is wearing a flat topped hat with plain band. Carved ear/hair/beard/moustache, altered nose and nice coarsely-textured field. All are plate coins, pictured on page 86 of The Hobo Nickel by Joyce Ann Romines. Larger photos of the individual nickels appear below and on the right hand column.

This first coin is a cameo like piece that has “29” for 1929 engraved in date area. It is Above Average (L)/Average (H) and was carved on a VG/F nickel. The second coin with the 1930 date remaining is Above Average (L) & was carved on a VG/F coin.

This third coin in “The Traveler” series retains the 1931 date. It is Above Average and on a F/VF nickel. The fourth coin is engraved “1932” below the head and is Above Average (L)/Above Average and on a VG nickel.

This fifth coin has “1933” engraved in date area. It is Above Average (L) and on a VG nickel. The sixth coin is engraved with a large “1934” below the head and is Above Average (L). It’s carved on a VG nickel.

This seventh coin has a large “1935” engraved in date area. It is Above Average (L) and on a F/VF nickel. The eight and final coin in the set is engraved with “1936” below the head and “It’s Great to be Home” behind the head. It’s Above Average/Above Average (L) and carved on a F nickel. The plastic hold also has “(IT’S GREAT TO BE HOME)” etched below this last nickel.

Lot 89 – DONATION “Bo”/Hairy Buffalo

Don Wolfe Modern Superior/Above Average 1936-P F
Fivaz/Alpert: This carving has been rendered by relatively new carver Don Wolfe. On the obverse is a nice portrait of “Bo” George Washington Hughes. The subject has balding features as well as others of Bo’s techniques (nose, hair, etc.). The reverse shows a shaggy haired buffalo. Signed “DW” under buffalo in bold letters. Both sides are nicely toned to resemble an old hobo nickel.
Lot 90 – DONATION Bearded Man/Pig

Don Wolfe Modern Superior/Above Average 1936-D
Fivaz/Alpert: A nice 2-sided carving depicting a bearded man wearing a hat and a pig on the reverse. Hat is trapezoidal in shape, with box but no band. Ear well done and profile altered. “BERT” left in field. Pig on reverse is almost a silhouette with little detail on body. “E Pluribus Unum” removed. Signed “DW” under pig.

Lot 91 – Butterfly Reverse Carving

Howard Hughes Above Ave. (L)/Above Ave. 1937-S VF
Fivaz/Alpert: An interesting reverse carving of a butterfly by deceased California carver Howard Hughes. This carver began carving hobo nickels shortly after WWII and is not considered a modern artist. Entire field is dressed except for FIVE CENTS and S at bottom. Signed “HH” behind Indian’s neck.

Lot 92 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic Above Average/Average 1913-P T-1 VF/G
Fivaz/Alpert: Bold hat brim, no band but small bow. Dome of hat, collar and shoulder all textured with zigzag wriggle cuts. Tiny ear. Nose rounded. Eye and eyebrow altered. Lightly done hair/beard and mustache using a liner tool. The hat, coat and collar have been stippled. Entire coin is lightly corroded dark red, probably from being in the earth for many years.

Lot 93 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic Ave. (H)/Above Ave. (H) 1913-P T-2 VF/XF
Fivaz/Alpert: A very nicely carved original hobo nickel by an unknown artist. Hair and (pointed) beard well done as is the ear. Curled (wraparound) hat brim and plain crown. Profile unaltered. Coin has some circulation after being carved. Coin has some red corrosion which enhances the contrast.

Lot 94 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic Average 1926-P VF/F
Fivaz/Alpert: Both craved (hat, ear) and punched (hair, beard, moustache). The punched area was done by a circular punch with a core in it, making the punches appear like a target and giving the impression of a very curly and heavy beard, hair, etc. Hat band has bow. Unaltered profile. Small ear. Errant long scratch from temple to nostril. No collar. Reverse has a good deal of green vertgis on it. Feathers behind head & braid faintly visible.

Lot 95 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic Above Average (L) 1936-P VF
Fivaz/Alpert: The Indian’s bust was smoothed over (except for the face and shoulder) before the alteration was done. The beard is punched and lines engraved to form the hat, ear, collar and to alter the profile. Ear far back on the head. Nose altered and outlined as is back of head. “Z” scratched on reverse over bison.
Lot 96 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic Average (H) 1913-P T-1 F
Fivaz/Alpert: It appears the hair/beard and moustache on the subject was done with a small circular punch, with the punch overlapping. The hair covers the ear as well as the neck. Nice bold hat. Unaltered profile. Very high collar (no neck) and a lined bow tie. Decently dressed field in the rear.

Lot 97 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Above Ave/Average (H) 1913-P T-1 XF/AU
Fivaz/Alpert: A nice carved and punched piece with a very low derby and an ear that resembles a boxer’s “cauliflower” ear. The beard, hair, moustache & eyebrow have been punched with what appears to be a nail set. Profile unaltered. Field behind head and hat rather deeply dressed. The shallow derby has a nice finely-textured surface. Simple outline ear. Overall, a very nice piece.

Lot 98 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic Average 1913-P T-1 F
Fivaz/Wilson: Totally carved, with beard long and curly as is hair, moustache and eyebrow. Hat is unusual in that it has “rib lines” in it and brim is formed by two straight lines. Field behind and over head dressed and partially stippled. Ear is not well formed and very low, behind jaw. Back of neck and lower neck highlighted by heavy, single cut lines.

Lot 99 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic Below Average/Average 1914-P XF
Fivaz/Wilson: Knife carved ear and hat outline; field and neck area hammered smooth with a punch. Beard done with a punch. Very plain hat with sweeping figure 8 brim. No collar, long neck. Subject is perhaps a cowboy.

Lot 100 – Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic Average (L)/Average 1918-P F
Fivaz/Wilson: It appears this coin was heated or treated in some way (obverse only) to create an almost grotesque, wrinkled subject. Surface has been punched in a seemingly random manner, possibly created by around graver which was also used to outline hat. Hat is well done (with band and bow). Ear is far back on head and the forward part of face is “wrinkled.” Comic look to mouth.

Lot 101 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic Below Average (H)/Average 1920-P VF/F+
Fivaz/Wilson: Carved and punched beard; carved hat and ear, profile unaltered. Hair from Indian still visible in hat. Interesting swirling effect behind subject in field (dressing), possibly done with a flat faced punch. A knife was used for some of the carving details. Band on hat rather roughly done.
Lot 102 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic Below Average/Average Undated G
Fivaz/Wilson: Mostly punched, with beard, hair and moustache probably done with a sharp, small knife point. Very thick brim on hat and crown of hat “dimpled,” probably with a small ball peen hammer or blunt pointed punch. Ear is very small and misplaced. Subject has eyebrow, but profile is unchanged. Two simple lines make the collar. Green vertigis in some areas.

Lot 103 – Bearded Man/Man With Pack

Unknown Above Ave./Above Ave. (H) 1916-P Counterfeit
Fivaz/Alpert: This is a great example of a cast (lead) counterfeit two-sided hobo nickel. The color, weight and lack of sharp lines are indicators as well as the rotated reverse. The seam is very visible where the two sides were sealed together.

Lot 104 – Five Modern Hobo Nickels

Various Modern Carvers – No QD Paperwork
All the nickels in this lot were carved by contemporary carvers. The first and last nickels are early carvings (2002) by Owen Covert. The second is by an unknown modern carver. The third and fourth hobo nickels come from unknown carvers in Burma.

Lot 105 – Five J. Allen Hobo Nickels

Modern Carver J. Allen – No QD Paperwork
J. Allen was actively carving in the 1980’s, 1990’s and at the beginning of the 21st century. She is long longer carving due to severe arthritis in her hands. Pictured above are a Navajo Indian, Prairie Settler, Wooly Mammoth, Man with Fancy Hat and Desert Shield (1991) soldier.

Lot 106 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic Above Average 1913-D T-1 XF/AU
Fivaz/Alpert: This is a very attractive, totally carved piece that has seen little or no circulation since being carved. The beard/hair was probably made by a knife point. Altered profile, added eye and eyebrow. Long curved hat brim, plain hat band and stippled crown. Very simple ear, collar, coat. Field totally dressed with just a hint of LIBERTY. Ear is awkward.

Lot 107 – Bearded Man With Turtle Shell Hat

“Bo” Below Average 1929-S G
Fivaz/Alpert: A post-injury hobo nickel by “Bo.” All the hair (head, forehead, beard and moustache) is punched with long, thin, arc-shaped punches. The profile and eye are altered. Coin is very dark, probably the result of chemical treatment. A plate coin appearing on page 97 of Hobo Nickels by Del Romines.
Lot 108 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

“Tufty” Average Undated F

Fivaz/Alpert: This is a typical hobo by the unknown artist nicknamed “Tufty” (see September 2000 BoTales or Hobo Nickel Guidebook by Stephen Alpert). Curved brim on the derby, slightly altered profile, hair beard and moustaches are blended together and well-formed ear. Classic example of a hobo nickel.

Lot 109 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

“Telephone Ear” Average 1913-P T-2 XF

Fivaz/Alpert: This work was done by the artist nicknamed “Telephone Ear,” so called because of the shape of the subject’s ear. Heavy beard/hair and unaltered profile. Field polished smooth behind and over the subject. Hat with long brim and narrow projecting collar.

Lot 110 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic Average Undated P VF

Fivaz/Alpert: Nice bold design. The field above the hat and behind the head is recessed, and has nice fine radial lines with some concentric grooves along the coin’s border. The neck and shoulder were ground smooth, then thin lines were cut to form the collars and tie. Carved (hat, coat, collar, ear) and punched (stubble) hair, beard, moustache and heavy eyebrow. Very small ear. Plain dome on hat with thin straight thin brim.

Lot 111 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic Average 1914-P XF

Fivaz/Alpert: Design boldly cut with deep grooves for collar, around ear, and for hat brim. Nose profile strongly altered, with coarsely punched moustache. Punched hair and beard (which runs down the neck). Field behind head is nicely dressed. Rather large ear with curved brim hat with hatband and bow.

Lot 112 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic Above Average Undated S VG


Lot 113 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Average/Above Average Lead Slug

Fivaz/Alpert: This copy of a hobo nickel probably was struck from a die. The die could have been made or cast from a real above average hobo nickel. There is some wear on the design which would occur rapidly on the soft lead. The reverse is blank. This undoubtedly would have been used with a similar (hobo standing) reverse die.
Lot 114 – 2 Emmett Kelly Sr. Silver Art Bars

Called the “World’s Greatest Clown”. EMMETT KELLY, SR, is the subject of this 1oz .999 silver art bar. The hobo clown image of KELLY is finely engraved on the bars Mirror surface and frosted to show the details of his facial features. This bar was minted by Silver Creations in 1973 with a mintage of 4000. This is a matched pair, each with low serial number 05 on edge. These are scare; they catalogue $35 and $40 in the 1986 4th edition catalogue of silver art bars.

Lot 115 – Three Classic Hobo Nickels

Unknown Classics Below Average with QD Papers

Fivaz/Alpert: First coin is a bearded, bald headed man carved on a 1913-P T-1 VF/XF nickel. Pleasing overall effect. The second carving is of a thin-necked man wearing a hat on a 1914-P VF nickel. Distinctive look created by the cut-back thin neck. The third coin is of a bearded man wearing a derby on an undated D good nickel. “CED” carved on center of reverse on bison and very lightly in center of the hat.

Lot 116 – Four Classic Hobo Nickels

Unknown Two Below Average/Two Crude with QD Papers

Fivaz/Alpert: The first nickel is a bearded man wearing a derby on a below average (L) hobo nickel on an undated P mint good nickel. This may be an unfinished work. The second coin is of a bearded man wearing a hat on a below average 1929-D about good nickel. A partial cameo carving. The third nickel is a crude carving of a lightly bearded man wearing derby on a 1937-P Fine nickel. Possibly an unfinished piece. The fourth coin is a lightly bearded man wearing hat on a 1919-P good nickel, Quite crude, probably done by someone who “just wanted to see if I could make one.”

Lot 117 – OHNS 2002 10th Anniversary Tokens

Modern Artist Ron Landis

Tenth Anniversary Copper, Silver and Gold OHNS 2002 Hobo Tokens designed by Ron Landis. The Gold token was a limited edition and is one of only seven struck in 22 carat gold and weighs approximately 9.5 grams. The obverse on these tokens depicts “Bo” George Washington Hughes and the reverse is a steam engine with “ORIGINAL HOBO NICKEL SOCIETY” above the engine and “1992-2002” and “HOBO TOKEN” below the engine. Editor’s Note: At a gold market price of $750 an ounce, the value of the gold token is worth approximately $210.

Lot 118 – 16 Hobo Postcards

Various Artists

Pictures of all sixteen postcards (in color) can be found on the OHNS online Auction 17 Catalog at: http://www.hobonickels.org/fun2009/page12.htm#lot118.
Lot 119 – 11 Hobo Postcards

Various Artists

Pictures of all eleven postcards (in color) can be found on the OHNS online Auction 17 Catalog at:

Lot 120 – Ten Hobo Postcards

Various Artists

Pictures of all ten postcards (in color) can be found on the OHNS online Auction 17 Catalog at:
http://www.hobonickels.org/fun2009/page12.htm#lot120.

Lot 121 – Beardless Cowboy

Joe Paonessa Modern Superior 1936-P XF


Lot 122 – Beardless Man Wearing Hat

Joe Paonessa Modern Superior 1936-P VF

Fivaz/Alpert: A very eye appealing carving by one of the better modern artists, Joe Paonessa. The aspects of this carving are exceptionally well done, with delicate hair and moustache; expertly done ear and hat. Subject is clean shaven. Hat is textured with a nice wrap-around brim and lined band. A nice smooth field. Nice eye appeal. Signed and numbered (#102) on reverse.

Lot 123 – Bearded Man wearing Fez

John Carter Modern Above Average 1928-P VG

Fivaz/Alpert: Subject has scraggly hair and beard; oddly shaped ear. Altered profile with work done on nose, eye and mouth. Subject wearing fez with tassel in back. Two squint lines behind eye. Signed “JC” on edge. Nice workmanship.
Lot 124 – Bearded Man Wearing Cap

Ray Castro Modern Superior 1937-P VF/F
Fivaz/Alpert: A nice attractive carving by modern carver Ray Castro. Subject has a rounded triangular cap with button on the top. Ear and hair/beard in the style of Bo and Bert. Unaltered profile. Single lines used for collar. Nicely dressed field. Unsigned.

Lot 125 – Indian Chief

Owen Covert Modern Above Average 1936-P VG
Fivaz/Alpert: The subject is an Indian chief with a nice long feathered headdress. Long single feather extending downward from round circle at back of headband. Unaltered profile. Signed “OC” on reverse. Nice eye appeal.

Lot 126 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Ray Castro Modern Superior/Superior (L) 1937-P F/VG

Lot 127 – Horse Head Reverse Carving

Ray Castro Modern Superior/Superior (L) 1936-P VG
Fivaz/Alpert: Very attractive and faithful carving of a horse’s head similar to several Bo designs on the reverse. Mane on neck. Field around head nicely dressed. Large nostril and rather thick snout. Signed “RC” on reverse by the mouth.

Lot 128 – Bearded Man Wearing Skullcap

“Bowin” Above Average (L)/Average (H) 1929-S VG/F
Fivaz/Alpert: A classic unsigned carving by the craver nicknamed Bowin in the Spring 2006 issue of BoTales. Small ear, straight-line hair and punched beard and moustache. Segmented skullcap (no brim) with hatband and bow. Unaltered profile. Nicely dressed field with LIBERTY removed.

Lot 129 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat/Donkey

Don Wolfe Modern Average/Above Average 1936-S F/VF
Fivaz/Alpert: New modern artist Don Wolfe carved this two-sided piece with a scraggly bearded man on the obverse and a donkey on the reverse. The obverse has a nice bold appearance with a strong profile and ear. The profile resembles a Bo feature and straight lines were used for the collar. Hat has an angular dome and wide brim. Field dressed. The reverse donkey was patterned after a Bo carving. Signed “DW” on reverse.
Lot 130 – Bearded Man With Nude Woman on Head

Mike Branham Above Ave/Above Ave. (L) 1935-S VG

Fivaz/Alpert: This interesting and abstract modern carving is of a full length nude female figure making up most of the man’s profile. This design is a copy of the old hobo nickel pictured on page 4 of the Hobo Nickel Guidebook by Stephen Alpert. The woman has the same pose but is larger on this carving. The female’s flowing hair blends into the subject’s hair; her left leg is his nose. The field is stippled.

Lot 133 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Owen Covert Modern Superior 1937-D VG

Fivaz/Alpert: Extremely well carved subject with band and large bow on hat. Ear nicely shaped and low on head. Eye nicely reshaped and hair/beard outlined. Small pawnbroker balls are behind the neck. Unusual collar over rear of neck only. Rayed border; LIBERTY removed. A bold craving with nice eye appeal. Signed “OC” on reverse.

Lot 131 – Bearded Man Wearing Skullcap

Ryan Covert Modern Above Average 1934-D G/AG


Lot 134 – DONATION Roaring Lion

Amy Armstrong Superior 1936-P XF

Fivaz/Alpert: A wonderfully creative full-face view of the head of a roaring lion by modern artist Amy Armstrong. Very nice smooth field on this beautiful cameo-like carving. The mane is expertly carved with individual hairs blended nicely together. The lion’s face is very true to life. Signed “AA 51” on the edge.

Lot 132 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby/Elephant

Owen Covert/John Carter Superior/Superior (L) 1929-P

Fivaz/Alpert: Two modern artists collaborated on this 2-sided carving. The obverse (Covert) depicts a bearded man wearing a derby. Well done hair/beard and ear as well as the hat. Field completely dressed. Unaltered profile. Reverse (Carter) shows excellently detailed elephant (facing forward). Stippled field surrounds the elephant. A very eye appealing coin. Signed “OC” on edge and “JC” on edge with arrow pointing to reverse.

Lot 135 – Pigeon Lady

Amy Armstrong Superior 1937-P AU

Fivaz/Alpert: This very creative modern artist has put her talent to work in this magnificent carving of a hooded woman cradling a (24K gold) pigeon in her hands. The lady’s face shows deep compassion, reminding one of Mother Theresa. Entire coin antiqued after carving. Signed on edge “AA 53.” A beautiful piece. Extremely well done.
Lot 136 – 50/50 DONATION Hiking Hobo

Cliff Kraft Modern Superior 1936-P AU
Fivaz/Alpert: An absolutely wonderful detailed carving of a hiker with a back pack and walking stick. Finely carved hair/beard, pants, shoes, pipe and hat. This may be the first hiking hobo carved on coin’s obverse. Hiker is facing right, another unusual feature. Great detail (even to the shoelaces) by this talented modern artist. Coin’s field completely and smoothly dressed, only the date and LIBERTY remain. Signed on edge “CK #268.”

Lot 137 – Significant Other of Nick O’Honis

Cliff Kraft Modern Superior 1916-P AU/XF
Fivaz/Alpert: Modern carver Cliff Kraft put his exceptional talent into this unique carving of the to be named (Will be announced at OHNS Annual Meeting at FUN Show.) significant other of Nick O’Honis. Wide eyes, a big smile. Large bow at her neck and the always present parrot hat. Wonderful carving of what is now a famous lady. Field nicely dressed (LIBERTY and date remain). Signed on edge “CK 247.”

Lot 138 – Four Classic Hobo Nickels

Unknown Average, Below Average, and Crude
Fivaz/Alpert: The upper left nickel is a crude craving on an undated P, fine nickel. A caricature portrait of a hatless man with long nose and moustache and weak lower chin? Quite a few alterations for such a crude piece. Field dressed with knife cuts. The nickel in the upper right is an average carving of a bearded man wearing a derby on a 1920-P VF nickel. A nice mid-range original carving. Subject has light chisel work behind the head. Unaltered profile. The lower left carving is a crude depiction of a bearded man wearing a hat on a 1913-P Type II VF nickel. Hat, hair, beard and moustache all punched. Unaltered profile. The nickel on the lower right is a below average carving of a bearded man wearing a derby on a 1913-P Type I VF/XF nickel. Bold grooves form the hat, ear and collar. Punched hair, beard and moustache. Cameo-like, which is unusual for a below average quality carving.

GET YOUR BIDS IN EARLY!

Time’s Running Out To Get Your Scholarship Letter Submitted

As most of you know, OHNS is a non profit organization. With the revenue we make form the annual auction, we provide scholarships to the summer ANA in Colorado Springs. Applicants must submit in writing (not email) a short essay on why he/she should receive a scholarship and what course that he/she would be interested in taking. These essays should be approximately 150 words or less and should (not included in the word count) include your name, age (if less 18 or less), mailing address, phone number, and – if you have one – your email address. It should be mailed (not emailed) to Bill Fivaz, PO Box 888660, Dunwoody, GA 30356-0660. Applications must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2008. Applicants must be OHNS members.

During the FUN Show, at least three OHNS Board members will rank the applications. After the profit from the annual OHNS FUN Show Auction results are in, the board will determine the number of scholarships and notify the winners. The scholarship will pay for the tuition, room, and meals at Colorado Collage, and possibly some extra for travel expenses. Applicants can view the list of courses offered for this past summer’s session at the ANA website: www.money.org.
**OHNS Auction #17 Rules**

Welcome to the seventeenth 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, PO Box 66331, Los Angeles, CA 90066 and received by January 6, 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 unless otherwise indicated. No QD Paperwork for OHNS Tokens and Postcard Lots.

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 **BoTales** and will also be posted on our website: www.hobonicks.org following the auction.

**NOTE:** Some lots in this sale were donated, with all or a portion of the proceeds going to OHNS as noted in the catalogue.

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**More Stories Naming Nick’s Girlfriend**

In the Summer and Fall 2008 Issues of BoTales, we printed eleven stories, written by our members, proposing names for Nick O’Honis’s significant other. In this issue we present two more stories submitted by our members. The winner of the naming contest will be announced at the ONNS Annual Meeting on January 10, 2009. The winning name and winning story will be reprinted in the Spring 2009 issue of BoTales.

**“Trestle Trudy”**

By Joseph Kocian RM819

It was early spring in the Allegheny Mountains, dew was settling on the ground, a mist was rolling down from the top of the mountains, a crisp chill was in the air and a coffee pot was sounding the last percolation gurgles of freshly brewed pot.

A young woman named Trudy Trozian was about to enjoy her evening fresh brew of coffee when a familiar sound broke the orchestra of nature. Not an alarming sound but rather a comforting sound that was for the moment far away echoing though the Allegheny Mountains. A steam locomotive with its rhythmic beat of chugs and puffs in the early evening was making its way along the Chesapeake & Ohio railway.

As the sound of the locomotive moved through the valley Trudy began to reminisce about her family. They had arrived at Ellis Island from Europe via steamship around 1928. Trudy’s father “Vince” was a foundry man by trade and her mother “Viola” a seamstress and they were headed to Cleveland, Ohio to start a life in the new world.

Trudy’s family had very little money, not fluent in English and their arrival was economically un-timely as the United States and the world was about to face an economic downturn resulting in the “Great Depression”.

Life in the US was not glorious as they had dreamed and the family to survive broke apart. Vince went alone to Cleveland to find foundry work, Viola set up a small stand to mend clothing in New York and Trudy was a metal carving artist.

Trudy and Viola survived until 1934 when her mother got sick with pneumonia and died leaving Trudy alone in New York. Trudy was not sure what happened to her father because her mother stopped speaking about him several years after he left for Cleveland.

New York was crowded with people and Trudy with nothing to keep her in New York decided to leave to an unknown destination.

Trudy having little or no money knew that travel by rail was the only way to move across country. She learned this by listening to others talk about traveling as she carved images on coins in the streets of New York.

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GET YOUR BIDS IN EARLY! You may also use the Auction 17 Bid Sheet provided at: http://www.hobonickels.org/fun2009/bidsheet.htm
The Original Hobo Nickel Society, Inc.
Membership and Quality Designation Form

Membership services...send to the OHNS Secretary

OHNS, 12000 Sunset Ridge Drive, Ozawake, KS 66070-6045

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 OHNS QD Examiner Bill Fivaz

Bill Fivaz, P.O.Box 888660, Dunwoody, GA 30356-0660  Steve Alpert, P.O.Box 66331, Los Angeles, CA 90066-0331

Submissions 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 OHNS QD Examiner Bill Fivaz.

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).

I want this coin ___ returned to me... ___ placed in the next annual OHNS auction. ← Crucial Information!

Owner’s Signature ___________________________ OHNS#__________ Date ____________

Owner’s value of coin (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________________________

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City__________________________ State_________ ZIP_________

Phone (optional) ... Daytime_____________ Evenings_____________

EMail address (optional)________________________

Please PRINT plainly... EMail is totally unforgiving!

Please make all checks payable to... Original Hobo Nickel Society
Closing the apartment where Trudy lived and where her mother sewed was tearful. However, knowing that she had to travel light Trudy packed a single suitcase. Her mother had several items from people that paid in trade for their repaired article. One such item was a feathery chicken hat.

Trudy and her mother had many a discussion concerning “the hat” and many humorous jokes that brought smiles to both in these tough times. Trudy took the hat to wear and to remember her mother and life in New York.

Thus, she left New York to ride the rails of the “C&O” Chesapeake and Ohio rail road and join the other Hobos.

The origin of the term “Hobo” is not fully known because it has a plethora of theories. Yet, it fits many types of people that “hitched a ride” on trains. Whatever, the origin of the term it applies to male and female people alike.

Hobo’s moved across the country from location to location much like “a wandering band of gypsies”. Not having a home but sometimes having a place that is tentative for long periods of time. A tentative place would offer the many of the basic items that are needed for living: shelter, water, and companionship.

A hobo by the name of Nick was traveling the C&O taking in the sites and looking for temporary shelter when the C&O slowed to a crawl and eventually stopped.

This area was a serine location where Nick decided to hop off and explore the landscape for a short period of time. As Nick walked the tracks he selected several nice chunks of coal that had fallen from coal cars to be used for a fire to cook a meal or for evening warmth.

Nick was aware that spring showers are frequent and thus he was looking for shelter from the elements in the event that rain would fall during the night. He was also aware that he was hungry having not eaten since the day before. As he walked the tracks he became acutely aware of the aroma of fresh coffee in the air. Looking around for the source Nick could not immediately identify where or from what direction the aroma was emanating.

Walking further Nick saw where the train tracks spanned a small area of the river where it changed directions. A beautifully built trestle over the river, had a large flat area of ground, which was covered by the trestle, yet, the ground rose above the river by a few feet.

Nick thought what a great shelter for the night if the train did not start again. The river would provide fresh water and possibly fresh fish. This, shelter was a great discovery as he made his way closer to the trestle. However, as he moved closer he became aware the coffee aroma of earlier became stronger and was coming from the very same shelter area.

Nick was drawn to coffee as the smell was irresistible and he was hoping to trade the coal for a cup of that coffee.

As Nick entered the covering of the trestle, the shelter was even better than he imagined and he soon froze dead in his tracks for his eyes were seeing something he had not witnessed before in his travels and thus had him mesmerized.

It was now twilight and a fire crackled in a small carved area of the ground where coffee was brewing. The fire’s flames twinkled and dashed flashes of light on the form and face of what was definitely a woman.

A young beautiful face, large glimmering eyes blacker than the coal which he carried and a chicken hat covering her hair. Her cheeks were fully filled and seemed to have a rosy appearance.

And her smile was a beacon of welcome and sincere gladness to have a visitor.

Nick thought to have stumbled into some small corner of heaven having never seen such beauty. His mind racing with many thoughts that each time he began to speak only gibberish poured out from his mouth. He began several times without any success that he began to think this woman must think he is an idiot.

This jewel of a woman offered Nick a cup of coffee and a rock to sit upon to relax and to calm his excitement. After a few moments, Nick regained his speech and introduced himself. Trudy, in turn replied that she is called “Trestle Trudy”.

Trudy explained that she seeks many of the trestles along the train routes as an excellent form of shelter.

Nick and Trudy passed the night in conversation that seemed to whisk away in minutes instead of hours. Both enjoyed the other and a bond of love formed in those few short hours.

As morning grew brighter they both decided to travel in tandem on the train tracks of life and the C&O.

The C&O was still parked on the tracks and they made their way to an open car and hopped aboard. Eventually, the C&O came alive with a roaring whistle, a lurch forward and the couple tightened between cars. The C&O billowed smoke, and began to blow its whistle letting the world know of its exit.

Nick and Trudy settled in for the ride of their life toward unknown destinations as they listened to the sounds of the train echoing through the Alleghenies.

“Nora McFolley”
By John Carter RM682

Is this a coincidence or what? Just last month while I was spending a relaxing weekend at my favorite cabin retreat in Carthage, Missouri, the owner’s grandmother, Mrs. Tillman, who is 103 years young, was showing me old photographs of people she knew and reminiscing about her life on the farm. As she was turning the pages of the album, much to my surprise, there were pictures of Nick and his girlfriend as I know them. Who are they?, I asked pointing to the pictures.

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As a smile at fond memories appeared on her face she went on to say, this is Nick and this is Nora, his true love found. But, she wasn’t always known as Nora. Born Alli McFolley in 1904, the daughter of Rock A. Feller, the oil tycoon, her mother Lucy McFolley was his upstairs maid. This was swept under the rug for obvious reasons on someone’s part. Alli and her mother were taken care of, financially anyway. When Alli was old enough, she was sent to the finest finishing school in New York City. She became a high society fashion model, as you can see! At the tender age of 18, she was on tour of all the big U.S. cities. At the train depot in Joplin, Missouri, Alli decided to stretch her legs. And, just as she was walking past the last car, Nick O’Honis, who was riding underneath the car, I think they called it “possum belly”, lost his grip and fell to the tracks. As their eyes met, Nick knew this was the girl of his dreams. Alli smiled, batted her big brown eyes and sashayed back to her luxury car. Nick stuck to that train like gum to your shoe on a hot summer day, Mrs. Tillman said, giving a small chuckle as she talked. For the next couple of weeks Nick followed Alli from city to city and presented her with a number of gifts. Bouquets of wild flowers, hand carved wooden miniatures, and poems he had written, all of which she received from the bribed stage doorman. Although Alli was very much interested in Nick, she wasn’t letting on to that fact.

Nick knew it was time for something really dramatic to get her attention. He proceeded to carve the reverse of a buffalo nickel which he had done many times before, but never like this one. This one had two intertwined hearts with the name NICK in one and NORA in the other. Well, when Alli opened that gift from Nick, the manure hit the fan. She stormed right out the stage door. Nick stuck to that train like gum to your shoe on a hot summer day, Mrs. Tillman said, giving a small chuckle as she talked. For the next couple of weeks Nick followed Alli from city to city and presented her with a number of gifts. Bouquets of wild flowers, hand carved wooden miniatures, and poems he had written, all of which she received from the bribed stage doorman. Although Alli was very much interested in Nick, she wasn’t letting on to that fact.

Alli replied. Leaving life as she knew it behind, off they went to stretch her legs. And, just as she was walking past the last car, Nick O’Honis, who was riding underneath the car, I think they called it “possum belly”, lost his grip and fell to the tracks. As their eyes met, Nick knew this was the girl of his dreams. Alli smiled, batted her big brown eyes and sashayed back to her luxury car. Nick stuck to that train like gum to your shoe on a hot summer day, Mrs. Tillman said, giving a small chuckle as she talked. For the next couple of weeks Nick followed Alli from city to city and presented her with a number of gifts. Bouquets of wild flowers, hand carved wooden miniatures, and poems he had written, all of which she received from the bribed stage doorman. Although Alli was very much interested in Nick, she wasn’t letting on to that fact.

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In early fall of that same year, 1922, I believe, Nick stopped by the farm which he had done for the past several years on his way south for the winter. My father always had some work for him and we all wanted to hear of his adventures on the road. This one was a real doozy! This time he was not alone, attached to his arm was the prettiest and the most polished young lady I had ever met, Mrs. Tillman stated. Nick introduced her as Nora, his light. Nora and I took an instant liking to each other and became good friends. For the next twenty-five years, give or take a few, they came back to the farm to visit and camp at their favorite spot under the big double oak down by Spring River, where Nick also carved his love symbol in that tree. All those years Nora was by Nick’s side, traveling and living off the land. The life of a hobo was not an easy row to hoe, but they were the picture of true love.

I thanked Mrs. Tillman for sharing her memories with me and off to bed I went. The next morning I set out with my metal detector as I often do when I get the chance. After a while I spotted the double oak tree, still standing and still showing the hearts and names carved into the trunk. Sweeping my disc around for about 15 minutes, I heard the BEEP, BEEP of a find. The display was showing what could be a diamond ring or a 5 cent piece. I got goose bumps and carefully started digging. About 3 inches down, there it was, THE CARVING!

I hurried back to the farm to show Mrs. Tillman. When she saw what I had retrieved, a look of dismay appeared on her face and she exclaimed, “Yes! That’s the carving, the one they always carried.” As she settled back in her chair she said, “I’m sure you were the one meant to have it.” I expressed my gratitude for such a gift and asked Mrs. Tillman if she ever heard from them anymore. “Oh yes”, she replied. “I received a letter from them shortly after they stopped coming saying that they had settled down in Hollywood, California and started the Nick and Nora Private Detectives Agency. Part time of course, and as they were inseparable and enjoyed watching people, it was a perfect past time for them.”

Well, the weekend was over, but it will never be forgotten. The mystery lady in question has been solved. And yes, this is my story and I’m sticking to it, cause I got THE CARVING to prove it!

I have enclosed a picture of the carving for all the readers to see. ♦

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Ahoy, Matey. Hoard of Hobo Tokens Uncovered

Don Haley has recently been able to obtain some previously unavailable OHNS Hobo tokens from a former Gallery Mint cache. Along with the new 2009 tokens, he is now offering these for sale to the OHNS membership. Silver and Copper sets cost $27.50 per set plus $1.50 for shipping. **2009, 2008, 2007 and 2005 Silver and Copper Sets are available.** Single silver $20. Single copper $15.

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Contact Don with any questions. Email [donhaley@aol.com](mailto:donhaley@aol.com). Telephone # is 561-964-9633
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BoTales
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Winter 2008
Introducing “The Fobber”

By Stephen Alpert LM 10

The only specimens I know made by this unknown artist that I am here nicknaming “The Fobber” are the three hobo nickels he carved and assembled into the watch fob illustrated here. The clip at top could be attached to a shirt pocket button hole, or a belt loop. And a pocket watch probably was once attached somehow to the loop at the bottom of the lowest hobo nickel. Since this artist created the three very similar hobo nickels, and made a watch fob with them, I am nicknaming him “The Fobber.”

Maybe this was the only design of a hobo nickel he could create. For if he could carve a variety of designs, why use the same design three times on this fob, when he could show off his diversity with three different-looking hobo nickels?

“The Fobber” made heavy use of a liner tool. He engraved fine parallel lines over the entire hat, the entire field, and the entire shoulder and neck area. He used the same parallel lines for the hair around the ear.

The diagnostic characteristics of a hobo nickel made by “The Fobber” are:

1) The extensive use of fine parallel lines as discussed above.
2) A hat with a very thick and broadly curved brim. The ends of the brim may be lobe-like.
3) A bow on the hat band.
4) A small, faint, carved C-shaped ear, which may consist of concentric C's.
5) A rough beard formed by using a textured punch.
6) No mustache.
7) Profile is unaltered.
8) The field above the hat (which was initially lined) is covered with heavier zig-zag wriggle cuts.
9) A checkered coat (cut over the fine parallel lines) obliterates the date area.
10) Liberty is obliterated.
11) The hobo nickel is part of a watch fob. Specimens if removed from a fob should have indications on the edge where loops were once attached.

The top two coins on this watch fob are on raised-ground (1913) P-mint nickels; the bottom coin is on a P-mint Type-II nickel. All the coins are XF so “The Fobber” apparently was an early hobo nickel artist. This fob is Lot #85 in the 2009 OHNS Auction #17 (see page 18). This same hobo nickel watch fob also appeared as Lot #11 in the 2001 OHNS auction #9. The hammer price in that auction was $300.