The Original Hobo Nickel Society’s
18th Mail and Floor Bid Auction
Saturday, January 9, 2010
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 the carver nicknamed “Flat Nose” (See April-May-June 2000 issue of BoTales). It is Lot 36 in Auction 18. Lot 39 is another fine example of a carving by “Flat Nose.” The two modern hobo nickels on the right side of the banner are by two “Art’s.” Both of these modern carvers began carving in the later part of the 20th Century. The left most of these two superior nickel carvings is by Arthur “Hutches” Hutchinson and is Lot 66 in Auction 18. Arthur was from Prentiss, Mississippi. He started carving with homemade tools along with some gravers given him by Sam Alfano and Steve Adams. Arthur passed away in 2004 as the result of heart failure. The hobo nickel on the far right is lot 67 in Auction 18 and is by carver Cinco de Arturo from Novi, Michigan. Cinco de Arturo’s real name is Arturo DeFavero, also known as Art by many of his friends. Art is also an OHNS Board member and Authenticator. By the way, “cinco” is “five” in Spanish and “de” is “of.” So “Cinco de Arturo” means “5 of Arturo” or “5 cents of Arturo.”

At the bottom of the front cover is a collage of some of the hobo nickels, hobo style carvings and postcards from Auction 18. This was created by Verne “V-Dubya” Walrafen. As always, I offer a very special thank you to V-Dubya for all the help he has provided putting this issue of BoTales together as “Graphics Editor.” Verne “cleaned up” most all of the photos in the Auction 18 Catalog. He has also created an online version of the Auction 18 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 (perforated page) the bidding sheet from the Auction Catalog, there is a bidding sheet provided on the website that you can print out.

I would like to congratulate the OHNS Members who will receive a silver BoTales Editor’s Literary Award Token for their 2009 contributions of articles for BoTales with their name engraved on the reverse. These members are Marc Banks, Carol Bastable, Dave Boulay, and Robbie Horvath. These members, if present, will receive their token at the OHNS Annual meeting in January at the FUN Show.

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Check Your Mailing Envelope Address – Please Help OHNS

If “2009” appears above your name on the envelope mailing address for this issue of BoTales, You need to pay your annual OHNS dues for 2010, still only $15/year

Please help OHNS keep costs down by submitting your dues payment to our Secretary,
Verne Walrafen, 12000 Sunset Ridge Drive, Ozawkie KS 66070-6045

New Members Since BoTales 2009 #3

| RM-1105 | John C. Reams | PA | RM-1110 | Glenn R. Fried | GA |
| RM-1106 | Keith Field | ME | RM-1111 | Susan W. Eckberg | VA |
| RM-1107 | Charles P. Orlando | NY | RM-1112 | William D. Bradshaw | NC |
| RM-1108 | M. Tom Patterson | NC | RM-1113 | Eric Truitt | WA |
| RM-1109 | Andrew L. Tamburin | CA | | | |
Announcing Original Hobo Nickel Society’s Annual Meeting
Saturday, January 9, 2010 at 10:00 A.M.
Florida United Numismatists FUN Convention 2010, Orlando, Florida
Orange County Convention Center, North Concourse
OHNS 18th Annual Floor Bid Auction following Annual Meeting (~ 11 AM)

2010 OHNS ELECTIONS

Every even-numbered year, OHNS holds elections to allow for new officers and Board members. An election will be held at the FUN Show in Orlando, January 9, 2010. This announcement is normally published in the 3rd issue of BoTales in the year prior to the biannual election. This announcement was not in the Fall 2009 issue of BoTales.

This announcement in this current issue of BoTales serves as the official notice of the election to be held at the OHNS annual meeting on January 9, 2010. The nominating committee has presented a slate consisting of the current officers and board members being offered for reelection. If there is no opposition, the nominated slate shall automatically be declared elected unanimously at the annual meeting.

If anyone wishes to run against one of the current officers or board members, he/she must first have their current years dues paid in full. Each candidate must also be endorsed by at least three members in good standing with a copy of said nomination, written consent of the nominee and a brief biography of the nominee to be delivered to the secretary.

If you would like to run for one of the offices or for a Board position, please submit your name and the position that you wish to run for to our Secretary, at 12000 Sunset Ridge Drive, Ozawkie, KS 66070 or Email him at walrafen@gmmnut.com. Letters of support as noted above also need to be sent to the Secretary.

If there are any qualifying members wishing to run for position of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer or Board Member at Large against the already nominated slate, a vote of the membership at the annual meeting will decide the outcome. If you are unable to attend the annual meeting, you may provide written authorization to someone who is attendance to vote as your proxy.
AUCTION MANAGER'S MESSAGE

I hope all our members enjoy our 18th auction. We offer here a good variety of classic and modern hobo nickels, with many nice and desirable pieces. If you have never bid in our auctions, give it a try; you may get a bargain. All the lots in this sale can be seen on our web site, enlarged and in color, thanks to our dedicated and hard working webmaster Verne Walrafen. Just visit www.hobonickels.org. And shortly after the auction, Verne will post on the website all the selling prices.

Continuing this sale, current artists who consigned or donated their own works are noted in the Artist Index (an asterisk * indicates the lots by the artist that were submitted by the artist; other works by the artist are from the secondary market). And the OHNS Quality Designation paperwork accompanying each applicable lot no longer includes the owner's Submission Form.

Those attending the auction at FUN can view the lots on Friday at the OHNS bourse tables, and on Saturday morning in our meeting/auction room just before the auction (which follows our General Meeting). Our auctioneer will again be Allen Cowart, son of OHNS member Kimzie “Spike” Cowart and owner Cowart Auction Company in Cocoa, Florida.

I need to receive your bids by mail, email, or fax (phone first so I can turn on my fax machine), no later than JANUARY 5th. No phone bids accepted, but you can phone or email me with any questions. PLEASE BID EARLY! Note my new address, email, and phone number below.

Stephen Alpert
PO Box 335441
North Las Vegas, NV 89033-5441
quadra1@cox.net
702-473-9071

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DONATIONS

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Lot 86, by Adam Leech
Lot 87, by Adam Leech
Lot 92, by Amy Armstrong
OHNS Auction #18 Rules

Welcome to the eighteenth 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 335441, North Las Vegas, NV 89033-5441 and received by January 5, 2009. NO phone bids will be accepted. Fax bids are acceptable (702-473-9071), as are emailed bids (to quadra1@cox.net). Please call above number before faxing so Steve can turn on fax.

4. The certification or quality designation papers for lots examined by OHNS will accompany each lot unless otherwise indicated. No OHNS QD paperwork for hobo tokens, hobo postcards, and multi-coin bulk lots (unless noted).

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 702-473-9071 or email at: quadra1@cox.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.hobonickels.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.

Lot 1 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: BelowAve/Ave(H) 1913-P T-1 XF/AU
Fivaz/Alpert: This artist extensively used wriggle-cut zigzags. Narrow wriggles outline the hat and thick brim. Larger wriggles form the texture of the brim, and the hair and beard with overlapped zigzags. A linear tool was used on the hat dome, neck, and to hint at a wrap-around hat brim. Small indistinct ear. Decent eye appeal.

Lot 2 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat/Shepherd

“Twofer” Classic: Superior 1916-D
Fivaz/Alpert: This 2-sided carving by the artist nicknamed “Twofer” (see BoTales Summer 2009) has nice overall eye appeal. On the obverse is a well defined bearded man. The hat (curved brim) and large ear are particularly well done. Nicely carved collar, hair, hatband, etc. The reverse depicts a man who appears to be shepherd with a pack on his back and a crooked staff. Coin received some wear after being altered.

Lot 3 – German Soldier with Spiked Helmet

Unknown Classic: Superior/AboveAve 1913-P T-1 F/VF/XF
Fivaz/Alpert: A great eye appealing totally carved original piece by a talented unknown artist. Subject is a WW1 German soldier, complete with spiked helmet, curled moustache, chin strap and an Iron Cross medal at the neck. Ornate design on helmet and fine parallel lines on coat. Completely dressed field with “Gott Strafe (God Punish) Englands Army” inscribed around figure.
Lot 4 – 15 Hobo Post Cards

Various Artists
Color photos of all fifteen postcards can be found on the OHNS online Auction 18 Catalog at:

Lot 5 – Bearded Man (Vincent) Wearing Hat

Alex Ptak Modern: Above Average 1936-S VG
Fivaz/Alpert: This is a modern cameo-style carving of a full face bearded man wearing a raised brim hat. May be a portrait of Vincent Van Gogh. Thin mouth. Completely dressed, deeply recessed field with date and LIBERTY remaining. High relief. No ear. Nicely carved features. Unsigned by artist.

Lot 6 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Alex Ptak Modern: Above Average 1935-P F/VG
Fivaz/Alpert: Nicely carved coin with darkened background which creates nice contrast to the bust. Subject has long hair, beard (nicely done) and moustache. Shallow hat has hatband and bow. High collar. Well done ear, eyebrow; unaltered profile. High collar. Unsigned by artist.

Lot 7 – Bearded Man and Dog Wearing Hats

Mike Branham Modern: Above Average 1936-P
Fivaz/Alpert: Nicely carved 2-sided carving. The obverse is a typical hobo subject, a bearded man wearing a hat and smoking a cigarette. Straight lines used for hair and beard. Hat crown is stippled; hat band has bow. Altered profile. Liberty removed. Reverse shows head of a dog wearing a hat. Signed on reverse. Edge has zigzag chisel-cut wriggle reeding.

Lot 8 – Indian Squaw/Female Warrior

Mike Branham Modern: Above Average 1979 SBA $1
Fivaz/Alpert: Obverse depicts head of warrior princess or Indian squaw with headband and a vertical knife on each side of figure. Reverse carving shows ¾ rear view of same subject, holding sword, looking outward towards tower in the distance. Signed by carver at lower left of reverse.
Lot 9 – Indian Chief

Steve Cox Modern: Superior 1936-S XF
Fivaz/Alpert: An impressive modern carving of an Indian Chief by Steve Cox. Subject has full headdress with gold inlaid horns, jutting jaw and long feathers hanging down from headdress. Field is dressed with smooth circle from date up to top of headdress. Date and LIBERTY remained. Nice eye appeal. Unsigned.

Lot 10 – Happy Hobo

Steve Cox Modern: Superior 1936-S AU

Lot 11 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Steve Cox Modern: Superior 1936-P VG

Lot 12 – Indian Squaw

Steve Cox Modern: Superior 1937-P XF/VF
Fivaz/Alpert: The subject of this modern carving is a young Indian squaw. Long hair (pig tails) on each side of the full face bust and a gold inlaid feather and headband punctuates this nice carving. Date and LIBERTY remain in a decorative circle surrounding the girl. Signed “SDC” on edge. Very nice eye appeal.

Lot 13 – Dog With Bone in Mouth

Steve Cox Modern: Superior 1937-D XF/VF
Fivaz/Alpert: Nicely executed carving of the neck and head of a dog with floppy ears holding a gold inlaid bone in its mouth. Background is stippled and a decorative circular border surrounds the subject. Excellent workmanship and nice eye appeal. Finely-textured field. Date and LIBERTY remain. Signed “SDC” on edge.

Lot 14 – Tiger Head

Steve Cox Modern: Superior 1936-P F/VG
Fivaz/Alpert: A very nice portrait of a tiger, full face, resting its head on left front leg. The eyes are golf inlaid and an effective highlight. Great eye appeal. Nicely detailed features on the tiger’s face. Field is smoothly dressed with Date and LIBERTY remaining. Signed “SDC” on edge.
Lot 15 – 15 Hobo Postcards

Various Artists

Color photos of all fifteen postcards can be found on the OHNS online Auction 18 Catalog at:

Lot 16 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: AboveAve(L)/Average No Date–S G

Lot 17 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: AboveAve(L)/Average No Date–S G
Fivaz/Farnsworth: A very nice average classic carving of a typical hobo subject. The hat has a plain crown, a hatband with a bow and a straight brim. The subject’s ear is partially hidden under the hat brim. Unaltered profile. The hair/beard/moustache done with a circular punch. “V” collar. Field nicely dressed with date and LIBERTY remaining.

Lot 18 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Average/Average(H) No Date–D XF
Fivaz/Farnsworth: Hat has hatband with bow; profile slightly altered as is mouth, eye and eyebrow. 3-4 light extraneous scratches behind nose. Beard/hair/moustache done using 2-3 different techniques. Subject has coat with lapel. Overall coin has rather smooth texture with completely dressed field. Lends simplicity and makes for attractive appearance. No discernable ear.

Lot 19 – Bearded Man Wearing Skullcap

Unknown Classic: Average 1934-P AU
Fivaz/Farnsworth: This is a nice cameo carving with only the neck touching the date. The field is completely dressed with LIBERTY remaining. The subject has a small well formed ear and an unaltered profile. Lower edge of skullcap done with a knurling tool (zigzag). Nice eye appeal.
Lot 20 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: AboveAve/Above Ave(L) 1915-P VG
Fivaz/Farnsworth: Subject is wearing a small derby hat, plain crown with hatband and bow. Profile, eye and mouth all nicely altered. Ear visible. Beard/hair/moustache all rather heavily carved. High collar. Field completely dressed with LIBERTY and faint date showing. Attractive carving.

Lot 21 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Above Average(L) No Date XF
Fivaz/Farnsworth: This is a nice carving with a completely dressed field. The subject has a simple, plain collar. The ear is positioned rather low. The mouth and profile altered. The hat is attractively accented with wavy lines. The subject’s moustache and beard were nicely carved.

Lot 22 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Above Ave/Average(H) No Date-D VF
Fivaz/Farnsworth: The first thing the viewer notices on this classic carved piece is the bulbous nose. It appears that extra metal was applied to make this feature. Ear partially hidden under the hat which has a bow on the hatband. Punched hair/beard/moustache/eyebrow. Altered mouth; field completely dressed to create a cameo effect. Farnsworth feels that the nose detracts from the appearance of this otherwise nice carving.

Lot 23 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Average(L) 1913-P Type 2 VF
Fivaz/Farnsworth: The man’s hat is flat-topped with a zigzagged hatband and a single-line brim. No visible ear; unaltered profile. Hair and beard done with long scratches (beard heavier). No collar. Field 70% dressed, LIBERTY remains.

Lot 24 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Above Average No Date AU
Fivaz/Farnsworth: A very attractive carving on a high grade host coin. Lined, curved accent lines in hat crown and hat brim. That same “liner tool” was used for the hair, bearded and moustache. Ear visible; unaaltered profile. Subject is wearing a winged collar shirt and a jacket. Farnsworth feels carving may have been enhanced by modern carver. Some of lines are shiny as if carved recently but deeper cuts have dark, older patina.

Lot 25 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Modern: Average(H)/Average(L) No Date VG
Fivaz/Farnsworth: This is a plate coin found on page 14 of the Hobo Nickel Guidebook by Stephen P. Alpert. Subject has a plain crowned hat, moderately curved hat brim and hair apparently done with liner tool. Altered profile, eye and mouth. Field completely dressed, probably with a power tool. Farnsworth stated, “the excessive use of power tools created a ‘washed-out’ appearance of this otherwise above average carving.” Though both examiners classify this as a modern carving, the consigner obtained it in 1987 as part of a collection of old hobo nickels.
Lot 26 – 10 Classic Carved Hobo Nickels

Unknown Classic: Below Average to Crude
A lot of ten old hobo nickels of Below Average to Crude quality. No QD OHNS papers with these coins.

Lot 27 – 4 Late 20th Century Hobo Nickels

J. Allen, Frank Brazell, John Dorusa, Wabon Eddings
A group of four modern hobo nickels from the late 20th century, by four different artists: J. Allen (1936, HOBO hat, her name stamped on the buffalo); Frank Brazell (1923, Indian brave); John Dorusa (1929, man with hat, no beard); and Wabon Eddings (1937, Indian chief). No QD OHNS papers with these coins.

Lot 28 – Woman

Unknown Classic: Average(H)/AboveAve 1919-P VG

Lot 29 – Four Hobo Postcards

Various Artists
A set of four early 20th Century (1905-1911) postcards. Color photos of all four postcards can be found on the OHNS online Auction 18 Catalog at:

Lot 30 – DONATION Four Hobo Tokens

Ron Landis Designer Modern: Gallery Mint Mule Strikings
Gallery Mint mule token strikings. All were designed by Ron Landis. There are 2 1996 Eureka Springs; a 1996 locomotive; and a 1997 Sarasota Florida circus train lion cage car. All are struck over Jefferson nickels. All are Uncirculated. There are no OHNS QD papers on these.

Lot 31 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

“Peanut Ear” Classic: Above Average 1913-P T-1 EF/AU
Delfavero/Alpert: This is a very nice example of a typical carving by the prolific carver nicknamed “Peanut Ear.” Punched hair and beard are dark giving a nice contrast to the carving. Peened ear, engraved hat and collar and altered nostril. This coin has all the great classic attributes from this prolific artist.
Lot 32 – Bearded Man Wearing a Derby Hat

Unknown Classic: Average(H) No Date VF
DelFavero/Alpert: This coin has great eye appeal even though alterations are slightly crude. The shallow hat creates a small head. Ends of hat brim are spike-like. Small indistinct ear. Raised-stubble technique forms the hair, beard, and moustache. Top of nose profile is altered. Chisel-dressed field, with LIBERTY removed. Neatly engraved collars and bowtie.

Lot 33 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Average 1934-P XF
DelFavero/Alpert: This classic carving has nice eye appeal and displays many alterations. All features are engraved except for punched beard. Hat has a raised straight brim. Dome of hat and neck not well dressed. Decent ear. Profile altered at top of nose only. Field is roughly chisel-dressed.

Lot 34 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Above Average(L) 1913-P T-2 XF/AU
DelFavero/Alpert: Nice light toning adorns this typical subject carving. Use of raised metal technique on hat brim and ends and on collar. Hair and beard appear to be carved. Hair runs down braid to collar. Field to right is decently dressed. Nicely detailed ear.

Lot 35 – Soldier or WWI Kaiser

Unknown Classic: Above Average(H) 1914-P XF
DelFavero/Alpert: A very nice carving, with the helmet and field well-dressed. C-shaped ear. Slightly-altered profile, enlarged nostril; faint eyebrow. Sweeping carved mustache (perspective on his left side incorrect). Engraved collar with clever positioning to maintain date. Very nice overall eye appeal.

Lot 36 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

“Flat Nose” Classic: Above Average 1916-P XF
DelFavero/Alpert: A very nice “Flat Nose” carving with strong contrast and great eye appeal. So-nicknamed because the nose above the nostril is flattened down (as if made of clay and pushed down with a finger tip). Nose strongly altered. Punched eyeball and carved crows feet. Nice derby hat with engraved brim and bow and telltale double row collar. Overall great eye appeal.

Lot 37 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Above Average(L) 1929-S XF/VF
DelFavero/Alpert: Unusual punched stippled field and unusual hair effect from criss-crossing liner tool lines. Right side of neck not well dressed. Simple groove for collar. Lined hat dome and band. Nice ear. Not many late 1920’s hobo nickels are encountered.
Lot 38 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

*Unknown Classic: AboveAve(H)/AboveAve 1913-P T-1 XF*  
*Delfavero/Alpert:* A great example of a classic subject. This artist incorporated engraving, punching and peening to create a nice derby hat, a raised metal ear and nostril. A bold profile alteration (nose, mouth, nostril) and ear and curved collars. Punch for eyeball. Looks great both close-up and from a distance.

Lot 39 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

*“Flat Nose” Classic: AboveAve/Average(H) 1916-P VF/XF*  
*Delfavero/Alpert:* This classic carving doesn’t resemble most works by “Flat Nose,” the differences being the rendering of the hatband and brim, the ear, not removing the feathers, and greater width of the hat. But most diagnostic features of “Flat Nose” are present: Flat toned nose, enlarged nostril, bow on band, beard shape, and double-lined collar.

Lot 40 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

*Unknown Classic: AboveAve(L)/Ave(H) No Date F/VG*  
*Delfavero/Alpert:* Good eye appeal even though the work is executed in a choppy manner. Piece is totally graved. Nice hat, with hint of wrap-around brim. Very light hair and beard. Thin neck. Field chisel-dressed, with LIBERTY removed. Unaltered profile.

Lot 41 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

*“Rough Beard”/Unknown Classic: Average 1913-P T-2 VG*  
*Delfavero/Alpert:* Delfavero believes this may be a hasty or early work by the craver nicknamed “Rough Beard.” There is indication of some wear after the fact. Alpert disagrees and believes it is by a different unknown classic artist. The beard and hair are circle-punched. Ear is different. No hat band and ends of brim are not pointed. Different profile to nose. Beard not rough and choppy.

Lot 42 – Old Woman Wearing Bonnet

*Billzach Modern: Superior 1944-P 50¢ VF*  
*Delfavero/Alpert:* This super carving of an elderly woman wearing a near vertical bonnet is rendered on a 1944 Walking Liberty Half Dollar by modern artist Billzach (Bill Jameson). Great details and surfaces. Wonderful eye appeal.

Lot 43 – Man Wearing Derby

*Unknown Classic: AboveAve(H)/AboveAve 1890 1¢ VG*  
*Delfavero/Alpert:* This 1890 Indian head cent altered to a tiny bust of a man, facing left, wearing a derby. Date altered to 1990. A “J” punched before “United” possibly to imply “Jew-nited” states, with the man being a Jewish pawnbroker (note large ethnic nose). Pawn broker sign added to carving. Creative carving by a skilled unknown classic artist.
Lot 44 – Beardless Man Wearing Hat

Unknown/“Weasel” Classic: Average No Date Buffalo 5¢
Fivaz/Romines: Dark coin. Representation of a thin necked beardless man who is smiling. Totally carved including eye, skin, nose. According to Romines, “Tool marks & quality of work indicate this may be a carving by ‘Weasel.’”

Lot 45 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Average(H)/Average No Date-P AU
Fivaz/Romines: The most noticeable characteristic about the subject is the large Adam’s apple. Plain neck (no collar or coat), ear low on the head; stubble beard created by a “butterfly” type of punch, while the remainder was carved. Eye appealing piece that is a near “partial cameo. Considerable metal removed by artist.

Lot 46 – Bearded Man With Hat/Man With Pack

Unknown Classic: Above Average(L) 1913-P T-2 F
Fivaz/Farnsworth: The obverse and reverse of this 2-sided classic carving are totally carved. On the obverse, the heavy carving of beard, hair and ear stands out in pleasing contrast to the lightly carved hat and brim. No collar; unaltered profile. The reverse depicts a man carrying a pack over his shoulder (bison’s hump). Man has coat and hat. Several scratch marks in field above “FIVE CENTS.” Reverse not as well done as obverse. Two sided classic carvings are relatively rare.

Lot 47 – Bearded Man Wearing Civil War Type Hat

Unknown Classic: Average No Date Buffalo 5¢ G
Fivaz/Alpert: The most noticeable thing about this carving is the hat style, different than the typical derby. This appears to be a Civil War cap with a band on it. This piece is probably knife-carved except for the carved ear. The field and neck are dressed. “LIBERTY” is removed. The profile is unaltered. No collar. Large earlobe. “RJ” is carved at the date, probably artist’s initials.

Lot 48 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Average 19135-P VF/XF
Alpert/Fivaz: The first feature the viewer notices on this carved and punched coin is the grossly altered (broken?) nose. The bridge and nostril have been accentuated as has the mouth. Punched hair, beard and moustache. Hat has hatband and bow. “9” shaped ear. Field mostly dressed, “LIBERTY” remaining. Simple two lined collar.

Lot 49 – Eight Hobo Postcards

Various Artists
Color photos of all eight postcards can be found on the OHNS online Auction 18 Catalog at: http://www.hobonickels.org/fun2010/page05.htm.
Lot 50 – DONATION Curly and Earl

Steve Cox and Eric Truitt Modern: 1937 5¢ Host Coins

Alpert: Lot of two modern carvings by Steve Cox (protruding chin) and Eric Truitt (long nose, bald head). The Truitt carving inspired Steve Cox’s carving and story found in the Fall 2009 issue of Botales (Story reprinted on page 26 of this issue.). Both carvings depict characters with distinctive but different noses, chins, eyebrows, and haircuts. No QD papers with this lot but I (SA) consider Eric’s coin a Superior (Low) and Steve’s a Superior (High).

Lot 51 – DONATION Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Steve Cox Modern: Superior 1937-D VF

Fivaz/Alpert: A superb carving. Finely-textured hat with gold inlaid hatband. Neatly carved hair, beard, moustache, and eyebrow. Profile altered. Smooth concave field with “LIBERTY” removed. Nice shirt and coat collars. Nice eye appeal. The reverse has been altered to the 1937-D “3-leg” variety and the bison’s horn has been enhanced. Tail has been broadened and “OHNS” inscribed on it. Signed “SDC” on edge.

Lot 52 – Bearded Big-Nosed Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Above Average(H) 1913-P T-2 VF/XF

Fivaz/Romines: This big-nosed carving is similar to, but not by, the carver nicknamed “Big Nose.” Large derby with curved brim. Tall ear. A small square punch used for the hair, beard and moustache. Peened field with “LIBERTY” removed. Nice contrast and great eye appeal.

Lot 53 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Above Ave/Above Ave(H) 1913 T-1 VF

Romines/Farnsworth: A very eye appealing coin except for extraneous materials. The bow on the hatband is placed halfway between the ear and the back of the hat. Fine line carving makes the hat, hair, collar and shoulder quite ornate. The field has been partially dressed with a broad tipped chisel using the “squiggle” method. This is a plate coin found on the cover of The Hobo Nickel by Joyce Ann Romines.

Lot 54 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

“Tufty” Classic: Average 1913-P Type 1 XF

Fivaz/Romines: A totally carved near above average piece by carver nicknamed “Tufty.”. The hat has a curved (downward) brim and no box. Large ear, and one stroke, probably with a chisel, produced the collar and bridge of the nose.

Lot 55 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

“Tall Ear” Classic: Average 1913-P T-1

Fivaz/Romines: Totally carved piece including the beard by artist nicknamed “Tall Ear.” Appears to have been carved on well circulated coin, with graver, chisel and knife. Beard has some “pushed metal” effect. Fine vertical lines in hatband and tall ear on the subject. Beard rather scraggly. Scratch across bison’s head on reverse. Reverse rotated about 15° (common on this issue).
Lot 56 – Bo’s Brother Wearing WWI Helmet

“Bo” Hughes Classic: Above Average 1919 Buffalo 5¢
Romines/Fivaz: This classic carving by George Washington “Bo” Hughes is signed “GWH” on the neck. His brother, who was killed in WWI, was one of Bo’s favorite carving subjects. Very nice pushed metal ear and helmet brim, and interestingly, 1919 was probably the year Bo’s brother died from his wounds.

Lot 57 – Indian Chief

“Bo” Hughes Classic: AboveAveNo Date-D F Buffalo 5¢
Farnsworth/Kraljevich: The subject of his classic carving by George Washington “Bo” Hughes is another of his favorites. The original facial profile (eye, nose and mouth) is unaltered. Each individual feature on the chief’s headress was carved. Field is dressed with “LIBERTY” remaining.

Lot 58 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

“The Traveler” Classic: Average No Date F Buffalo 5¢
Farnsworth/Kraljevich: One of a series of coins by the artist nicknamed “The Traveler” (See BoTales 2005 #2) It is also a plate coin found on page 40 of Hobo Nickels by Delma K. Romines. Entire coin was carved except for the punched beard. Date “1933” carved on the coin below the neck.

Lot 59 – 10 Hobo the Bum Fortune Teller Cards

Lot 60 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: AboveAve/Ave(H) 1913-P T-2 VF/F
Fivaz/Alpert: A nice eye appealing carving by an unknown artist. Subject has nicely carved hat, with raised brim and bow on hatband. Partial ear well back on head and unaltered profile. Neat beard, hair, moustache and hair on forehead. Field has been well dressed with “LIBERTY” remaining. Feathers and braid still faintly visible. No collar.

Lot 61 – Clown

“Bo” Hughes Classic: Average/Average(L) 1923-P XF
Fivaz/Alpert: This is a classic carving by George Washington “Bo” Hughes. The clown is wearing a derby and has the typical clown face paint. Most likely carved after Bo’s hand injury in 1957. The coin was probably kept in a tobacco pouch to give it its orange toned color. Bulbous nose, large ear, straight hair and raised-line collar. Nice eye appeal.
Lot 62 – Indian Chief

“Bo” Hughes Classic: Average/Ave(H) 1913-P T-1 XF/AU
Fivaz/Alpert: Another classic carving by George Washington “Bo” Hughes, again probably done after his 1957 hand injury. The Indian has a nicely-carved feathered headdress which covers the entire left side of the coin. Again, probably a “tobacco pouch” coin. Brick-like head band on forehead. Profile unaltered.

Lot 63 – Bulk Lot of 11 Modern Hobo Nickels

John Dorusa and Frank Brazzell Modern Carvings
Bulk Lot of 11 modern hobo nickels by two deceased carvers. The first two on the top left are by John Dorusa and the remaining nine are by Frank Brazzell. No OHNS QD papers.

Lot 64 – Bearded Man Wearing Fedora

Don Wolfe Modern: Superior 1930-S VF/F

Lot 65 – John L. Sullivan

Billzach Modern: Superior No Date-P VG

Lot 66 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Arthur Hutchinson Modern: Superior 1936-D VG/G

Lot 67 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Cinco de Arturo Modern: Superior 1936-P F/VF
Lot 68 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat/Walking Hobo

Owen Covert Modern: Superior 1936-P Buffalo 5¢

Lot 69 – Lot of 6 Modern Hobo Nickels

John Dorusa and Frank Brazzell Modern Carvings
Bulk Lot of 6 modern hobo nickels by two deceased carvers. The clown, owl, pheasant and okapi are by John Dorusa and the rabbi and man wearing hat are by Frank Brazzell. The Dorusa carvings are all signed “JD.” The rabbi is signed “FB.” No QD papers.

Lot 70 – DONATION Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Mike Branham Modern: Superior/AboveAve(H) 1935-P F
Fivaz/Alpert: A high relief carving with a deep concave field by contemporary artist Mike Branham. “LIBERTY” removed from field. Zigzag reeding on edge. The subject’s hat has a very wide band with a bow. The ear is well formed and prominent. The profile and eye have been altered. Entire field has been dressed and the artist has signed it on the reverse.

Lot 71 – DONATION Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Mike Branham Modern: Superior(L) 1940-S 5¢ F
Fivaz/Alpert: This modern carving by Mike Braham is carved upside down on a 1940-S Jefferson nickel and has a darkened dressed background. The subject hat has a low crown, hatband and bow. Long hair covers the ear. Long, broad moustache. Altered profile, eye and mouth. Signed on reverse. Nice eye appeal. Zigzag reeding on edge.

Lot 72 – Lady Wearing Hat

Mike Branham Modern: AboveAve(H)/Superior(L) 1958-D Jefferson 5¢ F/VG
Fivaz/Alpert: This modern carving, also on a Jefferson nickel, depicts a woman, facing left with long curly hair and a wide brimmed hat with a flower on it and another below the jaw. Altered profile. Field dressed to create a cameo effect. Signed on reverse. Zigzag reeding on edge.

Lot 73 – Hummingbird and Flower

Mike Branham Modern: Superior 1948 5¢ F/VG
Fivaz/Alpert: Again, a modern carving on a Jefferson nickel, this one an intricate cut-out, depicting a hummingbird and floral scene. High relief. Zigzag reeding on edge. Signed on reverse. Suitable for a necklace.
Lot 74 – Bearded Man with Nude Woman on Head

Mike Branham Modern: Superior(L)/AboveAve(H) 1936-S Buffalo 5¢ F/VG

Fivaz/Alpert: Copy of an old hobo design pictured on page 4 of the Hobo Nickel Guidebook by Stephen F. Alpert. Subject is a bearded man (no hat, large ear) with a nude figure creating a portion of the profile. Deep concave field. Zigzag reeded edge. Signed on Buffalo.

Lot 75 – Five Faces/Four Faces

Bob Shamey Modern: AboveAve/AboveAve(H) 1936-P VF

Fivaz/Alpert: Creativity is the name of the game on this modern two-sided carving by Bob Shamey with five faces carved onto the head of the Indian on the obverse and four faces carved onto the Buffalo reverse. A very interesting and novel carving. Signed “Shamey 211 9-09” on edge.

Lot 76 – Alien

Bob Shamey Modern: Superior(L)/Superior 1928-P XF

Fivaz/Alpert: Modern carver (and miniaturist) Bob Shamey of Pennsylvania saw this creature in a dream one night and immediately carved the coin the next morning. It depicts the triangular head of an alien with two shooting stars to the left and a landing spacecraft to the right. Signed on the edge “Shamey #117 12-05.” Smooth concave field.

Lot 77 – Three Faces

Bo Shamey Modern: Superior 1913-P T-1 AU

Fivaz/Alpert: A very interesting and unique carving by Bob Shamey, this showing three faces on the Indian obverse with the center character sticking his tongue out. Very nice detail on all 3 faces (2 in profile) with a gold inlaid headband on the head on the left. Concave smooth field. Signed “Shamey #193 6-08” on edge.

Lot 78 – Eskimo

Bob Shamey Modern: Superior 1936-P F/VF

Fivaz/Alpert: A handsome carving of an Eskimo (full frontal view), wrapped in a fur-lined parka. Exceptional detail and use of space. Date remains as does “LIBERTY.” Field nicely dressed. Nice smooth concave field. Signed “Shamey #165 12-06” on edge. Great eye appeal on this high-relief carving.

Lot 79 – Curly-Haired Woman

“Bo” Hughes Classic: Average/Average(H) No Date VG

Fivaz/Alpert: This classic carving, both carved (profile–eye, nose, mouth) and punched (hair) was done by George Washington “Bo” Hughes after his 1957 hand injury. Heavy crescent punches from the hair. Bowtie in hair (above and behind the simple oval ear). Profile altered to woman. Eye altered with fine eyelashes. Coin is dark.
Lot 80 – Bearded Man Wearing Cap

“Bo” Hughes Classic: Average(L)/Average 1936-S VG
Fivaz/Alpert: An original (post 1957) work by George Washington “Bo” Hughes is probably of a lumberjack wearing a knit cap. Heavy curly beard/hair punched. Hat detail, ear, and collar done with a mechanical implement. Altered profile. Oval ear. Coin toned a bit dark. Signed to the right of date “GH.”

Lot 81 – Curly Haired Man Wearing Cap

“Bo” Hughes Classic: Average 1934-P VG
Fivaz/Alpert: Another classic work by George Washington “Bo” Hughes. Hat may be meant to be a turtle shell as it is heavily segmented. Curly (punched) hair and sideburns. Altered profile. Ear is indistinct, between hair and sideburns. No beard. Coin lightly etched after carving. Made after Bo’s 1957 injury.

Lot 82 – Bearded Man Wearing Cap

“Bo” Hughes Classic: Average/Ave(L) 1935-P F/G/VG

Lot 83 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

“Bo” Hughes Classic: AboveAve/AboveAve(L) 1925-P G
Fivaz/Alpert: A pre-hand injury totally carved work by George Washington “Bo” Hughes. Subject was probably an Amish man as he has a beard but no moustache. Long hair/beard lines confirm that this is by “Bo.” Field nicely dressed. Raised straight hat brim; no hatband. Profile unaltered. Oval ear.

Lot 84 – Indian Chief

Larry Foster Modern: Superior(L) 1936-P XF
Fivaz/Alpert: This modern carving by new artist Larry Foster of Kentucky is similar to several carved classics by “Bo,” an Indian chief with a feathered headdress. The artist advises that it has a 2.5mm, .05 point genuine diamond, SI2 clarity, G/H color and a red and green enamel headband with 24k gold accents. Signed “LF 09” in gold on edge.

Lot 85 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Larry Foster Modern: Superior/Superior(L) 1936-P XF/VF
Fivaz/Alpert: A nicely detailed carving of a bearded (punched) man wearing a hat which has stippled crown, vertically-lined hatband and horizontally lined bow. Small ear. Altered profile to resemble a Bo-type nose. High winged collar. Profile and eye are altered. Nicely dressed field. Signed “LF” on reverse between two rear legs of buffalo.
Lot 86 – DONATION Stephen Hawking

Adam Leech Modern: Superior/Superior (L) 1942-P VF/ XF
Fivaz/Alpert: Nice portrait of physicist Stephen Hawking seated in a wheelchair carved on a 1942-P Jefferson silver nickel. Artist has altered “IN GOD” to “HAWKING.” Signed on the reverse “LEECH 62.”

Lot 87 – DONATION “Lead Belly”

Adam Leech Modern: Superior/Superior (L) 1949-P VG/G
Fivaz/Alpert: The subject of this coin carving by modern artist Adam Leech of Colorado is American folk and blues musician and songwriter Huddie Leadbetter, nicknamed Lead Belly. On his lap is his 12-string guitar. Great carving detail. “1888” and “LEAD BELLY” engraved in field. Lead Belly was born in 1888 and died in 1949 (date of host coin). Signed “56 LEECH” on reverse.

Lot 88 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Average (H) No Date Buffalo 5¢ VF/F
Fivaz/Alpert: This classic carving has subject with a small ear, altered profile (dent for bridge of nose), and hair/beard/moustache created with what may have been a knurling tool. Same for zigzag wriggle cut field behind and over the head. Small punch for eye under eyebrow. Lined hat with plain band. Lined collar and coat (braid still visible).

Lot 89 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Average 1913-P T-2 VF/F
Fivaz/Alpert: Classic carving of typical hobo nickel subject, a bearded man wearing a hat by an unknown artist. Punched beard, moustache and eyebrow. Profile unaltered. Broadly chiseled field and neck; creates a small head effect with the small hat. Faint small ear. No hatband or collar.

Lot 90 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Average (H)/Average 1936-D VG/G
Fivaz/Alpert: The subject has a minimally altered profile with a “V” cut at bridge of nose. Very lightly defined ear amid punched hair, beard and moustache. Hat has hatband and bow. Winged collar. Field dressed all around subject, possibly with a knife. LIBERTY removed. Obverse has an errant thin scratch, diagonally from upper lip, through ear, to rear of hat dome.

Lot 91 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Average No Date-P VF/XF
Fivaz/Alpert: The most noticeable feature of this classic carving is the absolutely full beard, covering the subject’s cheek and all the way down the neck. No visible ear and unaltered profile. The appliqué technique was used where a blob of solder on the shoulder covers the whole area (including date) and some solder was used to create the raised-metal hat brim. Small bow on crown of hat. Field dressed behind neck but feathers still faintly visible. High relief portrait.
Lot 92 – DONATION Clown

Amy Armstrong Modern: Superior 1937-P XF/AU
Fivaz/Alpert: This is a superb modern carving by Amy Armstrong. It depicts a clown (full face) with a small hat, big smile with a copper tongue and bulbous 24k gold nose. Broad typical clown collar. Field around figure recessed and stippled with an outer ring (LIBERTY remaining). Entire obverse has an extremely-finely pitted matte luster finish. Signed on the edge “AA68.” Exceptionally nice eye appeal.

Lot 93 – Civil War Generals

Billzach Modern: Superior 2 oz. .999 Silver Round
DelFavero/Alpert: This fantastic 2-sided carving by Billzach (Bill Jameson) shows Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee on opposing sides of the large (1¾”) silver round. Terrific detail on the busts of Grant and Lee. Great eye appeal. Signed with a “Z” and numbered 196.

Lot 94 – Roman Gladiator/Eagle

Joe Paonessa Modern: Superior 2 oz. .999 Silver Round
DelFavero/Alpert: An impressive 2-sided high-relief work by modern artist Joe Paonessa. Gladiator image on the obverse and engraved at the bottom SPQR (The Senate and the People of Rome). An Eagle is engraved on the reverse with MMIII (2003) at the bottom. Excellent workmanship with lustrous fields (raised areas frosted (sand-blasted). Edge reeded except in area where signed (“JP”).

Lot 95 – Indian Wearing Hat/Buffalo Head

Dick Sheehan Modern: Superior 2 oz. .999 Silver Round
DelFavero/Alpert: Carved in 2004, this Dick Sheehan 2-sided carving depicts an Indian on the obverse with a feather in his hat and hair that leads into a braid. The reverse shows a full head and partial shoulder of a buffalo. Plain edge. Signed “DS 2004” on border below buffalo. Nice floral border around obverse; carved date 1913. Very nice details.

Lot 96 – Amish Man/Buffalo

Ron Landis Modern: Superior 2 oz. .999 Silver Round
DelFavero/Alpert: This deep relief carving with deep concave obverse field by modern master Ron Landis. Obverse depicts an Amish Man wearing a very detailed straw hat. Finely detailed beard and ear. Alterations on reverse include “FIVE CENTS” and legends. Signed “RL 03 #205.” Tremendous eye appeal.

Lot 97 – JFK Memorial Tribute

Jim Olivencia Modern: Superior 1928-P Buffalo 5¢ F/VF
DelFavero/Alpert: This modern carving depicts John John’s salute to his father outside St. Matthew’s Cathedral, after the Kennedy family emerged from the church following the funeral of President John F. Kennedy on November 25, 1963. Also depicted is JFK’s face and a U.S. flag. Great engraving skill on this very detailed coin. Three dimensional illusion. Partial border with LIBERTY and 7 stars around right. Recessed field. Date 1928 appears hand-carved.
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**Hobo Tokens Available**

2009, 2008 and 2007 tokens are available for purchase by OHNS members. The price remains at $27.50 per set (copper and silver) or $20 for the silver and $15 for the copper plus postage of $1.50. As BoTales went to press, no information on 2010 tokens was available. Our previous supplier went out of business. We still hope to have 2010 tokens available for sale at the FUN Show. Please check the OHNS website for any updates.

**2009**

**2008**

**2007**

**Please submit your order to:** Don Haley
5929 Wedgewood Village Circle, Lake Worth, Florida 33463-7368. Don's email address is donhaley@aol.com. Don also has a few 2005 token sets and 2002 copper tokens.

**2005**

**2002**

Don also has OHNS Pinback Buttons for sale postage paid at $5.00 each or $7.50 for the pair.
FUN 2010 Auction Catalogue ~ MAIL BID SHEET ~ OHNS Members ONLY!
To be Received NO LATER than January 5, 2010

OHNS Member#:__________ Name:_____________________________________ Phone#:___________________
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Mail to: Stephen P. Alpert, PO Box 335441, North Las Vegas, NV 89033-5441 Voice & FAX: 702-473-9071
Please call first so FAX machine can be turned on! Email bids to quadra1@cox.net.

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The Original Hobo Nickel Society, Inc.

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

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___ 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

If your coin already has original QD papers and is being submitted for the next annual OHNS auction then please send it directly to Steve Alpert because it does not need renewed QD processing.

Bill Fivaz, PO Box 888660, Dunwoody, GA 30356-0660  Steve Alpert, PO Box 335441, North Las Vegas, NV 89033-5441

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 of these forms 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 ...or... ___ placed in the next annual OHNS auction. ← Crucial Information!

Owner’s Signature_________________  OHNS#_________  Date__________

Owner’s value of coin (necessary for insurance)... $_________ ← Must Be Provided!

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_________  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

BoTales
Some Recent eBay & Goldberg Pre Long Beach Sales of Hobo Nickels

Unknown $195
Bob Shamey $468
Unknown $243
Eric Truitt $81
“Needle Ear” $639

Amy Armstrong $225
Unknown 2-sided carving $434
John Hughey $154
“Rough Beard” $187

“Telephone Ear” $53
Steve Cox $199
Unknown $255
Jim Stewart $108
“Wild Man” $54

Billzach $208
“Peanut Ear” $92
Bob Shamey $320
Unknown $72
Howard Thomas $67

Unknown $198
Unknown $134
Goldberg Unknown $127
Goldberg Unknown $109
Goldberg Unknown $138

Goldberg Unknown $75
Goldberg “Bo” $460
Goldberg “Bo” $483
Goldberg “Bo” $460
Goldberg Unknown $460
Story Contest Deadline Extended, Stakes Upped

Your BoTales editor and the OHNS Board have decided to continue into 2010 the contest where we want you to share with us your best ever or unusual find of a hobo nickel or your favorite hobo nickel (or hobo type carving).

What you need to do is send a photo of the hobo nickel to the BoTales editor along with a short story (a paragraph or two is enough) describing why the hobo nickel is your favorite or how you made your great find. Maybe you found a superior classic hobo nickel on eBay with a $25 Buy It Now. Maybe you found a hobo nickel at a flea market mixed in with some tokens and junk coins. Maybe that favorite hobo nickel was given to you by your father, grandfather, or uncle. Maybe that hobo nickel is special for some other reason like a fond memory (see Joe Goode’s “At the Corner” on page 4 of the Fall 2009 issue of BoTales). Whatever the case, we want to hear your story. We’ll publish your story and picture of your special nickel in a future issue of BoTales.

At the end of 2010, the OHNS Board will judge the entries and award a silver medal, engraved with your name on it, for the best story along with two year’s paid dues to any regular, associate or junior OHNS member. You can also apply the equivalent of two years paid dues toward a life membership. If a life member wins, they will only receive the engraved medal. By the way, all stories received in 2009 will be considered for judging along with those received in 2010.

Curly and Earl, the Lowdown on Lot 50
By Stephen Cox LM53

Curly worked as a lumberjack in the great northwest near the Canadian border. With the recession of 2009, the bottom fell out of the lumber market and like so many others, Curly lost his job.

Unable to make ends meet with odd jobs, Curly hopped a boxcar headed south. Late one night, as the train rumbled down the tracks, Curly saw a bright glow in the distant skyline. The closer he got the brighter the glow, until finally over the last rise appeared the bright lights of Las Vegas…..

Curly remembered being told of distant relatives who lived in this SIN CITY…. Soon after his arrival, he met up with his long lost fifth cousin, Earl. Together, they pulled an all nighter, honking the tables and one-arm bandits from The Famous Las Vegas Strip to Glitter Gulch. It was at the Silver Slipper Casino with Cookie Jar and the Krumbs playing in the lounge, the boys ran out of LUCK and MONEY…..

Having run up a tab, they slipped out the back and much to their delight, there was an east bound train slowly rolling down the tracks.

Earl had heard of a FUN Show in Florida. Sounded good to Curly. So, they hopped the train as a LOT Donation for the 2010 OHNS auction.

New Coffee Table Book

OHNS member and hobo nickel craver Owen Covert has created a hard cover coffee table book of his carvings. Photographs are all in color. If you are interested, you can contact Owen at spectictankhank@yahoo.com.

Eleven Years of Hobo Souvenirs

OHNS member Kimzie “Spike” Cowart has created a special “Hobo Medical Exam” souvenir for each and every member attending the OHNS Annual Meeting. This year, his eleventh year of doing this, he was assisted by two of his grandchildren in putting together this special remembrance.

John Dorusa Elongate Door Prizes

Members Ray Dillard and Ralph Winter are combining forces to provide four John Dorusa/2010 FUN Show elongated tokens as door prizes for the OHNS Annual Meeting. Everyone attending will be in the drawing.

Old BoTales Issues & Auction Catalogs

Besides selling the OHNS hobo tokens and pinback buttons, Don Haley also has some of back issues of BoTales for sale ($3.50/regular issue; $4.50/Auction catalogs postage paid). Get a hold of Don to find out what he has and additional postage for ten or more issues of BoTales. The contact information for Don is found on page 22.
Applying for a 2010 ANA Summer Seminar OHNS Scholarship

To apply for an OHNS Scholarship to the American Numismatic Association (ANA) Summer Seminar sessions in Colorado Springs, one is required to have been an OHNS member for at least three years and not be in arrears on dues.

Additionally, applicants must submit in writing (not email) a short essay on why they should receive a scholarship and what course they would be interested in taking. Applicants can find the “Pre-Registration Form 2010” at the ANA website: www.money.org.

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. Please also provide both your ANA (if applicable) and OHNS member numbers. 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, 2009.

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 College, and possibly some extra for travel expenses.

Please understand that being fully qualified and having successfully applied does not guarantee that you will be awarded a scholarship.

Finally, if an applicant wins a scholarship ANA requires that they be an ANA member to attend the seminar. ANA dues are $28 a year with online delivery of The Numismatist or $46 a year with monthly mail delivery of the magazine. See www.money.org for details.

HOBO DAYS: The time to say goodbye has come for well-known 'hobo' couple

By Megan VerHelst, Editor, Britt News-Tribune

Now that the Hobo Convention is over and everyone has either gone home or moved on, everyone takes solace in knowing they will see their traveling friends again at next year's convention.

But not everyone will be making the return trip to Britt next year.

Dennis and Jo LeCount—or Hobo Santa and Mama Jo, as they are more commonly known to both hobos and the community of Britt—have decided it's time to hang up their walking sticks and settle into their new home in Homosassas, Florida.

“Life has many chapters, and we are starting a new chapter,” Mama Jo said, “but we're going to miss Britt.”

Mama Jo has been attending the Hobo Convention since 1998, when she was asked to come by several hobos that still attend the convention today, including Frog, Tuck, New York Slim, Iowegian and Dogman Tony.

At the time, Mama Jo was working as a social worker in Kansas City. She worked with the homeless and when hobos came through and set up camp, she often took them clothes and food. During her time as a social worker, she said she experienced first hand the lives of hobos and the experiences they went through.

It was in Kansas City she met those who invited her to attend Hobo Days.

When she decided to attend her first Hobo Convention, she said the men who asked her to come were shocked when she showed up.

“They invite thousands of people to come, but they rarely ever show up,” she said. “When I first came here, they wanted to put me up for queen, but I told them they treat me like a queen in Kansas City and I don't need the title.”

Mama Jo recalls the people she met during her first trip to the Hobo Convention, including hobos like Iowa Blackie.

“The first time I came, I didn't know anything,” Mama Jo said. “I met a man who asked me if I would look after a bag for him. It was Iowa Blackie.”

After the initial meeting, Mama Jo said she and Iowa Blackie talked and got to know one another. The following year, she saw him again and knew there was a connection.

“He welcomed me into Britt,” she said. “It's about the connections you make before you really know anyone.”

Mama Jo continued to attend the convention every year and was eventually named queen in 2003. She and Hobo Santa, her husband of 48 years, continued to travel around the country, attending various other hobo gatherings.

“As a queen, he has been my 100 percent support,” Mama Jo said of her husband. “If I need anything done, he's there.”

During their years of attending Hobo Days in Britt and other gatherings, Mama Jo said she has learned so much about the hobo culture and heritage. Everything from their history to their music to their stories drew her in.

“I got hooked,” she said. “I became an addict.”

Through her work with the homeless, Mama Jo said the biggest thing she learned was the difference between hobo and homeless. She said they are two entirely different cultures.

11 years later, Mama Jo said it's time to get back to helping others. Although they may be back someday, she has already made plans to volunteer her time when she gets home to Florida.

She said one of the most important things she has learned is the humility of hobos as a culture. She said she has also learned through her hobo friends how deceiving appearances can be, and she will never forget all of the good people she met during her years in Britt.

“Some people have trouble looking past the exterior, but I look for the good in everybody,” Mama Jo said. “Hobos are truly beautiful people.”

The previous article appeared Friday August 13 2009 in the Britt News-Tribune and is being reprinted with the permission of the author and the Britt News-Tribune.
23 Skidoo
By Carol Bastable RM576

Last BoTales issue (Fall 2009) an interesting postcard appeared in the Bo Tales newsletter, but how many people knew the hidden story behind it? The card was on page nine and purely decorative as no caption appeared with it. The picture postcard was of a hobo riding in a hammock strapped to the bottom of a boxcar. A number 23 boxcar to be exact and that is precisely where the secret lies (Card is also pictured on page 8 of this issue – part of Lot 15).

The origins take us to New York City, at the heart of the city in Times Square. There was a place on a certain side of the square where some men would congregate. The reason for this communing was purely opportunistic on their part.

As is the case in many large cities, there are areas where wind is channeled and so strong that it creates a wind tunnel. These men would ogle women with their dresses being blown up and about. The policemen, being proper and surely sympathetic to the women, would run these men off. The story is that they would tell them to skidoo, a word similar to skedaddle or scram. Well the building number where this all took place was of course number 23!

Twenty three skidoo caught on and became a mainstream phrase in the early part of the 20th century. Postcard manufacturers saw a market for the phrase in all sorts of comic contexts. Many cards popped up with bums or hoboes and some showing pretty women in contrast to these “less desirable” men. Even traveling salespeople were pictured on number 23 trains. One card was of a certificate from the Down and Out Club and bore the number 23 and skidoo on it.

Another design produced was of an old Tin Lizzy taxi cab and in very small print on the cab was 23 skidoo.

Sales of these cards began to decline for the manufacturers and they had to come up with a new slant. The solution was a lemon! Lemons are the sourest of all fruit and undesirable unless one has sugar to sweeten them. One of the original phrases read something like this: “Hand you now a LEMON if you take it and turn it upside down.” The letters were to be interpreted as NOW37. With a little imagination the L and the E could be transformed into numbers. Thirty seven became intermingled with 23 and skidoo. Of course nowadays lemon is synonymous with a car that cannot be successfully repaired after countless trials.

To further increase the puzzle or secret code, the numbers 411144 were also printed on buildings and license plates pictured on postcards. The legend is that the numbers can be added or subtracted to either an outcome of 23 or 37. The solution to the puzzle for 37 is as follows:

\[
41 - 11 = 30, \quad 30 - 1 = 29, \quad 29 + 4 + 4 = 37
\]

The puzzle solution for 23 is a little harder and may require a member of OHNS to play around with. Puzzle answers submitted to the editor will be published in the Spring 2010 issue of BoTales.

Twenty three skidoo is a reference for people on the move, starting with its origins of police moving people off in Times Square. Pictured on many of these postcards are the hoboes, salesmen, or people in taxis and all on the go. There is however a dual reference to some of these people as being undesirable. In Times Square those men could be considered by some as lecherous. Hoboes are of course homeless and transient while traveling salesmen are an unwanted interruption at home. The bums surely would be undesirable to the more affluent well dressed pretty women and shooed on their way. Giving people the 23 skidoo is really a way of calling them undesirable or giving them the boot.