The Original Hobo Nickel Society’s
19th Mail and Floor Bid Auction
Saturday, January 8, 2011
10:00 AM
OHNS Membership Meeting
F.U.N. Convention
in
Tampa, Florida
Tampa Convention Center, 333 South Franklin Street
BoTales Banner Banter and Editor’s Remarks

The superior classic hobo nickel on the left side of the front cover banner is by the carver nicknamed “Schnozz” (see the Spring 2007 BoTales, Volume 16, #1). This particular example is Lot 73 of Auction 19 and was, for many years, part of the ANA travel exhibit of hobo nickels.

The superior contemporary carving on the right side of the front page banner is by OHNS member Stephen Cox of Las Vegas, Nevada. This beautiful rendering depicts a hippopotamus with mouth agape about to swallow a gold (inlaid) nugget. This dramatic piece is Lot 22 in Auction 19.

I want to thank Verne “V-Dubya” Walrafen for creating the front page banner and the collage of hobo nickels (from Auction 19) and Bo’s tools that also appear on the front cover. “V-Dubya also cleaned up the Lot photos that appear in the catalog. I truly appreciate all he does to help make BoTales a quality publication.

Now I’d like to share a few comments about the Auction 19 Lot descriptions. Unless otherwise noted, each lot carving is on a Buffalo nickel. The date, if known, is noted (ND = No Date). An estimate of the quality of the nickel itself (G, VG, F, XF, etc.) is also noted. The quality of the carving itself is noted (Superior, Above Average, Average, etc.). If there is a disagreement by the authenticators, both opinions are listed [ex. Above Average/Average(H)]. The order of listing is in the same order as the authenticators’ names are listed. The artist, if known, is listed as is whether the carving is a classic (old original) or modern (carved since 1980). If you have any additional questions about any of the lots, please contact me (see page 3). If you wish to see color photos of all the postcards (Lots 29, 60, 61, 62 and 89) please email me at hobobazoo@gmail.com. I also would like to thank in advance those embers who donated lots to Auction 19 – Amy Armstrong, Gail Baker, Dave Boulay, and Michael Branham.

Are you aware you need to pay your 2011 dues before being eligible to bid in Auction 19? Even if you aren’t bidding in Auction 19, please send your 2011 dues payment NOW to help OHNS keep costs down.

For those of you planning on being at the OHNS Annual Meeting and Auction on January 8th, member Kimzie “Spike” Cowart again has a special hobo related gift for everyone in attendance. This will be the 12th consecutive year Kimzie has given out a special hobo memento.

At the OHNS Annual Meeting it is my honor to hand out OHNS Literary Tokens and certificates to those members who contributed stories for BoTales during the previous year. By the way, you will still receive your token even if you can’t attend the annual meeting in person. The 2010 recipients of the silver Literary Token are Carol Bastable, Dave Boulay, Wayne Stafford and Verne Walrafen. For the very first time, at the 2011 OHNS Annual Meeting I will also be awarding some OHNS copper Literary Tokens. These are being awarded to those persons who have consistently contributed (sent articles and items from other publications that are hobo or hobo nickel related or have helped your editor put out a quality publication for you our members). Since I have not awarded these previously, some recipients are getting these for contributions they may have made in 2008, 2009 as well as 2010. The members receiving this award at the upcoming meeting will be Kimzie Cowart, Stephen Alpert, Bill Fivaz, Don Haley, Sandy Pearl and Verne Walrafen.

New members Since BoTales 2010 #3

| RM-1145 | Andrew Gonzales | OH |
| RM-1146 | Theodore E. Thomas | IL |
| RM-1147 | Curtis B. Nordine | MI |
| RM-1148 | Christopher D. Lacken | OH |
| RM-1149 | Robert B. Utley | KY |
| RM-1150 | Steve Lindsay | NE |
| RM-1151 | Mason’s Mint | WA |

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This schedule is dependent on the timely submission of articles and pictures for each issue. Please submit your articles as soon as you can and as often as you would like so this Editor has them to publish. Send your material to OHNS Editor – Ralph Winter.

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Hobo Tokens Available

2010 as well as 2009, 2008 and 2007 OHNS 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.

Please submit your order to: Don Haley
5929 Wedgewood Village Circle, Lake Worth, Florida 33463-7368. Don's email address is DonLHaley@aol.com. Don also has a few 2005 copper tokens ($15) and a few 1996 silver tokens ($20).

Don also has OHNS Pin-back Buttons (“I COLLECT HOBO NICKELS” & “MEMBER” “ORIGINAL HOBO NICKEL SOCIETY”) for sale postage paid at $5.00 each or $9.00 for the pair. Also available are 2011 OHNS Elongated “rolled” nickels for $6.50 postage paid or $10.50 for two nickels plus a bonus rolled one cent token. The 3rd printing Guidebooks are available at $28 postage paid and “The Hobo Nickel” slide show DVD/CD ROM is available for $10. Old issues of BoTales are also available for purchase. Contact Don for details on any of these items.
AUCTION MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Our 19th auction features many nice old classic hobo nickels as well as many Superior modern carvings. Also featured are many of the hobo nickels that were part of the ANA Traveling Exhibit of Hobo Nickels. And there are some historic carvings in the sale, especially the last carved nickel by “Bo” (one of the last of the old classic carvers) and the first nickel carving of Ron Landis (the first of the modern master carvers). The tools “Bo” used for his carvings at the end of his career are also in this auction.

Check out all the lots on our website www.hobonickels.org to see all the offerings in color. Those attending FUN can view the lots on Friday, and Saturday morning just before the auction, in the OHNS meeting and auction room. After the General Meeting, there will be a break, and then the auction will begin.

Our auctioneer will again be OHNS Honorary Life member Allen Cowart, son of OHNS member Kimzie “Spike” Cowart and owner of 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 3rd. 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
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quadra1@cox.net
702-473-9071

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BoTales 4 Winter 2010
OHNS Auction #19 Rules

Welcome to the nineteenth 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 3, 2011. 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 Derby

Unknown Classic: Above Average ND-P XF
Fivaz/Alpert: Nice classic carving by an unknown artist. Many fine parallel accent lines in hat and collar. Neatly carved hair, beard, mustache and eyebrow done with similar liner tool. Only a semblance of an ear. Minor alterations made to eye, nose and mouth. Nicely dressed field with LIBERTY removed.

Lot 2 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Above Average(H) ND-P VF
Fivaz/Alpert: A nice carving with a deeply recessed field (LIBERTY removed). Profile altered at top of nose. The features are expertly done, with vertical lines in the hatband, a nicely formed ear and a hint of a downward turned mouth. Nicely punched hair, beard, moustache and eyebrow. High collar and “V” coat lapel. This specimen had been exchanged by a hobo for a meal at a grocery/deli in Blue Island, Illinois (near a hobo jungle) somewhere between late teens to early 1940s.

Lot 3 – “Uncle Sam”

Keith Pedersen Modern: Above Average 1936-P Fine
Lot 4 – Hatless Man with Beard

Keith Pedersen Modern: Above Average 1929-P F/VF
Fivaz/Alpert: The subject on this modern carving by Keith Pedersen has a nice (large) ear, low on the head. Delicately-carved hair, neat beard and mustache. Bold curved collar. Nicely dressed smooth field at left. Squint lines behind eye and furrows on the brow. Nose unaltered. Signed “KP” reverse.

Lot 5 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Keith Pedersen Modern: Above Average ND G

Lot 6 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Keith Pedersen Modern: Ave/Above Ave 1937-P F/VG
Fivaz/Alpert: Modern carver Keith Pedersen has used a very small circular punch for the hair/beard, etc. creating a very dark appearance. Era is small and low on the head. Eye, nose, mouth all altered. Mouth open with two teeth visible. Beaded top line on collar; field stippled all around figure. Only LIBERTY and date have not been reworked. Signed “KP” on reverse.

Lot 7 – Woman

Alex Ptak Modern: Ave/Above Ave 1937-P XF/VF
Fivaz/Alpert: This modern carving by Alex Ptak is of a lady with a “poof” hairdo. No ear visible. Completely and strongly altered profile with deep set eye. Delicate mouth and jaw. No collar. Small red disk with hole in center set into eye. Field completely dressed with LIBERTY remaining and highlighted. Very light signature (A & P joined as is one letter) visible near rim on reverse. Nice overall eye appeal.

Lot 8 – Bald Man (“Bo”)

Owen Covert Modern: Superior 1936-P VG/G
Fivaz/Alpert: A modern carving, this one by Owen Covert, which is a copy of a self portrait by “Bo” as a n older man with bald head. Hair and beard are similar to the original as is the nose, but the ear is larger and Bo seldom used “squint lines” by the eye. All features nicely carved. Nice smooth dressed field behind and above the head. Signed “OC” on the reverse.

Lot 9 – Winged Buffalo

Owen Covert Modern: Above Average 1936-P XF/AU
Fivaz/Alpert: This modern reverse carving is nicely done and depicts the buffalo with wings added on the buffalo’s back. Head, neck and front leg have been accented. Signed “OC” on obverse under chin.
Lot 10 – Bearded Man Wearing Cap

O. Covert Modern: Superior/Above Ave(H) 1935-S F
Fivaz/Alpert: The hair/beard style on this modern carving by Owen Carving is in the style of “Bo,” as is the ear, although a bit large. Eye altered but nose and mouth unaltered. Hat brim goes forward only, suggesting a ball cap. Simple zigzag carved collar. Nicely dressed concave field with LIBERTY removed. Signed on reverse “OC.”

Lot 11 – Indian

Owen Covert Modern: Above Average 1937-S VF/VG
Fivaz/Alpert: This modern carving has eight feathers (including the two original feathers) radiating from the top of the Indian’s head. All very nicely done. Eye slightly altered but not the profile. No ear or collar. Signed “OC” on reverse.

Lot 12 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Owen Covert Modern: Superior 1937-P VF/F
Fivaz/Alpert: A very nice modern carving by Owen Covert of the typical hobo nickel subject. Short brim on hat (vertical striped hatband); large era, unaltered profile. Bear/hair are in style of Bo. Strongly sloping forehead. Nice double collar. Entire Field is stipple-dressed with LIBERTY removed. Nice eye appeal. Signed “OC” on reverse.

Lot 13 – Long Nosed Clown Wearing Hat

Ray Castro Modern: Superior 1927-P VG

Lot 14 – Lady Warrior

Ray Castro Modern: Superior 1936-P XF

Lot 15 – Lady Warrior with Winged Helmet

Ray Castro Modern: Superior 1937-P XF
Fivaz/Alpert: Another version of a warrior lady by modern carver Ray Castro, again with winged helmet. This representation has long hair flowing out. Altered profile, eye, mouth, etc. Eyebrow added; jaw line enhanced; vertically-striped collar. Field nicely dressed. Coin was antiqued after carving. Signed “RC” on reverse.
Lot 16 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Ray Castro Modern: Superior 1935-P XF/AU
Fivaz/Alpert: A very eye appealing modern carving by Ray Castro. The beard/hair are done in a nice flowing style. The hat is expertly carved and the eye and mouth are delicately altered. Very nice definition at bottom of beard. Ear lobe visible under hair. Antiqued surfaces. Nicely dressed field. “RC” on reverse.

Lot 17 – Beardless Man Wearing Cap

Ray Castro Modern: Superior 1935-P XF/VF
Fivaz/Alpert: A very interesting soft cap adorns this subject’s head on this modern carving by Ray Castro. Cap has a wrap around brim at front. Hair drops beneath cap and has a circular screw-top design at the bottom as a “hair holder.” Altered profile; nicely done mustache. Antiqued surface. Simple V collar. Nicely dressed field with LIBERTY removed. Signed “RC” on reverse.

Lot 18 – Japanese Geisha

Steve Cox Modern: Superior 1937-P VF
Fivaz/Alpert: A lovely portrait of a Japanese Geisha in ¾ view to the right. Modern carver Steve Cox has captured the essence of the Asian entertainer perfectly with delicate features and details. Circular border sets off the subject in a cameo effect. Date and ornamentation on the shoulder. Nice eye appeal. “SDC” signature is found on the coin’s edge.

Lot 19 – Sunfish and Crescent Moon Face

Steve Cox Modern: Above Ave/Above Ave(H) 1937-P XF/VF
Fivaz/Alpert: An unusual design graces this modern carving by Steve Cox. The subject matter includes a sunfish facing right and a crescent moon face facing left, sharing the profile. The fish has semi circular inlay of gold at the rim of the face. Very small “SDC” on the edge of the nickel.

Lot 20 – Moon Face

Steve Cox Modern: Above Average 1936-D G
Fivaz/Alpert: This Steve Cox modern carving subject is a full face moon with a smiling face covering almost the entire obverse of the nickel. The date and LIBERTY remain. Ornate border around the moon. Signed “SDC” on the edge.

Lot 21 – Dr. Frankenstein’s Monster

Steve Cox Modern: Superior 1937-P F/VG
Fivaz/Alpert: A superb modern full-face carving of Dr. Frankenstein’s monster by Steve Cox, complete with gold inlaid neck electrodes. Exquisite attention to detail in every respect. Stippled field and ornate border. A very eye appealing carving. Signed “SDC” on the edge of the coin.
Lot 22 – Hippo Head with Mouth Wide Open

Steve Cox Modern: Superior 1936-P VF
Fivaz/Alpert: A very unique and creative modern carving by Steve Cox. It’s a dramatic depiction of a hippopotamus head with mouth wide open and with tusks, teeth and tongue visible. The mouth is poised about to swallow a large (inlaid) gold nugget. Stippled field. Entire obverse altered except for date and LIBERTY. Circular ornate design around subject. Great eye appeal piece. Signed “SDC” on edge of nickel.

Lot 23 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Steve Cox Modern: Superior 1937-P XF/VG
Fivaz/Alpert: Another very creative modern carving by Steve Cox, this one of a bearded man wearing a fedora pulled down over his eyes. Hat also covers most of nose and ear. Expertly carved in great detail; altered mouth. Delicately carved hair, beard and mustache. Tall collar. Rope-like accent design surrounds the figure. Entire obverse altered except for date and LIBERTY. Very eye appealing. Signed “SDC” on the edge.

Lot 24 – Bearded Man with Soft Hat

Steve Cox Modern: Superior 1936-P XF/VF
Fivaz/Alpert: This modern carving by Steve Cox is of a mountain man shown in ¾ view to right. Very nicely carved hair and facial features. Entire obverse altered except for date and LIBERTY. Finely stippled background surrounded by an ornate ring border. Nice contrast and eye appeal. Signed “SDC” on edge.

Lot 25 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Steve Cox Modern: Superior 1936-P VG
Fivaz/Alpert: A very eye appealing modern carving by Steve Cox of the typical hobo nickel subject, a bearded man wearing a hat. The derby hatband is a gold inlay and the hair/beard and mustache are all very delicately done. Nice ear. Altered profile, especially the nose and thick lower lip. Cheek and chin have 5 o’clock shadow. Ornate ring border around subject. Signed “SDC” on the edge.

Lot 26 – Big-nosed Man Wearing Floppy Hat

Steve Cox Modern: Superior 1937-P G
Fivaz/Alpert: An amusing and extremely well done modern carving (caricature) by Steve Cox of a large eared, big nosed hillbilly with floppy hat. Large ear. Thin neck with Adam’s apple and bushy mustache. Entire obverse altered except for date and LIBERTY. Very eye appealing with ornate ring around the subject. Signed “SDC” on the edge.

Lot 27 – Balding Man with Long Nose

Steve Cox Modern: Superior 1937-S VF/F
Lot 28 – Man Wearing Hat & Indian

Modern Carvers: Average 1935-P VF/F & 1937-P XF
Fivaz/Alpert: This lot consists of two modern carvings. The first is by Alex Ptak and depicts a beardless man wearing a hat with a curved brim. Altered profile and eye. Obverse appears to have been acid etched creating a stippled texture. Signed “AP” on reverse. Second carving is by Keith Pedersen where he has accentuated and enhanced the details of the original Indian design. Gold band added as hair tie. Signed “KP” on reverse.

Lot 29 – 13 Hobo Postcards

Various Artists, Some Postmarked; Some Unused
Three of the thirteen are shown here. If you wish to see color photos of all thirteen postcards, please email BoTales editor Ralph Winter at hobobazoo@gmail.com.

Lot 30 – Hobo Nickel Stamp

Charles Madden
This lot consists of a commemorative “Hobo Nickel Stamp” designed and executed by U.S. Bureau of Engraving designer Charles Madden who taught at the 2000 ANA Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs. A very limited edition.

Lot 31 – African American Man

Unknown Classic: Average(High) 1936-P G
Alpert/DelFavero: This was the first nickel depicting a black man found by the long time collector and consigner of this example. Nicely sculpted nose and lips profile alteration. Hair and ear carved in low relief. Jaw line enhanced. No collar. Field unevenly dressed. Slight amendment to bison’s face on reverse.

Lot 32 – Unfinished Bearded Man Wearing Derby

“Bo” Hughes Classic: Average/Above Ave(H) 1913-P Type 1 XF/AU
Alpert/DelFavero: This unfinished standard design carving was found in George Washington “Bo” Hughes's carving bench along with his tools, after he went missing in the early 1980s. Hat and ear are almost complete, as is altered nose profile. Hair just begun at chin and mustache. Preliminary dressed field and neck. Not known if this had been left by the carver from his pre-injury days or if he had been working on it just before he went missing.
Lot 33 – Bo’s Carving Tools

George Washington “Bo” Hughes Carving Tools
Tools left by Bo in a Florida hobo jungle early in 1982 and recovered by Willard Chisolm along with the previous unfinished carving (Lot 32).

Lot 34 – Bo’s “Ivanhoe” Book

“Ivanhoe,” a favorite book of Bo’s, was also recovered by Bo’s friend Willard Chisolm along with Bo’s tools in early 1982 in a hobo jungle in Florida.

Lot 35 – Bearded Man Wearing Checkered Hat

“Bo” Hughes Classic: Ave/Below Ave 1924-P G
DelFavero/Fivaz: Although Bo made this carving after his hand injury in 1957, his graver work in front of forehead to bottom of nose is still quite good. Use of punches and broad tipped gravers is evident. Use of a knurling tool is present throughout all graved lines, mainly on turtle shell hat design. Altered profile. Coin is very dark.

Lot 36 – Bearded (Amish) Man Wearing Hat

“Bo” Hughes Classic: Average(L)/Average 1936-D G
DelFavero/Fivaz: It appears the subject may be an Amish man (no mustache, but bearded, non-derby type of hat). Everything on this coin is consistent with post 1957 work by Bo, even down to the orange toned color of the coin (possibly kept in an old tobacco pouch).

Lot 37 – Indian Chief

“Bo” Hughes Classic: Average(L)/Average 1936-D VG
DelFavero/Fivaz: Another post injury carving by George Washington “Bo” Hughes of one of Bo’s favorite subjects. Profile unaltered. Full headdress added using heavy knurled graver lines. Dark from storage most likely in a tobacco pouch.

Lot 38 – Bearded Hatless Man

Probable “Bo” Classic: Above Ave/Ave(H) 1914-P G
DelFavero/Fivaz: A very nice post injury carving by Bo (DelFavero). Nice work in the field, lines to create hair and knurled graver lines to form collar and ear. A carving with much charm and lightly toned. While the nose is typical Bo style, because of the different hair, the 2nd examiner (Fivaz) cannot say with certainty that this carving was done by Bo. However, the consignor purchased this nickel indirectly from Del Romines who told the previous owner the carving was by “Bo” Hughes.
Lot 39 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Above Ave(L)/Above Ave 1934-P F
DelFavero/Fivaz: A nice representation of a typical subject by an unknown artist who used fine lines over a totally reworked coin (only the eye and nostril are unchanged) to make up the hair and beard. Ear is very nicely formed. Nice clean field and neck dressing with no collar. Plain hat with hatband. Subject is smoking a “fag” (cigarette).

Lot 40 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Ave(H)/Above Ave 19xx-P AU/XF
DelFavero/Fivaz: Subject has a lot of character – apple cheeks, smiling mouth and furrowed brow. Altered profile/eye. Ear set low on head. Plain hat crown with hatband and bow. Field quite nicely dressed. Lots of detail on the subject executed by an unknown carver.

Lot 41 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Ave(Ave(L)) 1914-D XF
DelFavero/Fivaz: An original carving by an unknown artist on a semi-key date nickel. Long sweeping, bold strokes used for hair and beard. Hat well done with hatband and bow. Hat brim is wraparound style. Ethnically altered profile. Good overall eye appeal.

Lot 42 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Average/Ave(H) 1925-S VG/F
DelFavero/Fivaz: A nicely cleaned field is the backdrop for this standard hobo nickel by an unknown craver. All details are hand engraved. Hat has wide hatband and bow. Long hat brim. Unaltered profile. Rather light hair, beard and mustache. Ear is somewhat rounded like a cauliflower ear. “V” lapel collar. A very eye appealing carving. Nickel is lightly toned.

Lot 43 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Above Ave(H)/Above Ave ND-P F/XF
DelFavero/Fivaz: A great deal of chisel work was done on this original carving by an unknown artist. Fine lines in the hat crown (a very thin hatband with bow) and wrap around hat brim. Altered profile, eye and mouth. Hat has low crown. Mostly straight line cuts for hair and beard. Field completely dressed.

Lot 44 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Ave(L)/Below Ave 1913-P Type 2 XF
DelFavero/Fivaz: A charming original work by an unknown carver depicting a man with a long, pointed beard. Punching is choppy. Engraving is used to create a hat, ear, beard, mustache and collar. Feathers and braid partially visible through pounded metal technique.
Lot 45 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Average 1913-P Type 2 AU/XF
DelFavero/Fivaz: A carving by an unknown artist but several extraneous marks on the surface detract from the eye appeal. A very simple curved brim hat sits atop a head with a highly altered profile; only a semblance of an ear. A deep notch in front of eye, nose, and lips are standouts. Very high collar. Medium to dark toning. Coin has seen some wear since being carved.

Lot 46 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Average 1913-P Type 1 F/VF
DelFavero/Fivaz: A very light classic carving, but still has some eye appeal. Coin probably endured substantial wear after being carved. Shallow cuts for the hat (with straight brim); delicate ear and very light beard and hair (fine stippling and fine graver lines). Field completely dressed.

Lot 47 – Group of Six Modern Carvings

Various Modern Carvers
A lot of six hobo nickels by modern carvers. The upper left is by J. Allen. The Indian in the upper right is by Frank Brazzell. The WWI doughboy at the bottom left is by Wabon Eddings. The carving next to it in the 2nd row is by Mike Pezak. The remaining two artists are unknown. There are no QD papers with this auction lot.

Lot 48 – Complete Set of BoTales (1992-2010)

Various Editors
BoTales issues beginning with December 1992 (Vol. 1 #1) through Winter 2010 (Vol. 19 #4). This lot includes all regular issues as well as auction catalogs with hammer prices.

Lot 49 – Bearded Man Wearing Civil War Type Hat

“Bo” Hughes Classic: Average 1937-D VF/F
Fivaz/Alpert: This is a carved/punched work by George Washington “Bo” Hughes after his 1957 hand accident. All features are typical “Bo” – the ski nose, the hair/beard (crescent punched). The collar and the turtle shell hat. It is signed “GH” (George Hughes) in back of the neck. This is a plate coin pictured on page 100 of HOBO NICKELS by Delma K. Romines.

Lot 50 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Above Ave(L)/Ave(H) 1926-P G
Fivaz/Alpert: This classic carving by an unknown artist is of the typical subject. The hat has a very wide hatband with a large bow. The nose, eye and mouth appear to be slightly altered and the hair/beard is very heavy (dark). C-punched ear. Simple collar. The subject is smoking a cigarette. Field is completely dressed with LIBERTY removed.
Lot 51 – “Mona Cathleen”

Cinco de Arturo Modern: Above Average 1936-P F
Fivaz/Alpert: This modern carving is a fairly early work (year 2000) by contemporary artist Cinco de Arturo. This carving of a long haired woman is titled “Mona Cathleen.” Profile altered. Smooth concave field with LIBERTY removed. Coin has been polished after carving.

Lot 52 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

“Bo” Hughes Classic: Average/Above Ave 1916 VG

Lot 53 – Bearded Jewish Man

“Bo” Hughes Classic: Above Ave/Average 1916 –S G
Farnsworth/Kraljevich: Another completely carved classic carving by George Washington “Bo” Hughes. Ear created by pushed metal. Tongue visible in mouth. Mouth, eye and nose modified. Field has been smoothed. A Jewish man, possibly a rabbi, was a popular subject of Bo.

Lot 54 – Mule and Shanty

“Bo” Classic: Above Average 1926-P F
Fivaz/Alpert: This nice totally carved classic piece is one of Bo’s favorite subjects, a mule with head lowered with a shanty over its shoulder, possibly a remembrance of his early life in Mississippi. A very nice reverse carving. Area below mule’s neck is somewhat rough. Signed (dated) “51” by Bo, probably the year the piece was carved. Dated reverse carvings by Bo are rare.

Lot 55 – Bearded Man With Wavy Hair

“Bo” Hughes Classic: Superior (L) No Date VF
Fivaz/Alpert: A nice classic portrait by “Bo” of his friend and mentor Bert. Hair and ear beautifully done. The instrument used to create the long hair and beard appears to have left some very small raised bumps in the recessed areas. Straight pointed nose. Simple collar. Lightly toned, but with some small dark red-brown spots. Field smoothed. “LI” and “Y” removed to leave “BERT.”

Lot 56 – “Bo” Self-Portrait Reproduction

Bill Jameson Modern: Superior ND-P VF
Fivaz/Alpert: An expertly carved (engraved) replica of one of the self-portraits by George Washington “Bo” Hughes in his later (balding) years. Cameo effect with LIBERTY remaining. Characteristic ski nose and well-formed ear. The coin has been “aged” to a gray-brown color. Signed on reverse “72 Z.”
Lot 57– “Bert” Reproduction

Mike Cirelli Modern: Superior ND-P F/VG
Fivaz/Alpert: Virtually an exact copy of Bo’s early 1950s cameo carving of Bert. Could easily pass as a work of “Bo” if coin wasn’t signed, dated and numbered on the reverse under the buffalo. Modern Artist Mike Cirelli used the cover coin on OHNS Auction #6 as his model.

Lot 58 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

John Dorusa Modern: Above Average 1936-P
Fivaz/Romines: This appears to be an early work (1982-84) by the late John Dorusa. Carved hat and collar and punched beard. A very good copy of many of the works by Bo and Bert. Just the “LI” removed in the field leaving “BERTY.”

Lot 59 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Above Average 1913-P Type 2
Fivaz/Romines: An above average totally carved classic piece with the band of the hat showing an unusual zigzag pattern. The ear is well done and the hair, beard and mustache are carved, not punched. A scar appears on the cheek. Toning on obverse possibly altered. Tone and texture of obverse/reverse not compatible.

Lot 60 – Ten Hobo Postcards

Various Artists, Some Postmarked; Some Unused
Three of the ten are shown here. If you wish to see color photos of all ten postcards, please email BoTales editor Ralph Winter at hobobazoo@gmail.com.

Lot 61 – Ten Hobo Postcards

Various Artists, Some Postmarked; Some Unused
Three of the ten are shown here. If you wish to see color photos of all ten postcards, please email BoTales editor Ralph Winter at hobobazoo@gmail.com.
Lot 62 – 11 Old Postcards

Various Artists

Three of the eleven are shown here. If you wish to see color photos of all eleven postcards, please email BoTales editor Ralph Winter at hobobazoo@gmail.com

Lot 63 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Alex Ptak Modern: Superior 1937-P G/VG
DelFavero/Fivaz: An attractive modern carving by Alex Ptak. Alex has used fine, delicate lines for hair/beard/mustache and eyebrow. Nicely formed ear and hat. Altered profile. Toothy bearded man wearing a derby hat. Finely stippled field with surrounding flat border creating a nice cameo effect. Coin polished after carving. Piece is signed with Alex’s overlapping “A” and “P” on the reverse.

Lot 64 – Caboose

Elmer Villarin Modern: Superior 1923-P XF
DelFavero/Fivaz: A really impressive carving by modern artist Elmer Villarin, who has totally changed the bison into a lovely detailed depiction of a railroad caboose, complete with tracks, slats on the side and a railroad man standing alongside. “Hocking Valley” on the side of the caboose. Signed on the edge “Hocking Valley railroad circa 1909 Columbus Ohio EV 2010-16.”

Lot 65 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Owen Covert Modern: Above Ave(H)/Above Ave ND G
DelFavero/Fivaz: Standard design hobo nickel by modern artist Owen Covert. Use of a rotary tool is evident. The hair/beard on the subject are very finely done and the darkness denotes a heavy growth. Hat has two “air holes” in it and the profile has been altered. Nicely formed ear; punch for eye. No collar and thin neck. Signed “OC” in the middle of the buffalo’s body.

Lot 66 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Owen Covert Modern: Above Average (H) ND-S G
DelFavero/Fivaz: This modern carving by Owen Covert (signed “OC” on reverse) is of a typical hobo nickel artist’s subject but has been encased in a copper Omaha Coin Club token (2009). Motto “Getting Your Hand On Owen’s” is engraved on token. Nice work on carving with heavily accented nose and nostril; brow furrows; well formed ear low on head. Heavy hair/beard.
Lot 67 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Owen Covert Modern: Above Average 1916-P VG/G
DelFavero/Fivaz: A nice eye appealing modern carving by Owen Covert. Straight brimmed hat with pawn broker “3 cherries” on the crown. Large, well formed ear. Hair nicely done with a faint hint of a beard. Outward radiating lines from subject to rim all around. Minor amendment to profile and simple line collar. Signed “OC” on the reverse.

Lot 68 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Ray Castro Modern: Above Average(H) 1936-P XF
DelFavero/Fivaz: The workmanship on this carving is extremely nice and it could be easily mistaken for a classic carving save for Ray Castro’s signature (“RC”) on the reverse. Lovely formed ear; nice clean hat and hatband and delicate punching for the hair and beard. Unaltered profile. Simple collar.

Lot 69 – Clown

“Bo” Hughes Classic: Average 1927-D G
DelFavero/Fivaz: This carving by George Washington “Bo” Hughes was undoubtedly done after his 1957 hand injury. The subject was one of Bo’s favorites. Bo uses a combination of graving skills along with a punching technique he developed after his hand injury

Lot 70 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Above Ave(L)/Above Ave 1914-P XF

Lot 71 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Superior/Above Ave ND-P XF
DelFavero/Fivaz: The unknown artist used very precise lines in carving this classic piece. Very fine punch used for hair and beard. Horizontal, interrupted lines in hat crown; hatband with large bow. Ear resembles backward question mark. Well done collar, shirt and tie. Nice smooth field with LIBERTY removed.

Lot 72 – Four Hobo Nickels & Hobo Token

A bulk lot consisting of three crude/below average hobo nickels, a rabbi carved by John Press and signed “J PRESS” on reverse, and a 1981 Del Romines pewter hobo business token. There are no QD papers with this auction lot.

Various Artists
Editor’s Note: Lots 73-84 were for many years part of ANA’s Traveling Exhibit of Hobo Nickels.

Lot 73 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

“Schnozz” Classic: Superior 1917-S UNC/AU
Fivaz/Alpert: This is one of the specimens used to nickname the artist “Schnozz,” due to the large nose. A tremendously eye-appealing classic carving showing the subject with a large ear and huge nose. The hair, beard, mustaches and eyebrow have been delicately punched and the remainder expertly carved.

Lot 74 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Probable “Schnozz” Classic: Above Ave(H)/Superior(L) 1920-P VF
Fivaz/Alpert: A very nice boldly carved classic hobo nickel. The hat, with its wide brim, and the ear and nose capture one’s attention. All other alterations are also well done – collars, Adam’s apple, eye, forehead and enlarged lips. Very smooth concave field with LIBERTY removed. Although not identified in the QD’s, further review indicates this piece was also carved by “Schnozz.”

Lot 75 – “Peanut Ear” Reproduction

Keith Pedersen Modern: Superior(L)/Above Ave(H) 1913-P Type 1 XF/VF
Fivaz/Alpert: A very good copy of the carver nicknamed “Peanut Ear”. Signed “KP” under the buffalo’s head. So good a copy that this specimen was exhibited in the ANA’s traveling exhibit of hobo nickels as an original carving. Width and depth of grooves around hat and collar bolder than those of “Peanut Ear.” Also concave field above hat/behind head different as well.

Lot 76 – Four Hobo Tokens

Del Romines and Ron Landis
A bulk lot consisting of four hobo tokens. The first is a business token by Del Romines. The remaining three are uncirculated OHNS annual tokens from 1993, 1996 and 2000. There are no QD papers with this auction lot.

Lot 77 – Four Modern Carvings

John Dorusa Modern
A group of four hobo nickels carved by modern artist John Dorusa: 1936 bearded man wearing hat signed “J.D.” on collar; Teddy Roosevelt on 1925 D or S signed “J.D.” behind head; 1925 jockey (not signed); and 1936 jockey signed “GH” (faked signature of “Bo.”). There are no QD papers with this auction lot.

Lot 78 – Three Modern Carvings

John Dorusa Modern
A group of three hobo nickels carved by modern artist John Dorusa: Conquistador on 1925 signed “J.D.” at bottom; woman on 1936 nickel with no signature; and clown on 1936-D, also unsigned. The clown is a copy of one of Bo’s works. There are no QD papers with this auction lot.
Lot 79 – Three Modern Carvings

Frank Brazzell Modern
A group of three hobo nickels carved by modern artist Frank Brazzell: The long flowing hair/beard lines are characteristic of this deceased carver from Indiana. All three subjects are of bearded men wearing hats. The first is on a 1936 nickel; the second is on a 1935 nickel; and the third is on a 1930 nickel. None are signed. There are no QD papers with this auction lot.

Lot 80 – Three Modern Carvings

Frank Brazzell Modern
Another group of three hobo nickels by modern carver Frank Brazzell. The first is of an Indian on a 1936 nickel; the second is of a WWI soldier on a 1918 nickel; the third is a hiking hobo reverse carving on a 1936 nickel. None are signed. There are no QD papers with this auction lot.

Lot 81 – Abraham Lincoln

Ron Landis Modern: Superior 1938-D (Removed) BU
Fivaz/Alpert: An absolutely fantastic ¾ bust representation of Abraham Lincoln by master carver Ron Landis. Attention to detail is paramount for Ron and this carving exemplifies his incredible talent. The field is proof like and concave. LIBERTY and date removed. The coin can be dated by the D/S mint mark on the reverse (variety unique to 1938). This coin was carved in 1994 and was the 44th one he carved. It is signed “RL 94 044.”

Lot 82 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Ron Landis Modern: Superior ND XF
Fivaz/Alpert: Another masterpiece by talented modern carver Ron Landis. Ron has created a cameo effect by smoothly dressing the field all around the figure. Raised stippled beard and mustache. Deeply carved ear and curved brim on the plain carved fedora hat. Signed “RL” on bust and numbered “#175 2000” on edge.

Lot 83 – WWI Soldier

Ron Landis Modern: Superior 1919-P XF/VF
Fivaz/Alpert: Ron has depicted a helmeted WWI soldier in this very nice modern carving. Plain helmet with chin strap; small punches for beard and wavy hair. Altered nose (similar to “Bo” or his brother); plain collar. Very nicely formed ear. Smooth concave field with LIBERTY removed. Signed “RL,” dated “00” and numbered “173” on reverse.

Lot 84- Four Modern Carvings

J. Allen Modern
Four hobo nickels by modern carver J. Allen: 1936 jockey; 1930 woman; 1935 BUM; and 1937 Santa. Each is signed with a “J. Allen” punch on the body of the buffalo on the reverse. There are no QD papers with this auction lot.
Lot 85 – Ron Landis Self-Portrait

Ron Landis Modern: Superior No Date XF
Fivaz/Alpert: This is the first hobo nickel carved by Ron Landis. Signed “RL 93” under the bust and numbered “001” on the reverse. A nice cameo with concave fields. Ron stated in an accompanying note that this coin was carved using gravers, files and burnisher. No power tools were used.

Lot 86 – Jesus

Ron Landis Modern: Superior 1992 OHNS Hobo Token
Fivaz/Alpert: This is an engraved depiction of Jesus Christ on 22mm copper 1992 OHNS hobo token. Signed on reverse “102 RL 95.” Exquisite detail accentuates this piece with a crown of thorns on Christ’s head.

Lot 87 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Ron Landis Modern: Superior 2000 Sacagawea $1
Fivaz/Alpert: A handsome modern carving by Ron Landis on the first year (2000) Sacagawea dollar. The hobo subject is looking over his shoulder and has a smile on his face. Facial details are outstanding as are those on the hat and backpack. Signed, dated and numbered on the reverse “R.L.” “00” “168.” Nice semi-cameo with a deep flat recessed field. High relief.

Lot 88 – DONATION BoTales 1st Issue Master

Gail Kraljevich (Baker) Editor
This lot consists of the camera-ready paste up master sheets for the very first issue of BoTales, Volume 1, Number 1, December, 1992. This issue has ten pages (last page for addressing; it has the OHNS return address only).

Lot 89 – Thirty Postcards

Various Artists
This is a lot of 30 postcards total. There are 19 different cards. Twelve of the 30 are of the card below created in 2003 by Kimzie Cowart as OHNS Annual Meeting gift. Three of the 19 different are shown here. If you wish to see color photos of all 19 postcards, please email BoTales editor Ralph Winter at hobobazoo@gmail.com.
Lot 90 – Four Hobo Nickels and Token

Unknown, J. Allen & Frank Brazzell Modern

A miscellaneous group four hobo nickels and a pawn broker token. On the first nickel only the hat is finished. The clown is by J. Allen. The horse head and hiking hobo are by Frank Brazzell. There are no QD papers with this auction lot.

Lot 91 – Donation Two Hobo Nickels

Dave Boulay Modern: Above Average (H)

1937-D XF/VF and 1930-P XF/VF

Fivaz/Alpert: This is a two coin donation lot by modern artist Dave Boulay. These are the first two hobo nickels that he carved back in 2006. On the first (obv. carving) the subject has a curved hat brim, vertical lines for hair and beard and a nicely formed ear. Signed “DB 01” on reverse. The second is a reverse carving of a hiking hobo with backpack, walking stick shoes and buttons on coat. Signed “DB 02” on obverse. Nicely dressed field.

Lot 92 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat/Hiking Hobo

Dave Boulay Modern: Superior 1936-P

Fivaz/Alpert: A very eye appealing 2-sided modern carving by Dave Boulay. The obverse subject is a man wearing a plain hat with a wide brim. Beautifully constructed ear and profile with eye and mouth expertly done. The reverse shows a hiking hobo with backpack, walking stick and a pocket on the coat. Very smooth concave field with LIBERTY removed. Reverse field excellently dressed as well. Signed “DB 40” under hobo’s feet on reverse.

Lot 93 – Viking Warrior

Dave Boulay Modern: Superior 1936-P VF/F

Fivaz/Alpert: A very nice modern carving of a Viking warrior with metal domed hat. Beautifully carved hair, beard and mustache. Profile altered. Coin is signed “DB 54” on the edge. Field (concave) is nicely dressed.

Lot 94 – Fourteen Hobo Tokens


This lot consists of fourteen hobo tokens designed by Ron Landis. There are six OHNS tokens (1992-95, 1996, & 1998) and eight Galley Mint Museum hobo tokens (1996-1999).

Lot 95 – Gallery Mint Publications

From 1995 through 2005, the Gallery Mint published newsletters and collectors updates to allow GMM patrons to keep up with the goings on at the Mint. This lot consists of a complete collection of these publications.
Lot 96 – Woman with Flower in Hair

Michael Branham Modern: Above Ave/Ave(H) 1934-P VG
Alpert/Fivaz: Modern portrait of a woman with wavy hair and flower over ear position. Profile (lips, eye and eyebrow) altered to feminine features. LIBERTY removed. Oval around date. Wriggle-cut zigzag reeding on edge. Signed on bison with “B” inside vertical ichthus.

Lot 97 – Beardless Man Wearing Hat

Mike Branham Modern: Above Ave(H)/Above Average 1926-P VG
Alpert/Fivaz: An eye appealing carving by modern carver Michael Branham. The subject is a cowboy wearing a broad brimmed hat and smoking a cigarette. Large ear and well done collar. Nicely dressed field all around simulating a cameo effect. Signed on bison with “B” inside vertical ichthus.

Lot 98 – DONATION Indian Squaw

Mike Branham Modern: Above Ave/Ave 1959-D 5¢ F
Alpert/Fivaz: Modern carver Michael Branham has altered Jefferson’s bust on this 1959 nickel to an Indian squaw facing left, with a feather in her hair. Field recessed and stippled, date remaining. Profile totally altered. Wriggle-cut zigzag reeding on edge. Signed on Monticello on reverse side with “B” inside vertical ichthus.

Lot 99 – Nativity Scene

M. Branham Modern: Superior/Above Ave(H) 1882-P $1 VF
Alpert/Fivaz: On this interesting modern carving, artist Michael Branham has used an 1882 Morgan dollar as his canvas. A very nice nativity scene with Joseph, Mary, baby Jesus and an angel with outstretched wings behind them. A shepherd with a crook kneels to the right. Circular punches on recessed field around top. Nice eye appeal. Signed with “B” inside vertical ichthus on the eagle’s breast on the reverse.

Lot 100 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Average(H)/Above Ave(H) ND XF
Fivaz/Alpert: Somewhat unusual in that the subject does not sport a mustache. Profile (eye, nostril, mouth) altered nicely. Possible scar behind the eye. Well formed ear; hat has short brim, hatband with bow. High collar; lined coat. Field dressed using small (round punch) beading tool. Hiding in the stippled field are the words “JEWNITED” (behind the head) and “STATES” (opposite the profile), an anti-Semitic comment rarely found on a hobo nickel. Totally carved piece.

Lot 101 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Above Ave(L)/Ave(L) ND VG/F
Alpert/Fivaz: Strongest feature is the deeply recessed field, excavated with a mechanical tool, so recessed it broke through reverse in 3 places. Small hat, Crude eye and ear. Lots of facial hair. Simple collar. Bold design but lack of artistic quality.
Lot 102 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

**Unknown Classic: Superior/Above Ave(H) 1925-P**
**Lincoln 1¢ G/VG**

*Alpert/Fivaz:* One of the nicest hobo cents ever seen. Nice hat with wide brim. Great altered profile and features, with pointy nose and smile. Nice crosshatched and spotted coat and tie. “2” of date left in field along with “GO” and “RUST” of motto. Nicely used accent lines throughout. Crosshatched border. Great eye appeal.

Lot 103 – J Bearded Man Wearing Derby

**Unknown Classic: Average 1918-P VG**

*Fivaz/Alpert:* The most noticeable feature about this carving is that the field has been deeply dressed creating a cameo figure. The very low derby has a vertically lined hatband. The hair, beard and mustache are created by a maze-like array of curved lines. Simple collar. Unaltered profile.

Lot 104 – Spike-helmeted Soldier

**Unknown Classic: Superior 1870 French 20 F Gold Pc.**

*Fivaz/Alpert:* This classic carving of a spiked-helmeted soldier is found on a 20 Franc gold coin. Commonly referred to as a “Satirical Token,” these are rarely ever found on gold coins. Expertly done with great attention paid to the details on the helmet, strap and collar. Nice eye appeal.

Lot 105 – Hobo Nickels Montage

**Bill Fivaz - Photographer**

This lot is photo montage is 10” x 13”, in a custom 18” x 22” frame, and is comprised of all original photos of “Bo's Best” carvings. The center image is the famous “Boxcar Carving,” showing six hoboess sitting in/on the boxcar (only three are visible, as the other three are on the inside of the car).

Lot 106 – Indian Chief Gall

**Elmer Villarin Modern: Superior 1937-P XF/VF**

*Fivaz/Alpert:* This is the first in a series of three modern carvings of Indian Chiefs who were the primary players in the “Battle of Little Big Horn.” The subject here is Chief Gall, a Lakota Sioux. The full frontal view is wonderfully done in every detail. Nice ornate border and recessed field. Engraved on the edge is “CHIEF GALL – HUNKPAPA LAKOTA SIOUX EV 2010-7.”

Lot 107 – Indian Chief Sitting Bull

**Elmer Villarin Modern: Superior ND-D AU/XF**

*Fivaz/Alpert:* The second in the series “Battle of Little Big Horn” carvings by Elmer Villarin is a full frontal view of Chief Sitting Bull. Again, exquisite detail on this modern carving. Very nice ornate border around the figure, leaving the word “LIBERTY.” The top two feathers are inlaid in gold. Engraved on the edge is “CHIEF SITTING BULL HUNKPAPA LAKOTA SIOUX EV 2010-10.”
Lot 108 – Indian Chief Crazy Horse

Elmer Villarin Modern: Superior ND-P XF/VF
Fivaz/Alpert: The third and final “Battle of the Little Big Horn” trilogy carvings is an eye appealing piece featuring a ¾ profile of Chief Crazy Horse. Again, there is an ornate border surrounding the subject. An interesting feature is that the carving did not utilize any of the original Indian’s features as it is carved upside down in relation to the reverse. Mountains in background above shoulder. Engraved on the edge is, “CRAZY HORSE OGLALA SIOUX CHIEF EV 2010-11.”

Lot 109 – Brooks Locomotive

Elmer Villarin Modern: Superior 1915-P XF
Fivaz/Alpert: This modern carving by Elmer Villarin shows an incredibly detailed locomotive the artist has identified a the “Brooks Locomotive Works 8 Wheeler.” The reverse carving is facing left with smoke billowing from the stack. Clouds overhead. Vegetation in foreground. Nice eye appeal. Identified on edge and numbered “2010-13.”

Lot 110 – Baldwin 1860’s Locomotive

Elmer Villarin Modern: Superior 1928-P XF

Lot 111 – American Indian

Elmer Villarin Modern: Superior 1913-P Type 1 AU
Fivaz/Alpert: Bust of an Indian facing ¾ right, with radiating feathers on headdress. Deeply-recessed smooth field with no border. Great eye appeal. Again, great attention to detail. Signed “EV 2010-17” on the edge.

Lot 112 – Man with Goatee Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Above Average(H) 1913-P T1 AUXF
Fivaz/Alpert: This is a nice eye-appealing original carving by an unknown but talented artist. The hat, with a nice wrap-around brim, is very well done. The subject has a small goatee rather than a large beard. Altered profile (curved nose, rounded chin). The ear is low on the head. Simple collar. Field decently dressed. Nice eye appeal.

Lot 113 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

“Braidy” Classic: Above Ave/Above Ave(L) 1913-P T2 EF/VF
Fivaz/Alpert: A very eye appealing carving by artist nicknamed “Braidy.” A small circular punch was used for the hair, beard and mustache, and chisel work is evident on the ear and in the field behind the subject. Beard running down the braid. Slightly altered profile and enlarged nostril. Simple double collar and simple hat.
Lot 114 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Average(H) ND 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 115 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Average(H) ND VF/F
Fivaz/Alpert: This classic carving has subject with a small ear, altered profile (dent for bridge of nose), and hair/beard/mustache 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 116 – DONATION Old Man with Cane

Amy Armstrong Modern: Superior 1938-D XF
Fivaz/Alpert: This wonderful and unusual obverse carving by modern artist Amy Armstrong is a caricature of a bent over old man walking to the left with the aid of a cane. Large head with hat; ¾ view face, beard. Thin neck; pointed shoes and bowtie. The field is very nicely dressed (stippled). Signed and numbered on the edge “AA 88.”

Lot 117 – Bearded Man with Hat/Hiking Hobo

“Twofer” Classic: Superior 1916-P XF
Fivaz/Alpert: A very eye appealing specimen by the artist nicknamed “Twofer,” who carved old two-sided hobo nickels just like this one. Slightly raised metal hat, brim and ear. The brim wraps around and the subject has a large ear. Nicely done hair and beard. The reverse is equally well done of a man wearing a stocking cap, holding a staff and with a pack on his back. Long coat with six button holes. Nice eye appeal..

Please Help OHNS
Check Your Mailing Envelope Address
If “2010” appears above your name on the envelope mailing address for this issue of BoTales, You need to pay your annual OHNS dues for 2011, still only $15/year

Dues must be paid through 2011 to bid in Auction 19!!!

Please help OHNS keep costs down by submitting your dues payment to our Secretary, Verne Walrafen, 12000 Sunset Ridge Drive, Ozawkie KS 66070-6045
Editor’s Note: Tom Culhane is a professional numismatist who was an old friend of Dave Wilson, OHNS LM32. Prior to Dave’s death in 2007, Tom had promised Dave to do this article but it took him a while to get to it. Reading Tom’s account, I can’t help but wonder if this is one of the reasons we today call the art forms we collect “Hobo Nickels?”

**Hoboken Nickels Marked Soldiers’ Last Days in U.S.**

By Tom Culhane of Union, New Jersey

as published in *Numismatic News “Letters”* dated October 5, 2010

Over the last few years, I occasionally noticed newspaper articles announcing the death of one of the last WWI veterans. About six years ago, Alfred Pugh, the last combat-wounded WWI American soldier, passed away at the advanced age of 108.

Back in February 2008, Henry Landis, an Army recruit for two months at the war's end who hadn't served overseas, also died at 108, having been one of the last two WWI veterans. Thus, Frank Buckles, 107 at the time, became the final U.S. WWI vet still living. Buckles had enlisted in the U.S. Army in April 1917 and served as an ambulance driver in France. Amazingly, he also survived three years as a Japanese prisoner of war after being captured in 1941 while employed as a civilian with a Philippine shipping company.

More than three million of the WWI veterans who served overseas passed through my town of birth, Hoboken, NJ, which was the prime port of embarkation for the American Expeditionary Forces. Almost 300,000 troops also departed from Newport News, VA, while other port cities such as Boston, Baltimore and Philadelphia primarily shipped military equipment and supplies.

At the turn of the 20th century, Hoboken was known by the nickname of “Little Bremen” because of its large German immigrant population. The German-American piers of the Hamburg-American line and North German Lloyd shipping were taken over by the Federal Government to free up the Hoboken waterfront for troop movements. All the German ships docked in Hoboken, and other American ports, were taken over by the U.S. government. They converted these ships for our use if they hadn’t been too severely damaged at the last minute by the German crews on board. A total of 91 merchant ships were seized throughout the country. The Germans in Hoboken were taken into custody and sent to internment camps until the end of the war, as were the crews of the 91 seized ships.

The mile square city of Hoboken is just north of Jersey City, across the Hudson River from Manhattan and is recognized as the birthplace of baseball and Frank Sinatra. Hoboken had a total of 237 bars, which did not include all the back house social clubs serving liquor.

President Woodrow Wilson several different times bade farewell to the departing troops from the balcony of the Clam Broth House as they boarded transport ships at the pier right across the street. Movie fans can likely recall a mental image of the city from the acclaimed 1954 movie, “On the Waterfront.” It was on the Jersey City waterfront on July 30, 1916, that the Black Tom Explosion occurred, which was blamed on Germans and $50 million in reparations after the war were awarded in 1939 and paid in 1979.

The doughboys of WWI drilled at places throughout the county much like Camp Merritt, NJ, in parts of what is now Tenafly, Cresskill, Bergenfield and Dumont before being transported by train to Hoboken to ship out. It was the last bit of liberty many of the U.S. servicemen would enjoy and a good many stopped at one or more of those 237 bars.

![A 1919 Aerial View of Camp Merritt, New Jersey](image_url)

Oftentimes, to pass the down time in military camps, many of the soldiers had picked up the popular hobby of carving designs into the new Buffalo nickels and, while appreciated today by a wide number of collectors as novelties and folk art, the nickels were considered debased and worthless as money. Nickel carving was just a small segment of what can be classified as trench art. It was somewhat of a harmless prank the soldiers pulled for a laugh on various bartenders to pass the nickels that often featured a rendition of the Kaiser or some other alteration.

Even into the 1950s and early 1960s, some of the bar owners kept a mug full of the carved nickels behind the bar as a lesson to watch the money they were handling. Back in the late teens when the soldiers were crowing into the Hoboken bars, the owners were expected to keep the carved coins and accept the loss, yet a good number managed to get turned back to customers, usually New Yorkers who had taken the ferry over and may have had a few too many to notice the altered coins.

Continued on page 31
**FUN 2011 Auction Catalogue ~ MAIL BID SHEET ~ OHNS Members ONLY!**

To be Received NO LATER than January 3, 2011

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EMail Address: ___________________________

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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GET YOUR BIDS IN EARLY! You may also use the Auction 18 Bid Sheet provided at: www.hobonickels.org/fun2011/bidsheet.htm
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.

2010 reprints of the Hobo Nickel Guidebook are now available!

I am enclosing ___ $28 for the Hobo Nickel Guidebook by regular mail and ___ $2 additional for Priority Mail.

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

* OHNS Member pricing.

Signature ___________________ OHNS# ___________ Sponsor (optional) ___________

Quality Designation services ... send to OHNS QD Examiner Bill Fivaz

Bill Fivaz, P.O.Box 886660, Atlanta, GA 30356-0660    Steve Alpert, P.O.Box 335441, North Las Vegas, NV 89033-5441

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.

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 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 28 Winter 2010
Some Recent eBay Sales of Hobo Nickels

- Billzach $335
- “Rough Beard” $203
- John Schipp $410
- Unknown $11.50
- Andy Gonzales $103

- “Flatnose” $385
- Amy Armstrong 2-sided carving $310
- Unknown $106
- Dave Boulay $210

- Howard Thomas $300
- Unknown $459
- Elmer Villarin 2-sided carving $330
- Unknown $18.50

- Marcus Hunt $318
- Unknown $203
- Billzach $575
- Unknown $288
- Joe Paonessa $280

- Bob Shamey $193
- Unknown $30
- Adam Leech $100
- “Flatnose” $225
- Matthew Petit de Mange $176

- Steve Cox $595
- John Schipp $367
- Unknown $335
- Marcus Hunt $268
- Jim Olivencia $550
Some Recent eBay Sales of Hobo Nickels

- Billzach $365
- Unknown $129
- John Schipp $400
- Unknown $255
- James Stewart $168
- Mario Sarto $737
- Howard Hughes $244
- Marcus Hunt Set of 2 “Athenian” Carvings $603
- Steve Cox $345
- Howard Thomas $660
- "Bo" $1207
- Joe Paonessa 2-sided Carving $315
- Andy Gonzales $270
- John Schipp $510
- Billzach $375
- Unknown $285
- John Carter $116
- Amy Armstrong $275
- Howard Thomas $395
- Unknown $263
- John Schipp $400
- Marcus Hunt $245
- Steve Cox $310
- Unknown $107
- Marcus Hunt $221
- Unknown $130
- Howard Thomas $375
- Unknown $260
While disappointed bar owners might wind up with 40 or 50 carved nickels in a week, as it was very unlikely to find any aficionados of these folk art pieces, it became commonplace for the “unsporting” bar owners or bartenders afraid of being blamed for taking the coins to pass them on to tipsy out of town New Yorkers. This happened to enough drinkers that New York newspapers warned their readers to be wary of getting stuck with a handful of the then infamous Hoboken nickels. The joking soldiers enjoyed their final days in the U.S. enough that eventually the Federal Government attempted to close all the bars in the waterfront city and bring prohibition to Hoboken.

As the First World War progressed, the Meuse-Argonne Offensive began on Sept. 26, 1918. This attack on the German lines lasted 47 days — America's longest battle up to that point in history. During the assault, General Pershing promised the troops that by Christmas they would be in heaven, hell or Hoboken!

Many of those troops did not live to return to Hoboken, such as Matthew Juan, an under-draft-age rodeo performer who enlisted. Being a Native American, he would have been exempt at the time as they were not considered American citizens. Although he survived the sinking of his ship by a German sub, he still wound up as the first Native American, as well as the first soldier from Arizona, to be killed in the war.

Of the more than two million soldiers who did return to Hoboken, a good many did manage to start their celebrations back in those same bars with some newly carved nickels for old time's sake.

It was a somber day in Hoboken on May 23, 1921, when President Warren G. Harding addressed the crowds to witness the return of 5,212 bodies of American soldiers, sailors, marines and nurses for burial. In an age before most people had radio the president's speech recorded and Victor Record sales throughout the country let Americans hear the respectful words he spoke at this most solemn occasion. All proceeds of the record sales were donated to the American Red Cross. Most in the Hoboken crowd wore a poppy sent from France on the ship as a symbol of the deceased heroes.

While today's collectors like to refer to carved nickels as Hobo nickels and associate them with the Depression of the 1930s, there was an earlier group of men we should remember and honor who had a few laughs with their Hoboken nickels before going off to fight the Great War.

The following appeared in the September/October 2010 issue of The Saturday Evening Post.
Apply Now for 2011 ANA Summer Seminar Scholarship

It's time to apply for an OHNS Scholarship to one of the 2011 American Numismatic Association (ANA) Summer Seminar sessions in Colorado Springs. To do so, you need to have been an OHNS member for at least three years and not be in arrears on dues. Additionally, you need to submit in writing (not email) a short essay (approximately 150 words) on why you should receive a scholarship and what course you would be interested in taking. A 2011 Pre-Registration Form along with 2010 offerings can be found at the ANA website: www.money.org.

In addition to the essay, you need to 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. Please mail to Bill Fivaz, PO Box 888660, Atlanta, GA 30356-0660. Applications must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2010.

After the net proceeds from the annual OHNS FUN Show Auction are made available, 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 you win a scholarship, ANA requires that you 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.

Hotel Information for 2011 F.U.N.

The Florida United Numismatists have released hotel information for the 2011 FUN Show being held at the Tampa, Florida Convention Center (333 South Franklin Street) January 6-9, 2011. The hotels with special FUN rates are the Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel & Marina, Embassy Suites Downtown Tampa Convention Center and the Howard Johnson Plaza. The Marriott and Embassy Suites are across the street from the convention center. Howard Johnson’s is one mile from the convention center. There will be NO shuttle bus service provided. Online reservations can be made at the F.U.N. website www.FunTopics.com or Call toll free 866-260-3874 Weekdays 9:00 am – 8:00 pm EST.

Last Chance to Enter Contest!

The November 30th deadline for submitting a story about a best ever or unusual find of a hobo nickel or your favorite hobo nickel (or hobo type carving or collectible) is now close at hand.

What you need to do is send your story (a paragraph or two is enough) and a photo of the hobo nickel (or token or hobo collectible) to the BoTales editor describing why the hobo nickel (or other collectible) 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 or token is special for some other reason. 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 that were received in 2009 will be considered for judging along with those received in 2010.

There will also be a runner-up award of the same medal pictured above but rendered in copper rather than silver.

Entries need to be received by the editor no later than November 30, 2010 so the Board had time to judge them prior to the 2011 Annual Meeting. The winner and runner up will be announced at that meeting. The editor prefers an electronic format photo, but a hard copy is acceptable. A hard copy will be returned if requested. If you have no way to photograph or scan your nickel, please contact the editor who can suggest a way to obtain a photo. Contact information for the editor can be found on page 3 of this issue.