The Original Hobo Nickel Society’s 20th Mail and Floor Bid Auction
Saturday, January 7, 2012
10:00 AM
OHNS Membership Meeting
F.U.N. Convention
in
Orlando, Florida
Orange County Convention Center, 9400 Universal Boulevard
North/South Concourse Hall SB
BoTales Banner Banter and Editor’s Remarks

The above average classic carving on the upper left side of this issue’s banner is Lot 44 in Auction 20. It is also one of the carvings featured in the “Kosher Carvings” article by Verne Walrafen that appeared in the Summer 2010 issue of BoTales. The above average classic carving next to this one is by Bert Wiegand, “Bo” Hughes’s mentor. Carvings by Bert rarely appear in an OHNS or any other auction. On the right side of the banner are two contemporary carvings. The 1932 dated classic style carving is a superior example by OHNS member Dave Boulay. Next to this carving is another superior, but whimsical carving by OHNS member Keith Pedersen. This is auction lot 129. If you check out the on-line Auction 20 photos in color, you will see the subject has a gold inlay collar and tooth.

I want to thank Verne “V-Dubya” Walrafen for creating the front page banner and the collage of hobo nickels (all in Auction 20), “V-Dubya also cleaned up the Lot photos that appear in the catalog. I truly appreciate all he does to help continue to make BoTales a quality publication.

I also would like to thank in advance those members who donated lots to Auction 20 – Dave Boulay, Bill Jameson, Joe Paonessa and Archie Taylor.

Are you aware you need to pay your 2012 dues before being eligible to bid in Auction 20?

Even if you aren’t bidding in Auction 20, please send your 2012 dues payment NOW to help OHNS keep costs down and our membership affordable. All annual dues payments are due at the start of each calendar year.

For those of you planning on being at the OHNS Annual Meeting and Auction on January 7th, member Kimzie “Spike” Cowart again has a special hobo related gift for everyone in attendance. This will be the 13th consecutive year Kimzie has given out a special hobo memento. There will also be some special OHNS 20th Anniversary awards handed out.

Information concerning a dinner to celebrate the club’s 20th Anniversary is found on page35. On this same page there is also information concerning convention hotels.

If you go to OHNS website there is a downloadable MS Word document bid sheet that can be downloaded to your PC’s hard drive and then opened, and name and bid information entered. You may then save this document and then email it to Steve Alpert as an attachment. Please include your last name as part of the title of the saved document to assist Steve.

At the OHNS Annual Meeting it is my honor to hand out OHNS Literary Tokens and certificates to those members who contributed stories and articles 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 2011 recipients of the silver Literary Tokens are Steve Alpert, Fred Avan, Bill Fivaz, Adam Leech, Kimzie Cowart, John Petro, Joe Paonessa, Dennis Tucker, Verne Walrafen, and Don Wolfe.

New members Since BoTales 2011 #3

| RM-1198 | Chuck Wilson | MO |
| RM-1199 | Coin Galleries of Oyster Bay | NY |
| RM-1200 | Colin K. Cummings | IL1 |
| RM-1201 | Tony Lewis | TX |
| RM-1202 | Blake A. King | FL |

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Please submit your articles as soon as you can and as often as you would like. Send material to BoTales Editor – Ralph Winter.

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2011 Hobo Tokens Available

2011 as well as 2007-2010 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. 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 20th auction features something for everyone. Featured are some “Bo” Hughes carvings, one by Bert Wiegand, many nice old classic hobo nickels including several by OHNS nicknamed carvers as well as many Superior modern carvings; plus hobo tokens, hobo postcards, and back issues of BoTales. Twenty-six consignments were received to make up this sale.

You can view all the lots on our website www.hobonickels.org and see all the offerings in color. Those attending FUN can view the lots on Friday at the OHNS bourse table, and Saturday morning just before the auction, in the OHNS meeting and auction room. After the 10AM 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 postal mail, or email, **no later than Monday, JANUARY 2nd**. No phone bids accepted, but you can phone or email me with any questions. **PLEASE BID EARLY!** Faxes have become almost obsolete; if you need to bid by fax, phone me first.

Stephen Alpert
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quadra1@cox.net
702-473-9071

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**DONATIONS**

Lot 2: Archie Taylor
Lot 3: Bill Jameson
Lot 40: Dave Boulay
Lot 137: Joe Paonessa
OHNS Auction #20 Rules

Welcome to the twentieth 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 must be sent to Steve P. Alpert, PO Box 335441, North Las Vegas, NV 89033-5441 and received by January 2, 2012. NO phone bids will be accepted. You may scan your bid sheet and email as an attachment to Steve at quadra1@cox.net. Fax bids are also acceptable (702-473-9071). 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. A photo is also included. 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 their coins. If the owner wins his/her own lot, they are obligated to pay both the 5% seller’s fee and 10% buyer’s fee. Contact Auction Manager Steve Alpert if you have any questions.

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 the OHNS website at: www.hobonickels.org following the auction.

Auction #20 Catalog Descriptions

For those unfamiliar with our OHNS Auction Catalog, there are several designations and abbreviations used throughout the catalog.

1. Unless otherwise noted, all carvings described are on Buffalo (1913-1938) nickels.

2. Each lot with a Quality Designation (QD) has been reviewed and graded by two authenticators. The authenticators’ last names appear at the beginning of each description.

3. If the carving’s artist is known, the name is listed and if the carving is a Classic (old original) or Modern (carved since 1980) just below the lot number’s photo.

4. Right after the “Classic” or “Modern” designation, you will find a quality designation (Superior, Above Average, Average) for the carving itself. If the authenticators disagree as to the carving’s the quality, two levels will be noted. For example Ave/Ave(L) means the first authenticator indicated the carving grades Average and the second authenticator indicates the grade is Average (Low).

5. An estimate of the grade of the nickel itself (G or Good, VG or Very Good, F or Fine, or XF or Extra Fine, etc.) is also noted just below the coin’s photo.

6. If the host coin’s date is legible, the date (and mint mark if known) is also noted just below the coin’s photo. If the date has been removed or worn off, the description will be either “ND” or “No Date.”

7. The lot number descriptions are a summary of the information provided by the two authenticators on the QD form. If there is a significant disagreement on the carving or who the artist is, this will be noted in the description.

8. Color photographs (where available) of the auction lot nickels can be found on the OHNS website at www.hobonickels.org/news.htm#fun2012. You can also find color photographs of all the postcards in lots 6, and 81. You will also find individual photos of Lot #17.

9. Some lots in this sale were donated, with all or a portion of the proceeds going to OHNS as noted in the catalog.

10. An Auction 20 Bid Sheet can be found on page 31. Please note this catalog page is perforated for easy removal. The OHNS Membership and QD Form is found on the reverse. You may also download Auction Bid sheets from the OHNS website as noted on the bottom of page 31.
Lot 1 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

**Unknown Classic: Average (L) 1913-P T1 XF/VF**

Fivaz/Alpert: This classic carving by an unknown artist has an unaltered profile, but the mouth is changed slightly. Plain dome on hat with a curved brim. Punched hair-beard-moustache. Small crude C-shaped ear. Simple collar with vertical scratches. Roughly dressed field above hat and behind ear. QD 10-BF-146

Lot 2 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat  DONATION

**Archie Taylor Modern: Above Average 1928-S VF**

Fivaz/Alpert: This impressive carving by OHNS President Archie Taylor is very nicely done with a pushed metal (raised) ear and very fine lines behind it for the hair. Broad curved hat brim. Smooth shaven subject. Nose straightened. Shoulder enhanced. Entire field dressed. Nice eye appeal. Signed “AT 11” on reverse. QD 11-BF-005

Lot 3 – Two-faced Woman/Girl  DONATION

**Bill Jameson Modern: Superior 1938-D VF**

Fivaz/Alpert: This is a very creative superior quality carving by master carver Bill (Billzach) Jameson. Viewed normally you see an old woman with large nose, small chin, large forehead and hairdo. Turned upside down, you see a young girl with long hair wearing a crown. Nice workmanship and very nice smooth field. Signed “Z-693” on edge. Two views are shown above of this single sided carving. QD 11-BF-007

Lot 4 – Six Hobo Nickels

**Various Artists**

A bulk lot consisting of two classic below average hobo nickels, J. Allen “HOBO,” John Dorusa rhino, J. Allen Oriental and J. Press frontiersman. There are no QD papers with this lot.

Lot 5 – Six Hobo Nickels

**Various Artists**

A bulk lot consisting of two classic below average hobo nickels, a J. Allen old Roman soldier and J. Allen clown, J. Press “HOBO” hat and unknown, probably modern carving. There are no QD papers with this lot.

Lot 6 – 20 Hobo Postcards

**Various Artists, Some Postmarked; Some Unused**

Three of the twenty are shown here (see next column). If you wish to see color photos of all twenty postcards, please see the OHNS website on-line catalog at: www.hobonickels.org/fun2012/page01.htm#lot006.
Lot 7 – Bearded Man Wearing Large Derby

Unknown Classic: Average 192?-P VF-XF
DelFavero/Alpert: A very nice totally hand rendered piece. Date and Liberty almost totally removed. The oversized derby has a bar-like brim and tall hat band with vertical lines. Punched beard and mustache; no hair. Hat low on head. Slanted ear, almost horizontal. No collar. Profile unaltered. QD 11-AD-001

Lot 8 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Average (L) 1927-P Good
DelFavero/Alpert: This nice original carving, though somewhat crude, displays the artist’s ability – all work is hand executed with various gravers and scarpering tools. Nice derby hat with hatband; raised metal beads to form facial (stubble) hair and mustache. Just a hint of an ear. Thin neck, crude double collar. Chisel dressed field. QD 11-AD-002

Lot 9 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Average (High) 1920-P XF
DelFavero/Alpert: Overall great eye appeal with this coin that depicts a man with a short derby hat. Small hat (brim is a groove) creates a small head appearance. No ear. Arc-punched hair, beard and mustache. A punch enlarged the nostril; profile unaltered. Decent collar with jewel at front bottom. Indian’s large feather still partly visible in field behind the head. Light green toning. QD 11-AD-003

Lot 10 – Irishman Smoking Pipe/Mountain?

Unknown Classic: Average (High) No Date G/VG
DelFavero/Alpert: Irishman smoking a pipe on the obverse; mountain range with possible river or land mass in front of it on reverse? Reverse might also be a dog head? Rectangular hat with straight brim and tall hatband with faint diagonal stripes. Crude ear, just outlined by the small wiggly punches forming the hair and beard and eyebrow. Upside down pipe in mouth; profile altered. Crude lapel collar. Field dressed. QD 11-AD-004

Lot 11 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Ave(L)/Ave(H) No Date Good
DelFavero/Alpert: An unusual classic totally carved specimen, very bold features in high relief. Derby without hatband. Ear overlaps the hat. Ghastly face with profile and all features altered. “LIBERTY” removed. Tall collar. QD 11-AD-005
Lot 12 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Ave(H)/Ave(L) No Date Good

Lot 13 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Average No Date-P XF
DelFavero/Alpert: An average carving with good eye appeal. Artist smoothed out coin and then lightly engraved features which include hat with a thin groove brim, sparse hair, spiny beard, ear, simple collar with stick pin. Alterations also apparent to neck and top of nose. “LIBERTY” removed. QD 11-AD-007

Lot 14 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Average 1916-P F/VF
DelFavero/Alpert: This original classic carving has some great features. A very impressive hat with brim turned up over the crude ear. Hatband with horizontal and vertical light grooves. Coin has many alterations to eye, nose, neck and mouth. Rough, punched hair. Lips rounded. Simple collar. Field dressed (peened) with “LIBERTY” removed. Green dirt or verdigris on both sides of coin. QD 11-AD-008

Lot 15 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Ave/Ave (L) 1936-P Good
DelFavero/Alpert: Bold hat and ear. No hat band. Sparse angular punches form the beard and mustache. Small goatee projection. No collar; crude large bowtie to right of date. Minor alterations to profile. Field dressed. Good eye appeal. QD 11-AD-009

Lot 16 – Bearded Man Wearing a Derby

James Stewart Modern: Superior 1918-P VG/F
DelFavero/Alpert: Very nice workmanship on this modern carving by recently (March, 2011) deceased master carver James Stewart. All features expertly done and nicely dressed field. Great facial hair and nice ear. Nice open collar. High eye appeal. Signed “JIMBO-40” on the edge. QD 11-AD-010

Lot 17 – Jesus and His Disciples

Lot description found on page 9
Lot #17 Description (photo on page 8). Close-up of Jesus below.

John Dorusa Modern (1980’s)
One of only six sets, this unique group, “JESUS AND THE 12 DISCIPLES,” was created by Pennsylvania hobo nickel carver John Dorusa. This set portrays Christ and his apostles on the nickels as seen in the painting, The Last Supper, by Zabateri. John Dorusa passed away in 1991. Most of his Dorusa’s work is done by the punch method, but a good deal of carving was also done to complete the individual pieces. This set is mounted in a custom made plastic holder. No QD papers with this lot. Individual photos available on OHNS website: www.hobonickels.org/fun2012/page02.htm#lot017

Lot 18 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Ave (H)/Ave No Date XF
Fivaz/DelFavero: Hat is deeply textured and the hat brim is curled on this totally altered carved coin. Nose and eye are altered and the mouth has a hint of a smile. Deep engraving and punching techniques. Very small ear set far back on the head. Rough hair and beard; no mustache. High collar. Field dressed except for “RTY” in Liberty. QD 11-BF-014

Lot 19 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Average(L) 1919-P VF/F

Lot 20 – Mustached Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Average 1914-P XF

Lot 21 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

“Spiffy” Classic: Above Average No Date AU
Fivaz/DelFavero: An attractive carving by the artist nicknamed “Spiffy.” Spiffy’s work is very tailored and deliberate. This piece has a curved brim hat with hatband and bow. The hair, beard and mustache are curly and the ear is nicely formed. Plain collar on subject. Profile unaltered. Field dressed. QD 11-BF-017

Lot 22 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Above Average 1916-P VF/F
Fivaz/DelFavero: Nicely structured hat with hatband and bow. This original carving’s subject has curly hair, beard and mustache and a somewhat “flobby, but nice” ear. Unaltered profile, but small punch for eye and nostril. Beard curls upward at end and hair goes well down the neck. No collar. Great overall eye appeal. QD 11-BF-018
Lot 23 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: AboveAve(H)/AboveAve 1913-P T2 VF

Fivaz/DelFavero: Artist has rendered a nice example by using a combination of punching, carving and engraving. Large bow on hatband; ear set forward on head. Curly hair (carved) and beard/mustache (small punches). Profile slightly altered; simple collar. Very attractive old carving. QD 11-BF-019

Lot 24 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: AboveAve/AboveAve(L) ND AU

Fivaz/DelFavero: Straight-brimmed hat tipped slightly to back of head. Hatband has huge bow. Small raised metal ear. This original carving has a punched beard, hair, mustache and eyebrow. Altered profile (nose). Simple line cuts for collar. Field completely dressed. Nice eye appeal. QD 11-BF-020

Lot 25 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Average(H) 1913-D T1 XF

Fivaz/DelFavero: The crown of the hat on this classic carving has a crosshatching design, a curled hat brim and no hatband/bow. Very small ear. Very finely punched hair and beard (pebble like), both delineated. Unaltered profile except for a single arc cut above the nostril. No collar. Nice caramel toning. Great work in the field. QD 11-BF-021

Lot 26 – Curly Haired Man Wearing Coonskin Hat

“Bo” Hughes Classic: Average(L) 1936-P VF

Fivaz/DelFavero: Late era (after 1957 hand injury) carving by George Washington “Bo” Hughes. Typical Bo style carving especially the nose and hair style. Though hard to see without magnification, much detail is evident. Indian totally altered. Dark toning. QD 11-BF-023

Lot 27 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

“Bo” Hughes Classic: Average No Date G/VG

Fivaz/DelFavero: Another original, late era, piece by George Washington “Bo” Hughes showing evidence of some work done by a mechanical tool. The subject’s fedora hat has a feather in the hatband. Coin has been signed “GH” by the artist behind the neck and is rust toned from possibly being stored in a tobacco pouch. Very nice late era “Bo” carving. QD 11-BF-024

Lot 28– Beardless Man Wearing a Cap

“Bo” Hughes Classic: Average(L) 1924-P VG

Fivaz/DelFavero: A third piece executed by “Bo” Hughes after his 1957 hand injury. A great deal of punching was used on this coin which has the dark surface removed (possibly after being carved). Indian totally altered. Signed by the artist “GH” behind the neck. QD 11-BF-025
Lot 29 – Prussian Army Soldier

Unknown Classic: AboveAve/AboveAve(H) 1913-P T1 VG
Fivaz/ DelFavero: The subject of this classic carvings is of a Prussian WW1 soldier wearing the typical spiked helmet with a chin strap. Subject also has the characteristic upturned mustache. Collar(s) are well done and the field is completely dressed. Great eye appeal. Some verdigris on both obverse (right of nose) and reverse. QD 11-BF-026

Lot 30 – Five Piece Bulk Lot

Various Artists
5-Piece Bulk Lot consisting of an old 1920s hobo nickel (crude, holed), an old 1920 hobo penny, an old 1941-S AU Jefferson hobo nickel (crude), a 1970 hobo quarter (crude), and an old Depression era hobo token. There are no QD papers with this lot.

Lot 31 – Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Average(Low) 1913-D T2 XF
DelFavero/Alpert: An ideal alteration to the nose and profile are the highlights of this piece. Considerable work done in the field and neck area with light alterations to create a hat and hair; no beard. Hat brim is just a groove. Crude ear. QD 11-AD-25

Lot 32 – Native American Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Ave(Ave(H)) 1924-P XF/VF
DelFavero/Alpert: The artist took a lot of time dressing the field to create the small hat effect. The boldly-carved small derby creates an odd-looking head. Though not much time was spent on the rest of the coin, the outcome is still very charming. Profile unaltered. Lower half of bust is unaltered. QD 11-AD-28

Lot 33 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Average(L) 1920-S Good
DelFavero/Alpert: Very light strokes were used to create the features (ear, hair, beard, mustache and collar) on this original piece using a point graver and liner tool. Short brimmed hat with vertically-textured dome. Profile unaltered. Indian’s feathers are poorly dressed. QD 11-AD-29

Lot 34 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Ave/Ave(H) No Date Good
DelFavero/Alpert: The artist has carved a nice coin with a great facial expression. The large derby has a straight grooved brim and bow on band; beaded-punched hat dome. Profile nicely altered – enhanced eye, large nostril and a snarling mouth. No collar. Feathers and braid roughly dressed. Great eye appeal. Considerable wear after carving completed. QD 11-AD-30
Lot 35 – Two Coins, Two Artists

John Dorusa and Unknown Modern: Average and Average (L) 1928-P VG and 1937-P Good
DelFavero/Alpert: First coin is by early modern artist John Dorusa and depicts a holy man. Nice ear and hair/ beard (no mustache). Profile altered. Dome of skull cap not dressed. Second coin is by an unknown modern carver is of a long-haired man with light beard, perhaps Jesus? Nicely carved long hair (covers ear and braid on neck). Profile unaltered. Reverse altered to resemble 3-legged buffalo. Coin was buffed after carving. QD papers for both coins. QD 11-AD-26 and QD 11-AD-27

Lot 36 – Bulk Lot of 23 OHNS Hobo Tokens

Ron Landis and Other Modern Artists
Silver and copper OHNS Hobo Tokens of 2002, 2004-2006, 2007 (2 sets), 2008-2011, 2001 silver plus a 1996 token struck on a Jefferson nickel and a 2011 OHNS elongated cent. Only a few tokens from this lot are pictured above. There are no QD papers with this lot.

Lot 37 – Bulk Lot of 21 Hobo Tokens

Ron Landis
This bulk lot consists of 17 Gallery Mint Hobo Tokens and 4 Doe Bros. Tokens. The GM tokens are 1997 Indian/Boxcar, 2000 Bethlehem, CT Indian/Caboose, 2000 Jesus/buffalo, and 2000 Viking/buffalo all struck on Jefferson nickels; 2001 Bo/buffalo, 2001 Indian/hiking hobo (2 pcs.), 2002 Uncle Sam/buffalo, 2002 Indian/donkey, 2003 Ron Landis/buffalo, 2003 Indian/elephant, 2003 woman/hiking hobo “MULE” (also copper piece) 2004 Indian/armadillo, 2004 Joe Rust/buffalo, 2005 leprechun/buffalo and 2005 Indian/unicorn all struck on silver planchets. Also 3 copper and 1 brass Doe Bros. tokens. There are no QD papers with this lot. Partial photos of lot above.

Lot 38 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Average 1914-P VF/XF
DelFavero/Alpert: “LIBERTY” and date remain on this classic subject carving. Single groove for hat brim and band. No ear or collar. Dash-punched hair, beard and mustache. Hair covers neck. No alterations to profile. Chisel-dressed field above and behind hat. Point graver and fine knife may have been used to create this piece. QD 11-AD-31

Lot 39 – Man Wearing Derby

Dave Boulay Modern: Superior Type 2 XF
Banks/Alpert: All details of this modern carving by Dave Boulay expertly executed. The hat with a straight raised brim sits back on the head. Carved hair, sideburns and eyebrow. No beard. The raised ear is nicely detailed and the entire profile altered. There is a crisp collar and a rounded shoulder surrounds an altered date (to 1932). Smoothly dressed field. Great eye appeal. Signed “DB #109” on reverse. QD 11-MB-002

Lot 40 – Balding Man DONATION

Dave Boulay Modern: Superior Type 2 VF
Banks/Alpert: Another eye catching carving by Dave Boulay. An excellent alteration with finely and neatly carved features (hair, raised ear, sideburns connected to mustache, collar, jaw line). Nose and neck have been altered. Collar has a nice fold. Flat topped head. Date altered to 1933. Nice smooth field. Attractive toning. Signed “DB #108” on reverse. QD 11-MB-001
Lot 41 – Bearded, Hatless Man

Dave Boulay Modern: Superior Type 2 VF/XF
Banks/Alpert: This carving of a well-groomed hatless man has tremendous eye appeal. The hair, beard, moustache and eyebrow are done with fine carved lines. There is a raised ear, modified “ski” nose and sloping forehead. A double collar neatly covers the neck. Finely dressed. Man resembles a young “Bo.” Date altered to 1933. Signed DB #110 on reverse. QD 11-MB-003

Lot 42 – Indian Chief

Dave Boulay Modern: Superior Type 2 VF/XF
Banks/Alpert: A beautiful full headdress with finely carved veins across each feather. The feather tips reach nearly to the edge of the coin. The headband is decorated with triangles. Nicely carved ribbons drape down from a bulls eye clasp and neatly frame the neck. Profile unaltered. Date has been changed to 1939. Signed “DB #111” on reverse. Great eye appeal. QD 11-MB-004

Lot 43 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Superior No Date S Mint VF
Kraljevich/Wilson: So well carved it looks struck. Totally carved including hat with band, ear, collar, jacket lapel, profile, hair, beard, nose, eye and jewel or stick pin at neck. Raised ear and hat brim. Field completely dressed. Registration # K-067

Lot 44 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: AboveAve/AboveAve(H) 1913-P T1 VF
Fivaz/Alpert: Nicely carved and punched by talented unknown artist. The hat, ear and collar are deeply carved with lower hat brim overlapping the ear. Hair, beard, mustache and eyebrow created with small circular punch. Ethnic nose alteration. Eye formed to show eyeball. Great eye appeal. Coin featured in “Kosher Carvings” by Verne Walrafen that appeared in the Summer 2010 issue of BoTales. Registration # F-578

Lot 45 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: AboveAve/Superior ND T2 VF/XF
Romines/Farnsworth: Expertly carved; great eye appeal; field well-dressed. Detailed work done on ear and eye and mouth area. Nose reshaped. Well-formed hat with hatband and bow. Rainbow toning. Plate coin, pg. 85 The Hobo Nickel. Registration # R-213

Lot 46 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Bert Wiegand Classic: Above Average 1913-P T2 XF
Romines/Fivaz: This was probably a typical hasty carving by Bert as indicated by the square nose to forehead junction; hasty dressing in some areas, and lack of high quality detail in the ear. While there are some areas (hat, field, collar) that are not fully dressed as some other examples by Bert, Fivaz feels this is a strong above average piece, nearly superior. Work QD’d in 1995 before use of High(H) and Low(L) etc. designations. Plate coin, pg. 13 The Hobo Nickel by Joyce Romines. # R-157.
Lot 47 – Bearded Man Wearing Domed Hat

Unknown Classic: Average 1916-P VF
Fivaz/Kraljevich: A carved (hat & ear) and punched (hair & beard) specimen; profile unaltered. Punching most likely done by a knife point. Neck and field behind head are crudely dressed. Date and “LIBERTY” remain. No collar. Coin has seen some wear since being carved. Registration # F-354

Lot 48 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

“Tufty” Classic: Average 1913-P Type 1 F
Fivaz/Farnsworth: Totally carved coin (including hair, beard, mustache); plain hat with hatband. Plain collar with scooped out (with a chisel) area. Interesting but unidentifiable marks on collar. Green verdigris spot behind hat. Typical hobo nickel artist’s subject. Registration # F-445

Lot 49 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Ave(H)/Ave(L) 1917-P Good
Fivaz/Alpert: Heavy scratched beard and mustache; a groove outlines hat; dome not dressed; uneven groves on hatband. Unaltered profile. Large indistinct ear. Profile unaltered. Plain neck (no collar) with some of original Indian’s features visible on hat and behind beard. Area behind the head is adequately dressed. QD 09-BF-146

Lot 50 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Average/Ave(H) 1928-P Good
Fivaz/Farnsworth: Carved (modified nose) ear, hat and collar. Punched hair, beard and mustache. High hatband with “X”s on it. Hair, beard, etc. has black grime imbedded in it, but original patina around figure testifies to its being an original. Profile altered. Nice eye appeal. Typical subject of classic hobo carvings. Registration # F-467

Lot 51 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Average No Date P VG/G
Fivaz/Alpert: Derby is very shallow and is high up on head; nice raised brim, bow on hatband, low dome. Altered profile; circular, overlapping punches used for curly hair/beard. Very nicely formed ear. Simple curved line for collar. Notch carved at top of nose. This coin, by an unknown artist, has seen considerable wear after carving. QD 09-BF-036

Lot 52 – Group of Three Classic Carvings

Unknown Classic Carvers: Below Average
Fivaz/Farnsworth: The first coin’s subject is carved and punched on an 1883 “No Cents” fine grade Liberty Nickel. Hair is carved as is part of crown. Jewels in crown are punched as is beard, probably with a knife point. Second carving is on a 1936-P F/VG nickel. Profile unaltered. Long hair punched (screwdriver?). Cap textured and stippled covering unremoved feathers. Third specimen is on a No Date Roosevelt P mint dime grading F/VF. Profile and hat have been carved; beard and hair have been punched, mostly likely by a nail point. There are QD papers for each coin in this lot. Registration #s F-466, F-469 and F-468
Lot 53 – George Washington

Howard Hughes Modern: AboveAve/Ave(ND-P) VG

Alpert/Farnsworth: This portrait of George Washington was created by Howard Hughes in the 1970s or 1980s. Profile is altered to that of Washington. Hair is punched with a curved punch; ear is carved. Signed “HH” under the buffalo. Coin darkly toned by the artist. Liberty removed. QD 02-SA-060

Lot 54 – 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. QD 09-BF-013

Lot 55 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: AboveAverage/Average/L 1913–P T1 EF/VF

Fivaz/Alpert: A very nice representation of the traditional subject of classic hobo nickel carvings. The derby is nicely done (plain crown with a hatband and bow); finely punched hair, beard, mustache and hair beneath front of brim. Ear rather indistinct. Unaltered profile and single lined collar. Field nicely dressed. QD 11-BF-30

Lot 56 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Average/Ave(ND-P) 1913-P T2 VF/F

Fivaz/Alpert: Lightly carved (some wear) original carving by an unknown artist. Plain hat with hatband and straight, pointed brim. Small ear overlapping hat brim. Beard, hair and mustache, as well as eyebrow appear to have been knife punched. Top of nose altered. Nicely dressed neck and field. Simple knit shirt type collar. Decent overall eye appeal. QD 11-BF-31

Lot 57 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

“Rough Beard” Classic: Ave(H)/Average No Date Good

Fivaz/Alpert: This hobo nickel was made by the artist nicknamed “Rough Beard.” It has all the characteristics (hat, nose {notch, enlarged nostril}, double collar), but this specimen has sparse punched dots for the hair instead of the usual densely-punched rough hair and beard. Coin received some post alteration wear. QD 11-BF-32

Lot 58 – Middle Eastern Man Wearing Fez

Unknown Classic: AboveAve(Ave/ND-P) VF/F

Fivaz/Alpert: It appears the artist smoothed the obverse, except for the profile before adding all features using thin fine lines on the smooth surface. Fez with tassel above the ear. Ear telephone shaped and the profile, eye and mouth have been altered. Large beard; collars and checkered coat. Field completely dressed. Unusual artistic style and subject. QD 11-BF-34
Lot 59– Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: AboveAve/Ave(H) 1913-P T2 VF
Fivaz/Alpert: An eye appealing carving by an unknown artist, this subject has a flat topped derby with field very nicely dressed around it. Small hat makes head appear small. Unaltered profile and well done hair, beard and eyebrow. Small ear. Winged collar shirt with Indian’s braid still visible. QD 11-BF-35

Lot 60 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Average No Date VF/VG
Fivaz/Alpert: This original carving by an unknown artist has seen some wear after having been carved. Hat has plain crown, a straight brim and a hatband with a bow. Light hair and beard. Unaltered profile. Very small ear. Completely dressed field. Crude collar and lines on the neck. QD 11-BF-37

Lot 61 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Ave(L)/Average 1916-P XF/VF
Fivaz/Alpert: A coarsely carved and punched hobo nickel. A deep groove surrounds the hat and forms the hat brim. Dome is coarsely punched (stippled). Hat appears offset on head. Deep grooves form the scraggly hair-beard-mustache. Mouth enhanced. No collar; no ear. Unusual artwork. QD 11-BF-38

Lot 62– Beardless Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic?: AboveAve/Ave(H) 1937-P XF
Fivaz/Alpert: Rounded hat and hat brim. Completely unaltered profile, also shoulder. Curly hair nicely done and well delineated. No beard. Alpert is not sure if carving is old or possibly modern-made. Field around hat and back of head is deepened. Circular punches form hair around the simple ear. Two grooves form the collar. QD 11-BF-39

Lot 63 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: AboveAve(H)/AboveAve 1913-P T1 F
Fivaz/Alpert: Subject’s hat has a very high crown, a curved wraparound brim and a delicate hatband with a narrow bow. Notch at top of nose and front of nose flattened. Semicircular neat cuts to form hair and beard. No ear visible. Winged collar. Field well dressed. QD 11-BF-40

Lot 64 – Bearded Men Wearing Derbies

Unknown Classic and Modern: BelowAve and Ave
Fivaz/Alpert: This is a two coin lot. The first is a below average old carving on a 1913-P Type 1 buffalo nickel. Deep grooves form hat and collars. Large circular punch used for hair, beard and mustache. No ear. Profile and mouth altered. Field roughly dressed. The second coin is a modern piece where a mechanical tool was used to create the alterations. No dressing done to feathers, braid or field. On AG no date buffalo nickel. QD papers for both coins. QD 11-BF-33 and 11-BF-36
Lot 65– Bearded Man Wearing Hat/Turtle

Arthur Hutchinson Modern: Above Ave(H) ND T2
Banks/Alpert: Attractive obverse cameo carving of a bearded man wearing a domed hat with a straight raised brim and band with accent lines. Large raised ear. Finely carved hair, beard and eyebrow. Frown lines, crow’s feet, altered eye, nose and nostril. Underwater turtle scene on reverse and initials “AH.” Deeply recessed flat fields. QD 11-MB-005

Lot 66 – Man Wearing Hat/Human Head on Buffalo

Bill Jameson Modern: Superior 1937-P VF

Lot 67 – Rabbi

Owen Covert Modern: Above Average 1937-P VG
Banks/Alpert: The subject is a man wearing a yarmulke with cross-hatch design, carved hair, eyebrow and beard. Slightly modified profile. Nice bold ear. The collar is formed by double lines and decorated with accent lines. Fields completely dressed, LIBERTY removed. Dark toning, but nice contrast. Signed “OC” on reverse. QD 11-MB-007

Lot 68 – Man Wearing a Derby

Owen Covert Modern: Above Average 1935-P VG/F

Lot 69 – Man Wearing Cap and Hiking Hobo

Bill Jameson and Frank Brazzell Modern: Average(H) 1928-P G & Average 1920-P G
Banks/Alpert: Early Bill Jameson carving. Punched hair and large drooping mustache. Altered profile-bulbous nose. Simple inscribed ear and a straight line in lieu of a collar. Fields recessed and textured. Large, smooth cap-like hat. The second coin is a reverse carving by Frank Brazzell of a hiking hobo with carved head, arm and fingers, back pack, and pants (not quite down to knee). QD 11-MB-008 and 11-MB-010

Lot 70 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

“Smoothie” Classic: Average No Date T2 F/VF
Banks/Alpert: By the carver nicknamed “Smoothie,” the domed hat and brim have been partially outlined. A crescent shaped punch for hair, mustache and beard. Well dressed fields; LIBERTY remains. Profile unaltered. Inscribed backward 3 ear. A folded, open collar formed with cut lines. QD 11-MB-011
Lot 71 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Average 1914-P F
Banks/Alpert: This early hobo appears to be totally knife carved. Series of art lines and small punch marks outline the derby and its curved brim. Roughly outlined oval ear. The hair and beard are neatly punched using a knife point or similar pointed tool. Simple scratched lines for collar. Profile unaltered. Knife scratched dressed field at left. QD 11-MB-012

Lot 72 – Bearded Man Wearing a Hat

Unknown Classic: Average(H) 1919-P XF
Banks/Alpert: Shallow domed hat with long sloping brim sits high on the head. Cut lines decorate the brim. The hair and beard created with overlapping punch marks. Nicely shaped ear and bold curved neck; Adam’s apple and curved collar. Profile unaltered. Field behind head neatly dressed. Nice eye appeal. QD 11-MB-013

Lot 73 – Bearded Man Wearing a Hat

Unknown Classic: Average(H) 1913-P T1 VF/F

Lot 74 – Bearded Man Wearing a Derby

Unknown Classic: Above Average 1913-P T1 VF

Lot 75 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Ave(H)/Average 1927-P XF
Banks/Alpert: Hat has a long pointed brim and blunt at left. Band is decorated with vertical lines. Hair, bushy eyebrow, beard and mustache are composed of fine cut lines. Nicely engraved small ear. The fields above and behind the head are deeply carved. Unaltered profile. No collar. QD 11-MB-016

Lot 76 – Bearded Man Wearing a Derby

Unknown “Rough Beard” Classic: Ave(H) 1913-P T1 XF
Banks/Alpert: Carving has most of the features of a “Rough Beard,” but may be by another carver. Alpert says might be an early carving by “Rough Beard.” Wide hatband and short brim. The hair and beard are done with overlapping punch marks. Altered nose and nostril. Nice ear with punched detail. Double collar with vestiges of ribbon showing. Very collectible piece. QD 11-MB-017
Lot 77 – Man Wearing Hat & Hatless Bearded Man

**Archie Taylor Modern & Unknown Classic:**
**Average 1936-P VG and Crude 1923-P Good**

Banks/Alpert: The first coin is by modern carver Archie Taylor. Small hat high on head; no band. Simple carved hair; no beard or mustache. Altered profile. Large bold tall ear. Tall collar. Dressed field. Signed AT11 on reverse. QD 11-MB-012.

Fivaz/Alpert: The second coin is crudely done piece by an unknown carver. A circular punch was used to create the entire design. Very little or no artistic talent evident. QD 01-BF-061

Lot 78 – Bearded Man Wearing a Derby

**“Tufty” Classic: Above Average 1913-P T1 XF**


Lot 79– Bearded Man Wearing a Derby

**Unknown Classic: Average(H) 1929-P VF**

Alpert/DelFavero: Small hat with raised brim and band. Front of brim bent down. Most of ear is negative relief. Hair (at back of head and near forehead) and beard (around jaw) formed by small angular gouges. Profile unaltered. Much work was done on shoulder, double collar, hat and field. Field chisel dressed. Nice unusual looking coin. QD 11-SA-002

Lot 80 – Four Hobo Nickels

**Various Artists Classic: Crude to Average**

A bulk lot consisting of four classic hobo nickels by various unknown artists. The quality of the carvings ranges from crude to average. There are no QD papers with this lot.

Lot 81 – 12 Hobo Postcards

**Various Artists, Some Postmarked; Some Unused**

Three of the twelve are shown here. If you wish to see color photos of all 12 postcards, please see the OHNS website on-line catalog at: www.hobonickels.org/fun2012/page06.htm#lot081.
Lot 82 – Man Wearing Coat with Sack on Back

Unknown Classic: Above Average 1913-P T1 VF
Alpert/Fivaz: A popular subject for a reverse hobo nickel carving. The buffalo has been transformed into a bearded man, wearing a long coat, with a pack or sack on his back. Nice work on head (hat, ear, eye, beard) and feet (shoes). No remnant of buffalo remains except for profile of man and textured sack (fur of buffalo). Nice eye appeal. QD 04-SA-076

Lot 83 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: AboveAve(H)/AboveAve 1916-D AU
Alpert/Fivaz: Nice hat with wraparound brim, band and smooth dome. Small ear. Punched hair-beard-mustache using a small circle punch. Profile unaltered. Nice double collar and dressed field with LIBERTY remaining. The entire obverse has a dull sandblasted finish. QD 04-SA-091

Lot 84 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Matthew Petitdemange Modern: AboveAve(H) 1937-P F
Fivaz/Alpert: A modern carving by Matthew Petitdemange of New Jersey. High crowned derby; hatband with light bow. Altered profile. Hair behind ear thicker than beard and mustache. Oval ear. Simple collars; ribbon from braid still visible on collars. Field dressed except for “RTY.” Signed and dated on edge “MP #67 8/08.” QD 08-BF-079

Lot 85 – Frogs on Lily Pad Pond Scene

Elmer Villarin Modern: Superior 1 oz. silver bar
Banks/Alpert: Eye catching scene of three frogs on lily pad, with reeds, hills, and moon (partially visible) in background. You might expect to see a scene like this in a book of fairy tales. Golden toning with blue in recesses. Signed “EV” in the corner; 2010 engraved on edge. Other side of bar has “FREEDOM” vertically below a flying eagle. QD 11-MB-019

Lot 86 – Steam Locomotive Reverse Carving

Elmer Villarin Modern: Superior 1936-P VF

Lot 87 – Hobo Holding a Nickel

Elmer Villarin Modern: Superior 1935-P AU
Banks/Alpert: A great caricature of a standing hobo, with oversized head, full-face view. Subject is holding a nickel in one hand and his hat in the other. Beautiful flat and smooth recessed field. Carved in high relief with great detail and ornate border (cut lines). Trash can borders the date. Banner around “LIBERTY.” Signed “EV2010-23” on rim. QD 11-MB-21
Lot 88 – Bearded Man Wearing a Hat

Unknown Classic: AboveAve(H)/AboveAve 1915-P XF

Lot 89 – Set of BoTales Issues

1992-2011
All are originals except these nine issues which are photocopies: V1#1, V2#2, V6#3, V7#1, V7#2, V7#3, V8#1, V8#2, and V8#3. 61 issues in all (52 originals and 9 copies). BONUS: Included is a copy of the three-page special FUN 1996 report plus an original special four-page FUN 2006 issue. No QD papers.

Lot 90 – Set of OHNS Auction Catalogs

January, 1995 (Auction 1)–Winter 2011 (Auction 20)
A Complete Set of OHNS Auction Catalogs (auctions 1-20) with prices realized. As a bonus, the 2007 Heritage Auction Catalog featuring the Troy Wiseman Hobo Nickel Collection is included (21 catalogs in all). No QD papers with this lot.

Lot 91 – Indian Chief

Elmer Villarin Modern: Superior 1937-P XF
DelFavero/Alpert: A very nice and detailed high relief carving by modern artist Elmer Villarin. The artist has titled this carving “Chief Iron Tail Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show EV 2011-3” engraved on the edge of the coin. All detail of original coin has been removed except the date, leaving a beautiful cameo portrait. Nicely lined field background. Liberty and the obverse border has been removed. Nice eye appeal. QD 11-AD-32

Lot 92 – Indian Chief, Full Face View

Elmer Villarin Modern: Superior 1937-P XF/VF
DelFavero/Alpert: Titled by the artist and engraved on the edge of the coin is “Sitting Bull Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Sow EV 2011-5.” Only the date remains on this beautiful full frontal cameo image, with Sitting Bull wearing a hat. A very detailed high-relief carving. 3D effect is created as the artist has added wreaths as an outer border. Nice eye appeal. QD 11-AD-33

Lot 93 – Indian Chief

Elmer Villarin Modern: Superior 1936-P XF
DelFavero/Alpert: Engraved on the edge of this coin is “Whirling Hawk Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show 2010-9.” Again, only the date remains on the obverse of this fine, detailed high-relief cameo of the chief in full regalia. Great 3D effect. Nice smooth field. Nice eye appeal. QD 11-AD-34
Lot 94 – 1860s Steam Locomotive

Elmer Villarin Modern Superior 1913 Lib. Hd. 5¢ Copy
DelFavero/Alpert: Executed on a 1913 uncirculated Liberty Five Cent copy (Royal Oak Mint), the artist has engraved on the coin’s edge the title of this work, “Baldwin 1860s 10 Wheeler EV 2011-7.” Great detail on this reverse carving. Nice smooth field; border removed. Nice eye appeal. QD 11-AD-35

Lot 95 – Wart Hog

Elmer Villarin Modern AboveAve(H) OffCtr. Jeff. 5¢ AU
DelFavero/Alpert: Our artist has used an off center stuck Jefferson nickel planchet to use as his canvas for a close-up view of the face of a wart hog. The snout and tusks are rendered on the elongated part of the off center strike. A very unusual carving and subject. Signed “EV 2011-17” on the edge. QD 11-AD-36

Lot 96 – Dragon Amulet Design

Elmer Villarin Modern Superior/Sup(L) 1937-D F
DelFavero/Alpert: Our artist has deeply carved a nice Asian style dragon amulet style nickel. This unique carving features flowing scrolls and snake like twists. Only the date remains on this obverse carving. Signed “EV #18 20ll” on the edge of the coin. QD 11-AD-37

Lot 97 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Owen Covert Modern: AboveAve(H)/Superior(L) 1936-P F/VG
DelFavero/Alpert: Owen Covert has carved a tribute nickel to the classic nicknamed artist “Big Ear.” He recreates the hat brim, 2 stage collar, enhanced nostril, facial notches, small stroked hair and signature ear. Nice smooth concave field; LIBERTY removed. Nicely antiqued. Nice eye appeal. QD 11-AD-38

Lot 98 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Owen Covert Modern: AboveAverage(H) No Date G
DelFavero/Alpert: Another tribute nickel by the artist, this time to the carver nicknamed “Long Nose.” Nice sculpted features create a nice hat with bow, a wriggle cut hatband, collar and shoulder; nicely formed ear, eye and signature extended nose. Liberty and date removed on this smoothed out field. Nice antiquing. Nice eye appeal. Signed “Owen” in script on buffalo. QD 11-AD-39

Lot 99 – Bearded Man Wearing a Derby

Owen Covert Modern: AboveAverage(H) ND G/AG
Lot 100 – Rhinoceros

Alan Chernomashentsev Modern:
AboveAve/AboveAve(L) 1935-S Good
DelFavero/Alpert: Nice reverse carving of a Rhino, with protruding horn and ears added to execute the head portion. Buffalo’s body has been modified at top, sides and slightly on legs. Signed “AC” below last S of STATES. QD 11-AD-41

Lot 101 – Buffalo Vehicle

Alan Chernomashentsev Modern:
AboveAve(H)/AboveAve 1937-D VG
DelFavero/Alpert: The artist has titled this fine reverse carving “The Green Machine.” The buffalo has been turned into a fantasy family car. Mom and dad are seated in the front seat and two kids are in the rear. Great detail. Signed “AC” monogram at lower left. QD 11-AD-42

Lot 102 – Bearded Man Wearing a Hat

Unknown Classic: Average 1913 T2 VF/XF
Banks/Alpert: Shallow hat with zigzag hatband and sloping brim. Hair and beard punched, possibly with a knife. Elf-like oval ear far back on head. Punched eye, slightly altered nose and enhanced lips. Neck outlined; no collar. Field and neck dressed with fine scratches. QD 11-MB-024

Lot 103 – Kaiser

Unknown Classic: Average 1914 VF/F
Banks/Alpert: Subject is a hatless man with upturned mustache, most likely a depiction of Kaiser Wilhelm. Nice carved ear set back on head. Altered profile and jaw line; simple military collar. Chiseled field at left; LIBERTY and date remain intact. No beard. Looks a little like Woodrow Wilson except for mustache. QD 11-MB-025

Lot 104 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Average(H) 191?-D T2
Banks/Alpert: Subject’s hat decorated with wriggle cut pattern; hatband has vertical cut lines and nice bow. Narrow curved brim with pointy wraparound ends. Engraved ear is well detailed, but far back on head. Choppy angular-punched hair, beard and mustache. Tall collar with triangular fold in front. Chiseled field at left. Profile unaltered. Nice classic carving. QD 11-MB-026

Lot 105 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: AboveAve(L)/AboveAve 1913-D T1 F
Banks/Alpert: Finely carved piece. Nice hat with accent lines and 3 dimensional brim, hatband and bow. Hair, eyebrows and beard carved and punched, possibly with a knife. Altered profile, mouth open, upper lip outlined. Very detailed shirt and jacket collars, fine accent lines. Punched eye. Nice smoothly dressed field at left. Nice eye appeal. Rough hole at top. QD 11-MB-027
Lot 106 – African-American Man

Unknown Classic: AboveAve(L)/AboveAve 1918-P VG

Lot 107 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Average(H) 1915-P Good
Banks/Alpert: Subject has a large hat with long crescent shaped brim covered with wriggle cut pattern; bow above brim. Wriggle cut and cut lines used for hair and beard. Engraved ear and nicely engraved nose and downturned mouth. Nice, slightly awkward collar. Field dressed at left. Decent eye appeal. QD 11-MB-029

Lot 108 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Ave(H)/AboveAve(L) 1915-P F/VG
Banks/Alpert: Nice high domed hat with three dimensional brim and plain hatband. Well carved ear, punched hair and beard; slightly altered profile and eye. No collar. Nicely punched neat hair, beard and mustache. Unaltered profile. Light reddish brown corrosion does not distract from this well done carving. Nice eye appeal. QD 11-MB-030

Lot 109 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Above Average No Date-P XF/VF
Banks/Alpert: Low domed hat with pointed brim. Altered profile. Engraved ear and punched hair and full beard. Fine cut lines for eyebrow, crow’s feet, under eye and behind nostril. Plain double collar above jacket with horizontal accent lines and lapel. Entire field dressed with a stippled punched pattern. LIBERTY removed. QD 11-MB-031

Lot 109 – Bearded Man Wearing Hat

Unknown Classic: Above Average No Date-P XF/VF
Banks/Alpert: Low domed hat with pointed brim. Altered profile. Engraved ear and punched hair and full beard. Fine cut lines for eyebrow, crow’s feet, under eye and behind nostril. Plain double collar above jacket with horizontal accent lines and lapel. Entire field dressed with a stippled punched pattern. LIBERTY removed. QD 11-MB-031

Lot 110 – Bearded Man Wearing a Derby

Unknown Classic: Average(H) 1913-P T1 XF/VF
Banks/Alpert: Nicely carved hobo nickel despite dark toning. Domed hat with broad three dimensional brim. Horizontal accent lines across hat and band. Simple engraved ear, carved hair, wriggle cut beard and mustache; altered eye and nose; crow’s feet. Dark toning does reduce eye appeal. QD 11-MB-032

Lot 110 – Bearded Man Wearing a Derby

Unknown Classic: Average(H) 1913-P T1 XF/VF
Banks/Alpert: Nicely carved hobo nickel despite dark toning. Domed hat with broad three dimensional brim. Horizontal accent lines across hat and band. Simple engraved ear, carved hair, wriggle cut beard and mustache; altered eye and nose; crow’s feet. Dark toning does reduce eye appeal. QD 11-MB-032

Lot 111 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

“Needle Ear” Classic: Above Average 1913-P T2 XF/VF
Banks/Alpert: Nice specimen by the hobo nickel carver nicknamed “Needle Ear.” Domed hat with raised band and bow. Diagnostic raised ear comes to a point at the bottom. Altered nose and open mouth with sneer. Punched hair and large pointed beard, covering most of face. Straight collar. Darkly toned. Nice eye appeal. QD 11-MB-033

“Needle Ear” Classic: Above Average 1913-P T2 XF/VF
Banks/Alpert: Nice specimen by the hobo nickel carver nicknamed “Needle Ear.” Domed hat with raised band and bow. Diagnostic raised ear comes to a point at the bottom. Altered nose and open mouth with sneer. Punched hair and large pointed beard, covering most of face. Straight collar. Darkly toned. Nice eye appeal. QD 11-MB-033
Lot 112 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

“Peanut Ear” Classic: Ave/Ave(H) 1913-P T1 XF/VF
Banks/Alpert: An original carving by the prolific artist nicknamed “Peanut Ear.” Domed hat, band with oval decorations and raised brim. Large peanut shaped raised ear. Punched hair and beard with no mustache. Unmodified profile. Simple V-shaped collar. A bit below average for a “Peanut Ear,” but still has nice contrast and eye appeal. QD 11-MB-034

Lot 113 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Ave(H)/AboveAve(L) 1914-P F/VG+
Banks/Alpert: Totally carved hobo nickel. Nice, neat, simple workmanship overall. Low domed hat with pointed brim, hatband with vertical line decoration and bow with horizontal lines. Hair, eyebrow and beard neatly carved with knife point or similar tool. Unaltered profile; nostril enhanced. Simple tall carved ear just below brim. Double collar. QD 11-MB-35

Lot 114 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Unknown Classic: Average No Date-P VF/F
Banks/Alpert: An original carving that differs from others with the name “IZZY” on them. Unclear if “IZZY” is the carver or the subject? The head, except face, appears to have been smoothed down, then the features scratched or carved on, probably with a knife. No ear or hair, just a light beard and mustache. Bow on straight hat brim. Profile unaltered. Field deeply chiseled with LIBERTY removed. “IZZY” on shoulder. QD 11-MB-036

Lot 115 – Bearded Man Wearing a Hat

Unknown Classic: AboveAverage(H) 1916-P AU/XF

Lot 116 – Man Wearing Fedora

Stephen Cox Modern: Superior 1936-D VG/G
Banks/Alpert: Bold carving. Nice fedora with groove on top, feather in gold hatband; thin wraparound brim. Altered facial features with fine hair, nice ear, cheek, eye, bold jawline, mustache, collar and bowtie. Nice fields and ornate border. Excellent workmanship. Signed “SDC” on rim. QD 11-MB-038

Lot 117 – Clown

Stephen Cox Modern: Superior 1935-P Fine
Banks/Alpert: A nice clown with gold bulbous nose, open smiling mouth, nicely carved broad wavy hair, nice hat and collar. All facial and profile features altered; entire obverse altered except for date and LIBERTY. Frilly collar, finely stippled fields recessed inside a plain border. Signed “SDC” on the edge. Nice eye appeal. QD 11-MB-039
Lot 118 – Cowboy

Stephen Cox Modern: Superior 1937-P Fine
Banks/Alpert: A very nicely carved scene of a cowboy at a bar with a beer in his left hand, facing forward. Nicely carved features – hair, ears, eyes and nose; open mouth with cigarette in corner. Very detailed jacket over open collar shirt. Only date and LIBERTY remain from original obverse. Signed “SDC” on rim. QD 11-MB-040

Lot 119 – Charlie the Tuna

Stephen Cox Modern: Superior 1935-P F/VG
Banks/Alpert: A creative cartoon scene of Charlie the Tuna with “SORRY CHARLIE” sign hung on a gold hook. Charlie is wearing glasses and a beret. Three fish in background as well as some seaweed. Just date and LIBERTY remain of original obverse. Signed “SDC” on the edge. QD 11-MB-041

Lot 120 – Pipe Smoking Man Wearing Hat

Stephen Cox Modern: Superior 1936-P Fine
Banks/Alpert: The artist has created a border (with only date and LIBERTY remaining from original obverse) around carving with lots of detail and bold features – hat with checkered pattern and wide turned down brim that wraps around the head, strap, finely carved wisps of hair and eyebrow, large nose and lower lip, shiny neck and jacket with diamond pattern. Signed “SDC” on the rim. Nice eye appeal. QD 11-MB-042

Lot 121 – Head of Joe Camel

Stephen Cox Modern: Superior 1937-P XF
Banks/Alpert: Caricature head of Joe Camel (Camel Cigarettes advertising mascot) wearing sun glasses with cigarette in his mouth. Stippled field, ornate border. Only the date and LIBERTY remain of the original obverse. Signed “SDC” on edge. QD 11-MB-043

Lot 122 – Two Owen Covert Hobo Nickels w/QDs

Owen Covert Modern: Above Average
Banks/Alpert: The first carving of a bearded man wearing a derby is an Above Average(H) on a 1936-P G/VG nickel. All features of the obverse were altered except for the date. Punched field. Nice eye appeal. QD 11-MB-045. The second carving as a nice depiction of a Rabbi and is Above Average and executed on a 1937_P VG/G nickel. Profile unaltered. Smooth field behind head. QD 11-MB-048. Both carvings signed “OC” on the reverse.

Lot 123 – Four Owen Covert Hobo Nickels w/QDs

Owen Covert Modern: Average to Above Average

Bo Tales 26 Winter 2011
Lot 124 – Lady Wearing a Bonnet

Ray Castro Modern: AboveAve/AboveAve(H) 1936-D F/VG
Banks/Alpert: A very nice carving of a woman wearing a bonnet or cap. Profile strongly altered. Nicely carved hair braided into a feather along the side of the woman’s face. Very fine facial features including the eyebrow, nose, nostril and lips. Nice smooth field. Signed “RC” on reverse. QD 11-MB-050

Lot 125 – Bearded Man Wearing Cap

Ray Castro Modern: AboveAve(H) 1937-P Fine
Banks/Alpert: Sporty triangular cap with button on top and brim at front. Neatly carved hair, beard and mustache. Nice raised ear, Profile unaltered; V-neck collar. Fields entirely dressed with LIBERTY removed. Signed “RC” on reverse. QD 11-MB-051

Lot 126 – Woman with Flowing Hair

Ray Castro Modern: AboveAve(H) 1936-P Fine
Banks/Alpert: Nicely carved portrait of a woman with flowing hair and an arc of hair framing face. Carved hair extends to rim of coin. Profile transformed to that of a woman with curved eyebrow, delicate pointed nose and small mouth with outlined lower lip and jaw. Satin finish. Attractive carving. Signed “RC” on reverse. QD 11-MB-052

Lot 127 – Clown Wearing a Small Hat

Ray Castro Modern: AboveAve/AboveAve(H) 1937-P F
Banks/Alpert: Carving of a clown with a small hat high on head. Fringe of hair behind a large C-shaped raised ear. Outline around eye and round nose. Large raised (makeup) lips. Fields nicely dressed – LIBERTY and date left intact. No collar. Nice eye appeal. Signed “RC” on reverse. QD 11-MB-053

Lot 128 – Crusader Knight

Ray Castro Modern: Above Average 1937-P Fine

Lot 129 – Grinning Hobo Wearing a Derby

Keith Pedersen Modern: Superior 1929-P Fine
Banks/Alpert: A very nicely carved and punched work with gold inlay collar and tooth. Strongly altered profile. Long nose with raised metal nostril, grinning mouth showing teeth, large eye, nice ear, enhanced jaw line and punched hair, beard and mustache. Derby with raised brim and band decorated with wavy lines and dashes. Tweed pattern on jacket. Nice smooth concave field with LIBERTY removed. Nice eye appeal. Signed “06-KP” on reverse. QD 11-MB-055
Lot 130 – Modern “Schnozz” Copy

Keith Pedersen Modern: AboveAve(H) 1930-S Fine

Lot 131 – Man Wearing a Derby

Keith Pedersen Modern: AboveAve(L)/AboveAve(H) 1936-P F/VG
Banks/Alpert: The subject’s head and neck have been reduced in size and shifted to right of date. Cigarette in mouth. Punched hair and beard, altered profile; well shaped ear, carved eye and enhanced jaw line. Fields deeply recessed and completely stipple dressed. Nice gray toning. Great eye appeal. Signed “KP” on the reverse. QD 11-MB-057

Lot 132 – Modern Copy of “Little Eva”

Keith Pedersen Modern: Superior(L) ND-D T2 G

Lot 133 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Keith Pedersen Modern: Above Average 1936-P VG/G
Banks/Alpert: The subject has a copper inlaid hatband on derby. Overlapping punch marks for hair and beard. Well carved ear, altered eye, nose and raised-metal nostril. Frown lines add expression. Simple collar. Fields entirely peened with LIBERTY removed. Signed “KP” on the reverse. QD 11-MB-059

Lot 134 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Keith Pedersen Modern: Superior 1936-P Fine
Banks/Alpert: A very nice work, totally altered except for date. Hat is peened with a decorated band, bow and raised brim. Hair is punched and beard and mustache carved. Nice raised ear and raised metal nostril; large nose. Field nicely dressed with phrase "ISHKABIBEL" at right hand engraved. Very attractive overall. Signed “KP” on the reverse. QD 11-MB-060

Lot 135 – Bearded Man Wearing Derby

Joe Paonessa Modern: Superior 1936 XF
Banks/Alpert: Excellent modern carving tribute to the classic artist nicknamed “Big Ear.” Detail on this carving goes beyond the originals – finely textured small derby with raised three dimensional brim, fine lines on band and well carved bow. Eye totally altered. Large ear. Smooth field. Wonderful eye appeal. Signed “JAP” on buffalo’s front leg. QD 11-MB-061
Lot 136 – Man with Goatee Wearing Derby


Lot 137 – Long Haired Woman DONATION

Joe Paonessa Modern: Superior(L) 1936-D VG Banks/Alpert: Nice carving of a woman with hair flowing back to the edge of the coin. Profile altered including nose, nostril, lips chin and jaw. Detailed eye and enhanced cheek. Subject wearing a necklace. Fields smoothly dressed with LIBERTY remaining. Initials “JAP” on reverse on buffalo’s leg. QD 11-MB-063

Follow-up on “Bushy Beard”

When OHNS member Fred “Roo” Ross of Solon, Ohio read the fall 2011 issue of BoTales cover story entitled How I Learned “Bushy Beard” Was Almost Certainly From Ohio, he sent me the following email.

“The cover article cites and illustrates a “Woodland Avenue nickel.” I’m a long time resident of Cleveland suburbia and I can tell you that Woodland Avenue is a major urban artery that stretches from downtown Cleveland near the railheads many miles out to the east, almost to Shaker Square in Shaker Heights. Even during the mid-1950’s when my mother and father took us on family outings up to the Higbee’s and Halle’s department stores in Cleveland from where we then lived in North Canton, I remember seeing so many hoboes and vagrants populating the lower Woodland Avenue area because of its proximity to the rail yards, adjacent hobo jungles near the Cuyahoga River, the vegetable markets (where day work could often be had), the cheap hotels and flophouses, the Salvation Army and the missions where one could often get a meal and some warmth from the cold. Most of these sights were replaced by urban projects and urban renewal initiatives in the late 1950’s and 1960’s. But, since 1) your nickel came to light somewhere between Stow, Ohio (just 25 miles from the downtown Woodland area of Cleveland), and Warren (not too far from Cleveland and readily reachable by rail), and 2) the Woodland Avenue area was for many decades a major stopover for hoboes heading east, west and south (not north ’cause you’d end up in Lake Erie), it seems at least plausible that this nickel came from a carver in Cleveland.”

Fred then emailed me with some additional information. “By the way, I might add that an old Cleveland saying – “ain’t worth a Woodland Avenue nickel” or “ain’t worth a Woodland Avenue dime” - was, I assume, equivalent to saying “ain’t worth a Continental” or “ain’t worth a plugged nickel.” I always presumed this was because the lower Woodland Avenue area probably saw a lot more counterfeit coins than other areas of the city and its suburbs due to the high concentration of indigents, transients, chronic saloon patrons, "professional ladies," down-on-their-luck's and petty criminals. It also was the stomping ground of Cleveland’s not-so-petty criminals as well (like the early Cleveland Mafia) and the locale of a lot of violence during the 1920’s “molasses wars” between rival whiskey producing gangs. I'm no Cleveland historian, but I always felt more than a few hobo nickels were made in - and certainly traveled through - the old lower Woodland Avenue corridor in the teens, 20’s, 30’s and 40’s.” Thanks, Fred for the photos and information on Woodland Ave.
A Rich and Voluminous Smoke
By Dennis “Books” Tucker, LM58

“Buffalo Nick” O’Honis wasn’t born in Buffalo, but he was fond of summering in Western New York. “It’s a wonderful place to live year-round if you like the cold, which I don’t,” he always told people. “A Buffalo winter is nine months long. Spring happens when you go to sleep one night in a snowstorm and wake up in a bed of daffodils. The next weekend they call summer, and then a few days later it’s fall. You start getting comfy and then it’s time to move your winter blanket out of storage again.”

Nick rarely had two spare dimes to rub together. “The only bank I ever been in was a two-story snow bank, up Tonawanda way,” he said.

Of course, in the early 1930s most people didn’t have much spare change jingling in their pockets. Especially not the folks Nick hung around with. He was a wanderer. . . a rail-riding vagabond . . . a hobo. That was the term he preferred, and the one most of his compatriots used.

“I’m not a tramp,” he would insist, whenever the word was used in his presence. Usually he would encounter that epithet while being chased off a sidewalk by an irate storekeeper, or run out of a train-yard by a railroad cop. In those situations he didn’t have time to stop and explain the subtle vernacular distinction. But later, sitting around a campfire and relaxing among sympathetic ears, he would expound: “A tramp wanders and doesn’t work unless he absolutely has to.” Buffalo Nick also wasn’t a bum. “A bum stays in one place, and he never works.” No, Nick was neither tramp nor bum, but a hobo: a wanderer who crisscrossed the country, doing honest work whenever he could for dinner and a safe place to rest quietly before moving on.

“Settled folk scoff at the word vagabond,” Nick would continue. “They don’t know it comes from the Latin, vagabundus, or ‘one inclined to wander.’” Again, this was a bit of linguistic wisdom he seldom had the luxury to expound upon while being chased by a barking dog or menaced away from a farmstead by a shotgun-wielding crank. But it soothed his wounded dignity (if not his canine-bitten posterior) to know that he was living an honest, if non-traditional, life, and one with a rich history.

One winter evening early in 1932, Nick was unwinding in a jungle—as the hoboes called their temporary encampments—and he had with him that rare treat he loved the most: an audience. They were a ragtag bunch, travelers from around the country, who had made their way south to the warmer climate of Florida. This was where they would spend the winter—or as much of it as possible before circumstances moved them along. On this particular evening Buffalo Nick was kicked back royally, holding court in a dilapidated rocking chair. The chair no longer rocked, but this infirmity was compensated for by a dry and fairly clean horse blanket that, to the road-weary hobo, seemed a rich upholstery.

Gathered before him, seated on boxes or stretched out on the ground, were the following: “Fever Bill,” also called “Zemo,” a tall gent from Fulton, New York, who was known to have been a chocolate salesman back when times were flush; “Bowery Dave,” a writer and, before the stock market crashed in 1929, a dealer in mechanical music machines; “Little Jim,” a young hobo fairly new to the road and still learning the ropes; and Penny O’ Copper, one of those rarest of creatures, a lady hobo, rumored to have been a socialite born with a silver spoon in her mouth. Penny and Nick were just friends at the time; this was well before they fell in love and got married in a hobo ceremony that would become the talk of Hobohemia for a season. All had just partaken of a meal of mulligan stew—an improvised mixture of whatever meat, potatoes, and other fare its chefs could contribute to the community pot. Penny was the de facto “mulligan mixer”—not by dint of her femininity, but because she was the only one who knew where and how to gather the right spices and wild herbs to lend the stew a welcome touch of flavor.

After everyone had settled in for a spell, Nick spoke. “Did you know the hobo code was put down in writing more than forty years ago?” He had learned all about it from a ‘bo called Specs, who was even more learned than Nick, out in Missouri a few autumns past. As Specs told it, Tourist Union #63, during its 1889 National Hobo Convention in St. Louis, had hammered out a set of rules that would benefit traveling men (and women) nationwide.

“The first rule is: Decide your own life. Don’t let another person run or rule you.” His companions nodded their agreement. This was as natural as breathing to any self-respecting hobo.

“Rule two,” Nick continued. “When in town, respect the local law and officials.” He held up a hand to stop the good-natured scoffing. “And try to be a gentleman at all times.”

Little Jim spoke up. “My mama always told me you catch more bees with honey than vinegar.”

“Wise advice,” affirmed Nick before he went on. “Rule three: Don’t take advantage of anyone in a vulnerable situation, whether a local or another hobo.” The traveler’s life might be wild, from a townie’s perspective, but it wasn’t anarchic. The Golden Rule still applied.

“Rule four: Always try to find work, even if it’s temporary, and always seek out jobs nobody wants. By doing this you help a business along, but equally important, you ensure employment if you return to that town again.”

Bowery Dave spoke up. “Whenever I go to Atlanta,” he said, “I’m guaranteed three hots and a cot by the local

Continued on page 33
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... send to OHNS QD Examiner Marc Banks

Marc Banks, 11 Lincoln Lane, Westogue, CT 06089-9781  
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 both the coin and the QD papers directly to Steve Alpert (without a QD Fee) 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 Marc Banks.

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 $15.

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!

Quality Designation 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!

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newspaper editor. He knows I can edit an article or write a feature story in a pinch—and once he even gave me credit in print. But even the Peach State can get cold in the winter, and I have to move my bones further south.”

“Rule five: When no employment is available, make your own work by using your added talents at crafts.” With this, Nick reached into his pocket and pulled out a nickel. He passed it to Zemo, who examined it with curiosity before passing it around. At first glance the coin appeared to be a normal five-cent piece, but closer inspection showed that its portrait of an Indian chief had been artfully carved into a bearded and bowler-hatted fop with a monocle. On the reverse, the buffalo had been transformed through skillful graving into a weary hobo carrying a giant knapsack. “When I have down time, I carve what the locals call hobo nickels,” he continued. “I can sell them for a neat profit.” He reached up to the hatband of his well-worn derby and drew from it a small carving bit, which he passed around the circle so everyone could gander at it. “I believe the locals call that ‘folk art,’” he said with a chuckle as he took back the cleverly engraved Buffalo nickel. If he had any foresight that, fifty years later, coin collectors and antiquarians would eagerly seek such tiny canvases for their collections, he made no indication. For now, the nickels were a lark—a creative pasttime for a wanderer with an artistic bent.

“Rule six!” he continued. “Do not allow yourself to get stupid drunk. This sets a bad example for local opinion of other hobos.” Here he gave a knowing look to Little Jim, who was rumored to sometimes waste what little coin came his way on the demon rum. Jim was temporarily preoccupied with stoking the campfire, and seemingly disinterested—although he privately took note of the warning.

Nick nodded to himself, aware that Little Jim had taken his meaning. “Rule seven: When jungling in town, respect handouts. Don’t wear them out. Another hobo will be coming along who needs them just as bad as you—if not worse.” The implication was clear: at some point, you yourself could easily be that other hobo, whose fate depended on the reputation left by those who came before you.

What Nick was telling them, many hoboes knew already—either they had learned the “rules” firsthand in their travels, over time, or they had absorbed them through their jungle retellings. The encampment was a place to pass down knowledge, to share stories, to reinforce the wisdom of such a principle was beyond argument. Outside this campfire circle was a vast community of fellow travelers, and each of Nick’s listeners knew it.

“Rule nine: When you’re in a community jungle, always pitch in and help.” Here he tipped his derby to Penny O’Copper. “My compliments, once again, to our distinguished mulligan mixer.”

Bowery Dave added to Nick’s acknowledgment. “Never has such splendid fare graced a traveler’s tin cup.”

A round of appreciative murmurs circulated before Nick continued.

“Rule ten: Stay clean as best you can, and boil up whenever possible.” Boiling up was hobo slang for getting as clean as circumstances allowed, when the opportunity arose—ideally, going so far as to boil one’s clothes to kill lice and other vermin. “Sadly,” said Nick, “sometimes this can kill off our most steadfast traveling companions.” His audience laughed knowingly at the jest.

“Rule eleven,” Nick continued. “When traveling, ride your train respectfully. Take no personal chances. Cause no problems with the operating crew or your host railroad.” He emphasized the point: “Conduct yourself like an extra crew member.”

Fever Bill spoke up in agreement. “Many’s the time I’ve shoveled coal to give a railroad man some rest,” he said. “And happily so.”

“Sometimes it’s either that, or get kicked out of the caboose!” Bowery Dave added.

The next rule followed up on the preceding. “Rule twelve: Don’t cause problems in a train yard,” Nick said. “Remember that another hobo will be coming along soon enough. He’ll need passage through that same yard.” The wisdom of such a principle was beyond argument. Outside this campfire circle was a vast community of fellow travelers, and each of Nick’s listeners knew it.

“Rule fifteen: Help your fellow hobos whenever and wherever needed. You may be the one who needs help some day.” Again, the Golden Rule was a constant presence for the conscientious traveler.

“Rule sixteen is the final one,” Nick continued. “If you’re present at a hobo court, and you have testimony, give it—whether for or against the accused.”

“We may live on the fringes of polite society,” Zemo

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added sagely, “but still each voice counts.”
Nick nodded his agreement. The road was not so wild that justice was a pipe dream. “We dispense judgment when necessary,” he said. “I’ve seen an errant hobo given the match, and I live my life in such a way to avoid that treatment.” A hobo who came upon a jungle campfire and was coldly handed a wooden match got the message loud and clear: You’re not welcome here. Go and make your own campfire—where you can, if you can.

As Buffalo Nick wound down his speech, Bowery Dave sat up, rustled through his rucksack, and quietly offered to Nick a seldom seen treasure: a full, uncut, unsmoked cigar, wrapped in Connecticut leaf so dark it looked like oil, complete with a fancy silver-foil band. Not a half-smoked stub that some rich townie had dropped on the sidewalk, and not a homemade stick of dubious roadside tobacco and filler, but a good old-fashioned Cuban. A relic from better times. A valuable boon, kept safe on the road, and not to be given away lightly. “Thank you for sharing your stories,” Dave said. “You may have noticed I was writing as you spoke.” Nick had noticed—happily, because he knew Dave would spread the word wherever he went, as would Bill and Penny and, hopefully, Little Jim. He accepted the beautifully hand-wrapped tobacco with a cordial nod. “You honor me with this gift, Sir,” he said, and then he fished a razor blade from the brim of his derby hat, which held an array of other sundries and implements. A few moments later he had the cigar neatly cut and burning, and he drew on it contentedly, sending fragrant clouds billowing around his head.

“That is a rich and voluminous smoke,” he said with great satisfaction and appreciation. “A rich and voluminous smoke, indeed.” He would share it in a moment, sending the cigar around the circle, as was appropriate and courteous. But for now he leaned back in his horse blanket chair, closed his eyes, reflected on the value of friendship, and dreamed of the coming spring.

Ride is over for two OHNS members

Sadly we recently learned of the death of two early OHNS members. Marilyn Marshall, RM33 (joined in 1933) caught the westbound on January 15, 2011. Marilyn was working in her husband’s (Virg Marshall) looking through a bag of buffalo nickels when she found a hobo nickel in the group. This hooked her and started her collecting them. Marilyn was born July 17, 1936 and lived in Wymore, Nebraska. Member Martin Carota, RM61 (also joined in 1993) passed away on September 29, 2011 in Collegeville, Pennsylvania, Born March 22, 1927, Martin was 84 years old at his passing.

Please Help OHNS
Check Your BoTales Mailing Envelope Address

If “2011” appears above your name on the envelope address for this BoTales issue,

You need to pay your annual OHNS dues for 2012 now!
Annual dues still only $15/year
Dues must be paid through 2012
to bid in Auction 20!

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

Looking Ahead to 2013

2013 will mark the Centennial Celebration of not only the Buffalo nickel but also 100 years that carvers have used that nickel design to rework into many different styles of this folk art. With this said, I have carved the very first Centennial Hobo Nickel with hopes of inspiring other carvers to make their own versions to be shown in a future Centennial Celebration edition of “BoTales”. We are all exceptionally fortunate to be actively involved during the renaissance of this art form. Thanks so much... Cinco de Arturo

Editor’s Note: It is hoped that other of our OHNS contemporary carvers will consider carving a “Centennial Hobo Nickel” in time to be shown in our first BoTales issue of 2013.
2012 Hobo Nickel Census

What better time to take a hobo nickel census than during our OHNS 20th Anniversary year. This is something OHNS has never done before. Let’s take a club census of nicknamed and known classic hobo nickels. Let’s create our own population report of classic carvers.

How are we going to do this? Between now and the end of 2012, I’d like each member who owns one or more classic hobo nickels by a nicknamed or known classic carver to report that information to your BoTales editor. This communication can be by email, telephone or written letter. For example, you might say I own one “Peanut Ear,” two “Smoothies,” and one by “Bo” Hughes. Contact information can be found on page 3 of this BoTales issue.

We WILL NOT keep track of who owns what. No member names and what they own will be published in BoTales or put on the OHNS website. We only want to find out how many carvings by each carver are in collector hands. Yes, this will only be a census of OHNS members, but since the majority of serious hobo nickel collectors are OHNS members, this will give us a pretty good estimate of the number of carvings by particular classic artists or at least the relative rarity of a particular nicknamed carver.

Once we get replies back, we can generate a “population report” of classic nicknamed and known classic hobo nickel artist’s work. Which artists are truly rare, with only a few examples of their work, and which ones were more prolific. We can only accomplish this task with your help. You DO NOT have to have OHNS QD papers on your nickels to submit this information. If you aren’t sure if one or more of your hobo nickels is by a classic nicknamed carver, you can go to the Quick ID (www.hobonickels.org/quick.htm) section of the OHNS website or to the more detailed Nickel Carver’s ShowCase (www.hobonickels.org/showcase.htm) to see detailed diagnostic characteristics of particular nicknamed carvers.

By the way, I will be attending the 2012 OHNS Annual Meeting and Auction #20 on January 7th. If you are also attending, and prefer to do so, you may hand me your list of hobo nickels by classic carvers at the meeting.

Let’s hear what carvers are in your collection!  ☞

OHNS Annual Meeting and Auction

The cover of this issue serves as notice of our OHNS Annual meeting (10 am January 7, 2012) and auction to follow. The OHNS Board meets in the same room at 9 am. The Board meeting is open and members are welcome to attend if they wish.  ☞

20th Anniversary Celebration Dinner

To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the Original Hobo Nickel Society, your OHNS Board has decided to have a dinner celebration Saturday evening January 7, 2012 (day of Annual Meeting and Auction). The dinner will be held at a restaurant near the Orange County Convention Center (If transportation is necessary, we will work out rides for those members flying in from out of town.). As this BoTales issue is going to press, we still do not have the final details worked out. We soon hope to have the location and approximate cost solidified. Keep checking the OHNS website for details.

Each member will be responsible for dinner payment and any drinks for themselves and their party (spouse, significant other, family). OHNS will subsidize a portion of the dinner cost. Again, details will be forthcoming and will be posted on the OHNS website.

What we need from each member who plans to attend this special dinner, is how many persons in their party that will be attending. Please contact BoTales editor Ralph Winter with this information by December 15, 2011. Contact information (email, phone and snail mail) can be found on page 3 of this issue.  ☞

2012 F.U.N. Convention & Hotel Info

The 2012 F.U.N. Convention is being held from January 5-8 in the Orange County Convention Center 9400 Universal Boulevard, North/South Concourse Hall SB, Orlando, Florida. Please note this is a different hall than two years ago (West concourse). F.U.N. will provide complimentary bus service to and from four nearby hotels: the Peabody, Rosen Centre, Rosen Plaza and Rosen Inn (formerly the Quality Inn Plaza). Also within walking distance are the Hilton Orlando, Hampton Inn and Holiday Inn Castle. You can book your own hotel or go through the F.U.N. website www.FunTopics.com. Check the individual hotel websites for rates and discounts (AAA, AARP, etc.).  ☞
Editor’s Note: I recently received an email from OHNS member Owen Lorian, most of which is reprinted below. Beginning with this issue, I plan to include at least one “Money Talks” cartoon in each regular BoTales issue and Auction Catalog issue if space allows.

Introducing “Money Talks”

I’m just a name on your membership list, but thought I’d introduce myself. I don’t collect hobo nickels, I’m afraid. In fact, I don’t collect any coins. What I do collect are pictures of coins. Back when I first joined the OHNS, I was still producing a comic strip entitled “Money Talks.” I did draw a number of strips with “Bo” (created from a “Peanut Ear” carving) If you’d like to run one an issue in BoTales, I’d be honored. You can see more of the strips (without “Bo”) at moneytalks.thewebcomic.com – it ran 981 installments from January 2004 to January 2008.

My first “Bo” strip used a French coin with Louis XIII – note the upturned nose. Louis was the resident snob. Daniel Boone had commemorative half dollars struck for five years. Good for common man & redneck jokes. Nicola Tesla was on a commemorative coin from his native Croatia. He played well with Marie Curie and Leonardo da Vinci. The Eagle landing on the Moon was the reverse of the Susan B. Anthony dollar. There are a lot of animals on coins, but I didn't use them much. P. T. Barnum had a commemorative half dollar struck one year. He was good for show business jokes. The Miss Liberty large cent was the femme fatale of my strips.

I’ve always loved comics. The newspaper comic strips were what my father used to teach me how to read before I even started kindergarten. He always called the funny papers the “Educational Pages.” And I collected comic books as a kid. They went along with my fascination with science fiction. In the 70s I got involved in science fiction fandom in away, including publishing fanzines for various clubs and for myself. I prided myself on recruiting some good artists to supply me with fantastic art and cartoons.

When computers came along, a new art form was born known as webcomics. I loved them, and wanted to write my own. After retiring early because of going deaf, I needed something to fill my time. Problem was, I'm a terrible artist. Then the idea hit me that coins (and stamps) already had heads on them, so why not just use those? I'm surprised it hasn't been done before or since. (I did eventually find one very short-lived webcomic that used pictures from paper money.) So I began collecting images of coins. At first, I just used current US coins, but soon ran into problems. For one, if I couldn't flip the images, my comics would have to consist entirely of Abe Lincoln (the only rightward-facing US coin) talking to the other presidents.

Despite my limited talent, I became expert at altering coin images to face the opposite direction, while leaving the writing intact so that my characters could face either right or left. I also expanded my pool of characters by including historical and foreign coins. I did decide, though, to only use monetary coins, and exclude things like medallions or Franklin Mint issues, and also mostly skip using postage stamps.

I did make a few exceptions. Coins masqueraded as stamps for Halloween. An arcade token clown was a regular character, and Lance Armstrong showed up as a bicycle wheel, but they were rare, and except for the two just mentioned, they were just one-time cameos.

Although I have little interest in numismatics I joined a coin collector's forum to get more high-quality photos, and there ran into carver Bill Zach, who introduced me to hobo nickels and the OHNS. This left me in a tizzy. Were hobo nickels included as monetary coins, or should they be classed as ineligible tokens for my webcomic? I finally decided that I'd accept one single high-quality nickel as a representative for the entire field. After all, how could I pass up adding a hobo to my cast?

The webcomic drew little interest, however, and so after four years of disappointment, and just tantalizing short of 1,000 strips, I finally burned out on it in early 2008, and turned to a second strip I’d started for a specific audience of Freemasons, Square & Compasses. That one runs in a couple monthly lodge newsletters, far less frequent than the sometimes-daily “Money Talks.” And who knows, maybe running in BoTales will give me the incentive I need to revive “Money Talks.” ~ Owen Lorian

MONEY TALKS

Say, Hobo, you know they once made a movie about me? You don't say. Yep. And then they made a whole TV series about me. Well, there's an entire cable channel named after me. What? Sure. HOme Office. But they usually leave out the first O.

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