

The Northwest Coin Club

1934-2023



Photo taken at club dinner at the Curtis Hotel prior to 1955.
At this time the dinner was a formal event with men in suits and women in hats.

History of the Northwest Coin Club

1934-2023



Pete Smith
NWCC Historian 1996-2023

Published by Tom Rossin in 2009



Dedication

We thank and honor those Charter Members who founded
the Northwest Coin Club on February 10, 1934.

Becken, Carl M. #04	#06 Gustafson, Malcolm
Bollum, Earl J. #15	#03 Johnson, Lyman
Buchwald, D. R. #07	#13 Kurtz, Julius A.
Carlson, Hjalmar #21	#10 Newall, John C.
Curtis, Oce #20	#08 Randall, R. G.
Fillmore, Roy M. #14	#01 Rasmussen, Elias
Fisher, Robert E. #18	#05 Sacket, Richard R.
Gerber, Lynn #09	#02 Smith, G. H.
Goldstein, Janet #17	#12 White, Arthur D.
Goldstein, Sander #16	#11 Whiting, Grace
Gustafson, G. M. #19	

For eighty-nine years, the Northwest Coin Club has served collectors and dealers in the Twin Cities area while promoting numismatic fellowship and education. This history of the club was compiled from club records, newsletters, scrapbooks and the memory of members.

Club Activities

The club was founded on Saturday, February 10, 1934, by the Reverend Elias Rasmussen who also served as first president. The organizational meeting was at the Central Y.M.C.A. in Minneapolis. A coin exhibit was planned for April.

The first program speaker was a doctor representing the Hennepin County Tuberculosis Association promoting the sale of Christmas seals.

The first by-laws were adopted in 1934. The club soon joined the national American Numismatic Association (ANA) as member #4517 in May of 1934. The ANA acknowledged the club in the February 1935 issue of *The Numismatist*. They described it as "the Northwest Coin Club of Milwaukee and St. Paul."

Some meetings in 1935 included dinner but were not designated as the annual dinner.

In 1935 there was a picnic and cruise on the Mississippi river.

A second Constitution was written in 1936, somewhat longer than the original.

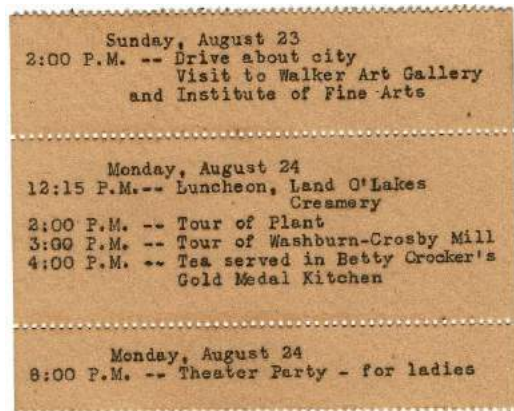
In 1936 the young club was host to the American Numismatic Association convention at the Nicollet Hotel in downtown Minneapolis.

In anticipation of the ANA convention, President Curtis established a junior association of the club. Thomas Dailey was president of the 7 junior club. He was a junior at Central High School in Minneapolis. This was described as the first junior Numismatic Club in the United States. The junior club had an exhibit of foreign coins at the show. No mention of the club was found in the archives after 1936.

The convention was discussed in the *ANA Centennial History* by Q. David Bowers:

"The Northwest Coin Club, with members in both Minneapolis and St. Paul, is not a large one, and it was handicapped in not knowing just how an ANA convention should be handled, as few of its members had attended our previous conventions. There was also uncertainty as to the number of visiting members expected, and in trying to estimate this they went somewhere above the mark. The attendance was smaller than usual and considerably less than expected. But the warmth of the club's greeting compensated for any disappointment in the attendance.

In the afternoon two busses conveyed the party to Minnehaha Falls and a ride about the city and parks... In the afternoon the visitors were taken to the Land o' Lakes Creamery for an inspection of the plant... The program called for a visit to the Washburn-Crosby Flour Mills [a firm which subsequently became known as General Mills] later in the afternoon, with tea in Betty Crocker's Gold Medal kitchen. The ladies of the party were strongly in favor of carrying out the program, but many of the men preferred returning to the hotel."



1936 ANA Convention Tickets

During the convention, former ANA President Charles Markus collapsed in the hotel and died shortly afterward.

The St. Paul Numismatic Association was organized with fifteen charter members on October 6, 1936. Their meetings were held at the Pioneer Building.

Several early members had advanced collections. Members often invited the club to meet at their homes where collections were shown and shared.

The club had a booth and exhibit at the Minnesota State Fair during September 4 to 11, 1937. Chairman for the effort was C. L. Berggren. The club was offered two booth spaces in 1938. During August 26 to September 4, 1939, the club had a space with 22 foot frontage at the Minnesota State Fair. For August 23 to September 2, 1940, the club shared the 22 foot space with the Twin City Philatelic Society.

Oce Curtis began as club Historian in January, 1938. He asked members for contributions of newspaper articles. In 1939, Roy Fillmore was club historian. Curtis was back in the position in 1940.

In June of 1940, the club had an exhibit at the Minneapolis Public Library. For National Coin Week in 1940, the club had an exhibit in the window of the Northwestern National Bank.

For the September 5, 1940, meeting, Arthur McCracken presented an interesting program. He passed around a dozen coins and asked members to write their opinion on condition.

Younger members of the club left to serve their country during the Second World War. The club passed a resolution to maintain free memberships for those on active duty. A special election was held on June 4, 1942, to select club officers who were too old for military service.

The October 2, 1945, Minneapolis *Star-Journal* mentioned the club "In This Corner" with Cedric Adams. "The Northwest Coin Club wants to know the origin of a dollar being called a buck and why we refer to money as 'dough'".

In 1947, R.R. Sackett was elected Historian. In October of 1947 "The Romance of Money" was exhibited at the Minnesota Historical Society with 20 cases. One highlight was "a complete collection of transportation tokens" with 2000 pieces placed by Kenneth Smith, a local collector and author. The exhibit was reported in the St. Paul Sunday *Pioneer Press* for October 5, 1947.

In 1950 the club organized another exhibition of coins at the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul. "The Romance of Coins" included thousands of coins with displays that ranged from coins struck in 700 B.C. up to recent U.S. commemorative coins.

On March 5, 1952, on the one hundred year anniversary of the organization of Hennepin County, the club donated a set of U. S. cents to the Hennepin County Historical Society.

A special contest was offered in 1956 with a "Prize Quiz Program." This was conducted over ten months with five questions each month. (No meeting in July or August) The winner received a U. S. Savings Bond.

The club participated in National Coin Week April 21-27, 1958, with exhibits at the Northwestern National Bank, Minneapolis office; Northwestern National Bank, Lincoln office; First National Bank of St. Paul and Midway National Bank of St. Paul. This was reported in the Minneapolis Sunday *Tribune* April 20, 1958. The article included the names and home addresses of some of the exhibitors but no subsequent burglaries were reported. The club prepared a scrapbook of these activities for submission to the ANA and received an Honorable Mention.

In 1963 the club honored nine surviving charter members who were still active by awarding them life memberships. They were Carl M. Becken (4), Julius A. Kurtz (13), Robert E. Fisher (18), Oce Curtis (20), Hjalmer Carlson (21), Paul E. Olson (29), N. V. Swanbeck (44), William T. Hartman (65), and Elmer C. Tupper (69). Long time club Historian Elmer Tupper died in October 1964.

The club treasurer in 1967 was Laurine Wilkerson. She was accused of writing checks for personal expenses from the club treasury and was removed from office. Our agreement with the bank required two signatures on checks and they cleared some checks with only her signature. The bank was found liable for the losses. The club recovered \$627.50 from Minnesota Federal Savings and Loan Company and additional \$2,284.86 from a bonding company. Ms. Wilkerson also reimbursed the club for some of the funds so the club recovered more than the losses.

In 1970 the home of NWCC Secretary James Conley was vandalized. Some club records were lost or damaged. Members were concerned that their addresses were in the hands of thieves. Also in 1970 there were complaints of apathy among the officers but nobody cared.

Membership and interest in the club declined in the late 1970's. Some meetings attracted only a half dozen members. In 1975, the club began the year with a treasury balance of \$714.78 and ended the year with a balance of just \$6.89. The annual show lost \$14.46.

At the time of his death in December 1983, club historian Ed Westman maintained much of the club history and files at his home. Although attempts were made to recover this material from his estate, much of this was lost to the club.

New Historian Fred L. Price wrote *The Northwest Coin Club, First Fifty Years, A Brief History*, published in 1984. Ellsworth B Erickson provided photographs with printing by IPC in Roseville. Price recalled that 100 copies were printed. He resigned as Historian and left for China. The office remained vacant until Pete Smith was appointed club Historian in May 1996.

On July 1, 1986, the club signed a lease to rent an unheated storage garage on Excelsior Boulevard. Occasionally water leaked under the door and frozen cases were taken to the spring show. In 1986 the club produced a brochure to promote club activities.

A new revised Constitution was approved at the January 1992 meeting after several months of discussion and review. This update brought the Constitution more in line with current club activities.

The club donated a hardbound set of the *Standard Catalog of World Coins* along with a five-year subscription to *The Numismatist* to the University of Minnesota Library in 1994.

In September of 1997 the club show supplies and cases were moved from the Excelsior Boulevard location to a locker at All American Self Storage in Crystal. Cases and supplies were trucked to each annual NWCC show with some cases rented to MOON for their fall show.

Beginning in January 2000, the club contributed funds and support for the attempt to exempt investment coins from state sales taxes. So far, these attempts have been unsuccessful.

In May of 2001 the club voted to give honorary life memberships to Dick Grinolds, Ted Molitor, Tom Mowrey, John Olson and Lee Quast. It was later discovered that Mowrey had also been given life membership previously.

Since 2004 the club has sponsored a member to attend the ANA Summer Seminar. These members are expected to present a program telling of their experience.

Travis Bonovsky developed the club website that was previewed at the club dinner of October 27, 2011.

For Coin Week in 2014, the club created an exhibit at the Brooklyn Center Public Library.

Meetings

Meeting times and locations have changed over 89 years. The meeting for May, 1934, was at the Central Y.M.C.A. in Minneapolis. In the early years, club meetings were held at the Curtis Hotel in Minneapolis. Often members hosted these meetings at their homes.

At the beginning of 1935 meetings were held on the second Tuesday of each month in Minneapolis and fourth Tuesday in St. Paul. By July of 1935 the meeting dates were changed to the Second Thursday at the Dykeman Hotel in Minneapolis and fourth Thursday at the Frederick Hotel in St. Paul. In 1936 the St. Paul meetings were at the St. Paul Hotel.

By 1940 membership rose to 76 with meetings split on the first Thursday at the Curtis Hotel in Minneapolis and the third Thursday at the Metropolitan Bank Building in St. Paul. The plan was to have a 10 minute business meeting and a 20 minute program with the rest of the evening for visiting and trading. Attendance for the April 4, 1940, meeting was announced as fifty-four members and guests during National Coin Week.

For a while in the fall of 1941, St. Paul meetings were held at the Sullivan Stamp and Coin Shop at 115 Endicott Arcade.

In 1944 meetings were held on the first and third Wednesday of each month. In 1946 the location for St. Paul meetings was changed to the Eagle's Hall at 113 University Avenue.

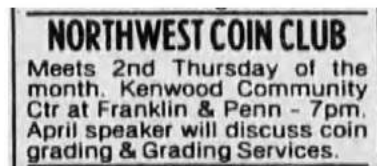
By 1954 St. Paul meetings were at the Ryan Hotel. Then in 1957 meetings were at the Midway YMCA in St. Paul. For the February 1959 meeting, attendance was reported as 110.

In 1963 meetings were held on the first Wednesday at the West Central YMCA in Minneapolis and on the third Wednesday at the Midway YMCA in St. Paul. In 1968 average attendance was about 25 with 20 members required for a quorum. During the 1960's, meetings included a half-dozen dealers with bourse tables and an auction.

Meeting locations continued to change. In 1974 meetings were at the Eagle's Club on Pierce Butler Route in St. Paul. Around 1980 meetings were at the Leamington Motor Inn.

One primary purpose for the club is education and speakers are recruited to speak at the monthly meetings. A popular program is a grading exercise for certified coins with grades concealed. Other programs include an occasional auction or "show and tell" session.

In 1985 club meetings were held on the second Thursday of the month at the Kenwood Community Center in Minneapolis. The club meeting of March 12, 2020, was the last meeting at Kenwood just before Governor Walz issued orders cancelling public meetings because of Covid-19.



Star Tribune April 2, 1995

The April 9, 2020, meeting was conducted on Zoom with 16 members attending on-line. Zoom allowed the club to recruit national speakers for programs and to allow out-of-state members to participate.

The July 8, 2021, meeting was the first hybrid meeting conducted on Zoom and in person at Interium, inc. The September 9, 2021, meeting was held at the St. Cloud University Extension site in Plymouth, MN. The November 11, 2021, meeting was held on Zoom only because of the Veteran's Day holiday.

In 2022, the club began to hold meetings at the Minnetonka Community Center.

Club Newsletters

In 1940, club members got their news through “Straight Edge,” the newsletter of the Twin City Philatelic Society. This is just one example of cooperation with local stamp clubs.

The first club newsletter, “Strictly Mutilated” was published on May 11, 1945, with Gerald Huber as newsletter editor. When the newsletter ceased publication in 1947 meeting notices were sent out each month on one-cent postcards.

During the era of 1966 to 1970, meeting notices were sent out regularly in letters from the President or Secretary.

When he was president in 1986, Bill Daehn introduced a monthly club newsletter mailed to members. Responsibility for the newsletter was given to club vice president with John Saffert serving as editor for May 1987 into 1988, Pete Smith serving 1988-89, and Bill Daehn serving 1989-90.

During 1990-92, our newsletter editor was Virgil Young who was not a club officer. For several years Bill Beeson handled printing, stuffing and mailing the newsletter. Everett Levens served as vice President in 1992 and assumed the job of newsletter editor on July 10, 1992. His service as editor continued until August 2016. Everett died on December 27, 2016, and his funeral was attended by many club members.

In 2007 the newsletter was distributed by e-mail to members who request this form. A few members continued to receive paper copies along with courtesy copies sent to the ANA and coin papers.

Mary and Ellen Kuhfeldt took responsibility for the Newsletter about September 2016. They continued through the issue for January 2019.

After a thirty year hiatus, Pete Smith returned as newsletter editor for the eighty-fifth anniversary of the club in February, 2019. He declined reappointment after the June 2022 newsletter. Jim Meyer took over as newsletter editor.

Club Shows

The February 4, 1937, meeting of the club marked the third anniversary. A banquet was held at the Curtis Hotel with twenty-five members and guests attending. Early club banquets evolved into the annual club shows.

The fourth anniversary banquet was held February 17, 1938, at the Hotel St. Paul with thirty-two members and guests attending. Among guests was ANA president J. Henry Ripstra. Earlier in the day he had given a talk on WCCO Radio. Some coins were exhibited in cases along the walls.

The club participated in the Second Annual City-Wide Hobby Show on April 21-23, 1938. The event was at the St. Paul Y.M.C.A.

The largest and most expensive activity each year is the annual coin show. On January 18-21, 1939, the club joined two local stamp clubs for an exhibit at the West Hotel in Minneapolis.

The fifth annual banquet was held February 2, 1939, at the Curtis Hotel with twenty-five members and guests present.

On January 11-14, 1940, the club joined the Twin City Philatelic Society and the Precancel Club to host a joint exhibit at the St. Paul Hotel. In early years the emphasis was more

on exhibits of collections and less on commercial sales. The event of March 5-9, 1941, was called the Ninth Annual Stamp and Coin Exhibition with the club participating with local stamp clubs.

On March 5 to 9, 1941, the club joined four stamp clubs for an exhibit at the Curtis Hotel in Minneapolis. These were extensive exhibits without sales.

On February 5, 1942, the club held the Eighth anniversary banquet at the Curtis Hotel. Following was a lapse in banquets during the war years. The next was the 12th anniversary banquet held on February 6, 1946, at the Curtis Hotel with fifty-one members and guests attending. Fifteen members placed exhibits. Some of the anniversary banquets included exhibits such as the Thirteenth Annual Banquet and Exhibit at the Curtis Hotel in 1947. The name was an indication that banquets were held annually but this was not the thirteenth banquet. This confusion extended to the numbering of coin shows.

On June 11-12, 1949, the club had the Northwest Coin Club Exhibit at the Curtis Hotel. At the time the club issued woods promoting the Minnesota Territorial Centennial. The event of May 13-14, 1950, was called the second annual exhibit, auction and banquet. The emphasis switched from holding exhibits during the annual banquet to holding a banquet during the annual exhibit. The continuity of annual coin shows can only be traced back to the exhibit in 1949. The event held in 1952 was called the 18th Annual Convention, Auction, Banquet, Bourse and Exhibits. The mix of activities and confusion over the name continued. After years at the Curtis, the 1955 and 1956 conventions were at the Ryan Hotel in St. Paul.

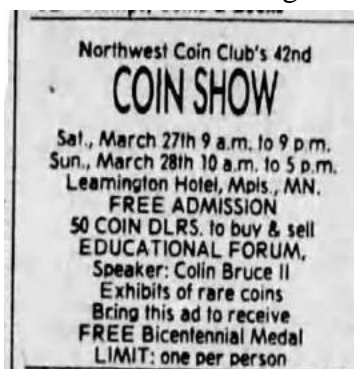
The Upper Midwest Coin Collectors' Convention was held on June 21-23, 1957, at the Andrews Hotel. The NWCC hosted the show with participation by the Austin MN club, the Winona MN club, the North Dakota Coin Club and the South Dakota Stamp and Coin Club. The show had 32 bourse dealers, registered attendance of 296 and 158 at the banquet. A professional auction was conducted by Leo Young. The 1958 annual meeting and banquet was at the Richfield State Bank.

The shows for 1962 through 1969 were held at the Pick Nicollet Hotel. The 1965 30th annual convention included an exhibit of the rare 1913 Liberty nickel. Although a blizzard made travel conditions difficult, show officials reported attendance of 15,000 with the aisles too crowded to conduct business. Harvey Bultman was General Chairman. Club president Gail Wilkerson promoted the coin show on the "Something Special" TV show on March 16. The 1913 Nickel was shown on the TV show. Attendance at the 1966 show was reported as 4000.

The club expanded to hold a fall convention at the Pick-Nicollet Hotel on November 5-7, 1965. A second fall show was held in 1966 but did not sell out. The fall show scheduled for 1967 was cancelled.

Shows for 1970 through 1976 were at the Leamington Hotel. Access to the loading area was through an adjoining parking lot. Dealers complained that they had to pay for parking to unload. In 1974 Joseph Bidwell was chairman. The show returned to the Curtis Hotel in 1979. In 1983 it was at the Leamington.

Coin shows for 1984 through 1990 were held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Minneapolis with Kenneth Eikeland and later Dick Grinolds as General Chairman. There were complaints about the downtown location and expense of parking. The 1984 show was planned for 150 tables. One highlight of the show in 1987 was an exhibit of treasures from the Atocha



Star Tribune March 22, 1976

provided by treasure hunter Mel Fisher. In 1990 Lee Quast assumed the job of Bourse Chairman and continued until 2015.

In 1991 the annual NWCC show moved to the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center with John Saffert as General Chairman. Some collectors in the south metro area complained that the location was too far north. At the time the MOON club held their shows at a southern location near the airport. In recent years the location at the Earle Brown center has been recognized as the best show location in the region. Remy Bourne won first place for his exhibit "Birth of the Three-Cent Piece."

Prior to 1992 the club used small show cases stacked in heavy wood storage containers. These were replaced with larger Allstate cases and the old cases were sold off at the 1992 show.

Often the club offers something free to anyone who brings a copy of an ad to the show. A bowl of inexpensive world coins is provided as gifts for kids. Sample hobby publications are given to adults.

In 1996 the club purchased 4000 "Penny Boards" offered by the PNG. Many were given to local councils for distribution to Boy Scouts. More were given at the annual show. Later the PNG offered five "quarter boards" to hold the set of 50 state quarters. These have been popular give away items over the years.

The club was invited to participate in the Northwest Summer Coin Expo held July 17-19, 1998, at the Minneapolis Convention Center. This show had coins in one section, stamps in another and sports cards in a third.

In 2016 Brendon Tupa and John Jost shared responsibility as chairmen for the annual coin show. In 2017 Larry Fransen became general chairman with Tom "The Coin Guy" Styczinski as Bourse Chair. In March of 2020, Greg Billman became show chair.

On March 16, 2020, Minnesota Governor Walz issued an order closing public accommodations and prohibiting public events because of the Covid-10 pandemic. The 2020 Northwest Coin Club Money Show was cancelled. There was no M.O.O.N. show in 2020 and no NWCC Show in 2021.

The M.O.O.N. organization announced that the 2021 show would be their last and would be conducted jointly with NWCC and with NWCC taking full responsibility in 2022.

The Northwest Coin Club returned to hosting the annual Money Show in 2022 with good member participation, good attendance and good reviews.



Central States Conventions

The NWCC has hosted several Central States conventions. The Central States Numismatic Society held their 1951 annual convention at the Curtis Hotel in Minneapolis. A coin auction was conducted by local members Paul B. Slosson and M. Hilding Nelson. Visitors were offered a bus tour of Minneapolis. At the time Nelson was president of the club and Slosson was secretary/ treasurer.

The 1951 convention program stated:

"We, of the Northwest Coin Club, feel honored that the Central States Numismatic Society has seen fit to return once again to our beautiful city. The word "return" is justly used since it was here the idea for such a society was formed – during a gathering of some of the boys at the 1936 ANA convention. So, "Welcome back home folks!"

The Central States Numismatic Society returned to Minneapolis for their convention of April 28-30, 1961. Paul E. Olson was general chairman for the event at the Pick-Nicollet Hotel. The bourse had 100 tables in 9000 square feet with F. Berrisford Horn as bourse chairman. Leo A Young conducted the auction.

On April 26-28, 1985, CSNS conducted their 46th Anniversary Convention at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Minneapolis. Dick Grinolds was show chairman. The NWCC split profits with CSNS and received \$16,987.71.

In 1992 Central States returned to Minneapolis for their show at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Again Dick Grinolds was show chairman. Tours were offered to the Humphrey Metrodome (cancelled) and the Federal Reserve Bank. A local collector, Jim Marrinen, won Best-of-Show for his exhibit of Irish coins. Revenue from the show was used to purchase and distribute books to twin cities school libraries.

In 1996 the club voted to host the 2001 Central States Show. Plans changed and in 1997 Minneapolis was selected to host the show in 2000. Representatives from the club attended the 1997 show in Indianapolis to discuss arrangements. This year the club became a life member of Central States. By 2000, Central States had switched to a professionally managed show with no involvement from the host club. This led to bitterness that remains with some local club members.

The 2000 61st Annual Central States Numismatic Society Convention was held at the Minneapolis convention Center on May 4-7. Local collector and club president, Pete Smith, took the Best-of-Show award for his exhibit "Personification of Conder Tokens."

Street construction made access to the 2000 convention challenging, even for local collectors. This was the time of the "Rodney King" riots in Los Angeles and some visitors were hassled along Hennepin Avenue in Minneapolis.

Club Dinners



This listing of club dinners is incomplete.

1935, February 27	The First Anniversary Banquet was on a Tuesday at the Elks Club. Speaker was Willoughby M. Babcock. Curator at the Minnesota Historical Society.
1936, February 27	Castle Royal, 8 W Channel Street, St. Paul, Attendance 29
1937, February 4	Curtis Hotel, 327 10th Street So, Minneapolis. Attendance 25
1938, February 17	Saint Paul Hotel, ANA president J. Henry Ripstra, speaker, Attendance 32
1939, February 2	Curtis Hotel, 327 10th Street So, Minneapolis, Attendance 25
1940, January 12	Saint Paul Hotel
1941, March 5	
1942, February 5	Curtis Hotel, 327 10th Street So, Minneapolis, Attendance 24
1943-1945	[no Dinners]
1946, February 6	Curtis Hotel, 327 10th Street So, Minneapolis, Attendance 51
1947, May 7	Curtis Hotel, 327 10 th Street So, Minneapolis, Attendance 63
1948, May 12	Curtis Hotel, 327 10 th Street So, Minneapolis,
1949, June 12	Curtis Hotel, 327 10 th Street So, Minneapolis,
1952, April 19	Curtis Hotel, 327 10 th Street So, Minneapolis,
1953, April 18	Curtis Hotel, 327 10 th Street So, Minneapolis,

1956, November 4	Ryan Hotel, St, Paul, Attendance 79 [convention dinner]
1957, June 22	Andrews Hotel, Minneapolis, Attendance 158 [convention dinner]
1958, June 21	Richfield State Bank
1993, October 14	Jax Café, 1928 University Ave. NE, Minneapolis, Attendance 37
2005, October 27	Fort Snelling Club, 6081 Minnehaha Ave, St. Paul
2006, October 12	Fort Snelling Club, 6081 Minnehaha Ave, St. Paul
2007, October 11	Fort Snelling Club, 6081 Minnehaha Ave, St. Paul
2008, October 8	Fort Snelling Club, 6081 Minnehaha Ave, St. Paul
2009, October 7	Fort Snelling Club, 6081 Minnehaha Ave, St. Paul
2010, October 13	Fort Snelling Club, 6081 Minnehaha Ave, St. Paul
2011	[no record found]
2012, October 18	Tinucci's, Newport, MN
2013, October 17	Vescio's Cucina, St. Louis Park, MN
2014, October 16	Granite City Food and Brewery, St, Louis Park, MN
2015, October 5	Boca Chica, 11 Cesar Chaves Street, St. Paul
2016, October 13	Chico Latino, 2918 Hennepin Ave. So., Minneapolis
2017, October 12	Boca Chica, 11 Cesar Chaves Street, St. Paul
2018, October 11	Elsie's, 729 Marshall, Minneapolis
2019, October 3	Elsie's, 729 Marshall, Minneapolis
2020	[No dinner because of Covid-19]
2021	[No dinner because of Covid-19]
2022, April 7	Elsie's, 729 Marshall, Minneapolis, Attendance 42

The 2022 dinner became a recognition dinner for workers at the annual Money Show. A special guest was Roland Rasmussen, son of club founder Elias Rasmussen. At the dinner, Greg Billman was presented with the first Elias Rasmussen Award for service to the club.



The Club Library

In 1945 the club voted to establish a library with John Anderson as the temporary Librarian. In the following month, club historical records were presented to the club library.

The club maintained an extensive numismatic lending library. An inventory distributed in 1993 indicated 150 items were available. For many years club librarian was Dave McCann with the library stored at the Kenwood Community Center. The library was moved out of Kenwood Center to the home of our new Librarian, Jim Meyer, on July 13, 2000. Some supplies were moved to our storage locker.

After it was moved out of the Kenwood center, the library was dormant with few requests for library loans. In 2021 the library was moved to the club storage locker where it was inaccessible.

In 2022, the board voted to dispose of the library. On Sunday, January 20, 2023, it was removed from storage in preparation for distribution.

Youth Auction

No one can remember when the first Youth Auction was held on a Sunday with the annual Money Show. They are known to be held as early as 2014.

In these events, young collectors age 7 to 14 are given an account with \$200 to bid on donated auction items. Ron Schmidt was auctioneer for the years 2014 to 2019 and for 2022. Lu Ann Olson coordinated the program in 2018 and 2019.



NWCC Money Show Youth Auction 2018

Boy Scout Merit Badge Class



NWCC Boy Scout Merit badge Class 2022

NWCC President George Ross conducted a Boy Scout Merit Badge class during the annual Money Show on March 15, 2014. Classes are conducted on Saturday morning in the lower level of the Earle Brown Heritage Center. As part of the experience, scouts get to visit the show.

Scouting programs were open to girls and a few girls attended the class in 2019. There were no classes in 2020 or 2021 but resumed in 2022.

Northwest Coin Club Memorabilia

Over the years the club has produced many items of memorabilia that are treasured within the club but also have wide distribution throughout the numismatic community.

NWCC-1936-1

Norse American Medal



The first club medal was struck in 1936. Although this is not indicated on the medal, 1936 was the year that the club hosted the national American Numismatic Association convention.

Obverse of the medal features a Viking ship similar to the emblem on the Norse-American medal. The original 1934 Constitution of the Northwest Coin Club stated that the Norse-American Medal was the official club emblem.

Size: 30mm, coin turn.



1936 ANA Badge

The ANA badge identifies the city as Minneapolis but does not mention the Northwest Coin Club as host club.

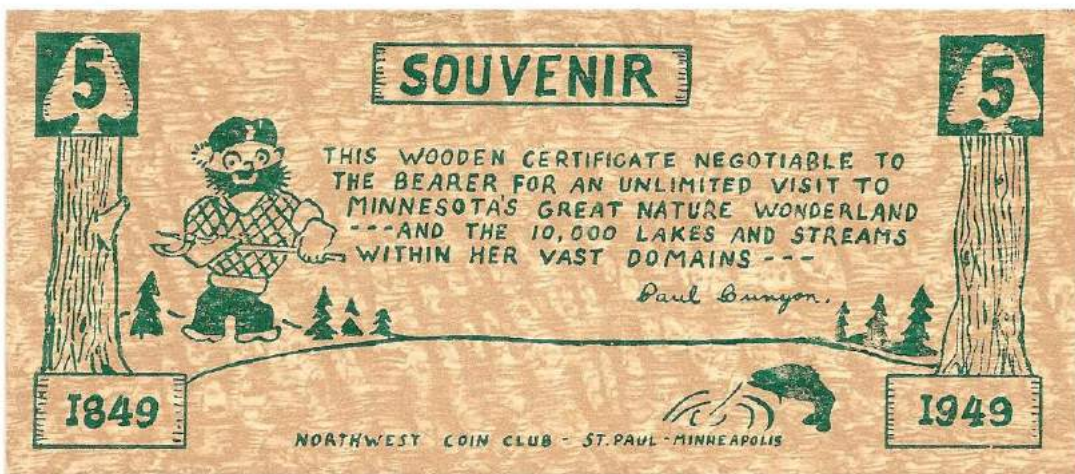
NWCC-1949-1



NWCC-1949-2



NWCC-1949-R



1949 Wooden Nickels

Prior to the 1949 Centennial of Minnesota Territory, there was discussion of a United States coin to commemorate this event. Members of the Northwest Coin Club were excited about the possibility. When this did not happen, members produced a “wood flat” to commemorate the Minnesota Territorial Centennial.

These pieces were printed on two-ply cardboard with a simulated wood grain. Variations in the wood grain suggest that the background wood grain was printed in larger sheets. Also, the grain may run vertically or horizontally. The front was printed with two printing plates. One contained the lettering and Indian head. The second included the dates, map and state seal.

Some of the 1949 wooden nickels were distributed by mail with a representation of the item on the envelope. Remainders were offered at 15¢ each.

NWCC-1949-1 Size: 145 x 62 mm.

The first front is printed in red with green dates and state seal.

NWCC-1949-2 Size: 143 x 62 mm.

The second front is printed in black with red dates and state seal.

NWCC-1949-R

The 1949 pieces share a common reverse in green. The club name appears in small print along the bottom.

NWCC-1949-3



The 1949 Minnesota Territorial Centennial wood flat was also overprinted for the 1949 annual coin club exhibit. The reverse has the same green image as NWCC-1949-R. It was printed on wood-grain laminated card board. There is a rare small letter variation. [see Appendix I]

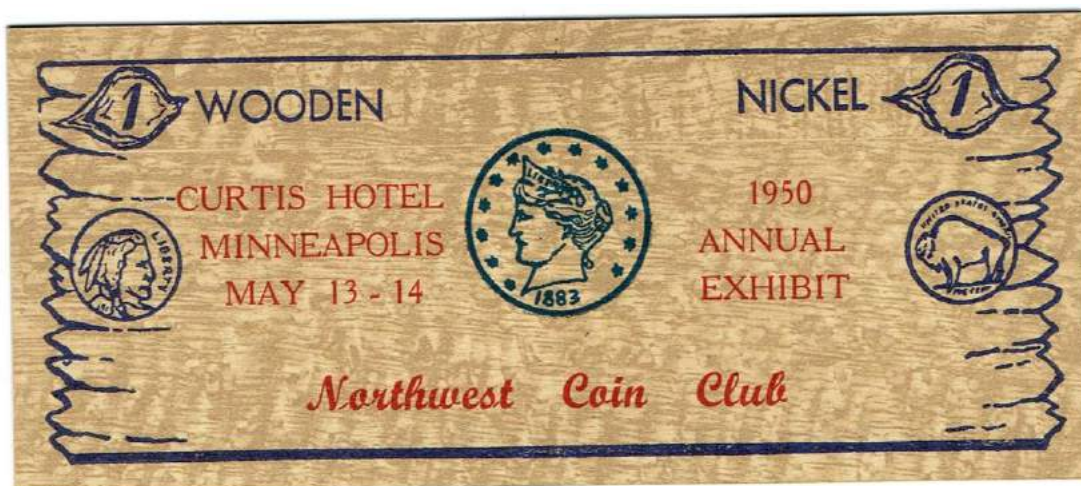
Size: 143 x 62 mm.

This piece was missing from the 75th Anniversary club history.

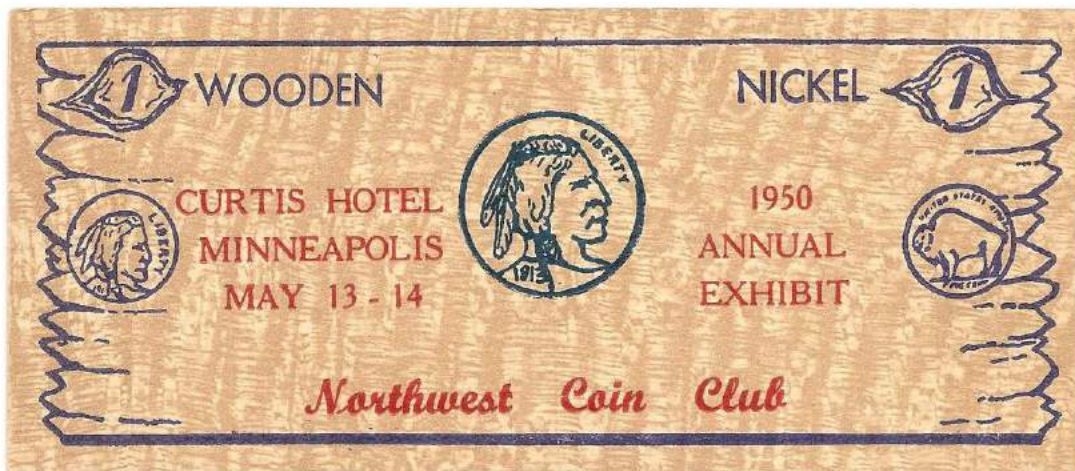
NWCC-1950-1



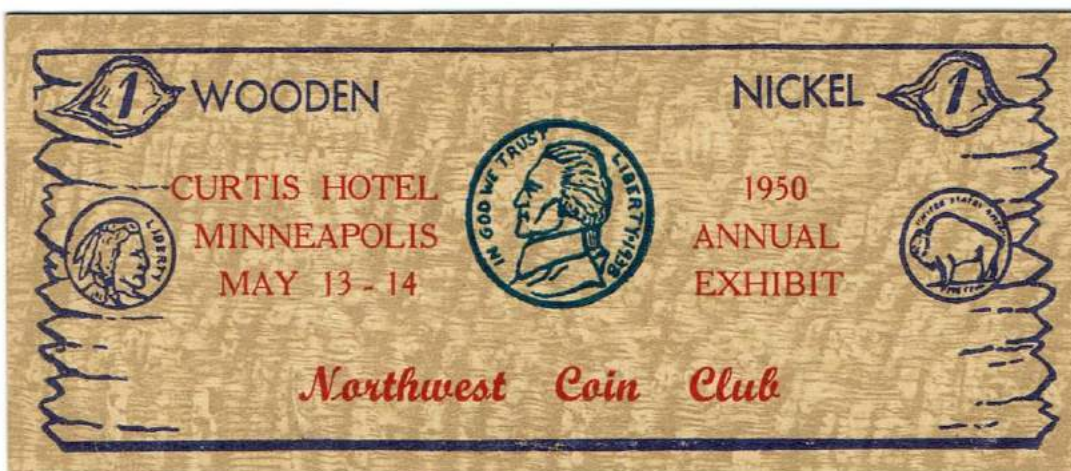
NWCC-1950-2



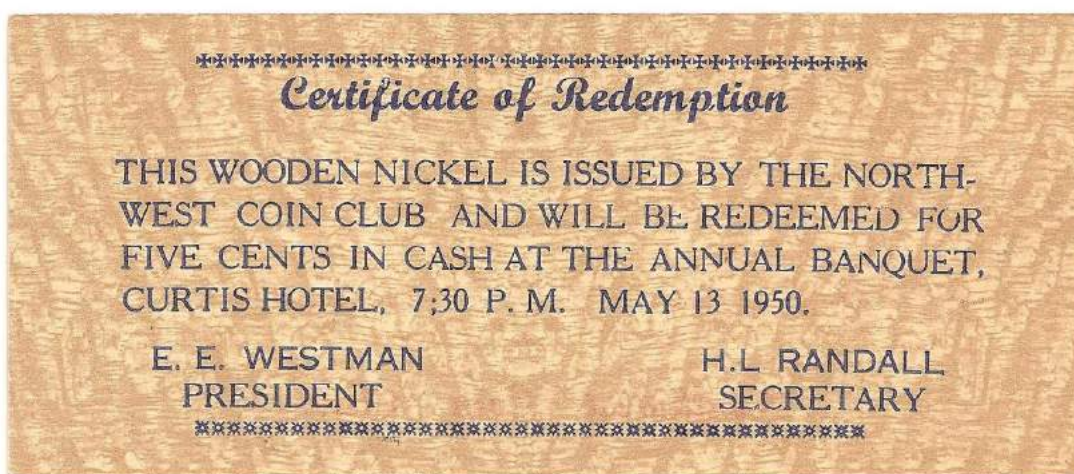
NWCC-1950-3



NWCC-1950-4



NWCC-1950-R1



1950 Wooden Nickels

Again in 1950 the club produced a series of wood flats to promote the annual exhibit. These were printed on two-ply cardboard with a simulated wood grain.

NWCC-1950-1

The first front had the image of the obverse of a Shield Nickel. The basic image was printed with two color variations, black and brown. The Shield nickel was on a second printing plate in blue. Two red plates were used for overprints, one for the central text and a second for the club name.

Size: 143 x 62 mm.

NWCC-1950-2

The second front had the image of the obverse of a Liberty Nickel in blue or brown. The same printing plate was used for the background as the first front, also black or brown. This was not shown in the 75th Anniversary club history.

NWCC-1950-3

The third front had the image of the Indian Head obverse from the buffalo nickel in the center in black or green. To the left is a slightly less accurate drawing of the Indian head. The basic design is black or blue with a red overprint.

NWCC-1950-4

The fourth front had the image of the obverse of a Jefferson Nickel in black or green. Again the basic text was printed in black and brown variations.

NWCC-1950-R1

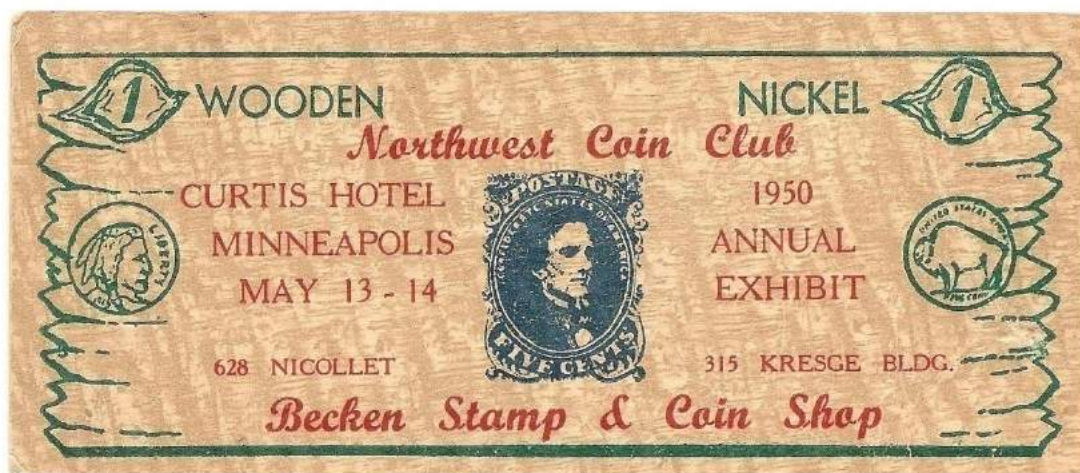
The reverse for 1950-1 and 1950-2 is printed in blue. This indicates that the pieces may be redeemed for five cents cash at the annual banquet. It is likely that most members kept these wooden nickels as souvenirs.

NWCC-1950-5



A fifth piece was issued in 1950 with the picture of a five cent stamp in the center.

NWCC-1950-6

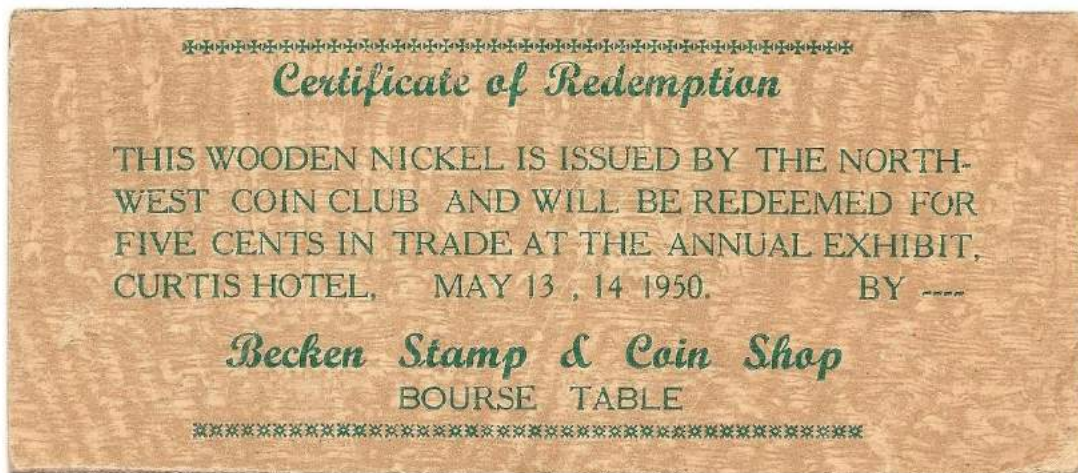


The green background was from the same printing plate as the other two items. Half the red overprint is also from the same red plate. An additional red overprint has the club name and the name of Becken Stamp and Coin Shop.

Carl M. Becken was a charter member of the club.

Size: 143 x 62 mm.

NWCC-1950-R2



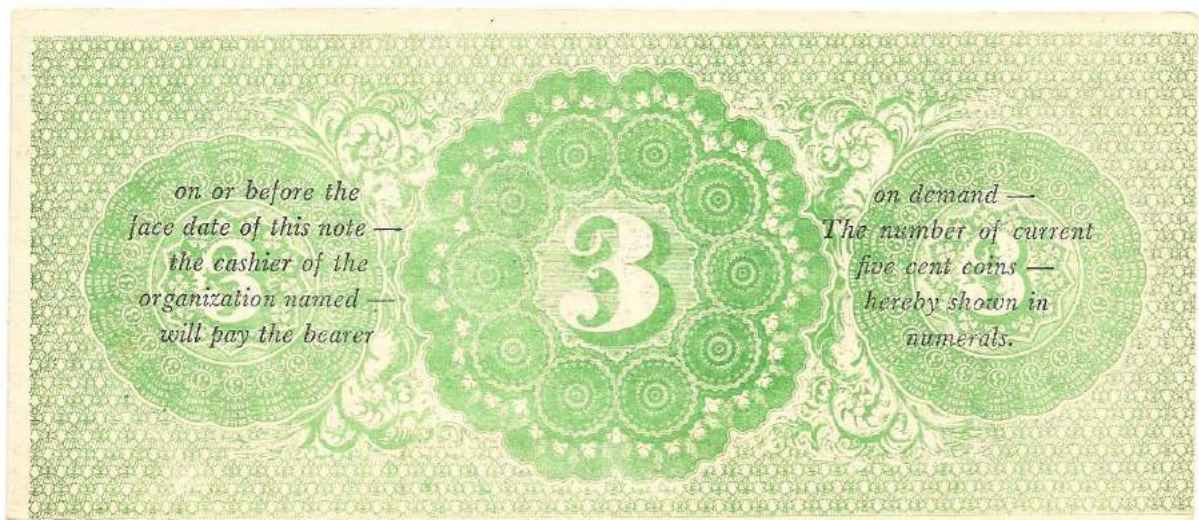
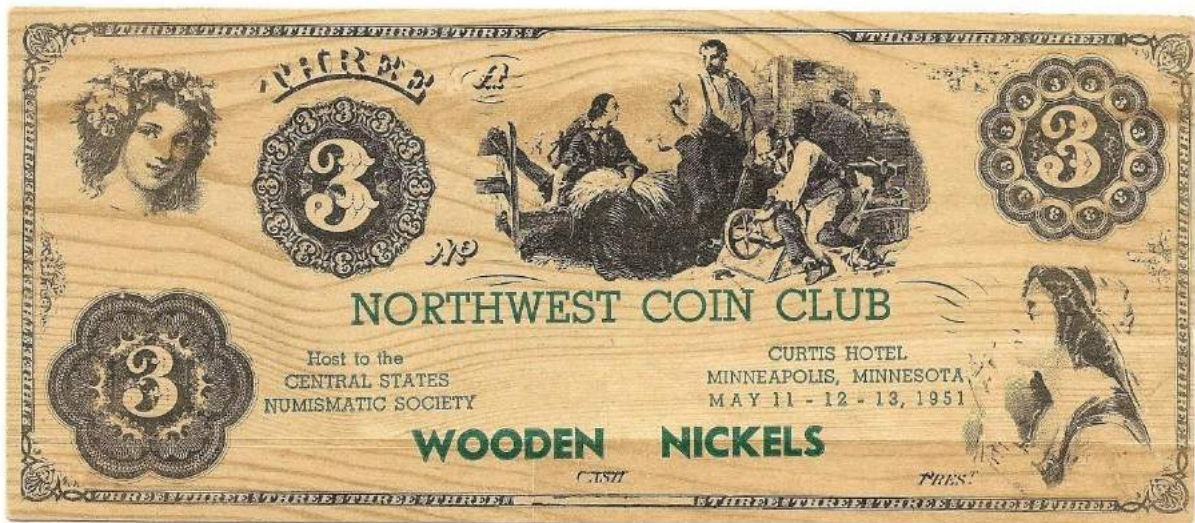
This reverse indicated the item may be redeemed at the annual exhibit. Many were not redeemed but retained as souvenirs.

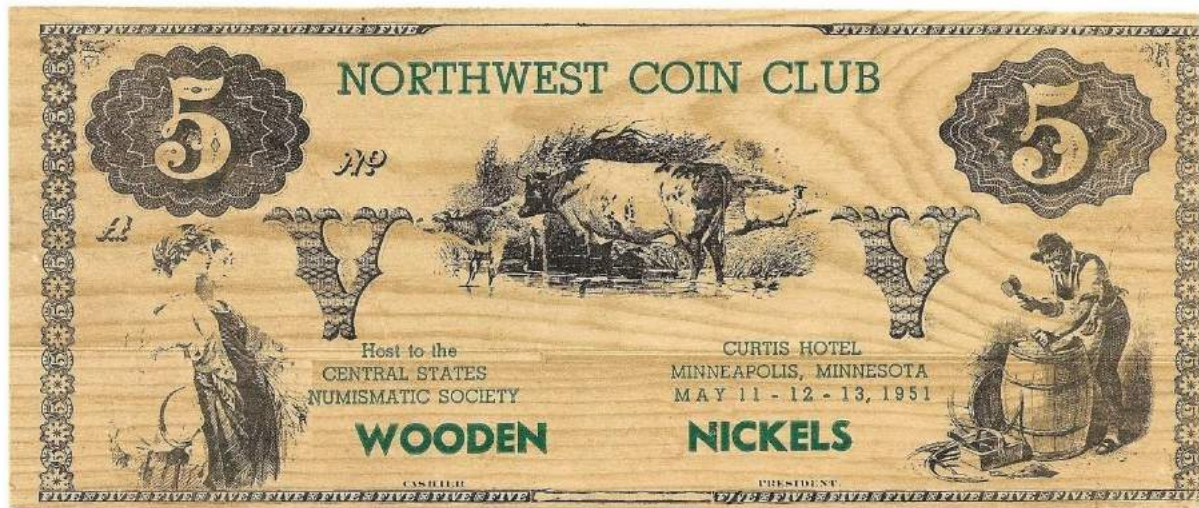
BWCC-1951-1



Apparently a quantity of the 1949 wooden nickels remained undistributed. Some were overprinted in 1951 to promote the Central States convention.

Size: 145 x 62 mm.





Also for the 1951 Central States Show, the club issued a series of wood flats with the denominations of one, two, three and five wooden nickels.

Each comes in two variations. On one, the “Curtis Hotel” text block is on the left. On the others, the “Central States” text block is on the left. Some come with a 9 mm gap between WOODEN and NICKELS. On others the gap is 22 mm.

These were printed on a single-ply cardboard with brown, tan or gray woodgrain

Sample proofs are known for all denominations. On each the wood grain background is different. The text block referring to the Curtis Hotel is on the left and the text referring to Central States is on the right. These were hand signed by D. Wallace and “A. Sample.” It is unknown how many were produced or how many still survive.

NWCC-1952-1



The final wood flat does not state a value so it is more like a ticket and a piece of club ephemera. These appear to be much scarcer than previous wooden nickels.

Size: 128 x 57 mm, uniface.

NWCC-1958-1



The club issued their second club medal to commemorate the Minnesota Centennial in 1958. This was struck in sterling silver [shown on left], antiqued silver [shown on right], bronze and nickel..

Size: 34mm, coin turn

NWCC-1961-1



The club hosted the 1961 Central States Convention and issued a medal to commemorate this event. This was struck in sterling silver [shown on left] and antiqued bronze [shown on right]. With one side showing the Minneapolis skyline and the other St. Paul, neither side was designated as obverse or reverse.

Size: 34 mm; coin turn.

NWCC-1962-1



As shown with the text, this wooden nickel was produced for the annual meeting in 1962.

Size: 38 mm.

NWCC-1966-1



Another wooden nickel was produced for the Fall Coin Show in 1966.

Size: 38 mm.

NWCC-1970

Club records indicate a 1970 medal was offered in seven varieties. None was available for photography.



No documentation was found for the medal shown above. It may have been given in appreciation over a period of years. The source suggests this was given in the early 1970's.

Size: 34 mm, coin turn

NWCC-1974-1



The club produced 1000 wooden nickels promoting the club meeting dates. It was produced with an Indian Head and buffalo reverse.

Size: 38 mm.

NWCC-1976-1



For our country's Bicentennial in 1976, the club used a stock Bicentennial die with the standard club reverse die. Composition was aluminum and copper nickel.

Size: 34 mm, medal turn.

NWCC-1977-1



For their 43rd annual show in 1977, the club medal honored President James E. “Jimmy” Carter. This medal was struck in copper-nickel.

Size: 34mm, medal turn.

NWCC-1980-1



A new wooden nickel was produced to mark a change in meeting location.

Size: 38 mm.

NWCC-1984-1



The club issued another medal in commemoration of the club’s fiftieth anniversary in 1984. Design included a simple outline of the state of Minnesota. This was struck in bronze, aluminum, and golden bronze.

Size: 34 mm, medal turn.

NWCC-1994-1



For the 60th anniversary of the club in 1994, the club issued medals in several metals. The obverse design copied the 1984 design.

- Silver, 25 struck
- Dynamic Bronze, 200 struck
- Antiqued Bronze, 200 struck
- Nickel, 200 struck
- Dynamic Copper, 200 struck
- Aluminum, 1700 struck

Size: 34 mm, medal turn.

NWCC-1995-1



During the club show in 1995, a machine was available to roll elongated coins on Lincoln cents. Dies were produced and the machine provided by Rocky Rockholt. He produced five special sets of coins elongated on a nickel, dime, quarter, half and Susan B. Anthony dollar.

Size: 35 x 19 mm, enlarged above. Size varies with host coin.

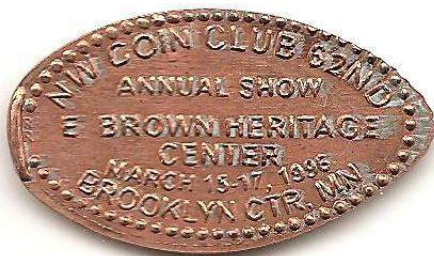
NWCC-1996-1



Show chairman Lee Quast was a collector and promoter of collectible phone cards. He arranged to produce a phone card for the 1996 show featuring an obsolete St. Paul banknote for the Dayton Bank. The 250 issued were sold to the public for \$6 each.

Size: 65 x 54 mm.

NWCC-1996-2



Elongated coins were produced again in 1996 with a new die. For amusement, some remainders of the 60th anniversary medal were also passed through the machine.

Size: 34 x 19mm, enlarged above. Size varies with host coin.

For the 1996 show, the club was selling the 1996 phone card and remainders of the 1995 show card. They gave away the 1996 elongated cent and remainders of the 1995 elongated coins. Remaining stock of the 1994 club medals were for sale in five medals. As usual, a bowl of foreign coins was available for distribution to kids. A novice could assemble a small collection without leaving the head table.

NWCC-1997-1



Lee Quast and Pete Smith obtained a large quantity of remainders of an ANA Souvenir card. These were overprinted in red to promote the club show in 1997.

Size: 194 x 90 mm.

NWCC-1997-2



The second club phone card showed the 1936 club medal.

Size: 65 x 54 mm.

NWCC-1997-3



The third club phone card included one of the elongated cents laminated to the card.

Size: 65 x 54 mm.

NWCC-2005-1

NWCC-2006-1



For the 2005 show, the club produced 3000 wooden nickels. The reverse featured the design of the 2005 Minnesota state quarter.

Size: 37 mm.

NWCC-2006-1

In 2006 about 1500 remainders of the wooden nickels were overprinted using a date stamp.

NWCC-2008-1



For the 150th anniversary of Minnesota statehood, the club produced 300 medals using a stock reverse die from Wendells. These were done at the same time as the 2009 75th anniversary medals.

Size: 39 mm, coin turn.

NWCC-2009-1



The club produced a medal to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the club in 2009 in aluminum (2200), bronze (500), copper (1000) and silver (100). The aluminum pieces were given away at the 2009 show. The silver, copper and bronze pieces were offered as a set in a special holder. These medals were struck by Wendells.

Size: 39 mm, coin turn.

NWCC-2014-1



The 2014 80th Anniversary Medal was struck by Wendells in Satin NiCodium.

NWCC-2018-1



Bart Saxon and Dawson Lewis set up a Medieval Minting demonstration at the 2018 show. They produced tokens in aluminum and a limited number in brass. The hammer (top) die had the legend NWCC • 2018. The anvil (bottom) die had the legend WWW • SCA • ORG.

NWCC-2019-1



An undated “wooden nickel” was produced for the Northwest Coin Club Money Show in 2019. This was marked as the 85th Annual Money Show but was actually issued for the 85th anniversary of the club. The Old Time Wooden Nickel Company of San Antonio, Texas, produced 2000 pieces for distribution at the show.

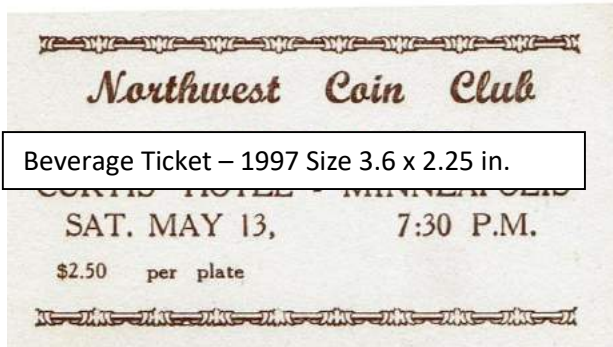
NWCC-2019-2



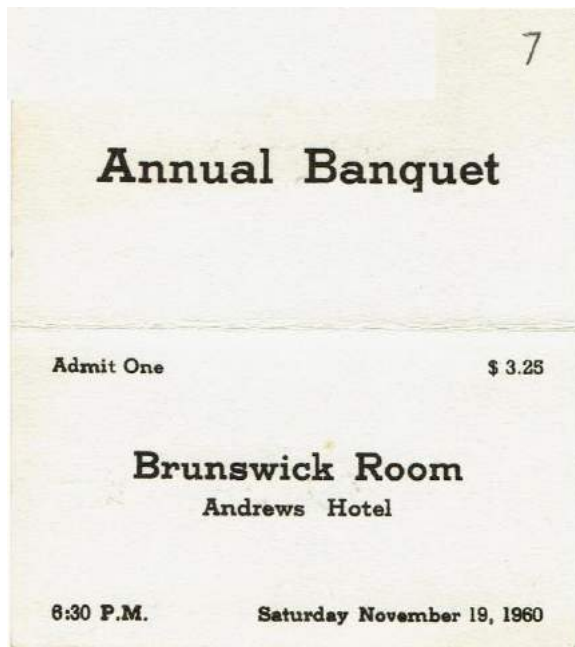
Bart Saxon, the Medieval Minter, returned for the 2019 show. He hand struck small tokens in aluminum. About 500 were distributed at the show. The Hammer (top) die had the legend NWCC • 2019. The anvil (bottom) die had the legend WWW • SCA • ORG.

Ephemera

Club files include five scrapbooks with newspaper clippings, photos and other ephemera. Much more has been issued by the club including membership cards, programs, show ribbons, and newsletters.



Banquet Ticket
Probably from 1950 Size: 3.5 x 2 in.



Northwest 85th Annual Coin Club Money Show

Beverage Ticket

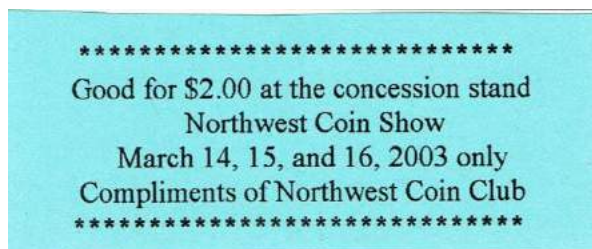
HAPPY HOUR

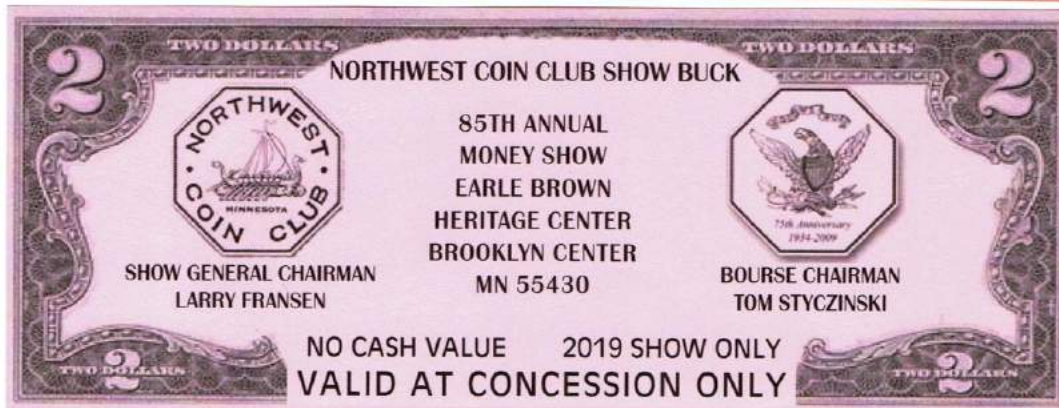
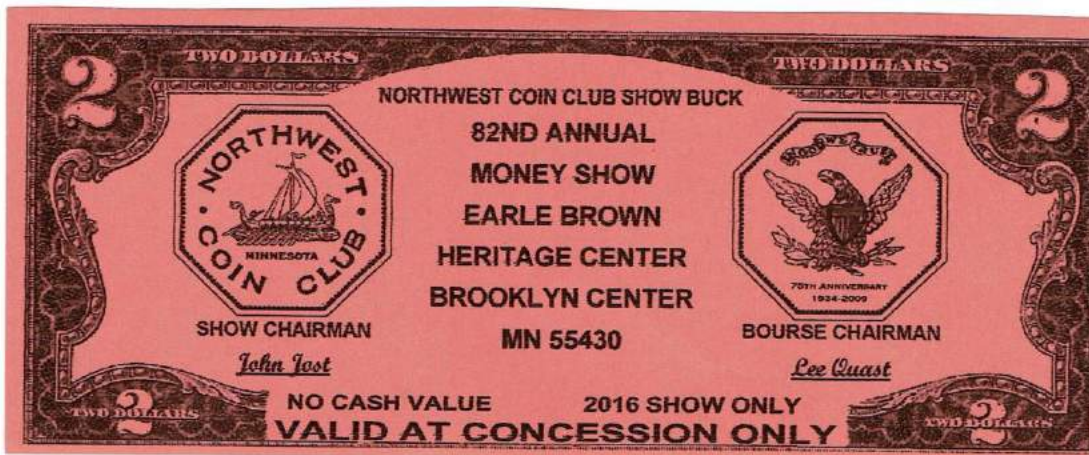
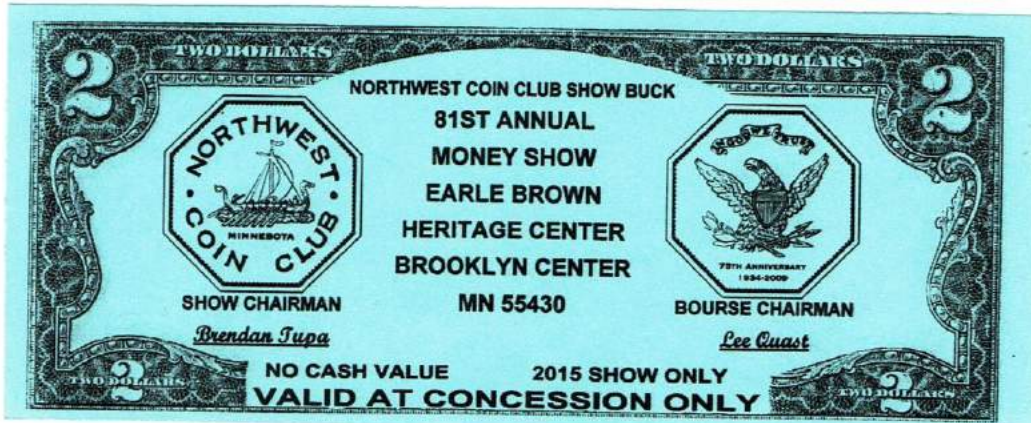
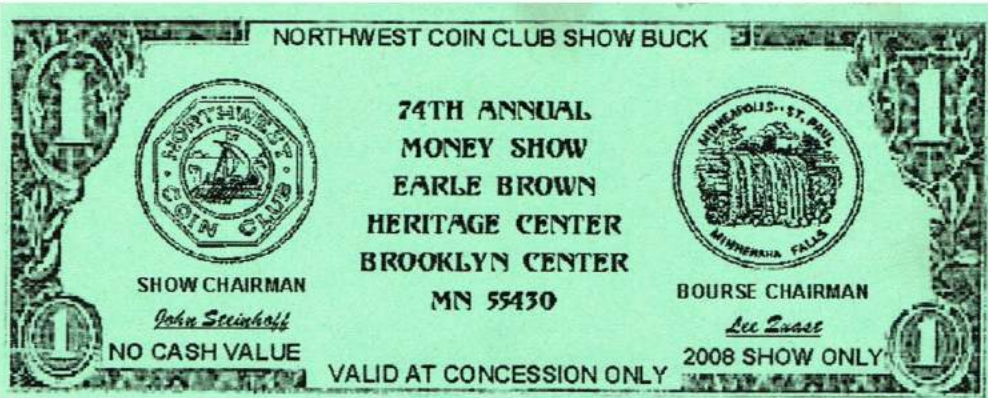
MARCH 15, 2019

6:00 pm - 8 pm



Food coupons, good at the concession stand, are given to dealers and show volunteers. Some members request examples at the end of the show. Shown are examples from five years..





Club Presidents

Club officers were elected to serve during one calendar year. Past Presidents include:

1934-34	Elias Rasmussen	1957-59	Arnold T. Holmberg
1935-35	Arthur D. White	1959-61	Earl A. Breault
1936-36	Oce Curtis	1961-62	Paul E. Olson
1937-37	Dr. Dwight E. Ward	1962-64	Jay D. Swift
1938-38	Chester L. Berggren	1964-66	E. Gail Wilkerson (died in
1939-39	William T. Hartman	office)	
1940-40	J. L. Montgomery	1966-68	William DeWitte
1941-41	Ernest W. Nelson	1968-69	William Koncak
1942-42	Paul E. Olson (replaced)	1969-71	Dr. Austin C. Wagenknecht
On June 4 an election was held to select older members not eligible for military service. The term of office was changed to run from July through the following June.		1971-74	(vacant)
		1974-76	Richard Horst
		1976-78	Kenneth Eikland
		1979-86	Dick Grinolds
		1986-88	Bill Daehn
1942-44	J. L. Montgomery	1988-90	John Saffert
1944-45	O. J. Turner (died 1947)	1990-91	Kenn Hollister
1945-47	Sidney L. Stolte	1991-93	Pete Smith
1947-48	A. P. Ford (moved to	1993-94	(vacant)
Chicago and resigned)		1994-97	Dave McCann
1948-49	G. W. Huber	1997-98	David Ames
1950-52	Mark Hilding Nelson	1998-04	Pete Smith
1952-53	T. Donald Wallace	2005-11	John Steinhoff
1953-54	Clarence A. Anderson	2011-23	George Ross
1954-55	F. Berrisford "Berry" Horn		
1955-57	Thomas E. Mowery		

Appendix I

Variations of the 1949 Wood Flats

Wood Grain Variations

Trial proofs were printed in various colors before final colors were selected. It is unknown how many trial proofs were printed or how many survive.

I.1. Blond wood with horizontal wood grain.

Seen with dark blue background and red overprint.



I.2. Dark vertical wood grain

Seen with dark blue background and red overprint.

“Dark Brown Mulberry”



Blond wood with mottled wood grain. The most commonly seen variety

I.3 Seen with dark blue background and red overprint.

I.4 Also seen with red background and dark blue overprint.

“Grey Brown Lacewood”



I.5. Gray wood with mottled wood grain.

Seen with dark blue background and red overprint.

“Grey Blue Lacewood”



I.6. Balsa with fine horizontal wood grain.

Seen with dark blue background and red overprint.



I.7 Balsa stained dark with horizontal wood grain

Seen with dark blue background and red overprint.



Trial Color Proof

A number of pieces were produced with the phrase “TRIAL COLOR PROOF” printed in black along the bottom margin. The number of survivors suggests these were produced in a limited quantity and offered to members.

I.8 Red background with barely visible yellow overprint.

Back is blank.



I.9 Red background with black overprint.

Back is blank.

I.10 Red background with brown overprint.

Back is blank.

I.11 Black background with yellow overprint.

Back is standard green reverse.

I.12 Black background with black overprint

Back is standard green reverse.



Other colors also seen:

I.13 Red background, blue overprint, blank back.

I.14 Black background, red overprint, green back.

I.15 Black background, green overprint, green back.

First Error Series.

A number of pieces were printed on woodgrain stock with “ERROR” printed in black along the bottom margin. It is assumed these were created intentionally and sold to members.



I-16 Standard black background, inverted red overprint, green reverse.



I.17 Standard black background, double printed overprint, green reverse.

Second Error Series

Another series of intentional errors were printed on gray cardstock.



I.18 Normal front: black background, red overprint.
Error back: Double printed red background, black overprint, off center.



I.19 Front: black background, missing overprint.
Back: Double printed red background, black overprint.



I.20 Front: Standard red background, black overprint.
Back: blank.



I-21 Front: Missing background, red overprint only
Back: Standard red background, green overprint.



I.22 Front: Black background, yellow overprint.
Back: blank

I.23 Front: Standard black background with red overprint.
Back: Standard red with black overprint upside down (coin turn)

Small Print Variety – NWCC.1949.3



I.24 Standard Exhibit overprint on 1949 wood flat.



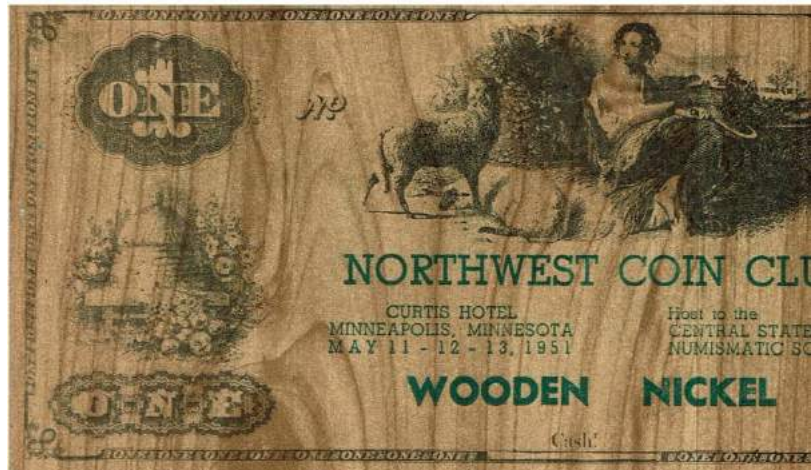
I.25 What appears to be a rare variety is printed with smaller type than normal. This is also an error with an extra state seal.

Appendix II

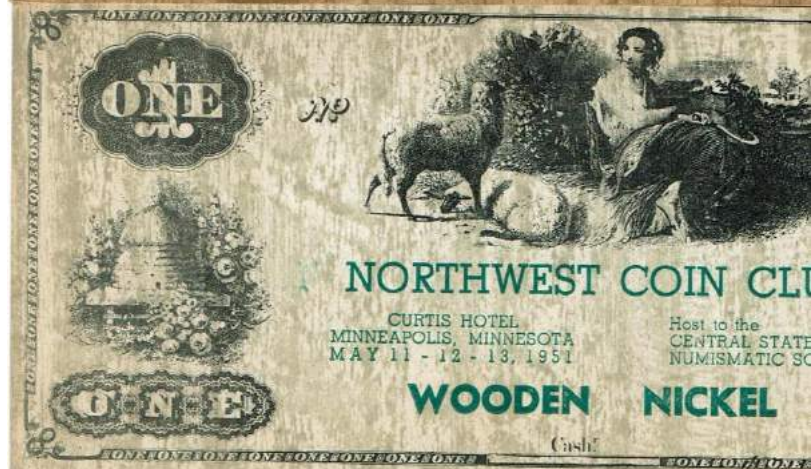
Variations of the 1951 Wood Flats

Type 1: The “Curtis Hotel / “Central States” type. The text block with “CURTIS HOTEL” is on the left with “CENTRAL STATES” on the right. Three varieties of wood grain paper were used.

Brown with vertical grain.



Light gray with vertical grain.



Dark gray with vertical grain.



The flats were produced in four denominations. These color varieties are noted:

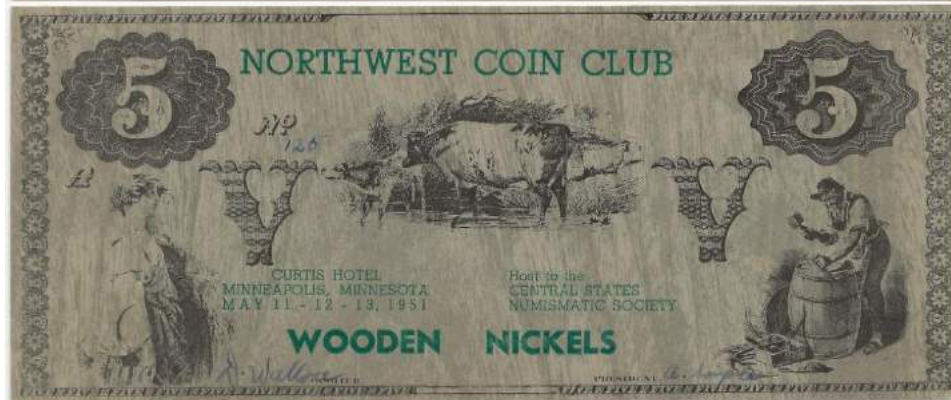
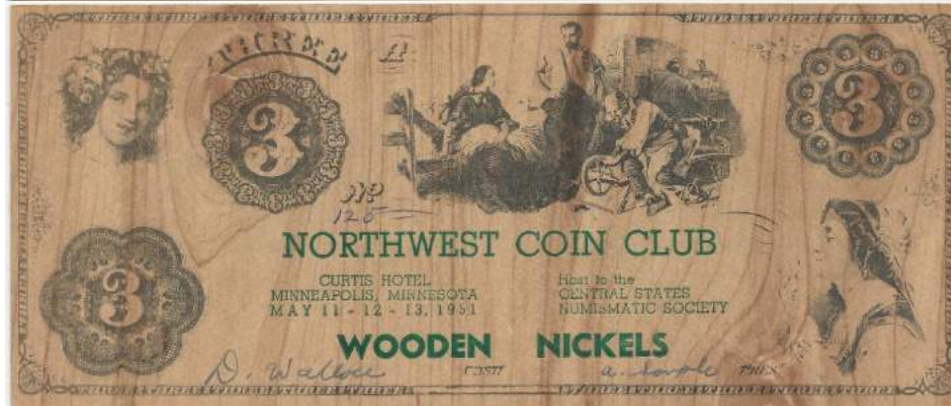
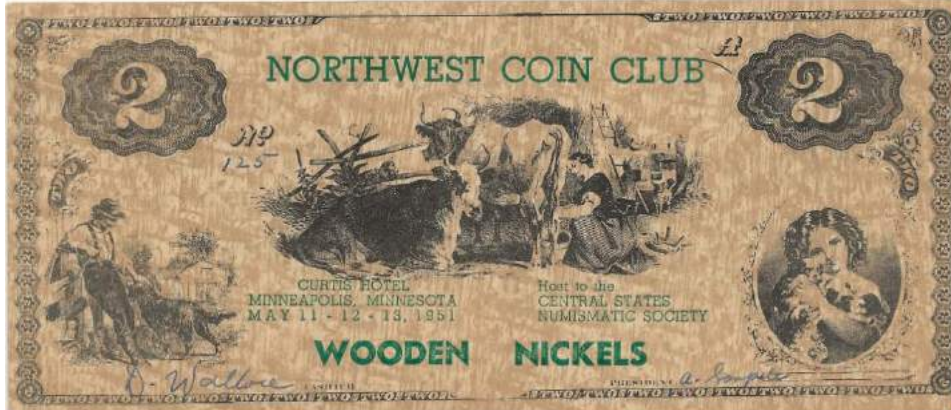
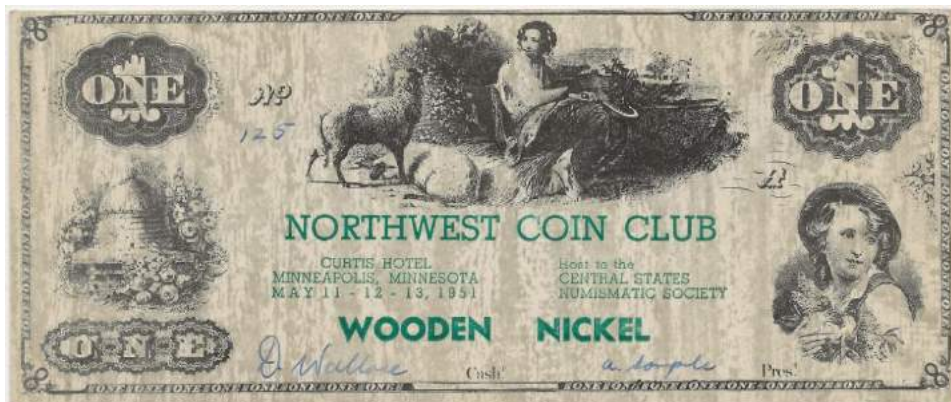
II.1	One Wooden Nickel	Brown
II.2	One Wooden Nickel	Light Gray
II.3	One Wooden Nickel	Dark Gray
II.4	Two Wooden Nickels	Brown
II.5	Two Wooden Nickels	Light Gray
II.6	Two Wooden Nickels	Dark Gray
II.7	Three Wooden Nickels	Brown
II.8	Three Wooden Nickels	Light Gray
II.9	Three Wooden Nickels	Dark Gray
II.10	Five Wooden Nickels	Brown
II.11	Five Wooden Nickels	Light Gray*
II.12	Five Wooden Nickels	Dark Gray

* Five Wooden Nickels in light gray has not been seen but probably exists.

Type 1 Samples

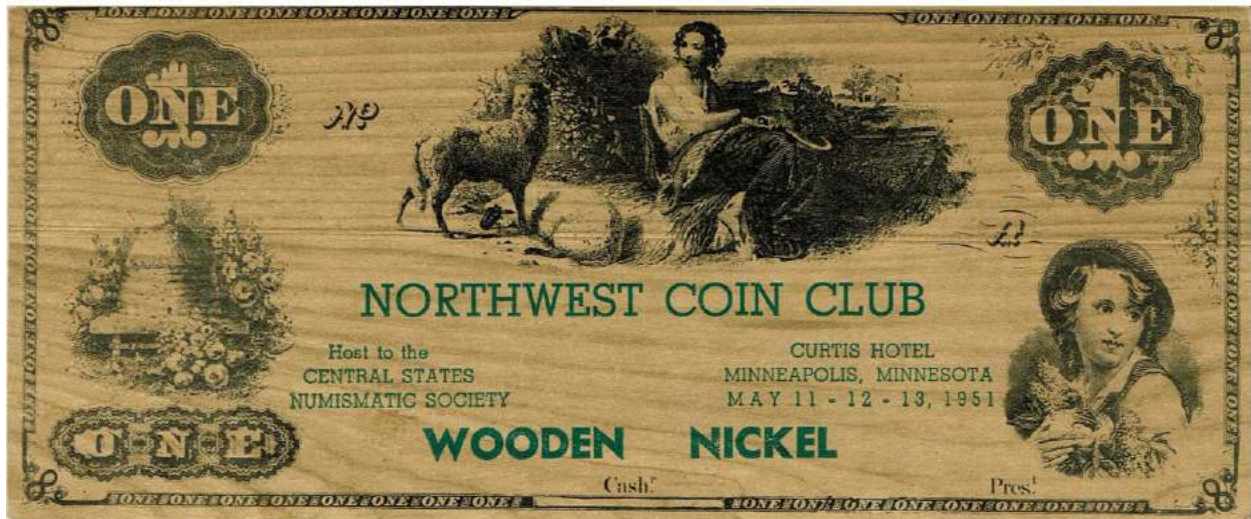
These have signatures of D. Wallace (T. Donald Wallace) and A. Sample along the bottom.

II.13	One Wooden Nickel	Light Gray	Vertical Grain
II.14	Two Wooden Nickels	Light Brown	Lacewood
II.15	Three Wooden Nickels	Brown	Vertical grain
II.16	Five Wooden Nickels	Dark Gray	Vertical grain



Type 2: The “Central States” / “Curtis Hotel” type. The text block with “CENTRAL STATES” is on the left with “CURTIS HOTEL” on the right.

A fourth variety of wood grain paper was used with horizontal wood grain.



There are four varieties of type seen.

- Variety 1: 8 mm between WOODEN – NICKEL; Y of SOCIETY over first O in WOODEN.
- Variety 2: 10 mm between WOODEN – NICKEL; Y of SOCIETY between O's of WOODEN.
- Variety 3: 22 mm between WOODEN – NICKEL; Y of SOCIETY over right side of E.
- Variety 4: 22 mm between WOODEN – NICKEL; Y of SOCIETY over left side of N.

II.17 ONE WOODEN NICKEL	Variety 2
II.18 TWO WOODEN NICKELS	Variety 3
II.19 TWO WOODEN NICKELS	Variety 4
II.19 THREE WOODEN NICKELS	Variety 1
II.20 THREE WOODEN NICKELS	Variety 4
II.21 FIVE WOODEN NICKELS	Variety 3



1951 Errors



II.22 Standard black background with double printed green overprint.



II.23 Type 1, Standard front; back cutting error.



II-24 Type 2, Standard front; back cutting error.