



## CUBAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION IS FOUNDED!!

A small group of 24 Cuban collector enthusiasts met on January 9, 2004, in conjunction with the 2004 FUN Coin Show in Orlando, Florida, to formally organize the Cuban Numismatic Association. This had been a dream of a handful of Cuban enthusiasts for over two years, and it became a reality in a few exciting hours. Paul Gilkes, Staff writer for Coin World, was present at the meeting and his story is as follows:

### Collectors of Cuban coins meet for first meeting at FUN

By Paul Gilkes  
 COIN WORLD Staff

Collectors of Cuban coins from centuries before dictator Fidel Castro's rise to power in January 1959 and the decades since now have a specialty organization to call their own.

The organization, named the Cuban Numismatic Association, held its inaugural session and organizational activities Jan. 10 in Orlando, Fla. The club's formation was held in conjunction with the Florida United Numismatists Convention.

The inaugural slate of officers for the association are: Frank Putrow, president; Andy Rodriguez, vice president; Marysol Cayado, secretary; Robert Freeman, treasurer; and board members Stan Klein, Emilio Ortiz, Richard Becker, Larry Casey and Enrique Cayado.

Club officers set dues at \$10 per calendar year. There are plans to develop a newsletter and Internet Web site.

There will also be a time, yet to be established, for those seeking to join the organization to be considered as charter members.

According to Putrow, the association will focus on the collecting of Cuban coins, tokens, medals, paper money and related numismatic items, from the early 18th century through modern issues, but not include stamps or other philatelic items.

Collectors of Cuban coinage often refer to the areas of collecting as "pre-Castro" and "post-Castro," with the "pre-Castro" collectibles representing those items produced before Fidel Castro assumed control of the Cuban government. The "post-Castro" area concentrates on

those numismatic items that are banned by the U.S. government from being imported, exported or sold by American citizens and permanent residents.

These prohibitions are outlined in the Cuban Assets Control Regulations issued by the U.S. government on July 8,

1963, pursuant to the Trading With The Enemy Act in response to certain hostile actions taken by the Cuban government. The regulations and sanctions are administered by the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control. The day before the Cuban Numismatic Association was founded, two lots of Cuban notes and 10 lots of coins issued after Castro came to power were withdrawn from public auction by Heritage Numismatic Auctions from Dallas because of concern their sale might violate the Treasury Department sanctions, according to Scott Cordry and Warren Tucker from Heritage.



Courtesy HeritageCoin.com

**A NUMBER OF** Cuban coins and notes issued after Fidel Castro's Jan. 1, 1959, rise to power in Cuba were withdrawn from Heritage Numismatic Auctions Jan. 8 auction in Orlando, Fla. The coins included this Proof 1977 silver 20-peso commemorative coin bearing the portrait of Lenin to mark the 60th anniversary of the socialist revolution in Russia.

Collectors interested in Cuban coinage and collectibles and membership in the Cuban Numismatic Association may contact Putrow by telephone at (727) 531-7337, or e-mail him at [FXPutrow@aol.com](mailto:FXPutrow@aol.com).

#### CUBAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Frank Putrow - President

Andres Rodriguez – Vice President

Marysol Cayado – Secretary

Robert Freeman – Treasurer

Board of Directors - Richard Becker, Larry Casey, Enrique Cayado, Stan Klein, & Emilio M. Ortiz.

#### NEWSLETTER INDEX

Status of Cuban Numismatic Association – page 2

The Cuban Embargo as it applies to modern collectibles – page 2 & 3

History Lesson by Michelle Orzano, Staff writer for Coin World. America's Involvement with Cuba provides collectibles ranging from coins to medals – page 3

A Cuban Note is unearthed, by Larry Casey - page 4

Cuban Numismatics – An overview – page 5

Website status – page 5.

Charter Membership cutoff extended until June 30, 2004 – page 6

1897 Souvenir Peso – page 6

Buying and selling on EBAY – pages 6 & 7

Want Ad Section – page 7

Membership Application – page 8

Guest writers are very much appreciated. The wide variety of expertise of our membership should be an excellent source of guest articles for the newsletter. Please contact the editor if you wish to publish an article.

## STATUS OF CUBAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

The membership drive has been very productive. From the initial 24 Charter members, the Association has grown to 68 Charter and one junior Charter member. The goal of the Board of Directors is to have 100 members by the end of 2004, and 200 members by the end of 2005. It appears that the goal will be met and exceeded. Articles in the Numismatic News, World Coin News, and Coin World have spurred interest in the Association. In addition, related organizations, such as Latin America Paper Society (LANSA), American Numismatic Association (ANA), American Numismatic Society (ANS), and Florida United Numismatists (FUN) have supported our development from the inception.

Our Treasury is fiscally sound because we have had minimum expenses to date. Generous donations from three members of the Board of Directors, plus the \$10 member dues, have provided an adequate 2004 working fund. The cost of the first year of operation will be relatively inexpensive, since all of the work is being handled by membership. As we grow in numbers and scope, expenses will develop in the areas of website maintenance and communications.

A Five Year Business Plan will be presented by the president to the Board of Directors at the January 2005 meeting in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, during the 2005 FUN Coin Show. The plan will include topics such as: CAN building plan, library, museum, employee(s), communications, etc.

We will not be successful without the support of each other. One of the areas we all must address is the tremendous void in the area of reference material. A few of our members have started to develop reference material on various Cuban collectibles. We must encourage and support these individuals who have the knowledge and experience that will assist others of the same interests.

## THE CUBAN EMBARGO AS IT APPLIES TO MODERN COLLECTIBLES

The US Embargo of Cuba was put into effect on July 8, 1963. The US Department of Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) was given the responsibility to enforce the sanctions imposed by the embargo.

It is important to understand the intent of the embargo, and more specifically the Trading With The Enemy Act (TWEA), that prohibits US citizens from purchasing goods and services originating in Cuba. The TWEA was originally enacted in 1917 as the US entered into WWI. It was intended to give the President authority to prohibit, limit, or regulate trade with hostile countries in time of war. It was amended in 1933 to give the President broad authority to exercise the powers of the Act during periods of national emergencies. Violations could result in a fine not more than \$10,000, or imprisonment for not more than 10 years, or both. The US Supreme Court has further concurred that certain sections of the TWEA gives the President broad authority to impose comprehensive embargoes on foreign countries, such as Cuba, both during peace time emergencies and in time of war.

In 1977, US Congress amended the TWEA, which now requires an ANNUAL determination by the President that continued exercise of TWEA authority with respect to Cuba is in the national interest. Since 1977, EVERY President has issued annual determinations that extended the state of emergency with respect to Cuba.

How does this affect buying or selling Cuban Modern (post 7-8-63) coins, currency, tokens, medals, etc?

In simple terms, items from Cuba may be sold ONLY if they are informational, pre-embargo, or licensed. Coins, currency, bonds, medals, tokens, casino chips, and other exonomia ARE NOT informational! Notwithstanding the US Law that prohibits the sale of "post Castro" Cuban coins, currency, tokens, medals, etc., it appears that enforcement focuses on the importing or exporting of these items, not the purchase or sale of these items within the United States. EBAY, the giant internet auction house, abruptly cancelled auctions for Cuban coins and stamps on its website on April 18, 2000. After fielding a significant number of complaints from users who said that EBAY was meddling in matters that did not involve embargoed items, EBAY published their policy on items from Cuba, which resides on <http://pages.ebay.com/help/community/pre-embargoed.html>. Item 2 reads "Generally, non-informational Cuban items may only be sold if the item was removed from Cuba before July 8, 1963..... EBAY further states "currency issued from Cuba after the embargo date may not be listed".

Yet, today, these items are listed on EBAY. In addition, these items are found in every numismatic periodical want ads and advertisements published in the US.

If these items are illegal, WHY are they still being sold in the US? The author has attempted to get legal clarification of this issue from OFAC, as well as from an elected US Congressman, without success. Emails are not acknowledged and get no response.

The issue of importing or exporting these items is quite defined. The author has personal experience with US Customs and the confiscation of Cuban "modern" coins that had been shipped from Spain. The coins were confiscated and stored in a bonded warehouse for over one year. After appealing the confiscation, the coins were released in damaged condition. The author was required to pay warehouse charges, plus a US Treasury fine. Another Cuban Numismatic Association member relays the incident where his coins were confiscated by US Customs when they arrived in the US from Spain. However, he was able to convince the US Customs agent to return the coins to Spain without penalty. It appears that enforcement, as it pertains to coins, currency, medals, tokens, etc., is somewhat flexible, perhaps brought about from other legal issues.

In summary, one may conclude the following:

1. US Customs may and will confiscate exported or imported Cuban "modern" items. Prosecution and/or fines may result depending on the situation.
2. A general lack of enforcement seems to have evolved regarding the purchase or sale of Cuban "modern" items within the US borders.

OFAC will be contacted again for their clarification of this important issue. In the meantime, it is important to understand that the Cuban Embargo is an important consideration when we decide where and from whom we intend to buy or sell these items.

## History lesson

### America's involvement with Cuba provides collectibles ranging from coins to medals

By Michele Orzano  
COIN WORLD Staff

Feb. 5 marks the centennial of U.S. armed forces leaving an occupied nation it helped liberate from despotic rule, but many Americans are unaware of the event or even its significance.

That date will mark 100 years since the U.S. military left the island nation of Cuba, allowing its residents to begin a new, though short-lived, era of independence.

Cuba had been a Spanish possession from the time Columbus stumbled upon it in 1492 until 1898 when residents finally declared their independence from Spain. In the more than 400 years between occupation and independence, Cuban freedom fighters waged rebellion after rebellion against Spain, but each uprising came to a bloody and unsuccessful end until the last battle.

The final revolt began in 1895. Cuban freedom fighters quickly gained the sympathy of the American public and, eventually, the help of U.S. military might.

The 1898 Spanish-American War started after the battleship *USS Maine* blew up and sank in Havana Harbor in Cuba on Feb. 15. No one knows the exact cause of the explosion, which resulted in much loss of American lives.

The *Maine* was in Havana Harbor at the request of the American consul, who was concerned that American interests might be threatened by the fighting between Spanish forces and the Cuban rebels. McKinley had been reluctant to send a U.S. warship to Cuba, fearing that it might provoke war between Spain and the United States.

The Spanish were blamed for the *Maine's* destruction and the outrage of Americans over the explosion forced McKinley to ask Congress to declare war against Spain, which it did on April 25.

The first naval battle in the war was fought not in Cuba but in the Philippine Islands, in Manila Bay. Commodore George Dewey, aboard the *USS Olympia*, defeated the Spanish fleet.

The brief conflict at sea and on land ended before the end of 1898, but American troops did not leave the island immediately. U.S. officials declared the island's independence on May 20, 1902, but it would be nearly two more years until U.S. military forces fully withdrew.

As with many historical periods, collectors can create collections of coins, paper money and exonomia around the Cuban independence movement and the Spanish-American War.

Many of Cuba's military heroes, including Calixto Garcia Iniquez, Antonio Maceo and Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, died during the last rebellion before the 1898 Spanish-American War. Their portraits appeared on Cuban paper money in the middle of the 20th century.

Collectors looking for Cuban numismatic items from the late 19th century will need to look at possibly coins from Spain and even items like relic medals commemorating the period.

Relic medals contain metal or other substances recovered from famous ships, spacecraft or important historic artifacts, or from historic sites. Relic medals can contain metal that was once actually part of the artifact and then added to the alloy used to make the medals, or the recovered metal may be left intact but be embedded directly into the surface of the medal. A third type of relic medal — one made from metal carried aboard or once part of a famous naval vessel — is the type available from this period.

The wreckage of the *USS Maine* rested in Havana Harbor until it was towed into deeper waters and sunk in 1912. Pieces of the warship were turned into relic medals.



**RELIC MEDAL** depicts the *Maine* and an allegorical female figure along with inscriptions. The reverse depicts a standing guard in a Spanish-American War era uniform.

One such medal was struck in commemoration of the Sept. 16, 1914, dedication of the *Maine* Memorial in Pittsburgh's West Park. Joseph A. Koeb designed the medal. The obverse depicts the *Maine* and an allegorical female figure with suitable inscriptions; the reverse depicts a standing guard in a Spanish-American War era uniform and commemorative inscription.

The medal was given to persons contributing \$10 in funds for the Pittsburgh *Maine* Memorial. The memorial and medal were sponsored by General Committee of the Fifteenth Annual Reunion of the Army of the Philippines, Cuba and Porto Rico.

A second *Maine* relic medal, also struck from metal recovered from the wreckage, depicts an image of Battle of Manila Bay hero Commodore Dewey. The legend **THE MAINE** makes it a *Maine* commemorative as well as a Dewey medal.

These uniface medals were introduced on Feb. 15, 1899. They were struck by W.F. Doll Manufacturing Co., New York City. The company purchased roughly 1,200 pounds of metal from the New York Navy Yard. A handbill attesting to authenticity of the medals as genuine *USS Maine* relic souvenirs accompanied each medal.

Dewey exonomia is numerous. After the Battle of Manila Bay, Dewey became a national hero, and his portrait soon appeared on a variety of medals, tokens and badges, including the *Maine* relic pieces mentioned previously.

1897 and 1898 Cuba souvenir 1-peso medals were sold to raise money for the liberation of the island from Spain.

The history behind these Cuba souvenir pesos is interesting. José Martí, the Cuban poet and propagandist, coordinated Cuban political organizations in exile and inspired the independence uprising that began Feb. 24, 1895 (he was killed in the uprising).

Martí helped establish the Delegation of the Cuban Revolutionary Party in New York in 1892. Between 1893 and 1898, the organization collected about \$1.5 million for Cuban independence. Some of the funds were raised through the sale of the 1897 and 1898 souvenir peso medals.

The Dunn Air-Brake Co. in Philadelphia struck the souvenir peso medals. Other varieties of the same medal were struck

later during 1897 at other locations in the United States.


The obverse of the 1897 issue depicts a female bust right as modeled by Leonor Molina, a Cuban immigrant to the United States and active fundraiser.

The obverse legends read **PATRIA Y LIBERTAD 1897 SOUVENIR**. The reverse depicts the heraldic shield of Cuba with legend **REPUBLICA DE CUBA**.

The metallic purity of .900 fine silver and six stars are at the bottom of the design where the denomination would appear on the 1898 1-peso pieces. The word "souvenir" does not appear on the 1898 issue.

These and other related collectibles are available on the collector market. You may take some digging by collectors.

Check with world coin dealers and medal dealers, or search online auctions at sites like eBay.

Considering Cuba is only 90 miles from U.S. shores, a collection of these items might be a fitting tribute to the centennial and the hope of future independence. 



**DEWEY RELIC MEDAL** is another *Maine* relic medal, struck from metal recovered from the wreckage. A portrait of Commodore George Dewey and the legend **THE MAINE** appear on this uniface medal introduced in 1899.



**YOUNG HEAD** type of King Alfonso XIII 5-peseta coin of Spain might have circulated among the Spanish occupiers of Cuba. Alfonso was born in 1886, and his mother, Maria Christina, served as regent until 1902.



**SOUVENIR PESO MEDAL** was struck to raise money for the Cuban War of Independence. Portrait of the young woman was based on Leonor Molina, a Cuban immigrant in the United States and a tireless fundraiser on behalf of her people.

# Cuba Pick 29c 1876 5 Centavo Unearthed, Finally.

By Larry Casey – Charter Member and Director of the Cuban Numismatic Association.

Akin to the old filmstrip How A Bill Becomes A Law I would like to take you all through the confirmation process that a bill goes through to make mention for it in Pick, or The Standard Catalog of World Paper Money which lists each nations currency by Pick number, for early cataloguer Albert Pick.

First, begin by coming up with a note, or variety thereof not already listed. This will undoubtedly be easier through early detection and submission of series just issued. But in my case, when I got an emailed offer from Hans in the Netherlands, speaking of a 1876 variety which has been listed as reported but not confirmed since I began collecting Cuba how was I to refuse?

How does one then go on to verify a variety which for all intensive purposes doesn't exist? Not being fully satisfied with my own impressions I sought out the eye of several others who are well versed in the early paper its characteristics. And this is a paper five centavos, fractional as would be the term for the US and Canadian paper change of the period.



I met Joel Shafer (whose father Neil currently does cataloging for the Standard Catalog) at a small Lyn Knight show in St. Pete Florida late in 2001 or early 2002. And taking me for either impassioned collector or insane asked if I had anything tucked away for the catalog. And I mentioned the five-centavos that was a fairly recent acquisition at the time. I met with both Shafers last year at the Memphis show and showed the specimen to Neil, including my p29a, b and d for comparison. Following this I emailed enlarged scans of both the note solo and the four types pictured together for further analysis of all responsible for the catalogs content. And last June 23<sup>rd</sup>, my birthday oddly enough, I received an email announcing that my five-centavo specimen was the confirmation note!

So what distinguishes this type as different from any of the three other varieties of p29? Well it all has to do with the blank space seen in the upper left hand corner of the bill pictured, just to the left of the Spanish crown. P29a, 1 de Julio 1872, the first of the series has the same unused space. Whereas p29b 15 de Mayo 1876 (to which this note most closely relates) and 29d, 6 de Agosto 1883 both have different varieties of an American Bank Note Company monogram in this space. All types are attributed to and sporting the National Bank Note Company (also of Nueva York USA) moniker on the reverse. ABNC took over NBNC in the late 1870s (one resource placed this as 1879) which would account for the new monogram applied to notes produced from pre-existing plates as both the companies apparently collaborated prior to the takeover.

Anomalies exist in each of several series of Cuban fractionals, but the 1876 notes top the bill. The 10-centavos notes mirror the fives issued, but for both with and without monogram having been previously confirmed and neither showing as a greater rarity by catalog pricing. And a 25-centavos exists for the date as well, but remains listed as reported but not confirmed, perhaps there remain two varieties of this awaiting confirmation.

## CUBAN NUMISMATICS – AN OVERVIEW

The Spanish Bank of Havana, Cuba was founded in 1856 and the first paper money was printed in 1857. Before that time, sugar mill and other private tokens, Spanish, and a few French coins were the general coinage of Cuba. From 1868 to 1898, paper money and bonds, printed in the US, were issued by the Revolutionary Government. Silver pesos were minted by the Cuban Revolutionary Government in 1897. These coins were minted as “Souvenirs”, so that they were not in conflict with US Treasury regulations. The first mintage was contracted to the Dunn Air Brake Company in Philadelphia. In 1898, after the United States had entered the war against Spain, the “Souvenir” was changed to “Un Peso”.

From 1868 until 1898, there was continuing repression and fighting for independence between the Spanish and the Cubans. The Cuba 10 Year War against Spanish Colonialism lasted from 1868 to 1878, with much loss of life, especially among the Cuban patriots. The Cuba “Little War” against Spanish Colonialism lasted from 1879 to 1881, with the Spanish being victorious again. The Cuba War of Independence against Spanish Colonialism lasted from 1895 to 1898, with the Cuban patriots being victorious, with the assistance of the United States, who entered the war in 1898 after the USS Maine was blown up in Havana Harbor. Estrada Palma, an advocate of making Cuba a commonwealth of the United States, was installed as President of Cuba from 1898 to 1914. During this time, the American dollar was the official currency of Cuba. In 1902, Cuba formally became an independent nation. The American army, who did not leave Cuban soil until 1902, was recalled to Cuba by President Palma in 1906 to help put down anti-Cuban Government movements. The American army remained in Cuba until 1909, and was recalled again in 1914 to establish peace after strikers revolted.

On October 19, 1914, the Cuban Legislature created the Cuban National Currency System, which authorized the minting of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 & 40 centavo coins, the peso, as well as gold 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, & 20 pesos. All were minted in the Philadelphia Mint in 1915 and 1916. In 1915, the Cuban legislature passed a law prohibiting all foreign coins and currency, except American.

Turmoil continued in Cuba, and after a few unsuccessful presidents, a revolution in 1933 placed Dictator Gerardo Machado in power. As a result, the ABC (so named after the three secret revolutionary groups) peso was minted from 1934 to 1939.

In 1940, the National Bank of Cuba was founded, and the first official Cuban paper currency was printed in 1950. At the same time, the American dollar was no longer (officially) legal tender in Cuba.

Cuba’s first commemorative coins were minted in 1952, celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Independence, and in 1953, commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Jose Marti, the father of Cuban Independence.

In 1952, Fulgencio Batista, a Cuban general who had previously ruled Cuba from 1934 to 1940, successfully overthrew the existing government to become the ruling dictator. In July, 1953, Fidel Castro and his followers revolted and attacked the Cuban Moncada Garrison, only to be defeated, captured and imprisoned. After release from prison in 1956, Castro reorganized his followers, and overthrew Batista on January 1, 1959. In March, 1962, Castro announced that Cuba would be a Communist State.

After Castro came into power, most Cuban mintage was contracted to Eastern European countries, such as Romania, Czechoslovakia, etc. The Cuban Mint was officially opened in 1977, and hundreds of Cuban commemorative coins have been minted since.

## WEBSITE ([www.cubannumismaticassociation](http://www.cubannumismaticassociation.com)) STATUS

In a few short months, our exclusive website has been designed, and implemented. It would not have been possible without the expertise and dedication of Stan Klein, one of our distinguished board members. He has interfaced with the American Numismatic Association (ANA), who provides the host computer space on a complimentary basis for fellow ANA members.

At this time, our Cuban Numismatic Association (CNA) is a member of ANA, Florida United Numismatics (FUN), and Latin American Paper Money Society (LANSA). We are also contemplating joining the American Numismatic Society (ANS) and the Numismatic Society of Puerto Rico. The benefit of mutual membership is that each organization has their own website, with associated listings (Go To) of the mutual organizations. In other words, someone accessing the FUN website will also have direct access to our website, by a simple click of their mouse.

Stan has spent countless hours coding, listing and maintaining the data that appear on our website. He built our temporary site (<http://216.235.108/index.html>) during the initial construction stage, and very recently opened our official website, which will continue to be enhanced for a period of time. Stan has saved CNA thousands of dollars with his dedicated service, and his contribution is exemplary.

Enrique Cayado, another one of our distinguished board members, submitted two designs for consideration as our official CNA logo. The board opted for the logo presented on the letterhead of this newsletter and the website, rather than the alternative, which presented a variety of Cuban coins, currency and exonomia. Enrique spent many hours working on his submissions, and his contribution is very much appreciated.

The website will provide information in both English and Spanish, thanks to volunteer interpreters Andres Rodriquez, CNA Vice-President, and Enrique and Marysol Cayado.

Our CNA website will be provided to the numismatic media, which should generate much interest, resulting in increased interests and memberships.

The CNA website will soon list ALL the member’s names, which is customary for club websites. We will not post the name of any member who requests that he/she not be listed. If you wish that your name be excluded, contact CNA secretary Marysol Cayado at [Grumpy02@bellsouth.net](mailto:Grumpy02@bellsouth.net), or president Frank Putrow at [Fxputrow@aol.com](mailto:Fxputrow@aol.com). If you do not have access to email, please mail your request to Frank Putrow at 2175 Oak Grove Dr., Clearwater, Fl., 33764.

## CHARTER MEMBERSHIP

Charter membership is an exclusive status provided to the founding members of an organization. It consists of the actual founders, planners, and implementers, as well as the early members who receive “charter” status simply because they join the organization during the designated period.

During the January 9, 2004 inaugural meeting, the membership voted to cut off the charter membership status on March 9, 2004. At that time, new members would become “regular” members when they join. The board has agreed to extend the cut-off date to June 30, 2004 for “charter” membership, in the hope that membership could be accelerated with this benefit.

Charter membership status may not seem as significant during the developmental years of an organization, but it carries an elevated status among the membership in the subsequent years. I encourage all interested numismatists who have not yet joined our CNA to take advantage of this opportunity without delay. A membership application is provided in this newsletter to assist in this process.

## 1897 SOUVENIR PESO

Besides the very scarce 1898 Peso (mintage 1000), the 1897 Souvenir Pesos seems to generate very high interest among Cuban coin collectors. When they are listed for sale on EBAY, the result is spurious activity, and escalating bids. Bids of over \$300 for AU-UNC listings are common, and even well worn coins are commanding in excess of \$100. Recently, a cleaned, XF Type 1 1897, certified Souvenir Peso commanded greater than \$900 on EBAY. Why is the interest so keen on these three types of CIRCULATED Souvenir Pesos, minted in 1897 to raise funds to support the revolutionary movement in Cuba? Why are there 3 types of these coins? How many and what type of patterns were also minted in conjunction with the 1897 Souvenirs?

The next newsletter will contain a publication by Emilio M. Ortiz, a distinguished board member and one of the top experts in the world regarding the 1897 Souvenir pesos.

A bit of trivia about the Souvenir. The 1897 Souvenir coin is 36mm in diameter, which is 2mm smaller than the 1915 Cuban Peso. The specification, set forth by Phillip Martiny, the chief designer of the Souvenir, was that the Souvenir coin should be the same size as the British 4 Shilling coin of that era.

## BUYING and SELLING on EBAY

Many coin collectors use EBAY for their primary source of purchases. Unfortunately, all the sellers ARE NOT professionals. And, many of the sellers misrepresent their coins. Here are a few guidelines that may help the buyer.

1. Check the seller’s feedback. Anything less than 98% positive feedback is a red flag.
2. Analyze the feedback information, even if it is 100% positive. Look for words like honest, fair, and competent.
3. Visit the sellers “ME” page, identified by an icon. If there is no additional information in the “ME” page, it might be impossible to contact the seller if necessary.
4. Know the seller’s location. Be very aware that buying from third world countries has its risks. Some states also have sales tax requirements, which could add a significant cost to the purchase.
5. Look for the seller’s affiliations, such as ANA, or PNG (Professional Numismatists Guild). These individuals adhere to a strict code of ethics, and are usually in business for the long haul.
6. Don’t be deceived by a coins certification. Not all authentication and grading services are equal when it comes to critical questions such as grading accuracy and ability to detect cleaned, damaged, or counterfeit coins.
7. Check shipping terms, costs, and payment terms. Some sellers charge \$8-\$10 for shipping a coin, when the actual costs are less than \$5.
8. Read the Return and Refund policy. ALL legitimate dealers have a fair return policy, returning the purchase price if the buyer is not satisfied. Check online price guides. EBAY has a powerful, up to the minute database, accessible by users. Go to the EBAY Home Page, click on “Search”, then “Advanced Search”. Under “Keywords”, type in the coin that you are checking, such as “1916-D dime”. Under “Category”, select “Coins”, and check “Completed Items Only”. Click on “Search”, and up comes a list of every EBAY sale of the coin in the past month. There are other ways to check the prices, such as the PCGS Coin Price Guide on [www.pcg.com/prices](http://www.pcg.com/prices). Foreign coins are not available on the PCGS site, so reference catalogs, such as World Coins, are an excellent source of reference.
9. Contact the seller with questions or concerns BEFORE you bid.
10. Pay Safe. Use a credit card if possible, because disputes are more easily resolved. Pay Pal is safe, but their Buyer Complaint Policy is less supportive for the buyer. Rather than pay by personal check, consider a money order or cashiers check, so the seller will mail the coin promptly without a waiting period.
11. Print out the photo of the coin, and compare it with the item you receive.

Searching for items on EBAY can be simplified if you know how to use the “My Favorite Searches”.

After accessing EBAY, click on “Search”. In the box, type (an example) Cuba + (peso, centavo, medal, token). Click on “Add to My Favorite Searches”, which is on the right side of the screen.

When accessing EBAY again, click on “My EBAY”, then “Favorites”. You will see your listed search. Click, and all the listings in that category will be presented. Experiment with this feature, and you will save time in searching for your items.

Selling on EBAY can be costly if buyers don't bid on your listings. Remember that you pay EBAY if the item is sold or not.

Suggestions:

1. List for 3 or 5 days rather than 10. Most serious buyers are looking for items daily, and will bid before the end date.
2. Include as much information as possible, including the Return and Refund policy.
3. Be 100% honest in your description. Negative customer satisfaction will generate future distrust.
4. Sell at a fair price.

## WANT ADS FOR SALE

Various "pirate" and "butterfly" pattern coins minted by the International Currency Bureau, London, England. Contact Patrick Deane at +44 1689 898008.

Cuban tokens of Pre-Castro era. Send want or request list to Mark Wm. Clark at [Mwclark@pcmagic.net](mailto:Mwclark@pcmagic.net)

Rare Cuban coins. R&M, 1 NE 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Metro Mall #L7, Miami, Fl., 33132. Manny Alvarez 305 3585755.

Pre-Castro Certified Centavos and Pesos. Many to select from. Contact Frank Putrow at [Fxputrow@aol.com](mailto:Fxputrow@aol.com) or 727 5317337.

## WANTED

To Buy or Trade – 1920 5 centavo coin NGC Certified PF66 to complete full set. Contact Emilio M. Ortiz at [Intrepid@centennialpr.net](mailto:Intrepid@centennialpr.net)

To Buy or Trade – Modern replacement notes. Contact for list. Steve Patat at [Spatat@gabn.net](mailto:Spatat@gabn.net) or 706 8685281 or 706 8255554 (Cellular).

To Buy or Sell – Pre-Castro casino chips. Contact Henry Garrett at [Suprrsting@aol.com](mailto:Suprrsting@aol.com) or 818 9890760.

To Buy – 1993 Che KM346a 3 Peso coin, any condition, and Spanish/Mexico/Peru silver marvedis, reales, escudos. Inexpensive, holed, and bent OK. Contact Richard Schemitsch at [Sschemitsc@aol.com](mailto:Sschemitsc@aol.com) or 813 2652228.

To Buy – 1915 one and two gold Pesos in lower grades. Contact Tom Pickett at [Tpickett@direcway.com](mailto:Tpickett@direcway.com)

To Buy – Pre-independence counter-marked coinage; post 1967 circulating coins and 1988/89 Tourist tokens. Contact Stephen Eccles at [stephendeccles@aol.com](mailto:stephendeccles@aol.com)

To Buy – Information and images of UNLISTED Cuban tokens and vales. Contact Mark Wm. Clark at [Mwclark@pcmagic.net](mailto:Mwclark@pcmagic.net)

To Buy – 1870 set of 4 coins Moneda Provicional. Contact Andres Rodriguez at [Escolapio@email.com](mailto:Escolapio@email.com)

To Buy – Cuban casino related items like chips, dice, cards, photos, postcards, brochures, etc. Contact Frank Hinrichs at [Frank.hinrichs@shell.com](mailto:Frank.hinrichs@shell.com)

To Buy – Cuban casino chips or other items related to Cuban casinos. Contact Dr. Luis Alvarez at [Tecnamar@aol.com](mailto:Tecnamar@aol.com)

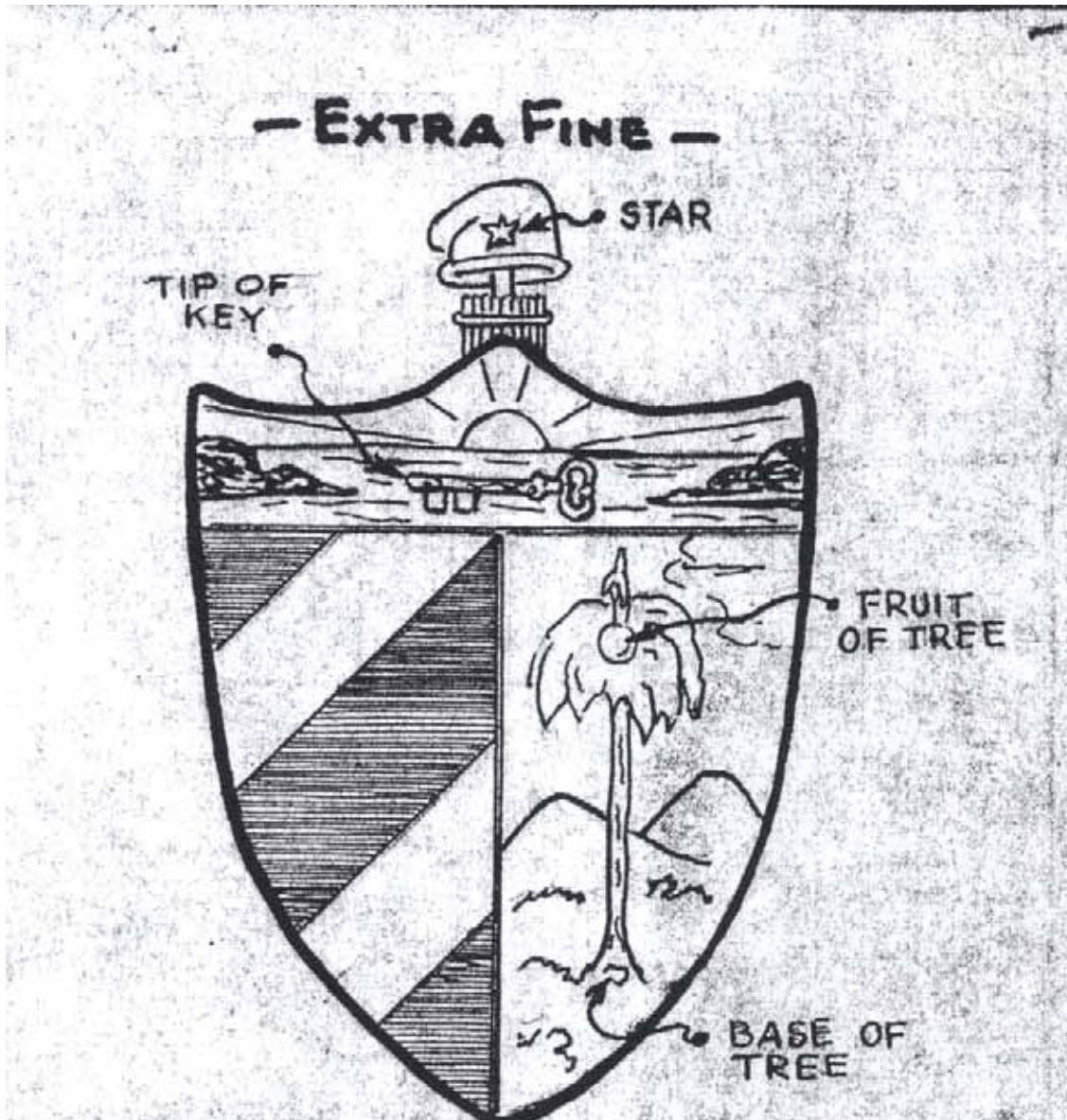
To Buy- Cuban casino chips and tokens, especially those related to Florida gambling. Contact Mark Lighterman at [Mlighter@bellsouth.net](mailto:Mlighter@bellsouth.net)

This Want Ad section is available to all members at no charge. There is a two line limitation in each category per newsletter. The ad WILL NOT be automatically relisted in the next newsletter. Email your request for a relist or a new ad to Frank Putrow at [Fxputrow@aol.com](mailto:Fxputrow@aol.com)

## GRADING

One of the most frequently asked questions among new Cuban coin collectors is “How does one know what the grade really is”?

In the hope that the following guideline does not conflict with accepted standards of other collectors, it may provide the basis for the development of documented guidelines and standards. It is intended to provide an interim guideline that may be used until such formal specifications are developed and approved by a planned committee of our Cuban Numismatic Association.



The above is the Reverse of the Cuban STAR centavo or peso. To be graded as Extra Fine (EF), the four “wear points” must be defined, although slightly worn. The small star must show all five points even if the star is worn; the key must be defined, the fruit will be distinguishable, and the tree trunk will show some curvature at the ground level.

Regarding the Obverse, the large Star wears very gradually, and is very difficult to grade unless there are radical wear or changes to the Star.

To qualify for the grade of Uncirculated (UNC), other criteria are important, such as luster, dings (small indentations caused by other coins), toning, and relief.

The Cuban Numismatic Association has membership with the expertise to develop complete grading guidelines for coins and currency. It is planned that a committee will be formed at our next regular meeting to address the development of these guidelines. The deliverable will be guidelines for Good (G), Very Good (VG), Fine (F), Very Fine (VF), Extra Fine (EF), Almost Uncirculated (AU), and Uncirculated (UNC).



CUBAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION  
APPLICATION for MEMBERSHIP

Background:

The Cuban Numismatic Association was founded on January 9, 2004. It will encompass all Cuban coins, currency, medals, tokens, bonds, casino chips, and all other items of private issue. The goal of the Association is to encourage, promote and dispense Cuban numismatic knowledge, culture, education, and fraternal relations among the numismatic community.

A quarterly newsletter will be issued to all members, and a website should be developed in the future. The newsletter will include general information, tutorial topics, and a limited classified ad section. During the first few years of development, annual meetings will be held in conjunction with the January Florida United Numismatists, Inc. (FUN) Coin Show. The 2005 FUN is scheduled to be held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Regular Membership is \$10.00 per year person. Junior Membership (17 years of age or younger) is \$5.00 per year per person.

2004 Officers:

Frank Putrow – President, Email ([Fxputrow@aol.com](mailto:Fxputrow@aol.com)), Telephone #727 5317337.

Andres Rodriquez – Vice President

Secretary – Marisol Cayado

Treasurer – Robert Freeman

Board of Directors – Enrique Cayado, Richard Becker, Larry Casey, Steve Klein, and Emilio Ortiz.

Please detach below after completing the application. Mail to Robert Freeman, 523 Meridian St., Tallahassee, Fl., 32301-1281. Checks should be made out to Cuban Numismatic Association. Please direct any questions to Frank Putrow ([Fxputrow@aol.com](mailto:Fxputrow@aol.com)), or 727 5317337.



Cuban Numismatic Association Membership Application

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: Regular (  )                      Junior (  )

Brief Description of Collectible Interests \_\_\_\_\_



The Cuban Numismatic Association plans to list the name and email address of each member on our website. Please indicate if this is acceptable to you. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_