



IKO-TAMS Bulletin

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IKO-TAMS Bulletin

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For those who may not know, we regret to announce the passing of our Life Member and distinguished Bulletin Editor Kevin Grant. The obituary follows. "Kevin Mark Grant, 60, a resident of South Whitley, died at 7:50 a.m. Monday, January 27, 2014 at Parkview Regional Medical Center, Fort Wayne where he had been a patient for the past two weeks. He was born on January 25, 1954 in Battle Creek, Michigan, a son of the late Elmer Leon and Elsie May (Edwards) Grant. He spent his formative years in Battle Creek where he graduated from Harper Creek High School. He earned his bachelor's in math, physics and astrophysics from Michigan State University. He also completed the requirements for a teaching license. He earned his Masters degree in mathematics at Ball State University. A career long teacher, he began teaching math and science at Rensselaer High School. In 1979, he joined Whitko School Corporation as a math and science teacher where he was currently employed. On June 5, 1993, he was united in marriage to Denise Renee Frey. They made their home in South Whitley. In addition to his teaching interest, he was an avid collector of merchant tokens. He was the writer and publisher of the Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio Token and Medal Society publication and was regarded as one of the foremost authorities in the area on merchant tokens. He also enjoyed chess and was a member of the Science and Planetary Societies. He is survived by his wife, Denise, a daughter Antimony E. Grant "Timmi" of South Whitley, a brother, Douglas (VyAnn) Grant of Battle Creek, MI, and a sister, Janice (John) Segar of Marshall, MI."

We knew Kevin was seriously ill, but there was renewed hope after the surgery last August and the subsequent chemo-therapy. But most unfortunately, the decline in health resumed and accelerated towards the end. We lost a good friend, an excellent editor, and a dedicated researcher - cataloguer who put a lot of time and effort into the endeavor. Assisted by his wife, he created a top notch quarterly publication for 9 years. He provided valuable assistance in the establishment of our websites. Kevin will be sorely missed!

This is the first of 3 newsletters this year. The others will probably reach you in August and December. There will be no graphics, articles, mavericks, new token listings or ads. Sorry to be so blunt, but I am not an editor and doubt that I can continue the newsletter beyond this year.

THIS WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON OUR ANNUAL SHOWS.

JUNE MEETING----We were not able to arrange this popular regional get-together due to health problems experienced by Virginia King, our go-to gal for this event, and the loss of her assistant, Mr. Grant. Look for it to resume next yr.. She asked we express her appreciation for all the cards & well wishes she received.

2014 ANNUAL SHOW----The big show is set for Fri. Oct. 10th & Sat. Oct 11th at the same location as last yr. & it should be another good one !! Please hang on to the enclosed flyer to assist with your plans or give to a fellow collector. Terry has enclosed a call for auction lots and we urge you to send yours in right away as he needs good lead time to get things organized & the publicity out. This is a lot of work ! PLEASE do your part to make it a success.----Another big draw this year is the sale of the Kevin Grant collection consisting mainly of his Indiana merchant tokens and an extensive research library including a broad range of periodic publications from many exonomia groups. You will find the collection at the tables of your president, and Vice President Ron Vore. Proceeds go to Kevin's wife & daughter, so plan to take advantage of this rare opportunity.

IKO-TAMS BULLETIN EDITOR---- To date there has been no response to our earlier call for someone to replace Kevin. As you can see, this "bulletin" is a far cry from that to which we are accustomed : no articles, graphics, ads, maverick or new token listings, etc. Your president believes a good bulletin is essential to the health of our society as it is about the only contact we have with a high percentage of the membership. See the brief job description below. -WE MUST HAVE A NEW EDITOR

IKO-TAMS Job Description for Bulletin Editor

1. Able to use a word processor or newsletter program (some sort of desktop publishing.)
2. Have an email account for communication with the officers and the membership.
3. Must be able to devote time to create Bulletin (10-20 hrs. per issue.) Time will vary depending on whether the articles arrive electronically or need to be typed. Deliver masters to the printer & pick up copies when ready, fold & stuff Bulletins in envelopes, address envelopes (printed labels may be used), apply return address labels and postage stamps, seal envelopes (about 4 hrs. for one person), and deliver to the post office.
4. Must be able to get the Bulletins out on a timely basis (first half of Feb., May, Aug., & Nov.).

FINAL NOTE: If you have not sent your \$10 2014 dues to Secy, Jim Lindsay, this is the last bulletin you will receive.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED; Dave Gossett

WE NEED TOKENS!

for the 2014 IKO-TAMS AUCTION

Once again, we will be having our mail/bid board/floor auction in conjunction with the October show. Any IKO-TAMS member is welcome to submit up to 10 lots with a list accurately describing the lots for the mail bidders. Together with the description, please include the condition of the piece and what the minimum bid amount is (if any). Attributed mavericks should include source of attribution. Trade tokens are preferred, especially unlisted tokens, saloons, BBC, good transportation and other "better" items. Lots with an anticipated value of \$10.00 or more are eligible. A small commission for each lot (10% of selling price or \$2.00, whichever is greater) will be retained by IKO-TAMS.

Lots and their listing should be sent to the auction manager (address below) no later than **July 1, 2014** for the lots to receive maximum publicity. When mailing, use appropriate postal insurance. The auction manager reserves the right to refuse any lots which, in his judgment, should be refused. **Time is passing**, so hurry and round up your treasures and send them to:

Terry Stahurski
549 Maplevue Drive
Seven Hills, OH 44131-3813

(If you need to reach me, contact me at tstahurski@cox.net or 216-573-0761)

Q. David Bowers to Speak at TAMS Symposium at ANA World's Fair of Money

August 6, 2014, 1:00 p.m.

The Token and Medal Society is pleased to announce that Q. David Bowers will present the program at its annual Symposium at the ANA World's Fair of Money, Rosemont, IL, August 6, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. His subject will be "Shell Cards: America's Undiscovered Dynamic Series of Tokens: Over 1,000 from the 1860s and 1870s, many with Liberty Seated dollar and Double Eagle obverses!" Q. David Bowers is the author of this forthcoming standard catalog of these tokens, *The Token and Medal Society Guide to U.S. Shell Cards 1867-1880*.

This definitive catalog contains listings for over 1,000 different shell cards, with almost 2,000 images. Information is given for most of the merchant issuers, rarity levels are given for each as is information as to the owners of certain rarities. Introductory chapters tell how these were made, circulated, and were widely popular in their day.

Written by Dave Bowers, backed with research associate Evelyn Mishkin, the book includes a preface by well-known publisher Dennis Tucker and a foreword by long-time token author David Schenkman. With graphics and layout by William Hyder, and printed on fine quality paper and in color, the book will

find a place in the library of anyone interested in American numismatic history or in tokens. It will be offered at a special pre-publication price. Special thanks go to the Central States Numismatic Society grant committee for approving monies to help fund this catalog.

Shell cards were the ingenious creation of enterprising marketers who saw the longing of the American population for gold and silver coins, which were not in circulation during the 1860s. A clever marketing tool, a merchant could advertise his business on the back of a faux bright gold \$20 coin or a bright look-alike silver dollar leaving his customers feeling richer upon exiting his establishment than when he or she entered. A mirror or pincushion-edged shell card offered by some merchants, on the other hand, was almost guaranteed to be kept and seen by others, as it was an item that fulfilled everyday needs.

A century and a half later, a look at these marvelous coin-like pieces draws the observer into the day-to-day world of big cities and small towns of that period, from corner dry goods stores to railroads and most every type of business in between. Although there have been excellent articles on shell cards by Ralph Mitchell, Russell Rulau, and others dating back into the 19th century, this is the first comprehensive study ever published and organized in book form.

All are invited, and admission is free.