
FUN MONEY

A NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN PLAY MONEY SOCIETY

ISSUE NUMBER 1

JUNE - 1996

PREMIER ISSUE

WELCOME to the birth of the American Play Money Society, or, as we shall refer to it at times, APMS! We begin as a small, but enthusiastic group of collectors. Hopefully this affiliation will provide many new contacts with other people who have contracted this affliction (obsession?) regarding play money. The newsletter title should convey the mood that we expect this foray to be fun for all involved while, at the same time, be a source of education regarding the history, origin, and use of all types of play money and related exonomia. At this juncture, the term "play money" means different things to each collector, and this will probably always be so. However, as we progress, the field will evolve and become more defined with many sub-categories identified. One of your editor's hopes is that this dialog will result in one of our members producing a catalog on paper/currency play money. The expertise certainly exists within APMS.

As you read this premier issue, remember that APMS and *FUN MONEY* are your forum; please communicate with letters, comments, ads, and articles. The newsletter format will continue to improve as the editor becomes a bit more computer literate and your suggestions are always welcome. We have the capability to scan items into the articles, but resolution is limited to 300 dpi, which may be a bit grainy. Articles may be sent in any format, including handwritten. Should you wish something to appear exactly as submitted, please let us know. Above all, let's have a good time with APMS!

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AMERICAN PLAY MONEY SOCIETY

The American Play Money Society (APMS) is a non-profit, educational organization for collectors of play money. It is dedicated to the promotion and research of play money and related exnumia.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT/EDITOR: Jack Phillips, 2044 Pine Lake Trail, Arab, AL 35016

VICE-PRESIDENT: C.R. Clark, P.O. Box 48691, St. Petersburg, FL 33743

SEC./TREASURER: Barbara Phillips, 2044 Pine Lake Trail, Arab, AL 35016

DIRECTORS:

1. Russ Sears, 9323 Waltham Woods Rd., Baltimore, MD 21234-1550

2. Jeff Quinn, 14224 E. Boston, Wichita, KS 67230-9254

3. (To be determined)

CHARTER MEMBERSHIP: \$10.00 (Covers start-up costs and three newsletters for 1996). To be offered only until September 1, 1996.

ANNUAL DUES: \$7.00 per year for a regular membership and \$9.00 for a family membership (US only). Both have full membership, but only one newsletter will be mailed to the family. Dues for members in other countries will be determined by postage rates.

MEETINGS: One per year in a central location.

NEWSLETTER ADS: Each APMS member is encouraged to send a free ad of up to five lines for each issue of *FUN MONEY*. Ads will not be run continuously, so please send a new ad each time. Business card ads (1/8 page) for four issues are \$6.00. Camera ready ads are \$12.00 per page, \$6.00 per half page, and \$3.00 per quarter page.

NEWSLETTER: *FUN MONEY*, A Newsletter of the American Play Money Society for Education and Fun, is published quarterly to publicize activities of the Society and to distribute educational information regarding play money to Society members. The editor will make final decisions about stories and ads for publication. Contents of articles and ads represent views of the authors and do not necessarily represent views of either the editor or the Society officers.

Issues	Deadlines	Publication dates
No. 2	August 10	September 1
No. 3	November 10	December 1
No. 4	February 10	March 1

OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD CURRENCY

by Jack Phillips

While looking through the Nashville Flea Market recently I came across a type of play money currency that I had not seen before. The pictured note is printed in green on white paper and is shown actual size.



There were six different notes in four denominations. They are: 500 Martians, 500 Uraniums, 500 Mercurians, 1000 Venusians, 2000 Mercurians, and 5000 Solars. All used a common reverse, except for denomination, as shown below.



I haven't a clue as to the origin of this money, but it would appear to be from the 1950's or 1960's. Anybody got a complete set of this? Hopefully one of our members can provide some insight on this attractive currency. Or did it really come from Outer Space!

WHY I COLLECT PLAY MONEY

By Benj Fauver

Some of my friends think I am the village idiot when I confess to my fascination with play money. Their expressions suggest that I may never have escaped from a play-pen mentality. They may be right! I had a set of play money when young. None of it has survived. Perhaps I am trying to revive those fond childhood memories.

In any event, I'm hooked. When I completed my graduate studies and went to work for a large corporation (something my entire formal education seems to have steered me toward) for the first time in my life I had some surplus cash. Having been an avid coin collector in my teens, I resurrected this hobby. My surplus cash didn't go very far toward purchasing high grade U.S. coins, however, even in 1965. One day a local coin dealer showed me a tray of tokens and convinced me that I would be missing out on a prime investment opportunity if I failed to buy them. I can still hear the suction sounds as I bit. I've never escaped. Over the years I've been able to put together comprehensive collections in a number of branches of exonomia. Some have turned out to be more lucrative than others, but all have been fun.

I hadn't been collecting tokens long when I began to give some thought to the strategy of scoping and selecting what to buy. Most of the exonomia collectors I knew specialized in one or two areas. Only when one area of collecting had been thoroughly mastered and completed would then even consider moving on to another. I decided on a different strategy. I made a fairly comprehensive list of all of the areas of exonomia my friends and acquaintances collected. Then I focused on those areas which were left over. My contemporaries considered these areas to be the dregs; of utterly no interest to a serious collector. They tried to dissuade me from my obvious folly. But my play-pen mentality prevailed! Even today I still look for new niches where there is material available, but little demand, especially locally.

Play money collecting was an obvious choice early-on. Nobody I knew was paying any attention to it. My friends were quite blunt with me about persuing an area of collecting which had no potential whatsoever for serious study, and even less for financial reward. But I persisted. I found, much to my surprise, that I got the same degree of satisfaction from finding a new variety of play money for the cost of a dime, than I did when a new variety of Civil War Token, for example, was added to my collection at a much greater cost. More importantly, many of the collections begun at about the same time as my
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play money collection have been completed and sold or traded off. The play money collection continues to grow. This is in part due to the arrival of new issues, but older material also continues to come out of the woodwork. Play money turns up in the most unexpected places. Last weekend I attended a local flea market, largely to purchase tokens, medals, and pin back buttons for stock. In addition I was able to acquire three new varieties of play money. One cost me a quarter. One was given to me since the dealer thought it was "worthless". The last I found lying on the sidewalk. So you see, even the village idiot, if he keeps his eyes peeled, can hope for success.

FOR TRADE

AMERICAN HERO PLAY COINS: Light peach-colored plastic with 30 millimeter diameter.

Buffalo Bill, Great Hunter, 5	Thomas Jefferson, Sage of Monticello, 25
Daniel Boone, The Father of them All, 50	John Paul Jones, Naval Officer, 5
Davy Crockett, Born Aug. 17, 1786, 50	Robert E. Lee, A Great General, 100
Davy Crockett, Saving an Indian, 50	Abraham Lincoln, The Great Emancipator, 500
Davy Crockett, Crossing a River, 10	Paul Revere, The Midnight Rider, 100
Ulysses S. Grant, Unconditional Surrender, 10	
Patrick Henry, Liberty or Death, 100	Theodore Roosevelt, Rough Rider, 10
Andrew Jackson, The Hero of New Orleans, 500	
Zachary Taylor, Hero of Mexican War, 5	George Washington, Father of His Country, 500

CIRCUS PLAY COINS: Light peach-colored plastic with 30 millimeter diameter.

African Rhinoceros, 5	African Hyena, 5	American Eagle, 500
African Hippopotamus, 10	African Tiger, 25	Arabian Camel, 10
African Lion, 25	African Crocodile, 100	Southamerican Donkey, 5
African Giraffe, 50	American Deer, 10	Southamerican Monkey, 50
African Boa Constrictor, 100	American Bear, 25	Southamerican Parrot, 500
African Elephant, 5000		

Northwestern School Supply Company, cardboard, set of six: One Cent, Five Cents, Ten Cents, Quarter Dollar, Half Dollar, One Dollar. These cut-out coins may have cuts into the design on one or both sides. Will trade for other old toy cardboard money that I need in my collection! Will trade American Hero and Circus play coins for other American Hero, Circus, Interplanetary Space Patrol Credits or similar play money that I can use from the same period.

Send descriptions to: C.R. Clark, P.O. Box 48691, St. Petersburg, FL 33743-8691

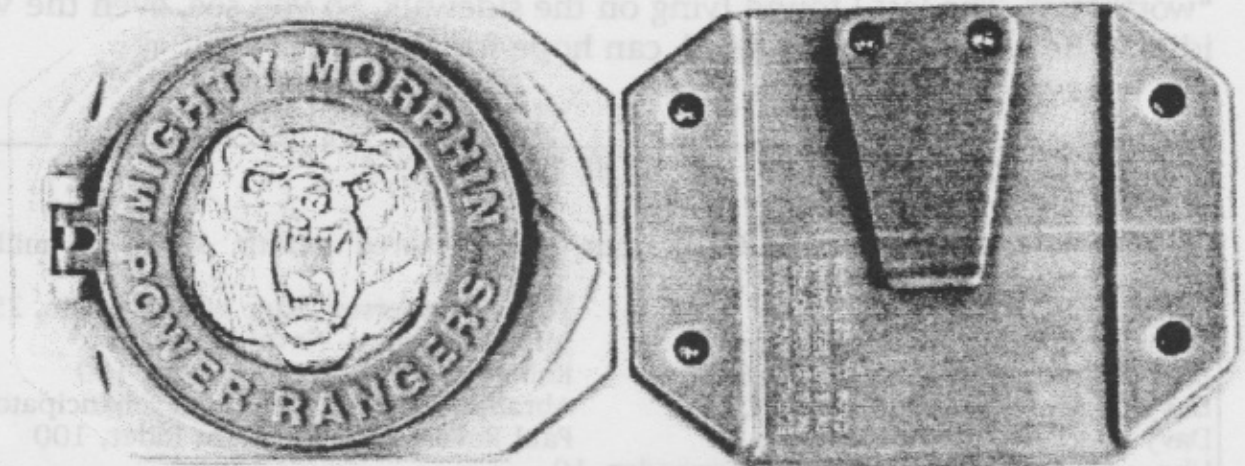
"Being the author of *PLAY MONEY OF AMERICAN CHILDREN* has brought me a great deal of satisfaction knowing that I have helped to popularize an obscure hobby. I was pleased to learn about the creation of your new organization and wish you all the best of luck in your search for new and exciting specimens. Although I can't promise you a definite date, I will try to publish a second edition of my book. If anyone would like to see unknown coins included in the new book just send me photocopies or rubbings of these. Thank you all for purchasing volume one."

Sincerely, Richard Clothier

The Mighty Morphin Power Rangers Buckle and Coins

By C. R. Clark

A gray plastic buckle with three gold-colored coins was among several Mighty Morphin Power Rangers toys issued in 1995. The three coins fit inside the buckle so that any one of the six animals pictured on one side or the other may show through the hole in the hinged, red plastic cover.



The reverse of the buckle has the trade mark and copyright statements by TCFFC and SABAN. China is indicated as the location of the manufacturer.



The gold coins have a thickness of 4 millimeters and a diameter of approximately 43 millimeters. The pictures on the coins are matched: bear/wolf; ape/eagle; frog/crane and there are no inscriptions. The buckles have turned up frequently at local flea markets with or without the coins during the past six months. One toy dealer had a watch that he said was sold with the buckle, but I have not seen the original, unopened package.

NORTHWESTERN SCHOOL SUPPLY COMPANY
EDUCATIONAL TOY MONEY

By C. R. Clark

The Northwestern School Supply Company, Minneapolis, Minn., issued cardboard coins and large size paper bills. Obverses were similar and reverses were similar except the size and denominations of coins and the denominations and numbers on the bills

Educational toy coins of approximately the same size as U. S. coins were printed on card stock without perforations, so it was necessary to cut them out. It is easy to imagine that young children trimmed a few examples that I have seen. Also, as frequently found on cardboard play money, the obverse printing does not match exactly with the reverse, so a carefully trimmed obverse will have an off-center reverse. The following full size pictures show both sides of the six tokens in the set.

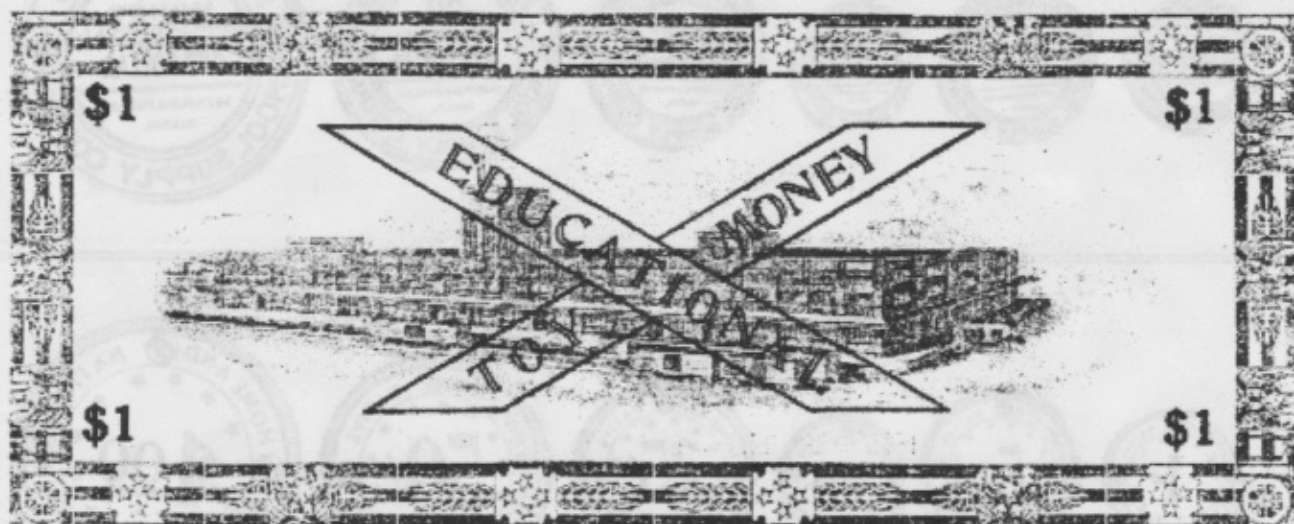


The coins are printed in black on what appears to be white card stock which has tanned with age.

Educational toy money bills from the Northeastern School Supply Company are the large size bills, similar to U. S. bills before the size was reduced in the late 1920's, causing us to suppose that they were printed during the 1920's, or earlier. Only four denominations, the \$1, \$2, \$5 and \$10 bills, were in the Northwestern money that I found, so it is likely that one or more bills were missing from the set.

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All bills are printed with green ink on gray paper, except the denominations, numbers, N.W. logo and "Everything for Schools" is printed in black. The actual size of all bills is 178 millimeters by 76 millimeters.



Other bills in the set are similar to the one shown above in actual size.

TREASURER'S REPORT

This first report will only establish our beginning balance; however, each subsequent newsletter will contain an update to APMS finances. As of May 30, 1996, we have 21 charter members and our only cash expenditure has been for stamps to communicate with potential members. It is anticipated that revenue from the memberships and ads will cover the costs of this issue of the newsletter and, hopefully, the next two issues.

Balance as of May 30, 1996..... \$191.00

R. SHUGG TOY MONEY

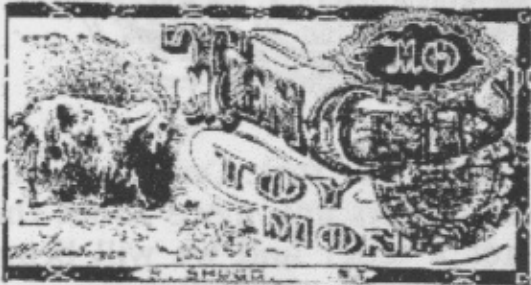
Our thanks goes to member Eric P. Newman for sending the editor a copy of some great toy money. A portion of the obverse is shown below and a portion of the reverse is shown on the following page. The entire, uncut sheet measures about 13 inches wide by 9 inches tall.



Entered according to act of Congress, in the year 1872, by C. L. SLADE, in the Office of Librarian of Congress, at Washington, D. C.



Entered according to act of Congress, in the year 1872, by C. L. SLADE, in the Office of Librarian of Congress, at Washington, D. C.



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Entered according to act of Congress, in the year 1872, by C. L. SLADE, in the Office of Librarian of Congress, at Washington, D. C.

The front has black print except for a red seal on each note and the background of the banner is red. The banner on the cart reads: Juvenile Classics. There are 15 notes in denominations of \$5, \$1, 50¢, 25¢, and 10¢. The bottom of each note reads: Entered according to act of Congress, in the year 1872, by C. L. SLADE, in the Office of Librarian of Congress, at Washington, D.C.

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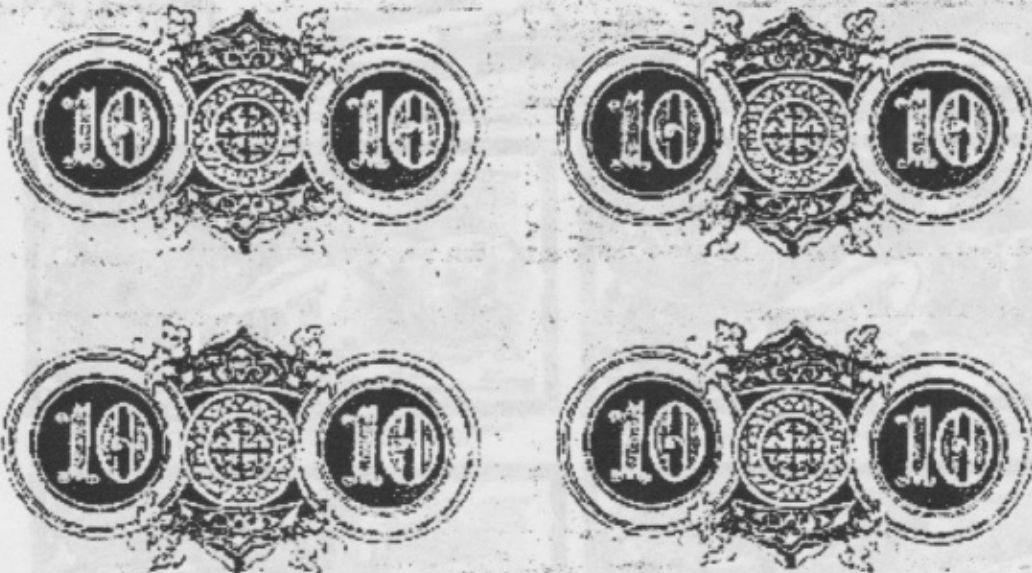
The reverse of the sheet is green print including the poem for Christmas. The signature on the notes is W. Momberger.

TOY ARITHMETIC.

KRISS KRINGLE'S last most happy thought
Has surely to the Children brought
Just what they all so long have sought—
Toy Money.

In playing Store, to buy or sell,
To make up change, and count it well,
Better than buttons, let me tell,
Is Toy Money.

Hurrah for SANTA CLAUSS' last Toy!
'Tis jolly fun for girl or boy,
Little or big, the new found joy,
Toy Money.



This wonderful item was issued by R. Shugg of New York. Do any of our other members also have this money? If anyone knows any more about the history of the Shugg Toy Money drop the editor a letter and we will bring everyone up to date.

APMS LOGO

We need a logo for our newborn organization and I'm no artist! Please submit some ideas or even a completed, photo-ready logo. If nobody comes up with a suggestion, I will probably draw a circle and put our name in it; surely there are some great ideas out there.

AMERICAN PLAY MONEY SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP LISTING

- #C-2 C. R. Clark,
P.O. Box 48691, St. Petersburg, FL 33743
- #C-3 Robert B. Clark,
P.O. Box 48691, St. Petersburg, FL 33743
- #C-11 Richard F. Clothier,
Route 8, Washington, MA 01223
- #C-8 Franc P. Connor,
8728 Grandee Dr., Orlando, FL 32829
- #C-16 James P. Curry,
33 Pullman Ave., Apt. 4, Rochester, NY 14615
- #C-17 John F. Dalton,
P.O. Box 125, Saint Inigoes, MD 20684
- #C-5 L.B. (Benj) Fauver,
P.O. Box 521, Menlo Park, CA 94026
- #C-21 Ken Hallenbeck,
711 N. Nevada Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903-1007
- #C-6 George Hallstein,
164 Rural Grove Rd., Sprakers, NY 12166
- #C-19 Jack Haroian,
6 Eddy Street, Auburn, MA 01501
- #C-13 Jim Hemphill,
P.O. Box 1321, Lake Oswego, OR 97035
- #C-15 John A. Henderson,
P.O. Box 323, St. Clairsville, OH 43950
- #C-14 Donald J. Kolkman,
211 Oakwood Ct., Greenville, SC 29607
- #C-18 Eric P. Newman,
6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63105
- #C-12 Bob Nolan,
3355 Portola Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15214-2214
- #C-9 Randy Partin,
1314 Keystone Pointe, Auburndale, FL 33823
- #C-1A Barbara Phillips,
2044 Pine Lake Trail, Arab, AL 35016
- #C-1 Jack Phillips,
2044 Pine Lake Trail, Arab, AL 35016
- #C-20 Edward S. Pinckard,
1968 Cool Springs Road, Norman Park, GA 31771
- #C-7 Jeff Quinn,
14224 E. Boston, Wichita, KS 67230-9254
- #C-10 Steve Ratliff,
3450 Riverview Drive, Pace, FL 32571
- #C-4 Russ Sears,
9323 Waltham Woods Rd., Baltimore, MD 21234-1550

FREE ADS

FOR TRADE: Play coins and currency. My want list includes the following coins: Bank Bedrock, Bat Coins, Bullwinkle Trading Coins, Burger Chef Funmoney, Eggsville USA, Glenwood Supply Co., J.L. Hammett Co., Hardees' Fun Machine Coin, Instructo Coins, Lucky Play Dollar, Mallo Cup Play Money, Mork Money, My Merry Money, Phony Penny, Play Coin (eagle atop shield), Playtown Bank, Playtown Banker, Play Wild West Bucko, Pooh's Lucky Coin, Ricochet Dollar, Stage Money, Tim's Lucky Coin, Toy of Coin, Woolbro New Pence. Benj Fauver, P.O. Box 521, Menlo Park, CA 94026.

FOR SALE: "Play Money of American Children", published in 1985, and still the main reference for the hobby. Soft cover, 52 pages. Only about 20 copies remain. While they last, \$15.00 postpaid. Richard Clothier, Route 8, Washington, MA 01223.

WANTED: Red Goose Shoes Presidents and paper notes, Cracker Jack Coins, Play Coins of the World, Popsicle, Interplanetary Space Patrol Credits, and Uncle Sam Play Money. Please write to: Bob Nolan, 3355 Portola Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15214-2214.

FOR SALE: College Currency, Bliss System, notes; 65mm x 160mm; blue print with an eagle on both sides; used but OK. Six denominations, \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 & \$100. Maybe from the 1930's? Set of six, \$6.00 postpaid. Jack Phillips, 2044 Pine Lake Trail, Arab, AL 35016.

FOR SALE OR TRADE: Milton Bradley Cardboard Play Money set of 6 (1¢, 5¢, 10¢, 25¢, 50¢, and \$1), and common Red Goose tokens. Write: Don Kolkman, 211 Oakwood Ct., Greenville, SC 29607.

WANTED: Cracker Jack and Red Goose presidential tokens. Will buy or have Cracker Jacks for trade. Randy Partin, 1314 Keystone Pointe, Auburndale, FL 33823. (941)965-2947.

FOR SALE OR TRADE: Have several hundred different pieces of coin type play money, both listed and unlisted, to trade for pieces I need. Send your list of trade items or if you wish to buy, send SASE for my list. Jack Phillips, 2044 Pine Lake Trail, Arab, AL 35016.

ARTICLES ARE NEEDED FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF *FUN MONEY*. Short stories, pictures, comments, etc., are always needed to fill in pages. Short articles of a few sentences and long articles consisting of several pages are all welcome. Also, a FREE want ad is available for each member in each newsletter. Let your editor hear from you! Material received by August 10, 1996, will appear in the September issue.