

Tokens Make Up Unusual Collection

Young Filmmakers May Enter Contest

Everyone knows that a numismatist is a coin collector. Right?

But how many know what an exnumist is?

Three Livonians are by way of becoming experts in the field of exnumism and are glad to explain what it's all about. They are the president, secretary and treasurer of the Mich-Tams-Raymond Olson, Michael Killinger and his wife, Norma. And Mich-Tams stands for the Michigan Token and Medal Society, a society devoted to the science of exnumism, or the

acquisition, study and exhibition of tokens and medals. The three were elected at a recent convention, held in conjunction with the Michigan State Numismatic Society's convention.

Although it originated in Michigan some five years ago, it now has members in 34 states as well as in Canada and Scotland.

OLSON COLLECTS trade checks or tokens good for different things. Killinger's chief interest is automotive tokens, and Mrs. Killinger

turns her attention to collecting love tokens. In silver, not diamonds. They are coins which have been "mutilated" or engraved as remembrances.

Her growing collection is one of the most interesting, and one on which there isn't much literature. So she has also been collecting and engraving her own history of love tokens, and speculating on the unique items in her collection.

For instance, it is practically certain that nowhere else in the world does there exist another Spanish coin from 1772 with the words "Mary Nickson, Born May 11, 1769" engraved on it.

And who were the "Mama" "John" and "Papa" who had their names engraved on coins and hung on a chain?

Although Shakespeare mentions broken and bent



LOVE TO KENS -- Mrs. Michael A. Killinger is shown with her unusual collection of love tokens, coins which were engraved and made into jewelry to recall important occasions. (Observer photo)

coins as marriage tokens, using coins as love tokens didn't become popular until the 1870s and 1880s when the practice came to this country from Europe.

Well-heeled Europeans used ancient Roman and Greek coins. Here, dimes were popular remembrances, although any denomination could be and was used.

THE COINS were made into watch cases, bracelets, sleeve buttons, earrings, necklaces, scarf pins and even rings. They were given as wedding, birth and anniversary announcements, for identification tags, as contest awards, for death remembrances, for medals and even as photographic items.

They were not only engraved with initials, but also engraved with free-hand engravings of pictures which possibly indicate the interests of the recipients, much as we buy charms for bracelets today. There's one engraving of Morro Castle in her collection, which leads Mrs. Killinger to speculate that it might have been done by a prisoner in the Castle.

Mrs. Killinger also owns a British half-penny with a sail boat engraved on one side and on the other the tender sentiment "Death only parts united hearts."

SOME OF the coin jewelry in her collection has been beautifully enameled. In some, gold has been applied to the silver to form the initial or design. Mrs. Killinger has found in her researches that carrying these coins was a practice favored by midwives. The combination of gold and silver was supposed to insure delivery of a healthy baby.

Mrs. Killinger also owns a lovely uncirculated 1882 dime which is not only engraved but also set with tiny pearls and rubies. In some cases the initials of the stones spelled out messages, such as ruby, emerald, garnet, amethyst, ruby and diamond for regards.

Mrs. Killinger also likes to

Young filmmakers will have a chance to see their films on television and win prizes in the 1970-71 Young People's Film Competition sponsored by WMSB (Channel 10), Michigan State University television.

The competition is open to all young people between ages six and 18 who are currently enrolled in grade or high school.

Awards will be given in each of the two age categories, 6-12 and 13-18, and winning films will be shown on WMSB television.

WINNERS OF the local competition will have their films entered in the national competition sponsored by National Educational Television (NET), where they may also win prizes and have their films presented in a special program on the Public Broadcasting Service network.

Films may be made with any type of movie camera in either black and white or color. Sound tracks or records

may accompany entries, but sound is not mandatory. Due to the complications and technical problems involved, no multimedia entries will be accepted, unless the film and sound portion can stand on its own. Entrants must certify that their films have been made within the last two years.

ALL ENTRIES must be received by WMSB not later than Feb. 1. Winners will be announced in March.

Entry blanks are available in grade schools, high schools and libraries or by writing WMSB, Michigan State University, 600 Kalamazoo Ave., East Lansing, Mich. 48823.

Need Guidance

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8449A STEUBEN

ALGIERS Drive-In

WESTLAND GA 2 8810
"WOODSTOCK" (R)
ALVIN BELIN
"NAKED UNDER LEATHER" (R)

STATE-WAYN

WAYNE GA 1-12100
ALL SEATS \$7.00
12:00-1:00
(MON THRU THU)
Walt Disney's color show
"THE ARISTOCATS" (G)
Theodore BIKEL
"MY SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN"

WAYNE Drive-In

WAYNE GA 1-13150
3:00 COLOR HITS
#1 "PENTHOUSE LOVERS" (K)
#2 "HOW TO SEDUCE A PLAYBOY" (G)
#3 "WORLD WITHOUT SHAME" (K)

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