

Mutt only once in a while adds to his special coin collection. Recently at a local Coin Club meeting, a fellow member showed Mutt a token. Mutt had never seen it before and since the member said he had two copies, was happy to sell this silver dime size token to Mutt.



Obverse: design in the manner of a medieval silver penny, center image divided into four quarters, within a circle of pearls, + LAFAYETTE . COIN . CLUB, around, within an outer ring of pearls.

Reverse: image of a frog playing a banjo, 1979 to lower left, <sub>CDA</sub> below date for Charles D. Arceneaux.

Edge: plain

Fineness: .999 silver

Size: about 17mm

Struck by hand hammered in the style of ancient coins with intaglio dies, hand carved, on planchets cut from sheets of .999 fine silver by the Lafayette Coin Club, Lafayette, La. By H. Alvin Sharpe and Charles Arceneaux, medalists.

Herbert A. Sharpe (1910-1982) worked in reverse intaglio on the dye for the obverse of the 1967 Mississippi Sesquicentennial medal struck by the United States Mint. He was known to be a painter, engraver, modeler, designer, intaglio cutter, and author of a book entitled, "Collective Meditations by H. Alvin Sharpe", published in hardcover on January 1, 1979.

In December 1959, Sharpe designed the Mardi Gras doubloon. The main qualm was the safety issue of throwing metal objects into the masses. Sharp informed the Rex krewe that he had designed some attractive doubloons that could be coined in aluminum and produced inexpensively in quantities and were safe. So what better way for Sharpe to prove that his new, light, aluminum prototypes were safe than by throwing them? And he did just that when he walked into the Rex office. Astonished but not injured, they picked up the proofs and studied them for several minutes and said "Is this it?" That started the conversation that ended in an order of 80,000 to be minted. Though he was still very uncertain of the doubloon's success, They ordered them to be struck without the date so the krewe could throw them the following years if any were left, and the krewe could get rid of them. This started the Doubloons for the Mardi Gras in New Orleans.