

Manhattan Coin Club Minutes

July 10, 2018

President Randy called the meeting to order.

The club welcomed a new visitor.

Old Business

Randy reminded us that Tom K. was laid up with a broken leg and Larry C. are recovering. We wish them both a speedy return.

New Business

President Randy put forward the idea of having an Abe Lincoln impersonator attend our coin show. The club seemed interested in the idea and Randy will follow up on the cost.

The upcoming program schedule was reviewed:

- August—Allan T., Process of Certifying Coins;
- September—Steve C.;
- October—Jess E., Elephants and Coins;
- November—Matt O., Using Online Resources.

Ray K. updated the club on the petrified wood he donated to KU's new geology department.



#2

Rock Type: Petrified Wood
(Carlile Shale)

Age: Cretaceous ~88 million
years old

Locale: Osborne County, KS

Additional Information: Isaac Kurtz dug this petrified wood specimen from the ground approximately 4 miles Northwest of Alton, Kansas in Osborne County, Township 6 (Grant) on the Southwest Quarter of Section 28 in the 1880's. It has been in the Isaac Kurtz family until it was presented to Kansas University in 2017. This is a gift from Quentin Kurtz, great, great grandson of Isaac.

A gift from Quentin Kurtz

Matt O. pointed out that the final proposed America the Beautiful quarter dollar design Preceding the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve Quarter in 2020 will include the Kansas Tallgrass Prairie coin.



Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Dave reported a club balance of \$2,971.70

Auctions

Doyle reviewed upcoming auctions. You may find a listing of auctions at:

<https://kansasauctions.net/calendar/>.

Program

Chuck T. presented a program on Silver and Ivory. The information follows at the end.

Guy C. won the door prize of a silver round and Paul B. won a 1\$ silver certificate. Following the silent auction with no further business the meeting adjourned.

PROGRAM NOTES

Money is a generally accepted medium for the exchange of goods and services, for measuring value, or for making payments. Money is fungible. One dollar is interchangeable with another dollar. Silver coins are possibly the oldest mass-produced form of coinage. Silver has been used as a coinage metal since the times of the Greeks; their silver drachmas were popular trade coins. The ancient Persians used silver coins between 612-330 BC. Before 1797, British pennies were made of silver. As with all collectible coins, many factors determine the value of a silver coin, such as its rarity, demand, condition and the number originally minted. Ancient silver coins coveted by collectors include the Denarius and Miliarensis, while more recent collectible silver coins include the Morgan Dollar and the Spanish Milled Dollar.

Evolution

Silver coins have evolved in many different forms through the ages; a rough timeline for silver coins is as follows:

- Silver coins circulated widely as money in Europe and later the Americas from before the time of Alexander the Great until the 1960s.

- 16th - 19th centuries: World silver crowns, the most famous is arguably the Mexican 8 reales (also known as Spanish dollar), minted in many different parts of the world to facilitate trade. Size is more or less standardized at around 38mm with many minor variations in weight and sizes among different issuing nations. Declining towards the end of the 19th century due the introduction of secure printing of paper currency. It is no longer convenient to carry sacks of silver coins when they can be deposited in the bank for a certificate of deposit carrying the same value. Smaller denominations exist to complement currency usability by the public.
- 1870s - 1930s: Silver trade dollars, a world standard of its era in weight and purity following the example of the older Mexican 8 Reales to facilitate trade in the Far East. Examples: French Indochina Piastres, British Trade Dollar, US Trade Dollar, Japanese 1 Yen, Chinese 1 Dollar. Smaller denomination exists to complement currency usability by the public.
- 1930s - 1960s: Alloyed in circulating coins of many different governments of the world. This period ended when it was no longer economical for world governments to keep silver as an alloying element in their circulating coins.
- 1960s - current: Modern crown sized commemoratives, using the weight and size of the old-world crowns.



- 1980 - current: Modern silver bullion coins, mainly from 39mm - 42mm diameter, containing 1 troy ounce of pure silver in content, regardless of purity. Smaller and bigger sizes exist mainly to complement the collectible set for numismatics market. Some are also purchased as a mean for the masses to buy a standardized store of value, which in this case is silver.

Why silver is used for coinage

Silver coins were among the first coins ever used, thousands of years ago. The silver standard was used for centuries in many places of the world. And the use of silver for coins, instead of other materials, has many reasons:

- Silver is liquid, easily tradable, and with a low spread between the prices to buy and sell. A low spread typically occurs when an item is fungible. (of such a nature that one part or quantity may be replaced by another equal part or quantity in paying a debt or settling an account Oil, wheat, and lumber are fungible commodities. fungible goods)
- Silver is easily transportable. Silver and gold have a high value to weight ratio.
- Silver can be divisible into small units without destroying its value; precious metals can be coined from bars or melted down into bars again.
- A silver coin is fungible: that is, one unit or piece must be equivalent to another.
- A silver coin has a certain weight, or measure, to be verifiably countable.
- A silver coin is long lasting and durable. A silver coin is not subject to decay.
- A silver coin has a stable value and an intrinsic value. Silver has been a rare metal.
- Because silver is not nearly as valuable as gold, it is much more practical for small everyday transactions.

Spanish America, the peso/dollar and Pacific trade

Europeans started silver mining in the "New World" soon after discovery of the Americas to answer a demand for silver in Europe inspired by the fine craftsmanship of the Renaissance. The discovery of silver in Joachimsthal also gave rise to the silver joachimsthaler coin.

United States

US dimes, quarters, half dollars and dollars were minted in 90% silver until 1964. Produced to save nickel for the war effort, war nickels 1942-1945 are 35% silver (silver nickel production started part way into 1942). Half-dollar coins minted between 1965 and 1970 are 40% silver, but from 1971 on, contain no silver.

After silver was removed from US circulating coins the US Mint made special commemorative coins minted for sale to coin collectors and, starting in 1986, bullion coins primarily sold to investors. Both types, although legal tender, are not expected to circulate for commerce.

Modern Silver Minting

Various governments mint, or authorize the minting of, silver bullion coins with a nominal face value in the national currency. The face value is nominal because the value stated on the coin is much less than the value of the silver in the coin. The most common world silver bullion coins, preceded by minimum guaranteed purity, and ordered by their year of introduction:

- 1888 Mexican 8 Real coin with Chinese chop marks
- 99.90% 1982 Mexican Silver Libertad
- 99.90% 1983 Chinese Silver Panda
- 99.90% 1986 American Silver Eagle
- 99.99% 1988 Canadian Silver Maple Leaf
- 99.90% 1990 Australian Silver Kookaburra (minted by the Perth Mint)
- 99.90% 1993 Australian Silver Kangaroo (minted by the Royal Australian Mint)
- 95.80% 1997 British Silver Britannia (from 1997, proof version only. Public issue from 1998)
- 99.90% 2008 Austrian Silver Vienna Philharmonic
- 99.90% 2009 Russian George the Victorious

Silver Rounds

Privately minted "silver rounds" or "generic silver rounds" are called "rounds" instead of "coins" because the US Mint and other government mints reserves the use of the word "coin" for Government Issued currency with a face value expressed in the national currency. The privately minted "rounds" usually have a set weight of 1 troy ounce of silver (31.103 grams of 99.9% silver), with the dimensions of 2.54 mm thick and 39 mm across. These carry all sorts of designs, from assayer/mine backed bullion to engravable gifts, automobiles, firearms, armed forces commemorative, and holidays. Unlike silver bullion coins, silver rounds carry no face value and are not considered legal tender. Similarly, both government and private sector mints issue silver bars for investors and collectors without a nominal face value.

Silver Identification Guide

Though slightly still lesser in value in comparison to gold, many still invest in silver. This can be disadvantageous as well with the proliferation of fake silver items. For the untrained eye, distinguishing real from fake silver can be very confusing and misleading. Counterfeit silver items resemble real silver items a lot so don't be fooled easily. If you really want to invest in silver, make sure you test it for authenticity. Here are some things to consider on how to test silver.

Test	Real	Fake
Ice Cube Test	ice melts fast	ice melts slow
Ring Test	beautiful ringing sound	dull and blunt sound
Magnet Test	magnet slides down	magnet sticks
Bleach Test	tarnishes quickly	does not tarnish
Acid Test	brown or red color	dark brown or blue

Fisch Test	device does not tilt	device tilts
Nitric Acid Test	creamy white color	green color

There are a variety of tests that can be used but sometimes doing physical tests on the objects in question will keep its original value. Note however that physical tests have their own limitations as well.

- ✓ Checking the label goes first. If the item has an inscription of “ster” or “sterling” that means the silver content in the item is at 92.5 or very close to being pure silver.
- ✓ If testing for bullion coins, strike two coins together. If it makes a nice ringing sound, it is real. If it generates a dull sound, one of it is fake.
- ✓ Use a neodymium magnet. Tilt object 45 degrees, place magnet on the tilted surface. If it slides down, it is real. If it sticks, it’s fake because real silver is non-magnetic.
- ✓ Get two ice cubes. Place one on top of the silver item and the ice cube on a regular pan. If the ice on the item melts faster than that of the pan, then the item is real silver as silver is a heat conductor.
- ✓ For coins, using a Fisch device can be helpful too. Slide the coin in the device slot. If the device tilts, this means the coin is fake silver. If the device remains steady, the coin is real silver.

Junk silver

Junk silver is an informal term used in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and Australia for any silver coin which is in fair or cull condition and has no numismatic or collectible value above the bullion value of the silver it contains. The word "junk" refers only to the value of the coins as collectibles and not to the actual condition of the coins; junk silver is not necessarily scrap silver.

Precious metals including silver are measured in troy ounces (ozt). A spot price for silver is the price for a troy ounce of silver which is 99.9-percent pure, or 999 fine. Silver coins including junk-silver coins have set silver-alloy contents ranging from 35-percent to 90-percent or more. The term "coin silver", for example, refers to 90-percent silver alloy which was the most common alloy used to mint silver U.S. coins.

Any combination of 90-percent silver U.S. coins, which have a face value of US \$1.00, contains 0.715 troy ounces of 99.9-percent silver (0.7234 troy ounces if uncirculated), except for the silver dollars (Morgan and Peace), which contain .7736 troy ounces of silver. In other words, a full troy ounce of 99.9-percent silver is contained in any combination of 90-percent silver U.S. coins, which have a face value of US \$1.40.

Common U.S. coins

The most commonly collected junk-silver U.S. coins were minted before 1965 and include Morgan and Peace dollars; Liberty Head "Barber," Walking Liberty, Franklin and Kennedy half dollars; Liberty Head "Barber," Standing Liberty and Washington quarters; Liberty Head "Barber," Winged Liberty Head "Mercury" and Roosevelt dimes; and Jefferson "Wartime" nickels.^[4]

Dollars

- Morgan (1878–1904 & 1921) -- 90-percent silver
- Peace (1921–1928 and 1934–1935) -- 90-percent silver

Half-Dollars

- Liberty Head "Barber" (1892–1915) -- 90-percent silver
- Walking Liberty (1916–1947) -- 90-percent silver



- Franklin (1948–1963) -- 90-percent silver
- Kennedy (1964) -- 90-percent silver
- Kennedy (1965–1970) -- 40-percent silver

Quarters

- Liberty Head "Barber" (1892–1916) -- 90-percent silver
- Standing Liberty (1916–1930) -- 90-percent silver
- Washington (1932, 1934–1964) -- 90-percent silver

Dimes

- Liberty Head "Barber" (1892–1916) -- 90-percent silver
- Winged Liberty Head "Mercury" (1916–1945) -- 90-percent silver
- Roosevelt (1946–1964) -- 90-percent silver

Nickels

- Jefferson "Wartime" (1942 (partial)-1945) -- 35-percent silver

Common U.K. coins

The most commonly collected junk-silver U.K. coins were minted before 1946 and include Edward VII, George V and George VI crowns; as well as Victoria, Edward VII, George V and George VI half crowns, florins, shillings, six pences, and three pences.

Crowns

- Victoria (2nd & 3rd portraits) (1887-1900) -- 92.5-percent silver
- Edward VII (1902) -- 92.5-percent silver
- George V (1927–1936) -- 50-percent silver
- George VI (1937) -- 50-percent silver

Half Crowns

- Victoria (1837–1901) -- 92.5-percent silver
- Edward VII (1902–1910) -- 92.5-percent silver
- George V (1911–1919) -- 92.5-percent silver
- George V (1920–1936) -- 50-percent silver
- George VI (1937–1946) -- 50-percent silver

Florins (2 Shillings)

- Victoria (1849–1901) -- 92.5-percent silver
- Edward VII (1902–1910) -- 92.5-percent silver
- George V (1911–1919) -- 92.5-percent silver
- George V (1920–1936) -- 50-percent silver
- George VI (1937–1946) -- 50-percent silver

Shillings

- Victoria (1838–1901) -- 92.5-percent silver
- Edward VII (1902–1910) -- 92.5-percent silver
- George V (1911–1919) -- 92.5-percent silver
- George V (1920–1936) -- 50-percent silver
- George VI (1937–1946) -- 50-percent silver

Six Pences

- Victoria (1837–1901) -- 92.5-percent silver
- Edward VII (1902–1910) -- 92.5-percent silver
- George V (1911–1919) -- 92.5-percent silver
- George V (1920–1936) -- 50-percent silver
- George VI (1937–1946) -- 50-percent silver

Three Pences

- Victoria (1838–1901) -- 92.5-percent silver
- Edward VII (1902–1910) -- 92.5-percent silver
- George V (1911–1919) -- 92.5-percent silver
- George V (1920–1936) -- 50-percent silver
- George VI (1937–1945) -- 50-percent silver

Other countries

Canadian dollar, half-dollar, quarter and dime coins minted after 1919 and before 1967 contained 80-percent silver. Those minted 1919 or earlier are sterling (92.5%) silver. For these coins (1920 - 1966), every CAD \$1.00 in face value contains 0.6 troy ounces of silver. The 1967 quarter and dime were minted in either 80% or 50% silver. The 50% quarters and dimes continued part way through 1968 until the mint introduced the 100-percent nickel versions of all the coins mentioned beforehand. To tell the 1968 nickel and silver coins apart, the ones made from nickel are magnetic whereas the silver coins are not.

Australian "pre-decimal" florin, shilling, sixpence and three pence coins minted from 1910 to 1945 contained 92.5-percent silver. From 1946 to 1964, they were minted in "post-silver" coins, which contained 50-percent silver. In 1966, the "round" 50-cent coin contained 80-percent silver.

Swiss 1/2 Franken, 1 Franken and 2 Franken minted from 1874 to 1967 contained 83.5 percent silver. 5 Franken minted from 1922 to 1928 contained 90-percent silver and weighed 25g, and those minted between 1931-1969 contained 83.5 percent silver and weighed 15g. Many Mexican and other Central American countries made silver coins that are considered junk silver today.

Popularity

Junk-silver coins may be a desirable method of investing in silver for several reasons:

- Low premiums
- Coins can often be purchased for little or no premium over the spot price of silver, particularly during periods of economic stability.
- Legal tender
- Coins remain legal tender and maintain their face value regardless of the price of silver.
- Recognition
- Coins are familiar and less likely to have their value disputed than silver rounds or bars.
- Divisibility
- Coins can be easily spent or traded in small amounts. In contrast, minted silver bullion is rarely smaller than a troy ounce, while minted gold bullion (and other precious metals) is highly valued in even small amounts, like the American Gold Eagle coins.

Ivory Identification

Historically, genuine ivory has been difficult to obtain, highly sought after and, consequently, an expensive luxury item. In some ways ivory is very similar to precious metals and gemstones. But while gold and silver have carried purity marks and have been closely regulated by governments for centuries, ivory has never been subjected to similar trade laws regarding genuineness or quality. It has never been illegal to sell imitations of ivory. As a result, there are a tremendous number of ivory look-alike objects in the market today. These include present day fakes to 19th century ivory substitutes like celluloid.

Ivory imitations and fakes have dramatically increased since the mid-1970s. This is largely due to laws, beginning with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, which limit commercial ivory trading to protect threatened species like whales and elephants. As additional laws

continued to tighten the sale of natural ivory, more and more ivory fakes and substitutes appeared. Most mass produced new ivory look-alike products are honestly sold as imitations at low prices. But some of those pieces, as well as deliberately confusing intentional fakes of old ivory, frequently appear in the antiques market. This article will look at the basic ways to separate genuine ivory from present day simulated ivory as well as older look-alike ivory.

What is Ivory?

Many people associate the word "ivory" with only elephant tusks but this is not accurate. Ivory comes from teeth as well as tusks of a number of mammals. Tusks are simply large teeth that extend outside the mouth. Elephant tusks, for example, are upper incisors; walrus tusks are upper canines. Tusks and teeth are formed of the same four parts: enamel, cementum, dentine and pulp cavity. These parts are shown in an elephant tusk above but are included in all other forms of ivory regardless of animal species.

The mammals which provide ivory are: 1) elephants (order Proboscidea) which include species alive today (extant) as well as prehistoric elephants now died out (extinct) like mammoths; 2) walrus; 3) whales--sperm, killer and narwhal; 4) hippopotamus and 5) warthog. These groups represent the main sources of commercial ivory used over the years. Small sized pieces of noncommercial ivory have also been obtained from other species such as tusks from most species of wild and domestic pigs and boars and from the teeth of beaver, elk, camel and bears.

Recognizing Genuine Ivory

Many people rely on the hot needle test for ivory. When touched with a hot needle, genuine ivory chars and turns black; a hot needle will cause artificial material to melt or burn. In our view, this test is bad for two reasons: first, it's destructive to the piece tested, second, it doesn't tell you the type of ivory you're looking at. Knowing the kind of ivory you're dealing with is now extremely important due to the laws banning the sales of whale ivories.

In their book *Identification Guide for Ivory and Ivory Substitutes*, the National Fish & Wildlife Forensics Laboratory recommends a three-step approach to the identification of ivory and ivory imitations. 1) examination with long wave black light; 2) examination of physical features/shapes; 3) look for Schreger angles (crosshatch grain characteristic of elephant ivory). The step-by-step chart on page 42 will guide you through an easy yes or no process of elimination.

Black Light

Using black light is an important first step because it saves time by ruling out artificial materials. Virtually all plastics and resins fluoresce blue or blue/white under long wave black light regardless of the surface color in ordinary light. Genuine ivory usually fluoresces white but this can vary depending on whether the ivory has a patina. Most natural old patinas fluoresce dull yellow or brown. Be very suspicious of any brightly colored fluorescence such as yellow as this indicates artificial aging in dung, urine or animal fats. Use black light as your *first test*, not your only test. Black light is useful for *eliminating artificial materials* but can not alone prove a piece is ivory. Bone, vegetable ivory (cellulose) and glued together ivory dust, for example, all react like genuine ivory under black light.

Physical Features and Structure

Living growing tissue forms ivory. The direction and forms of growth are unique to each ivory producing species (see illustrations page 41). These unique grain structures have so far been impossible to duplicate in artificial substances like plastics and resins. Generally, grain always runs along the long dimension of a piece of authentic worked ivory.

Attempts to put grain in artificial ivory go back over 100 years. Celluloid, one of the earliest plastics invented in 1868, has a prominent grain. Grain in celluloid and other artificial ivory is usually easy to detect because it normally appears as nearly perfectly parallel lines and shows a definite repeating pattern. Grain in natural ivory is random without any noticeable pattern. A repeating pattern with uniform even lines is almost always a sign of a man-made artificial ivory.

The presence of grain also allows us to eliminate other natural non- ivory materials such as bone and glued together ivory dust. But like the black light test, grain alone does not guarantee a piece is ivory. You must use several tests before you can make an accurate judgment.

Schreger Lines (Angles)

The key feature to identifying elephant ivory is a unique pattern of crosshatching that appear in cross sections of elephant tusk. These lines, actually rows of microscopic tubes, are known as Schreger Lines; where they cross form Schreger Angles. Schreger Lines have never been duplicated in artificial plastics or resins. Schreger Lines must be present to qualify a piece as elephant ivory. The lines are most easily seen in the bases of figures and anywhere cuts are made at right angles to the grain.

Schreger Angles are used to establish whether ivory is from present day elephants or extinct elephants such as mammoths. This is an important distinction because the sale of extinct

elephant ivory is basically unrestricted while the sale of present day elephant ivory is tightly regulated. Schreger Angles of less than 90° indicate mammoth ivory; angles greater than 115° indicate elephant ivory. Use the outer Schreger Angles (closest to the outside edge) only for this test. Do not use Schreger Angles in the center of the tusk. Measure at least five angles to get a true average.

Exceptions and Special Cases

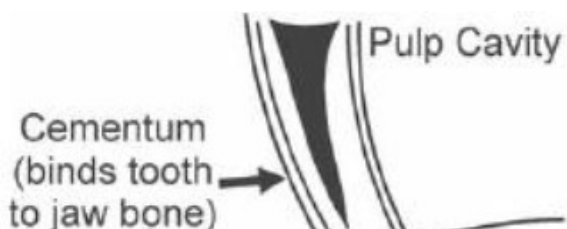
Ivory nuts, which are the hard cellulose kernels from Tagua palms, are frequently confused with genuine ivory. They fluoresce like genuine ivory under black light and show a fine grain under magnification. Although they can grow to the size of a small apple, the majority of ivory nuts are under 2", which makes them unsuitable for large carvings. The most common use of ivory nuts is for new netsuke. The definitive test is to apply a small drop of sulfuric acid. This will form a pink stain on ivory nuts in 10-12 minutes but will not stain genuine ivory. However, use this test as a last resort; the stain is permanent and not removable.

Don't be misled by surface color in ordinary light. Patina, regardless of color, does not prove either age or whether a piece is genuine ivory. Natural original patinas on genuine ivory can fade completely away in bright sunlight. The surface can fade so much that Schreger Lines and grain become almost invisible.

Large pieces of old ivory commonly form cracks over the years. Some persons incorrectly use cracks as a sign of age or proof that a piece is ivory. This is misleading. Many new pieces of molded artificial ivory have "cracks" and other imperfections deliberately included in the casting.

Summary

The critical point to keep in mind is the need for multiple tests. No one test provides an accurate basis for judgment. Under normal circumstances, genuine ivory (with no or little patina) should appear white under long wave black light and genuine ivory always has grain. Elephant ivory always has Schreger Lines, a cross hatch pattern, when seen in cross section. Anyone dealing in ivory needs to know the laws regulating its sale, display and transportation. The primary federal laws governing ivory are: The Endangered Species Act, Lacey Act, Convention On International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and African Elephant Conservation Act. Copies should be available at larger public libraries and most U.S. Fish and Wildlife offices.



Tusks are only large teeth. All genuine ivories are made *dentine* found in the teeth of all mammals.

Warning Signs of Fakes and Look-alike Ivory

Jagged edged pits and broken bubbles are typical in the surface of synthetic ivory substitutes. These materials are usually some type of resin/plastic and are almost always molded. Trapped air and expanding gas from impurities virtually always cause rounded smooth-backed holes in the finished surface. No similar type pits or holes are found in genuine ivories.

No grain or the presence of a *repeating* grain pattern are two characteristics of artificial ivory. Plastics and resins have *no grain*. Nineteenth century cellulose was created specifically to imitate genuine ivory and usually has some type of grain. Look at it closely at you'll see grain lines of regular even thickness repeat in a regular pattern. Grain lines in real ivory are random.

Mammoth or elephant ivory? Place the base or cross section of test piece on a photocopier (or scanner) to get a hard copy image of the Schreger lines on paper. Now use a straight edge to mark and extend lines of intersecting angles (Fig. 17). Then measure angles with a protractor (Fig. 18). If the angle of intersection is less than 90°, it is mammoth ivory; more than 115°, elephant ivory. Make your measurements on the outer-most angles and use an average of five angles minimum to insure accurate testing.

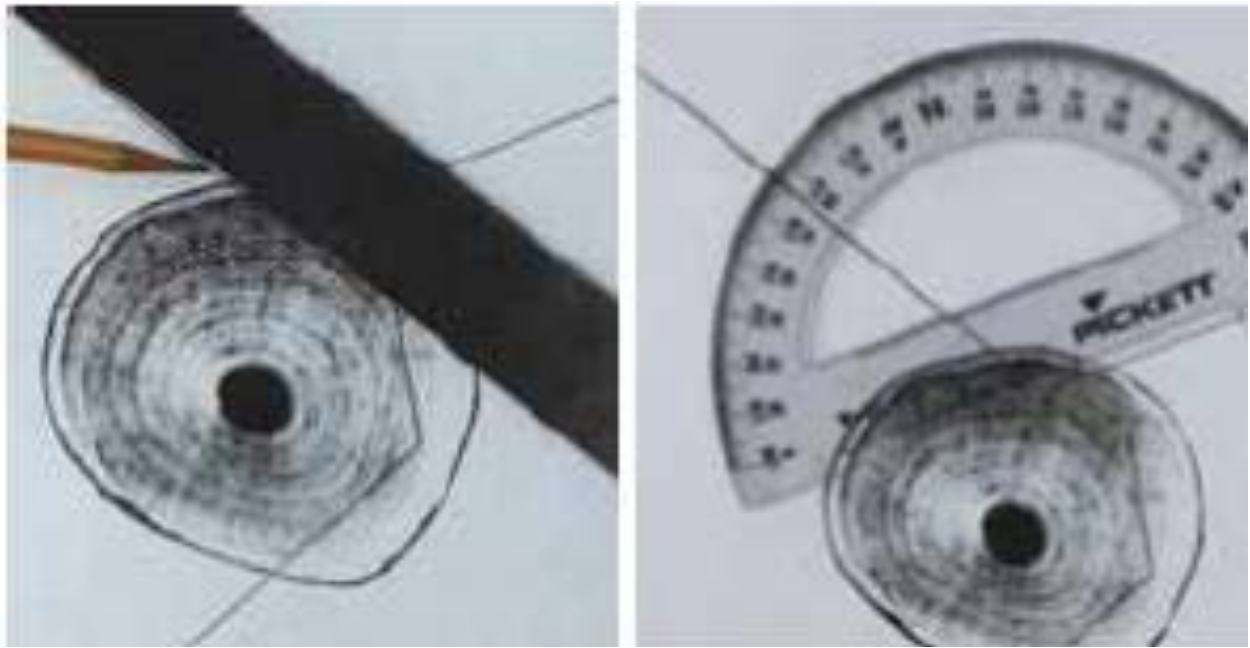


Fig. 1 Pits in surface of synthetic ivory; about twice-actual size



Fig. 2 Broken bubbles in surface of synthetic ivory. Actual size.



Fig. 3 Surface of synthetic ivory. No trace of grain.



Fig. 4 Regularly repeated artificial grain in celluloid.



Fig. 5 Mold seams and casting lines Many, but not all, cast resins and plastics show seams. They are often concealed in the pattern as in the piece shown above. Note tool marks at left.



Fig. 6 Discolored pits, parallel grooves All bone, even when polished, shows regular pits and irregular grooves under 10X magnification. Discoloration around pits common

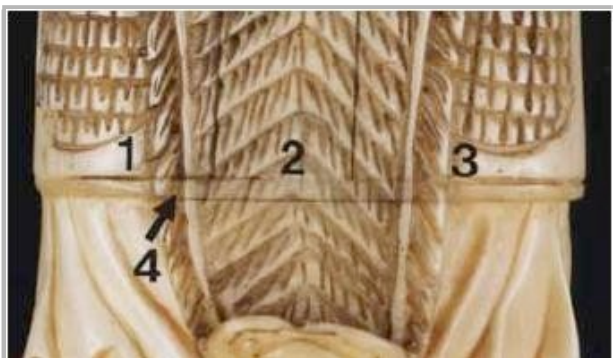


Fig. 7 Joints and seams. Virtually all-old ivory carvings are made of single pieces of solid ivory. Cow bones are now being glued together to create large figures. This photo shows the meeting of four separate pieces typical of the cow bone figures.



Fig. 8 Be suspicious of rough or obvious tool marks. The deep grooves on this piece appear on the bottom of a supposedly carved tusk. It is a piece of cast resin.



Fig. 9 Blue fluorescence. Virtually all plastic and resin artificial ivories fluoresce blue or blue/white under black light.

Fig. 10 The bases of most larger genuine ivory figures carved from elephant or walrus tusks are oval because that is the natural cross section of the tusk. Bases of many, but not all, artificial ivories are very nearly perfectly round. This is not a conclusive test but is often one more clue in separating new from old.

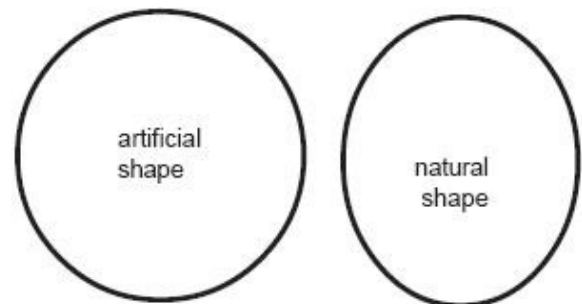


Fig. 11

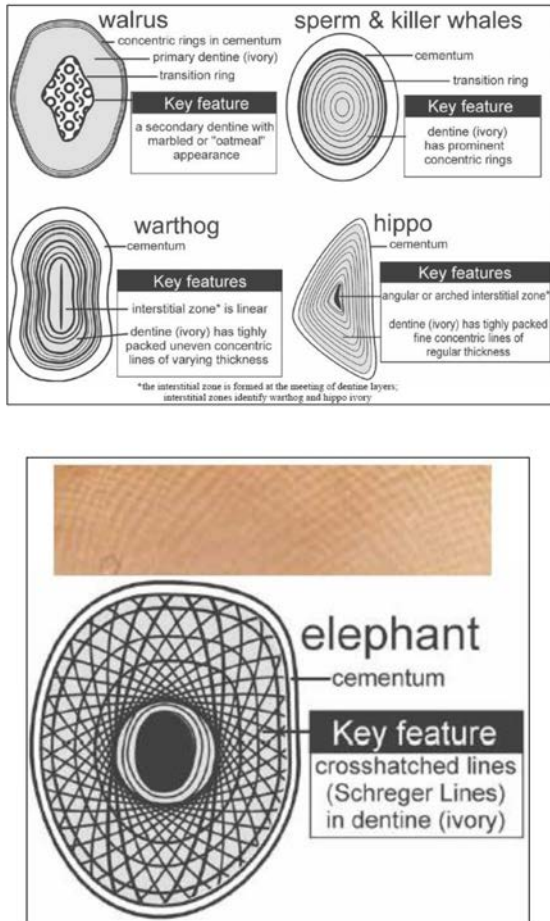


Fig. 12

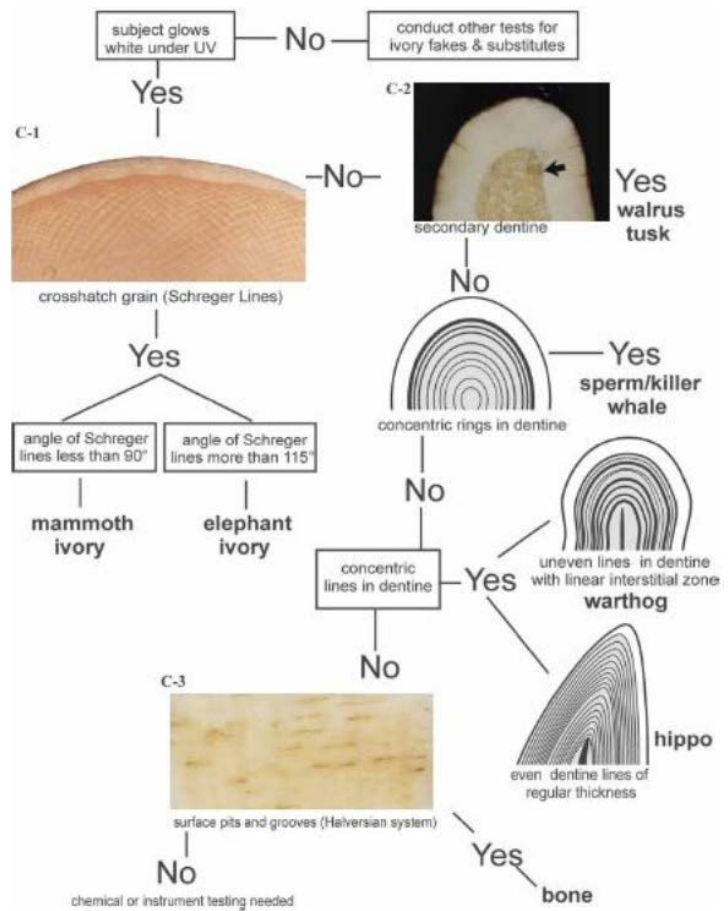


Fig. 13 Genuine ivory always has grain. The grain is characterized by lines of random spacing and irregular thickness. Note alternating lines of dark and light grain in photo. Grain will look different from species to species, but all genuine ivory will have grain. With the exception of celluloid, virtually no synthetic ivory has grain. Natural bone has grooves and pits but not grain.



"Ivory" Figures Made from Bone

Relatively large figures that resemble ivory are being made of fish bone and water buffalo bone. The majority of these new pieces are being made in China. The figures are made by gluing together small blocks of bone into large masses. The mass is then carved as if it were

a single piece. These pieces can be identified by many glue joints from gluing the small blocks.

Selling Elephant Ivory

On July 6, 2016, a near-total ban on commercial trade in African elephant ivory went into effect in the United States. Preexisting items manufactured with ivory such as musical instruments used in orchestras, furniture and items such as firearms containing fewer than 200 grams are exempt.

Under Federal law, you can sell your African elephant ivory within your state (intrastate commerce) if you can demonstrate that your ivory was lawfully imported prior to the date that the African elephant was listed in CITES Appendix I (January 18, 1990). This documentation could be in the form of a CITES pre-Convention certificate, a datable photo, a dated letter or other document referring to the item, or other evidence.

You do not need to obtain a permit from the Service for sales within a state. However, if you are offering African elephant ivory for sale, you should be prepared to provide appropriate documentation to the Service, if asked. We would also suggest that you pass along all documentation to the buyer of your elephant ivory items.

Some states have laws prohibiting or restricting sale of ivory. Check to make sure that you are also in compliance with local and state laws. Contact the state to check on their requirements.

The sale of African elephant ivory items across state lines (interstate commerce) is prohibited, except for items that qualify as ESA antiques and certain manufactured or handcrafted items that contain a small (de minimis) amount of ivory and meet specific criteria.

Interstate commerce is always prohibited for the following:

- sport-hunted trophies
- items imported under the exception for a household move or inheritance
- items imported as law enforcement or scientific specimens

To qualify for the ESA antiques exemption, an item must meet all of the following criteria [seller/importer/exporter must demonstrate]:

A: It is 100 years or older.

B: It is composed in whole or in part of an ESA-listed species;

C: It has not been repaired or modified with any such species after December 27, 1973;
and

D: It is being or was imported through an endangered species "antique port."