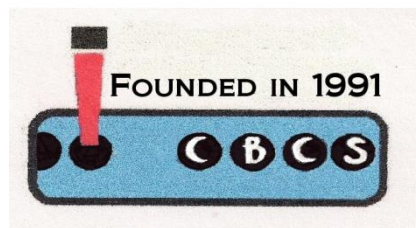




MEMBERS OF THE BOARD



NEWSLETTER OF THE CRIBBAGE
BOARD COLLECTORS SOCIETY
PUBLISHED QUARTERLY



Volume 23 Number 3 Founded in 1991 Our Twenty-third Year August 2013

LETTER FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT – Cec Bradshaw #238

Hi “fellow” collectors and cribbage players. Summer is almost at an end and we get to come together again – next month! If you have not registered for the convention yet, the registration form is the last page of the newsletter. It is time to get it in. Minnesota – here we come!

Recently Jay Fulwider sent this note to Terry Coons and me. It seemed to make sense to include our members in this discussion regarding selling of member board collections.

“Over the past year, I have had several inquiries about how to sell board collections and if I know anyone interested in buying collections. I think we should ask our membership for ideas and maybe form an email list of those members who might want a chance to find out about available collections. Most of us or our spouses will have to go through some sort of liquidation process one of these days. I think it would be great if interested CBCS members could have first chance at reviewing and purchasing board collections.

On the same note, I know that many standard boards don't interest collectors. I would encourage folks with boards that are not too special to donate them to the American Cribbage Congress Youth Program. That program is directed by Dan Zeisler (danthefan@yahoo.com or 530-274-3124). Dan gives out information on teaching youth cribbage to grade school teachers. He also sends them boards for play and trophies. I have sent about 40 boards. Both the ACC Youth Program and local Senior Centers would be good places for our (extra, unwanted, not valuable, etc.) boards. They are probably worth more as a tax deduction than the time it would take to sell them.”

If any of you have any additional suggestions, please forward them to me (Cec Bradshaw) and I will post them in future newsletters.

Hand-Crafted Boards – (An article written by Bette Bemis, Founder of the CBCS)

For most cribbage players, the common forms of boards on which they play are the tournament long board or one of the colorful once-around styles that are manufactured primarily in the Far East countries such as Taiwan. Of course, the next most common style board used is one which has been passed down in the family. When playing on these boards, the nostalgia of remembering who has played on it before you, possibly the person who taught you the game, gives you a sense of satisfaction that the board has been preserved. Many of these boards were hand-crafted one or two, possibly three generations before it ever reached your hands, so the intrinsic value to you is far greater than the book value. While reviewing hundreds of photos of hand-crafted boards for this article, I was struck by the great variety of styles, shapes, materials from which they have been made. We are creative animals, to say the least!

My own personal treasure was created by my grandfather in the early 1900's, possibly before he immigrated to this country from England. It was made from a brass plate on wood, with a pivot at the end for peg storage. It features twice-around pegging, for, as stated in an earlier article, play to 121 points for Game didn't become established until the mid-30's. I learned how to play cribbage on this board from grandfather, and as roughly crafted as it is, the fact that there is one extra set of double holes, does not deter me from featuring it as my favorite board!

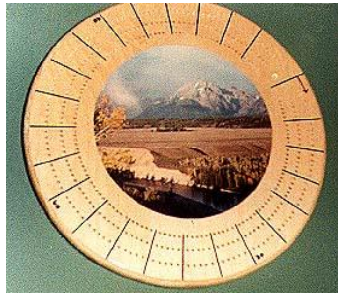


In the photo of assorted colorful boards, only three are manufactured. The board on the left is currently being manufactured by a company called Custom Cribbage, and the craftsmanship is top quality. The red-white-blue board on the right was manufactured by a firm in New England, and is of acrylic with a decal on the underside. The round board (T-R), which was featured in my last article, was manufactured over 50 years ago by Acme ruler and Advertising Co., Ltd. Of Toronto, Canada.

The large turquoise board uses marbles instead of pegs, and it is hand-crafted by The Marble Man and his spouse, who live in Virginia. The marbles are also created from crushed glass by him, and the board can be purchased in a variety of colors. Believe it or not, the board plays well, but I won't guarantee that you will win every time!

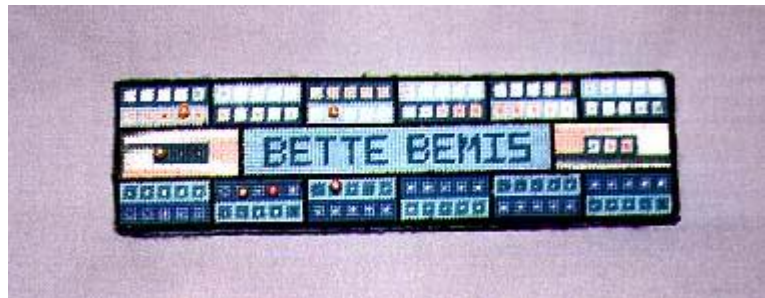
Located toward the center is a board crafted in Alaska of Diamond Willow. The wood, which is indigenous to Alaska, is a stunning example of nature's creativity, and it is difficult to believe that the diamonds weren't carved by Man. Examples of the wood are rarely seen in the lower 48, giving it even more mystique. The board needs no other artwork to give it a special character, and it looks great in the center of a collection.

The multi-colored board was created from small inlays of Formica by a local craftsman. The board itself is roughly made, but the inlays give the board its own special glamour. On the underside, I discovered the name of the craftsman as well as the name of the person for whom the board was made, which is of additional interest to a board collector. My collection happens to house several boards hand-crafted locally, and I plan to preserve the names of the craftsmen with their boards. Who knows, a hundred years from now one of their descendants may have an opportunity to gain possession of their board, and it will become a family treasure!



This creative once-around board was hand-crafted by a couple from Wyoming, Donnie and Dollie Lewis. One of the unique features of the board is that no one gets skunked when playing on it! Instead of skunk lines, the board features brass cowboys - so the player stands the risk of being "Cowboyed" instead of being "Skunked".

When reviewing hand-crafted boards, we have to realize that almost any material can be used in the creative process. This board, for example, is created out of Quick Point, and any combination of colors can be used.



This style first came to my attention when a collector sent me a photo of a Quick Point board featuring "Z's" down the center. I tried to find the source of a pattern, but to no avail. Finally, in sheer frustration, I created my own pattern in order to have a board for display. I have to admit that the board is not very playable, so it would not ever become a "hot" item in the general marketplace!

As I stated earlier, there are boards of all designs - fish, trucks, aircraft carriers, Hawaiian outriggers, cacti, Santas, Uncle Sams, - you name it, it has been created. For the novice collector, these boards can be acquired inexpensively at most flea markets and yard sales, and they give colorful character to a collection. Unless the creator becomes famous, the boards will not appreciate much in value, helping to maintain the affordability a owning a colorful and expressive collection!

Another stand-out seller is The Lily Pad. For you oldtimers, she used to sell on ebay as txcpa and specializes in bone and ivory boards but has a **wide** range of treasures. Other treasures:

<http://www.rubylane.com/item/419293-100071688/Antique-Anglo-Indian-Ivory-Cribbage>

<http://www.rubylane.com/item/720123-241/Civil-War-Soldiers-Cribbage-Board>

There were a couple more, but I figured as long as I was there...I bought them.

Take Courage, My Friends!



I recently acquired this board: It is cream celluloid with gold slogan and rooster. Hmm...there must be a story behind this one...Let's start with an internet search on; "Take Courage".

John Courage started the Courage & Co. brewing house at the Tower Bridge in London in 1787. By 1888, it was registered simply as Courage. Its slogan was "Take Courage" and the golden rooster its logo. In 1960, after a series of mergers, it became Courage, Barclay, Simonds & Co. Ltd., had five breweries and owned and operated 5,000 "Courage" pubs in England and Wales. The rooster symbol can still be seen on the pub signs, and sometimes the logo as well:



The Courage concern was defunct by the 1980's. In 2007, the production rights for the Courage Brands was sold to Wells & Young's Brewing, which now produces very popular Courage beers including Best Bitter, Director's, Dark Mild and Light Ale.

This board was probably a promotional piece, not a pub board, due to the high flammability of celluloid.

Do you have a board you'd like to know more about? Or just one you think is really neat and would like to share a photo and what you know? Send it to me: terrydna@comcast.net. That's what I'm here for.

Muskegon collection shows off creative cribbage boards

The Muskegon Chronicle. Published September 22, 2009



Dan Betz, 67, of Muskegon, has 450 cribbage boards in his collection. He finds his treasures, which vary in value, size, shape and color, at garage sales, flea markets, and on Ebay.

One of the cribbage boards in Dan Betz's 450-piece collection offers a valuable tip — on hygiene, not game strategy. "If you sprinkle when you tinkle, be a sweetie and wipe the seatie," reads the lid on the handmade, pine board. Lift it up and proceed to keep score around a toilet seat — perfectly suited to tally a flush hand.

Betz's pieces range from bizarre to clever. A battleship board features removable cannons that serve as scorekeeping pegs. He has others crafted as full-size benches, a bowling pin and a pineapple.

When Betz, a computer programmer, retired in 2003 from Muskegon Area Intermediate School District, his obsession with cribbage boards blossomed. He began hitting yard sales at a frenzied pace, hoping to uncover rare finds. Now, his basement is filled with the holey little wooden planks. "One thing led to another, and now you see what's happened," Betz said. "I'm a die-hard treasure hunter."

His collection includes loads of boards crafted by the Drueke Co., founded in Grand Rapids in 1914. Drueke crafted game boards and pieces from its facility, at 601 Third St., beginning in 1941. Many of the company's cribbage sets were shipped overseas to military service members during World War II. Betz's most prized Drueke board is a circular item from 1938 made of walnut with a glass ash tray in the center. He picked it up on eBay for \$100, "but I wouldn't sell it for twice that," he said.

Betz, who has been playing cribbage for about a half a century, founded the grass-roots Muskegon Cribbage Club in 1994. A high school friend taught him the game, and their group of friends would play penny-a-point: lose by 10, pay 10 cents. He got serious after he realized his buddies were taking him for a ride. "I found out later they were taking every advantage — cheating whenever they could," Betz said.

ALERT! CBCS Convention 2013 ALERT!



**Fourteenth Annual
Cribbage Board Collectors Society Convention
Bloomington, Minnesota**

Friday and Saturday, September 27-28, 2013

Crowne Plaza Hotel & Suites

Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport Hotel



CBCS Convention 2013

Approaching *Fast* – are your plans made?

According to Jim Herzog, our convention registration is progressing nicely. I have spoken with our Crowne Plaza contact, and they have added additional rooms once, and have filled most of those as well! Please **make those reservations** if you have not done so – once they are filled, we probably won't get any more. (By the way, John Swetz #193 from the Chicago area has reserved a room, and will share if someone else will be traveling alone – let him/me know.)

We have presentations planned by Peter Leach and Marvin Maxwell, Terry Coons and I will share some information about Minnesota boards, and Terry always has new information to share from her research. We would like to have a nice display of "loon boards" (Minnesota State Bird) – do you have something to bring with you? Peter and Marvin are experts on Horn/McCrillis and LeCount – so if you need a board identified, bring it, and they will help with details. Of course, we will have all the normal sharing by members, BUT if you do have a specific area of interest, please let me know and I will set a time for you on the program. ALSO, do you have some special area of collecting you would like addressed? We have a wealth of knowledge within our group, and can find an expert to talk about almost anything.

Many of us will be arriving on Thursday night and will plan an informal gathering at one of the nearby eating establishments. We will have a hospitality room similar to the one in Raleigh last year, so we will have a place to meet informally as desired.

You should also know there has been a very special and unique commemorative board in the making since February. If you are in to puzzles perhaps you can figure out what it might be. Here are the clues:

"June 1, 1943" and "MI. 5876"

Happy guessing ☺

See you soon!

Keith Dwire #243

Hosts: Keith & Dianne Dwire – Merle and Mary Dwire

(515) 295-9216, kwillie@netamumail.com

Call the Hotel for your Room Reservation by Thursday, September 5:

Crowne Plaza Hotel and Suites – AIRPORT (952) 854-9000 OR (800) 227-6963

3 Appletree Square

(Exit 494 at 34th Ave. So. – at the corner of American Blvd and 34th Avenue!)

Bloomington, MN 55425 Rates - \$99 and \$119 (ref. Cribbage Board Collectors)

- ✚ Free shuttle to and from the nearby Mpls/St Paul International Airport**
- ✚ Courtesy shuttle to the nearby Mall of America (and IKEA)**
- ✚ Inexpensive lite-rail to downtown Minneapolis area – station 1 block away**
- ✚ Free parking. Indoor pool, fitness center, internet . . .**
- ✚ REGISTER EARLY TO SECURE THIS ROOM RATE. Beat the Iowa fans coming to the Minnesota-Iowa football game (BIG Rivalry!) on Saturday. (Rooms can be cancelled up until 3:00 on Sep 26.)**

Official Registration

Detach and send your Convention Registration form below to
Jim Herzog, Treasurer, 20068 Herzog Drive, Rockwood, MI 48173.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip code: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Convention Member Fee \$100.00 _____

Convention Associate Fee 50.00 _____

(Spouse or regular member living at same address)

Membership Dues \$10.00/year _____

Associate member Dues \$5.00/year _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____