

Gaming Chips from the Early Days of Nevada Gambling



Artifacts from the start of legalized gaming in 1931 are just some of the items that collectors cherish and actively seek. The “**RE?NO**” chip illustrated above is one of the earliest poker chips made in 1931 to commemorate Nevada’s plunge into the legalization of gambling and simplified divorce laws. This classic chip reflects on the national political climate of the day by posing the question “Famous or Infamous”.

The “**Keno in Reno**” chip was also made in 1931 and reflected the spirit of the day. While the State of Nevada took a beating in the National press, the supporters of Nevada’s new open gambling law celebrated a new era of liberal freedom of expression and the exercise of what many considered their natural rights.

The “**\$100 Bank Club**” gaming check made circa 1946 reflected the success of what had become an almost legendary Club operated by the partnership of Bill Graham and James McKay. Operating in the heart of Reno’s gambling district on the west side of Center Street near the train station, the club earned a reputation of Reno’s largest gaming operation between 1931 and the end of World War II.



The LOG CABIN, depicted on the back of this matchbook, operated gambling in Hawthorne, Nevada during the heyday of World War II when navy personnel stationed at the Hawthorne Supply Depot sought relaxation.

The Nevada Historical Society hosts its “Chip-Dig” collector’s show at the NHS Museum located at 1650 No. Virginia Street on May 12th. The show features collectors and vendors of Gambling Collectibles from 10am to 4pm.