



OBJECT ID	1994.41.16.D
OBJECT NAME	Token, Tax
MATERIAL	Aluminum
OBJECT ENTITIES	Metevilis, Marina (is related to)

RELATED ITEMS

Blanket, 1994.41.1
 Assemblage, 1994.41.2
 Gown, Baptismal, 1994.41.3.A
 Gown, Baptismal, 1994.41.3.B
 Bib, 1994.41.3.C
 Cap, 1994.41.3.D
 Bib, 1994.41.3.E
 Bib, 1994.41.3.F
 Mortar, 1994.41.5A
 Pestle, 1994.41.5B
 Link, Cuff, 1994.41.6.A
 Link, Cuff, 1994.41.6.B
 Stocking, 1994.41.7.A
 Stocking, 1994.41.7.B
 Shawl, 1994.41.8
 Handkerchief, 1994.41.9.A
 Handkerchief, 1994.41.9.B
 Nightgown, 1994.41.10.A
 Pantaloons, 1994.41.10.B
 Pillowcase, 1994.41.10.C
 Scarf, 1994.41.10.D
 Doily, 1994.41.10.E
 Doily, 1994.41.10.F
 Bootie, 1994.41.11.A
 Bootie, 1994.41.11.B
 Jacket, 1994.41.11.C
 Belt, 1994.41.11.D
 Legging, 1994.41.11.E
 Mitten, 1994.41.11.F
 Cap, 1994.41.11.G
 Petticoat, 1994.41.12.A
 Cap, 1994.41.12.B
 Certificate, Naturalization, 1994.41.13
 Icon, 1994.41.14
 Icon, 1994.41.15
 Purse, Change, 1994.41.16.A
 Purse, Change, 1994.41.16.B
 Coin, 1994.41.16.C
 Coin, 1994.41.16.E
 Coin, 1994.41.16.F
 Coin, 1994.41.16.G
 Coin, 1994.41.16.H
 Coin, 1994.41.16.I
 Coin, 1994.41.16.J
 Coin, 1994.41.16.K
 Coin, 1994.41.16.L
 Photograph, 1994.41.17
 Pad, Hot, 1994.41.18
 Pendant, 1994.41.19
 Chain, Key, 1994.41.20
 Clasp, 1994.41.21

ACCESS POINTS

Marina Metevilis
sales
Tax Token

OBJECT DESCRIPTION

Small, silver coin with a hole in the middle and smooth edges. The coin says the same thing on each side. "Kansas" on the top portion, 2 large "1"s on either side of the hole, and "Sales Tax Token" at the bottom. Coin has significant amount of mold/rust.

ORIGIN

Sales tax tokens were made in great quantities starting in 1935 in order to give change for sales taxes. Sales tax resulted in the final price of items having fractions of a cent. For example, purchase of a \$1.25 item, taxed at 3%, would cost \$1.2875, or \$1.28 and 3/4c. What to do? Rounding up to \$1.29 would result in a "unfair" profit to the seller of 1/4c, but rounding down would be unfair to the seller by reducing the profit by 3/4c. The solution was to provide tokens denominated in fractions of a cent, or "mills" (1 mill = 1/1000 of a dollar, or 1/10 of a cent). So in the above example, the customer would pay \$1.29 and receive 2.5 mills in tax tokens as change. If the next purchase came to \$3.4325, the customer could pay \$3.43 plus the 2.5 mills in tax tokens. As you can imagine, people did not like having to carry a second set of coins, and to further complicate matters, different states issued different tax tokens. The use of tax tokens declined and was finally discontinued in 1961, and people basically decided not to worry about fractions of a cent.

"Coinlike" tax tokens were issued by twelve different states (Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah, and Washington state). Tokens were made of aluminum, copper, zinc, brass, plastic (in several colors), fiber, cardboard, and paper. 1 and 5 mills are the most common denominations, but other denominations include: 1/5 cent, 1 1/2 mills, and "Tax on 10c or less."

CITATION

Token, Tax, *National Hellenic Museum*, <https://collections.nationalhellenicmuseum.org/Detail/objects/>. Accessed 04/19/24.