



Magic for the Gospel Magician

By MagicBob & Roger Magic Bus

Pressed Pennies



A United States one cent coin pressed with the Ten Commandments can serve as an intriguing prop. Using an elementary coin switch along with some interesting facts about the penny, to include this year's (2009) historical significance of the Lincoln penny, the result can not only entertain, it can be educational. But, of greater importance, it has the potential for eternal significance when used as a bridge to sharing the gospel.

The pressed pennies are available from www.LivingWaters.com for about 10¢ each. My grandkids saw a machine at the zoo last week that would, for 50¢, press your penny for you. That considered, I believe a dime is a very good deal. Hey, how many good magic tricks can you get for a dime?

Note that I always require the "volunteer" to give me their penny and I return a pressed penny to them. In the past few months I have given away more than two hundred pennies in this manner, with great success. A downside is that in some circumstances you will get a line of kids, and adults, wanting a pressed penny. Okay, that's not really a downside if people are walking away reading God's Ten Commandments. However, in the case of having lines of individuals wanting pressed pennies, I'd recommend that you use varying methods to complete the coin switch.

Rather than use pages of script here detailing my full routine, you can see it performed live, or rather taped, with Emily, one of my granddaughters at: www.MagicBob.org/penny.wmv

Therein resides a real tangible value of this medium, an online "electronic" magazine, a great resource when you can now refer to watching what the column is written about. WOW- how much better is that than seeing line drawings in a paper magazine month after month trying to "explain" card or coin moves!

Some interesting facts about the Lincoln penny:

The Lincoln penny was the first U.S. coin to feature a historic figure.

President Abraham Lincoln has been on the penny since 1909, the 100th anniversary of his birth.

In 2009, the United States Mint is minting and issuing four new one-cent coins in recognition of the bicentennial of President Abraham Lincoln's birth and the 100th anniversary of the first issuance of the Lincoln Cent.

The reverse of the Lincoln Cent will reflect four different designs, each one representing a different aspect, or theme, of the life of President Abraham Lincoln. The one-cent coin reverse designs will be issued every three months throughout the year, and are available for a limited time only.

The Lincoln penny was the first cent on which appeared the words, "In God We Trust."

One of my sources said it was the first US coin to carry the motto, but later research proved that to be inaccurate.

The composition of the penny is 97.5 percent zinc and 2.5 percent copper.

Today zinc is priced at 67¢ per pound, copper is \$2.27/pound (scrap metal prices).

Each penny costs \$0.0093 to make, but the Mint collects one cent for it.

If the penny were 100% copper, the scrap value would 1.4¢ each. That'd be a 40% return on an investment. However, keep in mind that it is illegal. According to the US Mint, violators could spend up to five years in prison and pay as much as \$10,000 in fines. Plus, the government will confiscate any coins or metal used in melting schemes.

Lincoln faces to the right, while all other portraits on US coins face to the left.

We'd love to see your ideas regarding Gospel magic.

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