

What does this mean? Well, from the aforementioned "X", this describes the position of the coin, sort of in spherical coordinates. The first three words tell you the compass direction: 18 degrees. Don't forget to correct for magnetic declination (add 15 degrees in Cambridge). Great. "Phi" is the customary designation for elevation angle in spherical coordinates, so you need to look down at a 23 degree angle from the horizontal. The distance to the coin is given in Arabian poles, which is a unit of length used in the Bible. Conveniently, there is a conversion table on page 14 of the IAP '84 Final Guide. 3.75 Arabian poles is about 55 feet. This puts the coin around the right hand side of the IAP bulletin board (visible across the lobby). In fact, it was on top of the rightmost upright support pole, underneath a piece of black paper (so that it wouldn't be immediately obvious when viewed from above).

The coin was a Republique Francaise 10 centimes piece.  
Congratulations to Next House Guys (Rhonda, Greg, Brad, Bill, Mike) for finding the coin first, at 6:30 PM Wednesday, and also to:  
Forrest and the PBE team,  
Dennis and Jim from Next House,  
Don, Avrim, and friends from Senior House,  
and the team from Spanish House  
for amazingly valiant effort  
as well as all who participated.  
I hope you all had as much fun as I did, but that probably is impossible, because I had so much fun!!!

Jean-Joseph Coté

Interesting note: This was the longest Mystery Hunt yet (57 hours 25 minutes). If you're interested in running one next year (I'm supposed to be an alumnus by then), I can give you some useful hints on the running of such a thing.