

# NORTH YORK COIN CLUB

FOUNDED 1960

MONTHLY MEETINGS 4TH TUESDAY 8 P.M.  
NORTH YORK MEMORIAL COMMUNITY HALL  
5090 YONGE STREET, WILLOWDALE, ONTARIO

*Feb 1976*



MAILING ADDRESS: BOX 294, WILLOWDALE  
EDITOR: TED BANNING  
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MEMBER:  
THE CANADIAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION  
ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

THE LAST MEETING of the N.Y.C.C., the Annual General Meeting, was chaired by Mrs. Louise Graham. The annual report of Treasurer George Fraser indicated that the club's finances are healthy, a good deal of income having come from our last Show.

Most of the scheduled constitutional amendments were deferred on a motion by the Chair, but the two amendments concerning junior members did come to the floor. Both the motion to change the age-limit on juniors from sixteen years to eighteen years and the one to increase the number of junior directors from one to two were passed, although not without arousing considerable discussion.

Speaker for the evening was Mr. Ken Bunnett, Past President and founding Secretary of N.Y.C.C., who was prepared with some interesting information on the mysteries of the "Leslie Twopence." This token, illustrated at left, was the model for our club's 1962 medal, thus the similarity to the crest on the masthead.



The token is dated, as you can see, 1822, but at that time Toronto was called York. There have been several theories to account for this contradiction, and one, set forth by Scadding in 1873 and taken up by later authors and cataloguers, is that 1822 was the date of the founding of the firm, 1834 being the actual date of striking. Some arguments have been found to the contrary: Leslie's York store was actually founded in 1820, while the Dundas store opened in 1821. These too are countered, with information that the building of the York Store was in 1822, or with the theory that 1822 is the date of the founding of a new business, "Leslie & Sons," out of the recently dissolved partnership of "Mackenzie & Leslie" (this was W. L. Mackenzie, first mayor of Toronto and leader of the 1837 Rebellion).



There is still more evidence, however, that the token could not have been issued as late as 1834, for in the corner-stone of a building in Hamilton, dated to 1827, there has been found a Leslie Two-penny piece. It must, therefore, have been struck sometime before the building's erection.

The name "Toronto" can perhaps still be explained. It was used for the area, in a slightly variant form, by Indians long before Simcoe's arrival in 1893. Fort Roule was often called by the inhabitants of York "Old Fort Toronto" and it is possible that the old name was retained by

many inhabitants of York, among them the Lesslies. It is even suggested that the rebel W. L. Mackenzie, who had been associated with the firm, disliked the name "York" because it sounded too British.

### U.S. TREASURY TO REISSUE \$2 NOTE



"Secretary of the Treasury William E. Simon announced during a November 3, 1975, Treasury department press conference plans to reissue a \$2 note, this time with a bicentennial theme.

"The note's obverse features an engraving of Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, from a portrait painted in the early 19th century by Gilbert Stuart.

"A bicentennial theme is provided on the reverse of the note by incorporating an engraved version of 'The Signing of the Declaration of Independence,' a painting by John Trumbull executed during the post-Revolutionary War period.

"Approximately 225 million of the new notes will be available for issue by Jefferson's birthday, April 13, 1976."

(Quotation from "Treasury Announces Plans to Reissue \$2 Note," The Numismatist vol. 89, no. 1 (January, 1976), p. 39.)

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Have you ever experienced a time in your coin-collecting career when you couldn't care less about what happened? Almost every collector gets bored with what he's doing every once in a while. When I was in one of these slumps, a friend convinced me to join North York Coin Club. I showed up at a meeting after paying my \$2.50 and found a different setting, not at all like the ones at other clubs I had attended.

My enthusiasm was so great that within a year I was elected "Junior Director." "Junior Director," just think of it, a position where, or so I thought, I could do something for the club and for my fellow members. I had no idea that being Junior Director meant not that I was serving the club but only that the club was serving me.

I discovered at the January meeting of the NYCC that the only purpose I was serving as Junior Director was the gaining of "experience." I remember catching the bus on those cold winter nights and not getting home until after eleven P.M. Don't get me wrong, experience is great, but it would comfort me a lot more to know that in these late night meetings I did something for the club as well as myself.

I was the acting President of the club on the first Junior's Night. It made me feel, on this occasion also, that I was doing something for the club. But alas, at the Annual Meeting my self-satisfaction was shot down by it being explained to me that this, again, was one of the ways that the club served me. Although this act of tokenism may have helped junior numismatics, I still feel that it was more work than pleasure.

So far, it looks as though "the things we do for juniors," (we being NYCC) are nothing but work for "experience" or for our "enjoyment."

Pandora's Box, at no expense to the club, is one of our undisputed advantages. The junior auction is also appreciated. But Junior's Night is something to which we have to devote considerable time and effort, not a privilege. Why not get some non-executive Seniors to take part in a "Members' Night" for our enjoyment?

My main concern is the fact that Juniors are being denied the right to vote at meetings. For those of the Die-hards who believe that the only legal voting age in Canada is 18, please be advised that this applies only Federal and Provincial elections, etc.; the government does not control coin club constitutions in this matter. If you are among those who think that the constitutions of separate organisations, like coin clubs, can exclude minors, you're right, but nowhere in the NYCC constitution is such a condition listed.

A taxpayer over the age of majority has a right to be represented in government. Because we pay annual dues, are we Juniors not entitled to the same in our club? Another of our privileges, dues of half the regular fee (incidentally still among the highest for Juniors in Metro), should at least entitle us to half a vote.

I realize that we, as Juniors, are allowed time to try to convince the Seniors of our position, but bear in mind the failings of the ancient Greeks' democracy next time you attend a coin club meeting.

Jon Jones  
Junior Director, NYCC

(DID YOU KNOW that about 83% of the Junior members questioned after the January Annual Meeting felt that they had just been cheated of their constitutional rights? Think about it. Are these people to be Junior members, or only Junior observers?)

NORTH YORK COIN SHOW AND WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

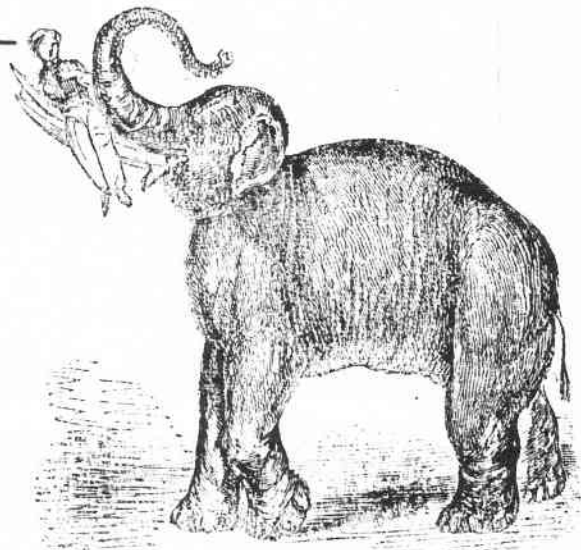
Members are reminded that White Elephant material is needed for this year's Show, along with any books you may wish to donate. Please bring any such donations with you to the Show; they will be most appreciated.

Remember: February 28th, 10 AM - 10 PM, at the Community Hall. The auction, by Frank Rose Enterprises, will begin at 1:00 PM, but anyone wishing to bid by mail may do so using the enclosed catalogue.

OTHER EVENTS:

The ONA 1976 CONVENTION, May 15-16 at the Westbury Hotel promises to be an INTERNATIONAL EVENT and the BEST ONA CONVENTION EVER. Details will be made public in about ten days.

TOREX '76, April 1-4 at the Westbury promises a \$10 Million Display in its Bourse Room of fifty-five professional dealers and over 100 cases of competitive displays. There will be a 1500-lot auction in three sessions.



## THE LUSITANIA MEDAL



Concerning German satirical medals, "there is one piece whose existence it would be difficult to justify at the bar of the most ordinary human feeling. So amazing is it that one does not care to dwell on the lesson it conveys. For a parallel we must go back three and a half centuries to the silver medal which shows avenging angels dealing death to the Huguenots on the Eve of Saint Bartholomew, 1572, and even then the cynical savagery remains unmatched. The description speaks for itself. On the obverse is a long queue of civilians waiting their turn at a booking office labelled "Cunard Line." Above their heads are the words "Geschaeft ueber Alles," a free translation of "Business as usual," with a side-glance (by way of contrast) at "Deutschland ueber Alles." Tickets are being handed out to the foremost -- not, however, by a uniformed official, but by the grim figure of Death. The reverse shows a large four-funnelled steamship disappearing beneath the waves. Above are the words "No contraband!" Beneath is the inscription, "The liner Lusitania sunk by a German submarine, 5th May 1915." It is odd that there should be a blunder in the date. The Lusitania was torpedoed on May 7th. It should be added that the good taste of the artist is fitly matched by his knowledge of naval architecture and his sense of historic truth. He has given the liner a stem such as might be appropriate for a battleship, and he has piled her deck with munitions of war, including a fully-rigged aeroplane."

-- Quotation from "German War Medals," Scotsman (April 11, 1916).

APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP in the N.Y.C.C. is Jon Manol of Willowdale. If approved at the February meeting, Jon's membership number will be J-320. I am sure that Jon will be welcomed to the club.

The NEXT MEETING of the N.Y.C.C., February 24, 1976, will feature as its guest speaker Dr. D. B. Hunter, well known in the paper money field. Dr. Hunter's presentation will be "Historic Bank Buildings of Toronto," with accompanying slides, and promises to be a most interesting one. I hope we will all greet Dr. Hunter with good attendance.

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