

News from the April 28, 1992 Meeting

The 362nd meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, April 28, 1992. The President, Ron Zelk, opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m., welcoming 21 members and 1 guest. The on time attendance draw was NOT claimed by Mirko Kotic, because he was not in attendance, so we now have \$4.00 in the pot for the May meeting. Remember, all you have to do to win is to be present at the meeting when your name is drawn. The mint box was passed to 1 junior.

Ron Zelk read a letter from Coin World inviting one and all to enter a design contest on "the joys of collecting". Coin World is sponsoring this open design competition for the obverse of its 30th anniversary medal. "We hope to capture the joys of collecting in medallic design so that this medal can spread the word, becoming our medallic calling card", said Publisher Ann Marie Aldrich. Entries were due at Coin World by May 8 with the winning design being announced August 12, at the opening of the ANA convention in Orlando, Florida. Anodized aluminum medals depicting the winning design will be available free of charge at the Coin World booth.

Treasurer Harvey Farrow reported on the sale of ONA Raffle tickets stating our Club came in 3rd for quantity sold. He also gave news on a mailing received from the mint promoting collector sets available this year, especially the 25 cent pieces, silver dollars and \$100 gold coin.

Refreshments were prepared and served by Ted Boxall.

Lucky draw winners for the evening were Grant Monck, Don Robb(2), Norman G. Gordon(2), Norm Belsten, Marvin Kay(2), Ron Zelk, Harvey Farrow, Paul Johnston(2), Basil Latham, Bob Porter and Tom Wilson.

An auction of 12 lots was ably run by Bob Porter with the assistance of Basil Latham. This produced proceeds of \$15.40, including items donated to the Club. Many thanks to Tom Wilson, Marvin Kay and Jim Charlton for their donations.

The meeting closed at 9:30 p.m.

Coming Events

1. Brantford Numismatic Society 32nd Show, June 14 8am-5pm, Woodman Community Centre, 491 Grey St.
Info: Show Chairman, PO Box 351, Brantford, ON N3T 5N3
2. Torex, June 27 10am-6pm and June 28 10am-3pm, Primrose Hotel, 111 Carlton Street, Toronto
Info: Ingrid Smith, 586-0098
3. CNA Annual Convention, July 30-August 2, Sheraton Center Hotel & Towers, Montreal, PQ
Info: S. Laramee, P.O.Box 131 Bocheville, PQ J4B 5E6 (514) 449-1888
4. Huronia Numismatic Association Coin, Stamp & Antique Show, September 12, Bayfield Mall, Bayfield St. N., Barrie, Info: P.O. Box 243, Barrie, ON. L4M 4T2
5. Woodstock Coin Club Show, September 13, UAW Hall, Beale St., Woodstock, Info: H. Spice, 549 Grace St., Woodstock, ON. N4S 4N7

Guest Speaker

Paul Johnson introduced Mr. Art Marsh as guest speaker of the evening. Paul related how he met Art about ten years ago at a coin show in California. They have kept in touch since then. Mr. Marsh comes from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and was in Toronto on business, but happily his schedule allowed him to be free on the evening of our Club meeting. Art's topic was The Architectural Medallic Art of Jacques Wiener. He told members that he started to collect at the age of 16 with the purchase of his first medal. Since acquiring that medal his interest in cathedrals and architecture and history has grown and developed. He has now visited about forty cathedrals in England and Europe. He says he can only stand in awe in these gigantic buildings and wonder at where all the resources and skill came from to complete the work.

Jacques, who lived between 1815 and 1899, worked with his two brothers at manufacturing medals. They were taught the trade by an uncle. Jacques executed about 230 medals, of which 45 feature cathedrals. These spectacular medals were made from steel dies, cut by hand and struck in high relief. Mintages on the medals are quite low and are not recorded. There have been restrikes.

Following interesting dialogue from the floor, Mr. Marsh was presented with a 1986 set of the North York Coin Club Trade Dollars and a 1986 CNA bronze medal depicting the old Community Hall. We were much indebted to Paul Johnson for the assistance he gave to our guest throughout the whole evening.

Question-of-the-Month

We didn't get around to discussing the question of the month at the last meeting, so it still stands: What is the historical and current significance of the term ECU?

Remember: your editors are on the lookout for contributions to this section. Put a bit of time into thinking up a good question-of-the-month and pass it along to Paul or Harvey at the next meeting.

We'll be looking for you at the next meeting!!!

What is Legal Tender?

At the March meeting we spent some time discussing which of the Royal Canadian Mint's products are worth collecting, which ones are intended as collector pieces and which are true legal tender. Harvey Farrow read a letter at the meeting written by Murray Church (Director, Communications & Research, at the mint) in reply to this question from one of our club members. We thought it was interesting and important enough to include in the Bulletin.

As you know, commemorative coins are quite different from the circulating coins we use everyday to purchase goods and services. Commemorative coins are produced in smaller quantities than circulating coins. In addition, they are subject to special processing and are usually sold in distinctive packaging or in collector sets. These features give commemorative coins value as collectibles and help to distinguish them from circulating currency. However, many of these same features also make it difficult to use commemorative coins as legal tender.

The principal difficulty that one can encounter in trying to use commemorative coins as legal tender stems from the fact that these coins are rare. Most people, including staff of financial institutions, do not encounter these coins every day and therefore are not familiar with their appearance. Yet the efficient operation of our currency system depends on the universal recognition and acceptance of coins that are familiar to everyone using that system. While a coin may have the status of legal tender, if it is not recognized as such, it has limited utility as a medium of exchange. Recognizing commemorative coins as legal tender in the market place is a problem for most people who are not familiar with these coins.

At a recent Executive meeting Paul Petch is to approach the management of the Edithvale Community Centre regarding space availability to hold on a Saturday between the middle of September and the middle of November, a coin display, identification, appraisals, educational seminar and with some of our members taking tables to sell some of their duplicate coins they might have. The way we are now planning this event it would take in about 3 rooms the size of our normal meeting room. We will keep you posted on this.

The club is obtaining 2 signs to be put on easels in the hallways of Edithvale to direct visitors to our exact meeting room. These should be available for our fall meetings.

Harvey Farrow has been appointed to be the club's Official delegate to the C.N.A. convention in Montreal in July.

Next month's bulletin will be the last one until the August one, because as mentioned earlier this year the club will not have a July meeting because it would be held the same week as the C.N.A. convention.

The existence of an active secondary market for commemorative coins is another important factor that distinguishes commemorative coins from circulating currency. The market value of a commemorative non-circulating coin such as the 1976 Montreal Olympic Coins is determined by collectors who buy and sell these coins in the secondary market. This market value can change over time and can be higher or lower than the initial retail price of the coin. And more often than not, commemorative coins have a secondary market value that is greater than their face value. The **Legal Tender Fact Sheet** illustrates these points for several Canadian commemorative coin products.

In addition to these differences, commemorative and circulating coins have some important common characteristics. The legal tender status of both circulating and non-circulating coins is stipulated in two federal statutes--the Currency Act and the Olympic (1976) Act. In addition to confirming their designation as legal tender, these Acts also specify limits that apply to the maximum number of coins, circulating or non-circulating, that may be used in commercial transactions. I have enclosed excerpts from the relevant sections of each of these Acts for your reference.

Both commemorative coins and circulating coins are struck under the legal authority of the Government of Canada and both are designated as legal tender. However, anyone wanting to use commemorative coins as legal tender should be aware that statutory limits and public familiarity will influence the degree to which these coins are accepted in the settlement of commercial transactions.

Your editors: Paul Petch & Harvey Farrow

Legal Tender Fact Sheet

Excerpts from the Currency Act

Section 8(2):

A tender of payment of money in coins referred to in subsection (1) is a legal tender

(a) in the case of coins of a denomination greater than ten dollars, for payment of any amount, if the tender consist of not more than one coin;

(b) in the case of coins of the denomination of ten cents or greater but not exceeding ten dollars, for payment of an amount not exceeding ten dollars;

Excerpts from the Olympic (1976) Act

Section 4(1)

(a) a tender of payment of money in gold Olympic coins is a legal tender if it is made for payment of an amount not exceeding one hundred dollars, but for no greater amount; and

(b) a tender of payment of money in silver Olympic coins is a legal tender if it is made for payment of an amount not exceeding twenty dollars, but for no greater amount.

Sample Values for Various Commemorative Coins

| Coin | Face Value | Initial Retail Price | Retail Secondary Market Price* |
|--|------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1976 Montreal Olympics Proof Set - 2 @ \$5 & 2 @ \$10 | \$30.00 | \$36.00 | \$50.00 - \$90.00 |
| 1980 Proof Dollar | \$1.00 | \$22.00 | \$125.00 |
| 1984 Proof Dollar | \$1.00 | \$17.50 | \$18.00 |
| 1987 Calgary Olympics 14 karat gold coin | \$100.00 | \$255.00 | \$210.00 |

* Suggested retail selling prices are quoted from the Canadian Trends section in the Oct. 29 '91 edition of Canadian Coin News and are for proof, encapsulated coins in perfect condition.