



Member
Canadian Numismatic Association
Ontario Numismatic Association

North York Coin Club

Founded 1960

MONTHLY MEETINGS 4TH Tuesday 8 P.M. AT
Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive, North York

MAIL ADDRESS: NORTH YORK COIN CLUB, P.O. BOX 58508 Corner Plaza P.O.
197 Sheppard Avenue East, North York, Ontario, M2N 6R7

Executive Committee

President..... Ron Zerk	Director..... Ted Boxall	Receptionist..... Basil Latham
1st Vice President... Paul Petch	Director..... Paul Johnson	Social Convener.. Ted Boxall
2nd Vice President.. Bob Porter	Director..... Basil Latham	Librarian..... Jim Heifetz
Secretary..... Lucille Colson	Junior Director.. open	Program Director.. open
Treasurer..... Harvey Farrow	Auctioneer..... Bob Porter	Past President..... Harvey Farrow
	Editor..... Paul Petch	

* * SAY YOUR PIECE . . . * *

Next meeting

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on Tuesday, May 23, 1995, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive. Our headline this month suggests the theme: bring along a favourite piece and then "say your piece..." and tell us all about it. Perhaps you have a specialty and a prized specimen. Maybe you have come across something odd and curious and have done some research. Or, maybe a fellow member can help you with that item you have never been able to identify. Whatever the situation, bring it along and help to make this another great North York Coin Club meeting!

President's Message

An Executive meeting was held on May 11 where some detail planning was completed for our 35th Anniversary dinner. To bring everyone up to date:

The club will be holding an anniversary dinner on the evening of June 24 at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 66, 6 Spring Garden Avenue, Willowdale. (That's 1 block north of Sheppard Avenue and east of Yonge Street.) This celebration has been timed to coincide with the next scheduled Torex. Everyone is welcome at the dinner. Tickets are available now and sell for \$7.50 to members and \$15. to others. C.N.A. President Dr. Marvin Kay is the guest speaker. Included with the ticket in addition to the meal are draw prizes and a commemorative wood marking both the 35th anniversary of the Club and its 400th meeting. Tickets may be purchased at the May meeting or by mail.

For a change this year, we are planning to hold an informal meeting during July. There will be no Bulletin mailing and no guest speaker... just friends meeting at the usual place on July 25.

Bourse tables are now available for the September 23, 1995, show. The tables are six feet in length and are \$15. See Ron Zerk if you are interested.

Coming Events

1. Brantford Numismatic Society 35th Anniversary Coin Show, June 11, 8am-5pm, Woodman Community Centre, 491 Grey Street, Brantford, FREE ADMISSION
Info: David Pottruff, 15 Scotia Ave., Brantford, N3R 6C4, Phone (519) 758-0550
2. Torex Show, June 24 and 25, Pearson Ballroom, Primrose Hotel, 111 Carlton Street, Toronto.
June 24: 10am-5pm June 25 10am-3pm
Info: Ingrid K. Smith, (416) 260-9070
3. North York Coin Club Show, Saturday, September 23, 10am-5pm, Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive, North York, FREE ADMISSION

Next Meeting: May 23

News from the April 25, 1995 Meeting

The 395th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, April 25, 1995. The President, Ron Zelk, opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m., welcoming 28 members and one guest.

Graham Page was not in attendance for our On Time Attendance Draw so we have broken our three-month run of winners. The pot grows to \$4 for the May meeting. There being no junior members in attendance, the mint box was not passed. An application for membership has been received from Del Murchison of Mississauga. If accepted, his number will be 495.

As O.N.A. Convention Club Delegate, Harvey Farrow presented a comprehensive account of the events. These included a tour of St. Jacobs and a viewing of the last remaining covered bridge in Ontario, details of the Charles Moore auction, the displays by public school children and an account of events at the banquet.

Rick Craig introduced Mr. Scott Douglas, guest speaker for the evening. Scott, over the last few years, has focused his interest on gathering works of numismatic literature. He presented a detailed paper outlining the four basic types of literature and explained, with great enthusiasm, their invaluable importance as reference and investigative tools. Following questions from the floor he was thanked by Ron Zelk.

We thank Ted Boxall for providing refreshments during the break.

A fun auction of approximately 14 lots was ably run by Bob Porter with the assistance of Basil Latham. Good auction materials and great camaraderie kept the bidding on many donation items lively and spirited. Many thanks go to Scott Douglas for donating books and to Marvin Kay, Jim Charlton, Jack Rabkin and Rick Craig for their donations as well.

The lucky draw winners were: Albert Kasman(4!), Dion VanLaethem, Randy Barbe(2), Ron Zelk, Dick Dunn, Basil Latham, Lucille Colson, Gary Doran(2) Jack Rabkin, and Norman G. Gordon.

The meeting closed at 9:50 p.m.

Question-of-the-Month

Our May question: What material does the Royal Canadian Mint use to plate its dies before use? Why does it do this?

The April question asked members to name the group that collects printed documents

relating to numismatics and to name its journal. We are giving credit for the answer to guest speaker Scott Douglas, who, even before the question was asked, identified the group during his talk as the **Numismatic Bibliomania Society** and its journal as **The Asylum**. A poll of those in attendance revealed that five hold membership in the group.

Money Talks

The American Numismatic Association presents a daily radio program entitled "Money Talks". A transcript of each program is archived on an ANA computer and is available on the Internet. With the kind permission of Mr. James Taylor, ANA Education Director, we are now able to include them in our Bulletin. Here's the first.

Britain's "Chrysler Farm" Medal When America's Invasion of Canada Was Turned Back by Matt Rockman

Today, the United States and Canada are friendly neighbours. Each is the other's largest trade partner. People move freely across the common border--the longest unfortified border in the world. Canadian sports teams even win American championships! But relations haven't always been so friendly. In 1813, the United States invaded Canada with the intention of annexing it. The U.S. had declared war against England in 1812, to protect neutral shipping rights, and to put a stop to the impressment of American sailors into the British navy. Another reason--one not usually mentioned in U.S. history books--was for territorial expansion. The Americans wanted Canada, and were willing to fight for it.

In November of 1813, more than 3,000 American troops invaded Quebec. Some 800 British soldiers drew up opposite the Americans at Chrysler's Farm. The American soldiers charged across a freshly plowed field, only to find themselves mired knee-deep in mud. After two hours of fighting, the Americans had not dislodged the outnumbered British. Then the British charged, driving the Americans from the field. The British suffered some hundred and fifty casualties--the Americans lost more than twice that number. The invasion of Canada was a failure--never to be repeated.

Thirty-five years after the Battle of Chrysler's Farm, the British government authorized a medal to award the troops. The medal bears Queen Victoria's portrait. The reverse side depicts a ceremony in which the Queen crowns the Duke of Wellington with a laurel wreath. The medal reads, "To the British Army, 1793-1814." The medal was awarded not only for actions in Canada, but also for the many battles in Europe and Egypt against Napoleon.

Numismatic Literature

by Scott E. Douglas

Numismatic literature, like numismatics itself, has many varying aspects. I generally like to categorize these variables into four different but closely tied together segments.

The **first** segment is numismatic reference works: under this heading we have books that deal primarily with one specific part of coin collecting. These books usually are a specialty writing on a singular type of coin, medal, or token. It also may deal with a specific year or a specific denomination. As an example we have this book by *Stephan Dushnick* entitled **Silver and Nickel Dollars of Canada 1911 to Date**. To date in this case is 1978 when the book was published. The specialty of this book is obvious by the title. In this book we will find just about everything you may wish to know about Canadian silver dollars. The photographs and the descriptions of any varieties for the various years are very clear and concise. This can be very helpful when trying to decipher whether you really do have an Arnprior or not!

Other examples of specialty books like this are: *P. N. Breton's* **An Illustrated History of Coins Medals and Tokens of Canada**, and *Dora DePedery-Hunt's* fine book entitled simply **Medals**. A book like this is a great addition to any library because it is unlikely one could ever possess all or many of these medals for our collections.

By studying books such as these, one gets a great sense of the history involved with the numismatic items discussed and a sense of the confidence in the knowledge that they bring.

Some earlier works such as **Canadian Blacksmith Tokens** by *Howland Wood*, **The Wellington Tokens** by *Dr. Eugene Courteau*, and **The Copper Tokens of Upper Canada** by *R. W. McLaghlan* were written at the time for publication in the **American Journal of Numismatics** and **The Numismatist**. These topics were so well received that they were produced as offprints to be available as a research tool in their own right to collectors everywhere.

This brings us to our **second** segment; that of numismatic periodicals.

Not every piece of numismatic research or numismatic item of interest can be printed as a novel size book. As a result, the house organs for the various national numismatic organizations carry such articles of interest generally on a monthly basis. These articles are often brief but also often packed with much extremely useful information. In many instances some of these topics discussed withstand the test of time and are very often valuable many years later.

One of the most valuable reference tools I have in my library for Canadian numismatics is my set of **Canadian Numismatic Journals**. Some of the articles written in the journal in the past 45 years are well researched, well written and, sometimes, unique. I find myself turning to past issues of the journal for information constantly. If I have acquired a piece in which I know little or nothing about, I find that often all I would want or need is available to me in the pages of the journal.

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Before the **CNA Journal** came into existence, Canadian numismatics relied on publications such as **The American Journal of Numismatics** and **The Numismatist**. Many prominent Canadians wrote articles for these publications, for the American Numismatic Association and the American Numismatic Society and their membership. These organizations were a powerful force for the collector in the early days and are still a factor today, more than 100 years later. Many Americans have a large interest in Canadian numismatics and were happy for the contribution made by our predecessors as well as today's prolific writers.

In and around the turn of the century numismatics enjoyed, arguably, its finest hour with many outstanding numismatists collecting, researching, writing and making our hobby rich with knowledge. Many of these early authors did not have the advantage of a vast library to draw on so their research was largely field work. *P. N. Breton, Joseph LeRoux, R. W. McLaglan* and *Alfred Sandham* all relied on correspondence or the opportunity to borrow or view existing pieces in their own and other prominent collections. This took a great deal of time and effort and as a result many pieces went undetected until later. The only forms of records these men had were the public auction sales that had taken place and had to hope for a large degree of accuracy on the part of the cataloguers. In this day, auction catalogues were saved as reference tools. In the 1990's we can be glad they saved these works for, as a result, we have a lot of material that may otherwise have been lost to us. These issues were preserved in better than average condition because they were often bound to reside in book form on the shelves of these collectors.

This brings us to our **third** segment which is auction and mail bid sale catalogues.

Then as now, a coin auction was considered to be an ideal way to purchase coins for one's collection. As there were few dealers in proximity to collectors, the convenience of mail bid sales and public auctions was a most logical way of obtaining the desired pieces for a collection.

Today, if one looks back at these auction sales records, we get a sense of what was scarce and what was more common. What may be surprising is that often pieces that are recognized as scarce or rare now were also considered scarce and rare then. What I mean to say is, in 1995 we can look back and feel that pieces minted in the mid 1800's were possibly available more readily in the late 1800's. What the auction references can show us is that although occasionally this may be true, in many other cases the rarity factor was high, even then.

Auction catalogues are often a great barometer for what something is worth. A dealer's price and a collector's offering can very often be quite different. If you are seeking a particular piece that routinely sells for \$40. in auction, then you can establish a benchmark of \$40. Condition, mint colour, cameo, etc. can all be varying factors but you know where to start. Auctions are the one place where price is established and recognized. These records of price and availability will also give you a guideline about how to interpret a dealer's fixed price list.

This brings us to our **fourth** and final segment: fixed price lists.

While auction catalogues are a great barometer for prices and rarity, fixed price lists are a great barometer for availability. As an example, if most every fixed price list suddenly has mint

red MS65 1905 large cents, one might assume a hoard has been located. Therefore, the price you were willing to pay yesterday may be different from that for today. A fixed price list can also be a great source of information when you go back and see how often a particular piece is offered, by how many dealers and what grades are most commonly available. This information can be analyzed by you and allow you to form an educated conclusion. If a dealer consistently offers a piece for \$75. and your benchmark is \$40. for a comparable piece (having been established by your auction records) then his price is too high for your consideration. If you notice this trend is constant with this particular dealer's prices, then you can draw your own conclusions. However, one must keep in mind that your benchmark must be a constant number and not a one-time sale. A dealer is providing a service and is entitled to some compensation. How much compensation is decided by your willingness to pay.

As with anything in numismatics, once you start into it an accumulation of material follows. You may make a decision that this can't happen for whatever reason. Maybe you have too little space or maybe you wish to keep your budget concentrated on coins. Research can still effectively be done by utilizing the fine libraries of the CNA and the ONA to name only two. This is the most cost efficient and effective way of keeping up with what has happened and what is happening. These libraries are constantly receiving material from various clubs and organizations virtually on a daily basis. Perhaps a library can be formed or expanded at your local club level.

Then again, maybe you become completely obsessed with numismatic literature and decide you want to collect the many scarce and rare editions that are out there and enter the world of the numismatic bibliophile. God help you!! **The Numismatic Bibliomania Society** calls their publication **The Asylum**, and with good reason. This organization would be your first step to this end and can be invaluable for exposure to the world of books.

As some of you may or may not know, it was *Aaron Feldman*, an American coin and jewelry dealer who has been credited with coining the phrase "Buy the book before the coin." The wisdom of this piece of advice may seem obvious, and yet it is advice very often neglected. If one was to take any numismatic item from their collection, no matter what the grade or condition and subject this piece to a little research, learning all you can about it, I guarantee when you've answered any questions about "What is it?" then any question about what it's worth becomes surprisingly obvious.

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