

“The Bulletin” November, 1997

President’s Message

“Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat”: so goes a Christmas ditty from merrie olde England. It includes the appealing line “If you haven’t got a penny, a ha’penny will do; if you haven’t got a ha’penny, may God Bless You!”. All this to introduce the subject of our local mixing of Christmas and numismatics, namely the annual North York Coin Club Christmas Party. It is scheduled for Thursday, December 11 this year and those wishing to attend should pay their \$5. at the November meeting. We are going with the Swiss Chalet dinner again, so your \$5 will be matched by the Club. Please see Treasurer, Harvey Farrow at the meeting with your money.

Norm Belsten, Nominations Chair, will be presenting a slate of Club Officers and calling for further nominations from the floor at the November meeting. Elections, if necessary, will be held in December.

It’s time to renew your Club membership. Statements are included with this mailing of The Bulletin. You can pay by mail or see the Treasurer at a Club meeting.

There was a meeting of your Club Executive earlier in the month. We have set

November Numismatics

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on **Tuesday, November 25, 1997**, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive.

Our theme for this meeting grows out of the article submitted by Marvin Kay which appears on page 3. Marvin will be moderator for the evening and everyone is challenged to find the stories in their own collecting speciality which are somehow anchored around the month of November. This could be both informative and entertaining. . . not to mention a lot of fun. So please get creative and contribute to the meeting.



Did you know that the name for this month is based on the Latin word for ninth? It was actually the ninth month in the old Roman calendar, but it became our eleventh month when Julius Caesar and Augustus Caesar decided they needed their own months named, appropriately, July and August.

October 3 as the date for our next annual show. There will be 25 bourse tables and advertising will begin in January. Everyone should promote this event to the coin dealers from whom they buy.

The scheduling of meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month has led us into some difficulty. Four of our eight meetings each year cannot be held on the fourth Tuesday. The Executive would like to standardize on a regular cycle and is suggesting we switch to the second Thursday beginning in July. We’ll have more discussion on this at the next meeting. We know that every day of the week will be inconvenient for

some of our members.

As I work on this issue, there is a postal strike looming. I can’t be sure when it will make it into your hands, but we have a plan to use the telephone to get reminders and information to you.

Need to reach the President? Phone calls are welcome at **416-745-3067** (leave a voice mail message if you can’t get through in person) and e-mail may be sent to petchp@ican.net.

***Next Meeting:
November 25***

Meeting News from the October 28 Meeting

The 422nd meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, October 28, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive, Willowdale. The President, Paul Petch opened the meeting at 8:05 p.m. and welcomed 22 members and 5 guests.

On Time Attendance Draw for \$2.00 was won by Dr. Marvin Kay — a first time winner. The Mint Box was passed to 2 juniors.

The Chair reminded the Executive of their next meeting on November 12th and advised the members that Norm Belsten had agreed to act as Nominations Chairman for the new Slate of Officers which will be presented in November. Also, Christmas Dinner reservations and membership renewals are being accepted.

Marvin Kay highlighted events at the Torex auction where the Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae medals sold for \$400,000. The sale of these important pieces and the hyped-up media attention they attracted made for a most exciting morning.

The theme for the evening was numismatic books. The following members presented interesting accounts which were enjoyed and appreciated by the members.

Norm Belsten advised he has published a new catalogue on over 6000 wooden pieces produced up to May 31/97. It is also available as a computer disk file.

Dick Dunn presented a beautifully produced copy of "The Moneymakers" which is an excellent reference for World Paper money—all except Canada. He highly recommended the new Charlton Numismatic Library CD-ROM with the 52nd edition on coins and the 10th edition on Canadian government paper money.

Dell Murchison brought along a 200 page, 1979 World of Islam—a

catalogue of Islamic coins which he had had made by a laser copier and then bound because it is not attainable. Along with this he had a Numisma Antiqua 1705 written in Latin.

Marvin Kay spoke on books referring to Medals and Coins of Peter the Great, the Governors General of Canada, and Leprosy as well as various Journals containing articles written by himself.

Brian See had picked up some nice books at Torex with signatures which are ex libris Ingrid Smith and Seaby.

Paul Johnson presented a catalogue on the medals of Jacques Weiner as well as a specimen of a medal and a rare Buffalo ANA Convention Program.

Paul Petch was able to purchase a set of 30 issues of the Fare Box from the early '70s which deals with transit tokens. He had also produced a printout from Internet of the Chronology of Events in the History of Canadian Coins and

donated it to the auction.

The coffee break refreshments and donuts provided by Italo Villella and Paul Petch allowed for a pleasant social mingling and gave time for Norm Belsten to solicit his Slate of Officers.

The auction and the draw were run alternately. Lucky Draw winners were: Russ Brown, Jean Orr(2), May Bunnett(2), Harvey Farrow, Paul Johnson, Norman G- Gordon(2), Mark Murchison, Dion VanLaethem and Dick Dunn. Thanks to Al Bliman for calling the draw and Bob Porter and Basil Latham for running the 10-lot auction. Many thanks to Norman G. Gordon and Brian See for their donations.

Coming Events

Waterloo Coin Society Show
November 22, 10am-5pm at the Rink In The Park, Seagram Drive Free admission. Contact Don Robb (519) 888-9655.

Coin-A-Rama presented by N.I.C.F.
November 29, 9am-4pm, at Our Lady of Peace Hall, 6944 Stanley Ave. Niagara Falls, ON Admission \$1(adult) Free gold draw. Contact Barbara Ann Kostyk (905) 356-5006.

Tillsonburg Collectibles Show
December 14, 11am-4pm at the Tillsonburg Community Centre, 45 Hardy Ave. Admission: Adult \$2, 12 and under free with an adult. Contact Ian Ward (519) 426-8875.

Woodstock Collectibles Show
December 28, 10:30am-4pm at Oxford Auditorium (Fairgrounds), 875 Nellis St. Admission: Adults \$2, 12 and under free with an adult. Contact Ian Ward (519) 426-8875.

Question of the Month

In 1992, the 125th anniversary of Canadian Confederation, a series of 12 25¢ pieces were issued, one for each Canadian province and territory. One piece was released each month. Our November question is, what is the province or territory that was commemorated with the November, 1992, release?

The answers to our October challenge, drawn from a Mississauga Coin Club quiz:

- 1) The Moslem country that has the Star of David on its coins is Morocco.
- 2) The subway system using plastic tokens is Moscow. The tokens are of different colours and are used to track ridership patterns.
- 3) And finally, the expression "not worth a dam" had a couple of explanations, but the preferred is that it is a reference to a low denomination Indian coin called a 'dam'.

NOVEMBER NUMISMATICS by Marvin Kay, MD

It seems that November is a good month in which a physician should be born. This writer was born in November, as were several other famous physicians. And many November-born physicians have been permanently memorialized on medals and coins.



On November 12th we have the birth of Sun Yat Sen back in 1863. Sun Yat Sen is honoured on the coins and banknotes of China for his efforts in liberating China from the Manchu dynasty and becoming its first President in 1912. He studied medicine at the newly-established University of Hong Kong and graduated from the first class in 1894. He died of Cancer in 1925.

Johann Christoph Friedrich von Schiller is best known as one of Germany's greatest poets and dramatists. And, as such, he has been honoured on many of his country's coins. He was born on November 10, 1759, in Marbach, Germany, and studied medicine in Stuttgart, graduating in 1780 as a military surgeon. He is shown here on a West German 5 Mark commemorative coin of 1955.



The next November-born doctor is Ephraim McDowell. On November 11, 1771, he was born in Virginia. He studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh and returned to America where he established a practice in Danville, Kentucky. His main claim to fame is that he removed a huge ovarian tumor on Christmas eve, 1809, from a Mrs. Jane Todd Crawford. This was done without anaesthesia, on the kitchen table. The commemorative metal shows Dr. McDonnell on one side, and his restored home and office on the other.

Canadian Sir Frederick Banting is also a November-born doctor (14th November, 1891). He is the recipient of so many medallic tributes that he has been discussed separately in another article.

The last day of November saw the birth, in 1768, of Jędrzej Śniadecki, in Żnin, Poland. He studied pharmacy and chemistry and, although not a doctor, became the Director of the Vilna Medical Clinic, in 1832. He was one of the first to write scientific articles in his native language. He is honoured on a modern 70 mm bronze medal which resides in my collection.



Jonas Basanavičius was born on November 23, 1851, in Lithuania, while it was a part of Russia. He received his medical degree from the University of Moscow and returned to Lithuania to practice. Lithuania was swept by a wave of nationalism in the latter part of the 19th century and Basanavičius was caught up in it. When his homeland became an independent state following the First World War, Basanavičius became its first President. As such, he is honoured on one of Lithuania's coins, the 5 Litai of 1936 (Y-12).

Numismatics and the R.C.M.P. by Chris Boyer

(copyright October 5, 1997)

The year 1998 marks the 125th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Originally founded in 1873 as the Royal North West Mounted Police, today the RCMP is a world-renowned police service that has had over 40,000 regular members over its history. To commemorate the "Mounties", Canada has issued paper money, commemorative coins, and medals. This article will highlight the ways in which Canadian numismatics has honoured its national police.

1. Commemorative Coinage

The Royal Canadian Mint has issued a number of commemorative coins, some circulating and some not, to honour the RCMP. Perhaps the most commonly-known piece is the 25¢ circulating commemorative coin dated 1973. With a Mounted Police officer on horseback featured on the reverse, this coin has been a familiar item in pocket change



since its issue almost 25 years ago. A lesser known fact about the coin is that a scarce variety known as the "large bust" is a sought-after collector's item. Because of the change in design for the commemorative 25¢ piece, a reduced bust of the Queen was prepared, so that the Mounted Police reverse would strike up well. A small number of these coins, estimated at 8000 pieces of the nearly 135 million coined, were struck with the larger sized bust (as in the 1972 issue) in error, creating a "mule", that is, a coin struck with a pair of dies

not intended to be used together. Found in circulation strikes, proof-like and proof sets, these coins can command about \$175 in uncirculated condition.

Also in that same year, a .500 fine silver dollar was issued bearing a similar design to the 1973 25¢ piece, both designed by Paul Cedarberg. With a mintage of nearly 1 million pieces, it proved to be a popular issue. Both the circulating 25¢ piece and the non-circulating silver dollar both bear Cedarberg's initials, PC, on the reverse.

More recently, the Royal Canadian Mint has issued two more non-circulating commemorative coins to honour the RCMP. In 1993 the Mint struck approximately 10,000 \$200 gold coins with an RCMP officer and his horse near some children on the reverse. The coin retails for approximately \$400 today.

A year later in 1994, the Mint released a commemorative silver dollar in proof and brilliant uncirculated finishes with a combined mintage of approximately 230,000, this time honouring the 25th anniversary of the last RCMP Northern Dog Team Patrol in 1969. The proof version retails for approximately \$30 while the brilliant uncirculated coin trends at approximately \$22.

2. Canadian Paper Money

Perhaps one of the most beautiful back designs on Canadian paper money was that of the 1975-issue \$50 note. Featuring the R.C.M.P. Musical Ride in dome formation, the design naturally complimented the red multicoloured note. Unfortunately, due to wide-spread counterfeiting of this issue, it was replaced in 1988 with the introduction of the "Bird Series" notes. Known to banknote collectors as note BC-51, its value ranges from \$50 in circulated Condition to \$250 in uncirculated condition, depending on the serial number and the signatures of the Deputy Governor and

Governor on face side of the note.

3. Commemorative Medals

Various commemorative medals have been issued for the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. This author has two such pieces in his collection. The first is a copper-coloured medal with the RCMP crest on one side with the words "Royal Canadian Mounted Police Centennial", while the opposite side features a RNWMP officer on horseback with the motto "Maintiens le Droit" and "1873 Canada 1973". The second piece is silver coloured medal in antiqued silver or perhaps pewter. One side features the RCMP crest surrounded by "1873-1973" while the opposite side features a historic scene with the inscription "Fort Macleod". The author invites individuals who might have different commemorative medals to contact him so that he may add this information to his research. Please write to:

Mr. Chris Boyer,
Paisley Road School,
406 Paisley Road,
Guelph, Ontario N1H 2R3
Phone: (519) 822-0675
Fax: (519) 822-7767

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police will commemorate its proud history in 1998 with 125th Anniversary celebrations. Everyone can be part of the event by collecting some of the many issues of RCMP coins, banknotes, and medals. Most of these can be found at coin shops or by contacting a local coin club. Happy 125th Birthday to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police!

AN HISTORIC AUCTION by Marvin Kay, NYCC #400

We have all heard the cliché, “the air was thick with tension”. This expression became real to me as I sat in on the Jeffrey Hoare Militaria Auction on Saturday, October 25th. Coming up were two lots of military medals. One lot, #2169, consisted of five pieces belonging to Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae, the Canadian soldier who was so dismayed by the carnage surrounding him during the First World War that he wrote the poem, “In Flanders Fields”. The second lot of twelve pieces belonged to his father, Major David McCrae. Poised at the back of the auction room were several television camera-men. And scattered throughout the audience were several radio and print reporters ready with their notebooks and miniature tape recorders.

The auctioneer, neatly groomed in jacket and tie, called the room to order. In his deep bass voice he opened the bidding at \$38,000, nearly twice the estimated value in the auction catalogue. At a rapid pace the bidding increased in \$2000 increments until it reached \$150,000. At that point the auctioneer accepted \$5000 increases. The bidding quickly reached \$300,000 after which raises of \$10,000 were made. The curator of the McCrae House Museum in Guelph did his best to try to acquire the medals for his museum but he was forced out of the bidding at \$280,000. From where I was seated, I

could not determine how many other people were in on the bidding. The pace slowed only slightly now that there were only two people left in the bidding war. Moments later, the \$400,000 level was reached and the lot was hammered down. There was a round of applause from the audience, but I’m not sure why

for this lot. But it was too much for the first winner and a new winner acquired this lot. As soon as the auctioneer’s hammer hit the table this mysterious bidder ran from the front of the room to avoid publicity, but he was pursued into the stairwell by two nearby reporters.

In the meantime, the winner of the first lot was surrounded by reporters. I was fortunate to be standing close by this gentleman as the media swooped down on him. This was a scrum of monumental proportions as microphones were shoved dangerously close to his face. But he was quite humble as he answered their numerous questions. He said modestly it was something that most Canadians who loved their country would have done. He plans to donate the medals to the McCrae house to be displayed in time for Remembrance Day, 1997. Later I learned that this diffident gentleman was Mr. Arthur Lee who immigrated to Canada 32 years ago. When commissions and taxes are added in, his bill will be about half a million dollars. He is showing his love for Canada in a way that few of us could ever

hope to match.

At this time, I still do not know the identity of the reticent gentleman who acquired lot #2170. Let’s hope he will be as generous as Mr. Lee and keep the medals in Canada.

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
 Between the crosses, row on row,
 That mark our place; and in the sky
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly
 Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
 We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
 Loved and were loved, and now we lie
 In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
 To you from failing hands we throw
 The torch; be yours to hold it high
 If ye break faith with us who die
 We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
 In Flanders fields.

JOHN MCCRAE

Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae died of pneumonia in France, January, 1918.

people were clapping. Perhaps it was a release of tension.

The auctioneer quickly went on to the father’s medals, lot #2170. This time the bidding started at \$2000 which was below the published estimate of \$3000. In a pace as rapid as in the previous lot, the bidding went up by \$2000 jumps to \$130,000. Two people who were bidding on the first lot continued their fight

**Please...
 Contribute an article
 to *The Bulletin***

ANA PUSH FOR NEW DOLLAR COIN BRINGS MEASURE TO CONGRESS

The American Numismatic Association's (ANA) two-year effort to produce a new coin to replace the Susan B. Anthony dollar now is before Congress with the support of the Clinton Administration. ANA President Anthony Swiatek says, "For several years, the ANA has backed several dollar coin proposals. Now it appears we are on the verge of it being approved."

Through the efforts of its immediate past president, Kenneth Bressett, the ANA has pushed for and supports the proposal for a new, gold-colored \$1 coin (HR 2637), introduced October 21 by Representative Michael Castle. Bressett, a member of the United States Mint's Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee (CCCAC), worked closely on the legislation with Castle, who is chairman of the House Banking Subcommittee on Domestic and International Policy. Bressett, of Colorado Springs, Colorado, where the ANA is head-

quartered, also assisted sculptor/engraver Ron Landis of Eureka Springs, Arkansas, in developing a prototype for the new coin.

Congressman Castle's legislation calls for the new gold-colored \$1 coin to be the same size as the Anthony dollar, minted from 1979-81, to avoid the need for changes in vending machines that already accept the old silver-colored coins. However, its color and plain or smooth rather than serrated or reeded edge are designed to help the public distinguish between the new \$1 and the Washington quarter dollar coin.

"Unfortunately, it is clear that the Susan B. Anthony coins, created nearly 20 years ago, was far less successful than many people had hoped," Castle said. A 1990 General Accounting Office (GAO) report on the dollar coin found the public confused the Anthony dollar with the quarter because of their similar color (silver) and size (26.5mm

and 24.3mm, respectively).

Of the 857 million Anthony dollars produced by the Mint, Director Philip N. Diehl reports that 133 million remain in government vaults, equivalent to a 2½-year supply for the U.S. Postal Service and big-city transit authorities. Assistant Treasury Secretary Nancy Killefer says the government prefers to issue a new dollar coin that the public will use rather than strike more Anthony dollars.

Although Castle's legislation leaves the design of the new coin to the Treasury Department, he has proposed a Statue of Liberty motif on the obverse or "heads" side and an American eagle and the word "Peace" for the reverse. Bressett and Landis produced a prototype for Castle so members of Congress could see and hold his idea in their hands.

Castle's bill is expected to be taken up in the Senate, where Senators Carol Moseley-Braun and Rod Grams say they plan to attach the \$1 coin measure to a bill that would have the Mint strike quarters commemorating the 50 states. The ANA also strongly endorses this legislation, which already has won House approval.

Under Castle's proposal, the \$1 bill, which now consumes much (45%) of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing's production time, will continue to be issued. Canada and other countries have discontinued the paper equivalents of their large-denomination coins, and the GAO's 1990 report says Congress and the Administration should proceed with a new dollar coin only if the \$1 paper note is eliminated. However, such proposals have proved unpopular in Congress, and Castle says "the general public is not ready to part with the dollar bill."

Representative Jim Kolbe, who long has advocated a new dollar coin, says that without the withdrawal of the paper note, the new \$1 coin will not achieve wide distribution. Theodore Allison, an assistant to the Federal Reserve Board, says the public is not ready to lose the \$1 bill. While the ANA recognizes the success of a new \$1 coin would improve with the elimination of the \$1 Federal Reserve note, the Association endorses Castle's bill.

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

TO BUILD A PLATING FACILITY IN WINNIPEG

Ottawa, October 30, 1997 -- The Honourable Alfonso Gagliano, Minister of Public Works and Government Services and Minister responsible for the Royal Canadian Mint announced today the Royal Canadian Mint will build a plating facility by the year 2000 adjacent to the existing one in Winnipeg.

"With a new plated system, the Royal Canadian Mint will be able to export new Canadian technology and secure contracts for plated coins of other countries," said Minister Gagliano. "We anticipate the new plating facility will generate savings in the order of 9.5 million dollars every year to Canadian taxpayers" added Minister Gagliano.

The Government of Canada has authorized the Royal Canadian Mint to secure loans from commercial financial institutions for the building of a new plating facility in Winnipeg. The Mint will invest approximately \$30 million in an expansion of its operations.

The construction of the new facility should generate between 100 and 130 job opportunities for the 56,000 square foot addition to the existing facility. The Royal Canadian Mint would also require the addition of approximately 30 positions to its permanent

workforce to operate the plating facility.

The Mint will be able to change the metal composition of the five, ten, twenty five and fifty cent coins to a plated composition and thus generate \$9.5 million savings annually. The new plating process, designed and patented by the Royal Canadian Mint, will ensure a secure, cost-effective supply of plated coinage for Canada. As well, this will enable the Mint to compete for the production of plated coinage for other countries around the world. Plated coinage is less expensive to produce than single metal coinage. A growing number of countries have adopted this new metal composition for their coins in order to maintain a cost-efficient coinage system.

The new plating process developed by the Royal Canadian Mint will ensure the cost efficient production of plated coins which will be easily and consistently identifiable by coin acceptance mechanisms as well as being an environmentally friendly process.

The Royal Canadian Mint will work closely with the vending industry to facilitate a smooth transition and a successful implementation of the new plated coins.