

"The Bulletin" May, 2000

President's Message

What a wonderful way to start a monthly bulletin, by inviting some interested people to visit us at one of our meetings and to extend an invitation to become a member of the Club. We have Dexter, D'Arcy and Kevin who left their names and addresses at the ONA 2000 Convention and Phil, Willis, Brad and Tom who joined us at the C.N.A./N.E.S. A. Classroom Course. Please accept our invitation to join us at our May 23 or June 20 meeting.

This is also a notice to our regular members, including new member Issie, that we will be meeting on the third Tuesday of June (**June 20**) and on the 4th Wednesday of August (**August 23**). We look forward to seeing everyone who can make it.

I am pleased to announce that Bob Wilson will be filling the Director position left vacant by Basil Latham's passing and that Albert Kasman will take up the Receptionist chair. Our thanks to both.

The President continues to collect the e-mail address of all members. If you are now on the Internet, send an e-mail and let him know at petchp@ican.net. Phone calls are also welcome at **416-745-3067** (leave a voice message if you can't get

100 Wonderful Years!

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on **Tuesday, May 23, 2000**, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive.

Here we sit at the turn of the century, the rolling over of the millennium, and so what better time could there be to look back 33 years and remember Canada's Centennial? According to member Len Kuenzig, anytime is a good time to remember the Centennial, because one of his specialties is Centennial medals and other collectibles. That's the subject he is going to share with us at our next meeting.

We have no listed auction this month, but bring some material and we can have a fine auction anyway. Hope to see you for the May meeting.

Coming Events

Second Annual Stratford Spring Coin Show May 28, 10am-4pm at the Knights of Columbus Community Centre, 151 Lorne Ave. East. Admission \$2, juniors free with adult. Free parking and door prize draws. Contact Bob Dowsett (519) 271-8884/ Ian Ward (519) 426-8875.

Scarborough Coin Club Annual Show June 3, 9am-3pm, at the Cedarbrook Community Centre, 91 Eastpark Blvd. Over 30 tables of coins, paper money, tokens, medals, etc. Hourly draws and free admission. Contact David Bawcutt, e-mail

cpms@idirect.com.

TOREX Show & Auction June 17-18 at the Primrose Hotel, 111 Carlton St. (Pearson Ballroom). Hours: Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 10am-3pm Daily admission \$5. Contact Ingrid K. Smith, (416) 260-9070

Hamilton Coin and Collectibles Show July 8, 10am-4pm at the Royal Canadian Legion, 1180 Barton St. E. (across from Centre Mall) Admission \$2 for individual or family, \$1 for seniors. Free Parking. Contact: George Smith (905) 385-6945

Canadian Numismatic Association 2000 (50th Anniversary) Convention August 2-5 at the Ottawa Congress Centre, 55 Colonel By Drive. Hours: Thurs. 10am-6pm, Fri. 10am-6pm, Sat. 10am-4pm. with over 70 tables. Daily admission \$2 or \$5 for families. Contact: G. Henry Neale (613)521-

*Next Meeting:
May 23*

Meeting News from the April 25 Meeting

The 452nd meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, April 25, 2000 at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Dr., Willowdale, Ont.

The President, Paul Petch, opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m. and welcomed 23 members and 1 guest.

Application for Membership has been received from Issie Chaimovitch of North York. If accepted, his number will be 509.

On Time Attendance Draw: This was Paul Petch's night! He won the \$2.00 pot.

It was with deep sadness that the Chair announced the passing of Basil Latham on April 14th and asked the members to stand and observe a moment's silence.

The minutes of the March 28, 2000, meeting were read by the Secretary and approved the Chair.

The Chair announced the next Executive meeting will be held on May 10. He then reviewed and reported some highlights of the recent ONA Convention, an account of which he presented in the April bulletin. Paul stated he was so very proud to receive the ONA Award of Merit for 2000 and similarly proud to be the eleventh member of North York Coin Club to be so honoured. The North York Coin Club won the Best Local Coin Club Bulletin and Paul was presented with the Editor Award along with a silver thank you medal for serving as Chairman. Mark Argentino was presented with the raffle prize that he won and Harvey Farrow was given a set of the medals for the club archives. Marvin Kay was congratulated on his excellent role as Master of Ceremonies as was Roger Fox for tending the bar. Ron Zelk graciously extended the club's appreciation to Paul and his wife for their very fine management of the Hospitality Suite. The leftover

Chairman's woods and daily admission flats were offered to members.

The following members reported their interesting experiences during the Convention: Marvin Kay recounted his financial success in purchasing a beautiful book on Ancient Coins. Ted Boxall was helped by a good Samaritan who turned out to be the girl friend of the CNN publisher, Paul Fiocca. Harvey Farrow laughingly told of one lady registrant who was looking forward to the books usually included in the kits. All the others were glad to see the kit lightened, both in weight and price. Three dealers reported it was a good show, which goes a long way in supporting our feelings.

For the member's pleasure, Del Murchison conducted an Coin World Numismatic Trivia Game. The members were divided into "Chairs" and "Tables" with Bob Porter and Mark Argentino as team captains. As expected, the questions were difficult but that didn't inhibit the hilarity, repartee and just good plain fun that was had. The teams tied.

The pleasure carried over to the refreshments kindly prepared by Roger Fox.

The auction of 19 lots was run alternately with the Lucky Draw. Draw winners were: Del Murchison (2), George Fraser(2), Dick Dunn(2), Bob Velensky(3), Bob Wilson(3), Mark Argentino(2), David Kneller and Ron Zelk. The draw was called by Roger Fox and brought proceed amounting to \$21.00. The auction was ably run by Bob Porter with the assistance of Paul Petch and brought a commission of \$2.25 and donations of \$2.25. Many thanks to Mark Argentino and Brian See for their donations.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:45 p.m.

Question of the Month

For the May Question of the Month we are going to "go with the flow" as they say and have a couple of questions (I couldn't make a choice for just one) having to do with Centennial Medals as suggested by Len Kuenzig's talk and the upcoming C.N.A. convention.

First question: what detail of background information can you provide on the C.N.A.'s 1967 convention medal. Do you own one? Let's hope a specimen of this particular medal makes it to the May meeting.

Supplementary question: keeping it close to home, what detail of background information can you provide on the centennial medal issued by the Borough of North York? Are there any specimens of this one around?

April marked the 40th anniversary of a significant event in the numismatic hobby. The particular event on your editor's mind is of special interest to U. S. collectors. What was it?

It was the premier issue of the popular U.S. hobby publication *Coin World*. No one got this question, but Del Murchison raised an interesting point about the first appearance of *Coin World* was in March of 1960 with its "ashcan" edition. Read all about it on page 5.

Auction List

Once again we don't have enough material to list an auction this month. Please bring your material to Rick Craig at the next meeting so we can organize a listed auction for the June meeting. The items should be presented for consideration in person in an ordinary envelope showing your name, phone number and your estimated value (i.e., reserve bid). Rick is assisting us by assuring consistent descriptions of quality and by pegging fair pricing for the listing.

The C.N.A./N.E.S.A. Classroom Course was held at Humber College on May 8, 2000 with about 25 in attendance. During the presentation on Canadian Decimals, there were two interesting points that came up.

New Plating Facility at the Royal Canadian Mint

The first was specifically about the production of year 2000 dated coins from the Royal Canadian Mint and whether they would be on the plated blanks. These have been in the planning stage for several years now. Coincidentally, the new plating facility was just opened in Winnipeg on April 27.

Alfonso Gagliano, the Minister responsible for the Royal Canadian Mint, together with Ron Duhamel, Secretary of State for Western Economic Diversification and Francophonie, and Member of Parliament for St. Boniface, presided over the official opening.

Construction of the 59,000 square foot plating facility began on April 9, 1998 and was led by UMA Projects (CM) Ltd. of Winnipeg, supported by Giffels Engineering of Toronto and Stechesen Katz Architects of Winnipeg. The work generated 130 construction jobs, and the Mint is adding 30 additional positions to its permanent workforce to operate the plating facility. The Mint invested approximately \$30 million in the project.

The new plating process, developed and patented by the Mint, will generate an estimated \$10 million annually in savings to the Government and an additional \$3 million annually in profit from foreign circulation contracts, as plated metal coinage is far less expensive to produce than the existing single metal alloy varieties.

“This facility will increase the Mint's international competitive advantage and

will also provide a secure and cost effective coin supply for Canadians.” said Minister Gagliano. “We completed construction ahead of schedule and one million dollars under budget - a substantial achievement in itself. The Royal Canadian Mint will be aggressively marketing this new technology and securing additional contracts for plated coins of other countries.”

Built adjacent to the Mint's Winnipeg manufacturing plant, the new facility is one of only a few in the world to offer this type of leading-edge technology. Production at the new facility began in early April 2000, changing the metal composition of the five, ten, twenty-five, and fifty-cent coins from a solid alloy or pure nickel product to nickel-copper-nickel the (Ni-Cu-Ni) multilayer plated composition. In July 2000, the Mint will begin releasing the new plated coinage to the market. The Government of Canada authorized the change to a new plating process in 1995. The one-cent coin was changed in July 1997 from bronze to copper-plated steel or copper-plated zinc, using the Mint's patented plating process.

Ron Duhamel added, “Long regarded as one of the most innovative Mints in the world, the Royal Canadian Mint is particularly proud of the new technology available in this state-of-the-art facility. We are proud of the vital role the plating facility will play in the Mint's efforts to maintain its economic performance worldwide, and are especially pleased by the employment and business opportunities the project has generated locally.”

The general public will not notice the difference to circulation coins, nor will the coin's durability be effected. Since 1995, the Mint has worked closely with the vending industry to facilitate a smooth transition and a successful implementation to plated coinage. In consultation with the vending industry, the change of plating for the 5, 10, 25, and 50 cent coins was delayed for five

years to enable the industry to adjust their equipment.

Project Highlights:

Project budget: \$31 million
 Project cost: \$30 million
 Construction jobs: 130
 New Mint employment: 30
 Project start: April 9, 1998
 Project completion: January 2000
 (three months ahead of schedule)

Project Benefits:

- Cost efficient supply of plated coinage for Canada
- The use of plated currency will produce annual savings of \$10 million to Government of Canada
- Additional annual revenues of \$3 million to Royal Canadian Mint

The New Plating Process:

- Mint to begin plated coinage production in April 2000
- Mint will release plated coinage to the market in July 2000
- Multilayer process enables production of various shaped coinage
- Greater coinage protection with distinctive electromagnetic properties
- New environmentally friendly process does not use cyanide
- New plated material easily identified by coin mechanisms

The Royal Canadian Mint Ni-Cu-Ni Multilayer Plated Process:

- The unique and patented plating operation developed by the Mint uses the fastest, most advanced and environmentally-friendly process of its kind in the world.
- The Mint's Ni-Cu-Ni multilayer process is acid based and electroplates thin coatings of nickel, then copper, then nickel again to the steel core of the coin, without the

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

need for toxic cyanide required in other plating processes.

- The Mint's new plating facility has the capacity to produce one billion plated coin blanks per year in a wide range of configurations that provide durable and cost-effective coinage.

The RCM Plating Process Benefits:

The Mint's product is not only cost-effective and environmentally friendly, but also enjoys high integrity features necessary for higher valued denominations. Plated coinage has been used around the world for many years, in countries including the United States, the European community, Singapore and Israel.

The Benefits of the Mint's own unique plating technology are:

- A durability that is equal to existing alloy coins and superior to other plated coinage
- Greater coinage protection with high integrity, distinctive electromagnetic properties easily identified by coin machines
- Lower material costs than for solid nickel coins
- Shorter delivery timelines resulting from a faster manufacturing process
- The process is environmentally sound

The RCM Electroplating Process:

1. A Steel Coil is fabricated, this is the metal from which the blanks are cut
2. Blanking operation, i.e, the cutting of the blanks
3. Deburring, the smoothing of the rough edges
4. Rimming, raising the rim
5. Pre-annealing, the softening of the blanks with heat
6. Electroplating, coating the blanks with nickel/copper
7. Drying
8. Post Annealing, once again the heating of the blanks for bonding and hardness
9. Burnishing and Drying, the cleaning and drying of the blanks

What Should You Collect?

This is an interesting question for a beginning collector to ask. It suggests that there is a right answer or some strategy of collecting that is more worthy than some other. This, of course, is not the case. What you should collect is what interests you.

The question could be more properly posed as "What are some possible collecting strategies?" When asked in this way, we can easily move from understanding why some collectors are interested in series types, while others may be studying the entire maturing use of a single set of dies as reflected by the developing die breaks which appear. All interests have a place in this hobby if the object is to learn and understand. Beware, however, of the huckster who may be promoting the sale of a specimen solely as a source of monetary gain.

The following article was written in the early 1960's and as such is a flash image of the thinking of the day. What is most significant, and most worthy in providing guidance to the current collector, is the spirit of numismatic study which is evident. Truly, Bill English could have collected anything and elevated it through study and research to unquestionable numismatic heights. His article helps us remember that the question is not "What should you collect?" but "How should you collect?"

Canadian 1947 Dot Coin? by Bill English

Most numismatists agree that dots, die breaks and wearing of dies do not constitute varieties. A variety as we term it is a different die which in turn is used for a period of time. The duration may be for a number of years and at other times, many changes occur in a single issue. Combinations of obverse and reverse strikes may also fall into this category. Dots, maple leaves or any other type of marking cut into a die for a purpose form a true variety as well. We all know of the 1936 dot series and

the many reasons for the missing cent and ten cent pieces of this issue. I will not try to discuss or solve that problem in this article.

The question that arises in my mind is the possibility of even another variety of 1947 coinage, that is the dot coins of this issue. The current catalogs list the five cents and quarter, and value them quite high in comparison with the plain and maple leaf varieties. Could the 1947 dot quarter be the 1947 maple leaf, with the maple leaf design in the die plugged to leave a tiny dot? Could the dot at the lower right corner of the seven on the five cent piece be a pitting of the die? I do not know.



Recently on checking my 1947 long point silver dollars, I came across some with a dot located to the right of the seven. It is clear and distinct, and in most cases, the coins are uncirculated. My search for similar cent, ten cent, and fifty cent pieces with dots on them have so far proven fruitless. Whether my find is a coincidence, or whether there is truly another variety of our much-complicated 1947 issue, only time will tell. The long point dollar is quite scarce, and I do not have a quantity to make a comparative study. I would like to hear from other collectors who may be able to shed some light on the matter. Any information that can be compiled on the relative scarcity and whether or not 1947 dot cents and dimes do exist will be reported as soon as sufficient information is available.

(Reprinted from the 1962 Ontario Numismatist)

New Coin Weekly

That is the headline which appeared in the April, 1960 issue of The Numismatist reporting the debut of this popular American numismatic periodical.

Coin World, the first news weekly for coin collectors, will be launched April 21, shortly before National Coin Week. Edited by a husband and wife team, D. Wayne and Shirley Johnson, the new publication will be devoted entirely to coins and coin collecting.

Coin World will be published as a newly created division of The Sidney Printing and Publishing Co., of Sidney, Ohio. This printing firm produces a daily newspaper, several weekly newspapers and the largest weekly publication for stamp collectors, *Linn's Weekly Stamp News*.

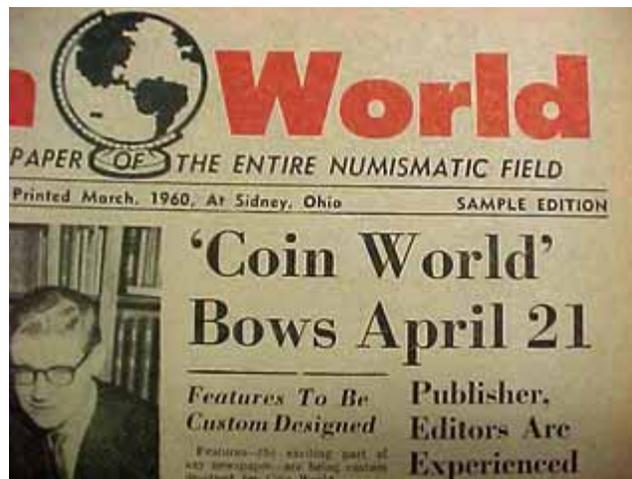
The editorial couple was employed on the staff of *The Kansas City Kansan* in their home town, Kansas City, Kansas. Mrs. Johnson was TV and church editor. Johnson was retail advertising manager, and previously, classified advertising manager.

Long active in collecting circles, Editor Johnson has collected coins for twenty-one years. One of the founding members of the Middle Atlantic Numismatic Association, he is also a former governor of Central States Numismatic Society. A member of the American Numismatic Association since 1949, he holds membership in many numismatic organizations and societies in the United States and elsewhere.

Coin World is being offered at a \$3.00 a year subscription rate and can be ordered from the publication's office in the Sidney News Building, Sidney, Ohio.



D. Wayne and Shirley Johnson



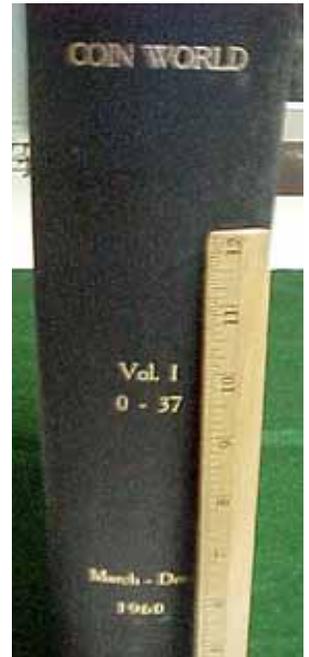
The "ashcan" Promotional Issue



First Full Press Run Issue of Coin World

Further to the reprint of The Numismatist article, a large, and I mean large, bound book of the *Coin World* newspaper from March through December 1960 was recently sold on the eBay Internet auction site. It included an interesting Volume 1 # 0 which was a sample "ashcan" edition.

According to North York member and pulp paper series collector Del Murchison, "these 'ashcans' are used to secure copyright of the name and third class mailing privileges and are shown around to prospective distributors and dealers. If you look



at the pictures included, you will see that the articles in each are different. The articles in the "ashcan" are about the new publication and speak of *Coin World* in the future tense (i.e., "Features to be custom designed"). The horror companions to *MAD* magazine named *Creepy* and *Eerie* both come to mind. Well, *Eerie* started with #2 since #1 was a rare ashcan. The same occurred with the first issue of *Whiz*, the comic where Captain Marvel made his debut. Many collectors don't include "ashcans" as part of a collectible series."

Oh yes, the item on eBay sold for \$154.05, U.S. funds!

More Color Needed in Our Currency

by Michael Shuwarger

Michael Shuwarger made this proposal to Representative James Roosevelt, who thought so well of the idea that he inserted the article in the Record.

Reprinted from Congressional Record, February 4, 1960 in The Numismatist, September, 1960

It is surprising that we Americans who welcome periodic changes in almost everything around us have never raised a voice in protest against the eternal sameness of the product we handle most frequently - money currency. We look impatiently toward the unveiling of the new automobile styles and talk excitedly about the latest fashions. We queue up for a look at a model house, but don't seem to mind it a bit that the color of our paper money has not changed for as many years as anyone can remember.

Ever since the first Treasury notes were issued in 1862 to finance the Civil War, the U. S. paper currency has always been green on one side. In 192-8 the size of the bills was trimmed down to 6 5/16 by 2 11/16 inches. but the color has never been changed. True enough, our main interest in money is its purchasing power, not its visual appeal. Few of us, if any, look at it from the point of view of artistic satisfaction, although the skill and the imagination that enter into the engraving and printing of our dollar bills are on a par with the most elaborate works of art.

Much more important than the esthetic consideration is the need to increase the visual differences among the various currency denominations. At present all U. S. money, from the lowly dollar bill to the almost mythical \$10,000 note, is green on one side and drab gray on the

other. Such uniformity makes it necessary to examine closely every bill to avoid mistakes in counting money. We must look very carefully at every note to make sure that no \$5 bill is paid out when only a dollar was intended. Errors directly traceable to the great similarity of the various denominations are considerable. In banking firms and other institutions where a tremendous turnover of paper currency is routine, the strain on the clerks counting money is always very heavy.

Why not keep the green color of the dollar bill as a bow to tradition, but make the \$5 denomination, let us say, red, and the \$10 one blue? We can use other colors to brighten up bills of higher value, for example, orange for \$20, silver for \$100, and shiny gold for a thousand dollar note.

If the various denominations were distinguishable by colors, the sorting of

a zero. The forgers got away with it because few people can remember what men's portraits belong on different notes, and those who do hardly bother to look at the exact design. If a \$10 bill were different in color from a \$1 bill, the simple addition of a zero would no longer do the trick. The counterfeiters would have to design complete plates if they were to stay in business.

What possible objections could there be to a new look in our currency? Certainly there is nothing sacrosanct about the green color on all our folding money. No additional cost of printing new notes is involved, for old plates can be used, and it is quite obvious that blue or red ink costs no more than green.

Just a trifle more costly would be another possible improvement in our paper currency. A tiny perforation or an embossment somewhere on the note would make it possible to identify money by touch. This would be an immense boon to the blind or to the people with poor eyesight who are frequently swindled when dealing with conscienceless crooks.

In some foreign countries the distinction among the denominations is achieved through

variations in size of different banknotes. The advantages of easy identification, moreover, are more than off set by the awkwardness of handling paper currency which is hard to fit into a billfold and is otherwise not easy to manage. The American system is much superior to most foreign currencies and could be made nearly perfect if the traditional greenbacks were to be joined by bluebacks, redbacks, and goldbacks.



money would no longer be an eye-blinding task. A bank teller could go through a wad of paper currency and quickly separate the various kinds of bills. It would be possible to glance into our wallets and without any effort pick out the denomination we want.

There is also another benefit to be derived. The introduction of different colors into our money would make many counterfeiters unhappy. In the past the manufacturing of phony bills often involved no more than the raising of the value of the denomination, such as the changing of \$1 to \$10 by adding