

“The Bulletin” October, 2000

President’s Message

An order is in for an additional quantity of the ONA 2000 medals in copper. At the time of writing, the new medal supply has not been received, but perhaps it will arrive by our next club meeting. We have extras for anyone who may be interested, still at the original price of \$10 plus \$2 for mailing.

All members are reminded that we are now accepting Christmas party Swiss Chalet food orders. Their Festive Dinner is \$6 and their Rib Dinner is \$8. See Treasurer Harvey Farrow at the meeting with your money and menu selection.

The North York Executive is reminded of its next meeting on November 8, 7:00pm at the usual location.

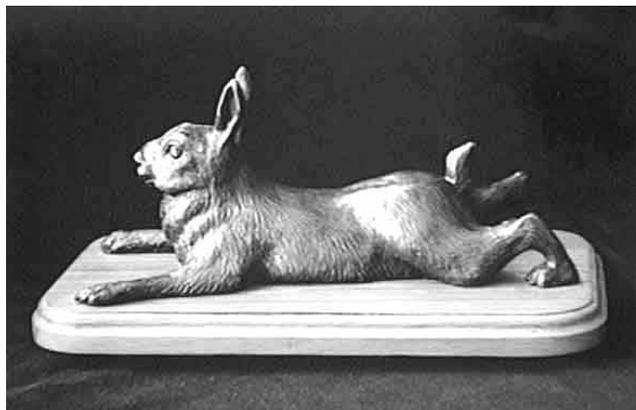
The President continues to collect the e-mail addresses of all members. If you are now on the Internet, send an e-mail and let him know at p.petch@home.com. Phone calls are welcome at **416-745-3067** (leave a voice message if you can't get through) or at the cell number **416-303-4417**.

***Next Meeting:
October 24***

Numismatic Art

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on **Tuesday, October 24, 2000**, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive.

Our special guest speaker at this meeting will be Mr. Del Newbigging of Toronto. While growing up on the family farm in Ontario, Del had already mastered the art of drawing poultry by the age of five. Critiqued by his parents, he quickly progressed to other birds and animals. After graduating in Fine Arts at McMaster University, Del pursued a career as an art teacher in both the elementary and secondary school systems. Adept in many aspects of artistic expression, Del has found sculpture to be his personal specialty. His work is executed in bronze, clay and plastic. Among his accomplishments are sculpture pieces as awards for the International Children's Film Festival, the Educational Award for the University of Toronto and the Humanitarian Award for the Etobicoke General Hospital Foundation. His artwork is in private collections in North America, Europe and Australia.



A student and creator of the Art Medal, Mr. Newbigging will bring us up to date with the topic of “The Art Medal in Canada”. The Art Medal takes its lineage from the many ancient metal monetary creations. The first Art Medal was created as a commemoration medal in 1483 by Pisanello. Del will also speak about the

FIDEM International Congress held in Germany from September 18 to 24 where he was the Co-Delegate for Canada along with Dora dePedery Hunt. Del is also a Co-founder of a new organization called the Canadian Association of Medallic Sculptors. Del had a wonderful three case non-competitive exhibit on the Art Medal at the recent C.N.A. convention in Ottawa.

The meeting will be rounded out with a listed auction which is detailed on page 3. Hope you can make it!

Meeting News from the September 26 Meeting

A meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Wednesday, September 26, 2000 at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Dr., Willowdale.

The President, Paul Petch, opened the meeting at 8:05 p.m. and welcomed 21 members. R. Willis Shortt was welcomed as member number 511.

We were sorry that Carl Anderson missed the On Time Attendance Draw, so it moves up to \$10 at the October meeting... that's enough to cover your 2001 club dues!

The Minutes of the August 23, 2000 meeting were read by the Secretary and approved by the Chair.

Dr. Marvin Kay was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his presentation in June.

The Chair advised that at the recent Executive meeting, it was agreed we transfer \$100.00 of the ONA 2000 Convention profits to the newly formed Mississauga-Etobicoke Coin, Stamp and Collectibles Club. As President of the new club, formed out of the memberships of the Thistleton and Mississauga clubs, Bob Porter sincerely thanked this club for its generosity. He then invited all North York members to its meetings, held on the first Tuesday of each month at the Martin Grove United Church, Martin Grove at Mercury in Etobicoke.

The Chair also announced that the club is going to have a few more copper ONA 2000 Convention medals struck and they will be sold at the original price of \$10.00. He assured members that the new medals were being struck to replenish supply because demand still exists for the pieces. The new supply are to be identical to those shipped in the original order.

Dick Dunn and Harvey discussed a media report that the Bank of Canada plans

to issue polymer banknotes. Mark Argentino contacted the Bank regarding the story but they refused to comment.

Roger Fox has joined the Erie County Coin Club out of Niagara Falls, New York and gave highlights of their meeting and bulletin format.

For this meeting members were invited to bring along British North American coins, medals and paper money that depicted masted ships. There was good participation from:

- **Marvin Kay** had a Chinese coin, honouring Dr. Sun Yat Sen and showing a junk with mast and sails.
- **Len Keunzig** had a series of mainly American medals and tokens.
- **Rick Craig** always carries a pocket piece and the current one happens to be a masted colonial token.
- **Paul Petch** had 2 colonial tokens from PEI along with 2 books titled *The Ships, Colonies and Commerce Tokens* and *The Currency and Medals of PEI*.
- **Brian See** brought along 2 Collingwood Coin Club wooden nickels.
- **Norm Belsten** had four items including a large wooden dime printed "In Cod we Trust", a small wood from Halifax, a 1996 CNA wood and a ship printed on a piece of wood taken from the Bluenose II.
- **May Bunnett** donated a book and a coin to the auction pertaining to the S. S. Beaver, a ship of the Hudsons Bay Company.

Refreshments served by Roper Fox were much enjoyed.

Lucky Draw winners were: Dick Dunn, Len Keunzig, Mike Haken(2), Paul Johnson, Ron Zelk(3), Lucille Colson, Leon Saraga, Bob Wilson, Mark Argentino and Ben Walters. The draw run by Roger Fox brought proceeds of \$20.00.

An auction of 12 lots was ably run by Bob Porter with the assistance of Paul

Petch and brought in revenue from donations of \$30.76 and commission of \$4.30. Many thanks to Rick Craig, May Bunnett, Ron Zelk, Len Keunzig, Brian See and Ben Walters for their donations.

Two ancient coin books have been received via the CNA Library from the J. Douglas Ferguson Foundation.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:38 p.m.

Coming Events

TOREX Show & Auction October 28/29 at the Primrose Hotel, 111 Carlton St. (Pearson Ballroom). Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 10am-3pm. Daily admission \$5. Contact Brian R. Smith, (416) 861-9523, e-mail: brian@torex.net, website: www.torex.net.

Stratford Coin Club 38th Annual Show October 29, Kiwanis Community Centre, Lakeside Dr. Penny sale, silent auction, free admission. Contact Dorothy Mason (519) 565-5354.

The Hobby Show November 3-5 at the International Centre. Friday noon-9pm; Sat. 10am-7pm; Sun. 10am-6pm Manufacturers, distributors, retailers, clubs, seminars and workshops. More than 200 different hobbies and crafts. Contact: (905) 428-6466.

Guelph Coin Show November 5, at the Col. John McCrea Legion, York Rd., Highway 7, 9:30am-4pm hosted by the Waterloo, Paisley School and South Welling Coin Clubs. Free parking, prize draws, lunch counter, 40 bourse tables. Contact: Don Robb, (519) 888-9655.

Windsor Coin Club 49th Annual Fall Coin Show November 5 at the Caboto Club, 2175 Parent Ave. 10am-4pm, admission \$1 includes a chance to win hourly door and grand prizes (Juniors under 12 are free). Free parking. Contact Margaret Clarke (519) 735-0727.

Listed Auctions

Bring any material you would like to sell by listed auction in November to the October meeting and give it to Rick Craig. 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 starting amounts for the listing in the bulletin.

Question of the Month

For the October question of the month, lets keep some balance in the meeting and have a decimal coins question. Everyone should be aware that the last Canadian large cent and first Canadian small cent were struck in 1920. The reasons for the change were two-fold: the large cent was getting to be too expensive to produce and the United States one cent piece established a popular model to copy in moving to the small cent size. So, understanding that the United States small cent was an influence on the Canadian 1-cent piece, what do you know about the events leading to the United States itself switching from a large cent to a small cent?

For the September question we asked "what part of a coin or medal is the exergue?" May Bunnett was ready with the answer at our September meeting, identifying that portion of a coin's reverse below the central design or "device". The diagram at left is taken from *The Anatomy of a Coin* which is a part of Chapter 1 of *The Canadian Numismatic Correspondence Course*. Notice the other useful terms defined in the diagram, including, in the case of the 5-cent piece the plain edge and denticles. Other denominations, the 10-cent for example, has a beading in place of the denticles and a reeded edge instead of a plain edge.

October Meeting Auction List

	Starts at
1) Canadian 1 Million Dollar fantasy note	\$1.00
2) Chinese Cash coin (unattributed / replica?) — a donation to the club	\$1.00
3) Las Vegas casino slot machine dollar token	\$3.00
4) Early CNE pin with ribbon	\$20.00
5) St. Catharines transportation token	\$1.00
6) Canadian 1000 dollar fantasy note from a memo pad	\$1.00
7) Standard Bank of Canada cheque stub with a few unissued from the 1920's	\$6.00
8) Bank of Hamilton issued cheque for 1900.00 from 1915	\$1.00
9) Token good for one pack of cigarettes... no location or brand etc.	\$2.00
10) Canadian Diabetic Association. aluminum medal for the 50th Anniversary of the discovery of insulin in 1921 — a donation to the club	\$2.00
11) Arizona hotel token "12 Beautiful Ladies to Assist you"	\$5.00
12) Wooden nickel from Hull, Illinois — a donation to the club	\$1.00
13) Wooden nickel from Fort Benton, Montana	\$1.00
14) Royal Bank of Canada cheque issued by National Grocers in 1941	\$1.00
15) U.S. 2 dollar bill 1963 series (used)	\$5.00
16) Romania polymer note	\$3.00
17) 3 inch medal by Barrick Gold	\$5.00

The
«Reverse»
side of a 1937 Five cent piece



Changing Times

It is interesting to see that over these next few months we are going to have a change in both our bank notes and coinage. The bank note change, as discussed at the last Club meeting, is not going to take us to polymer notes as at first reported. Instead, we are going to see some improved anti-counterfeiting techniques used on paper bank notes.

Current reports predict that the same portraits will continue on each denomination, with the \$10 notes appearing first followed by the \$5 denomination later in the year and other denomination appearing in the next two or three years. The recent passing of Pierre Trudeau may mean that his portrait could bump some Prime Minister off a bill at some time, but that change has not been signaled so far.

Apparently Australian-style polymer notes were considered because of their excellent security properties. Unfortunately, polymer notes are a bit thicker than paper notes and this would have required some modification to bill handling and scanning machinery. It was also recognized that the polymer raw material is not in as ready a supply as the paper stock and is more expensive to produce, even when the fact that the polymer notes are supposed to last four times as long as paper notes.

On the coinage front, testing has been going on with the new plated coin process by the Royal Canadian Mint. That process is far along enough to warrant the official release of plated specimen sets dated 1999 in a quantity of 20,000... more details on that in the article to the right.

If the Mint gets the results they are after, we won't really be able to tell the difference between the traditional alloys and the new plated coins. This is unlike the excitement of "some very high quality counterfeits" which were reported back in the early days of this country in R. J. Graham's article on page 5.

1999 Plated Test Coin Commemorative Set

The Royal Canadian Mint's patented Multi-ply Plated Steel technology is featured in a unique set of the first coins used by the vending industry to test this innovative technology. Dated 1999, these Multi-ply Plated Steel tests coin have never been in circulation. "This unique plated coin set features one of the most significant innovations the Mint has yet achieved," said Danielle Wetherup, President of the Royal Canadian Mint. "Our new plated coinage will save the Canadian government millions of dollars every year on the cost of producing Canada's circulation coins."

The set features Canadian circulation coinage denominations up to 50 cents, and an exclusive medallion celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Mint Winnipeg facility and the establishment of the new plating facility. Though slightly lighter, the coins look and feel like any other Canadian circulation coinage. Their distinguishing characteristic is a "P" mark on the obverse of each coin below the effigy of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. The mintage is limited to 20,000 sets. The coins are individually sealed in plastic and presented in a keepsake envelope.

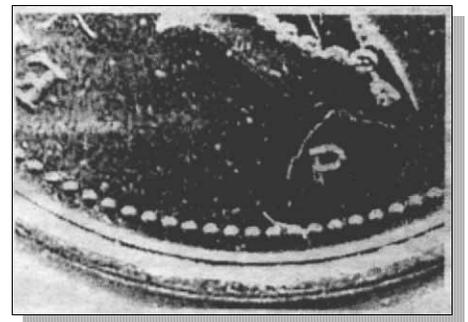
A COIN FOR THE FUTURE - MULTI-PLY PLATED STEEL

The Royal Canadian Mint has developed a revolutionary coin-plating technology, which promises to set the standard for coin production well into the future. The medallion and uncirculated test coins in this set are among the first to be produced using this patented process from the Royal Canadian Mint's Winnipeg (Manitoba) plating facility.

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 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.

See page 6 for the specifications of the new plated coins.



The Counterfeit Coin Scare Of 1885 by R. J. Graham

All Dominion coinages from 1872 to 1883, and part of the issue of 1871, were produced by the Heaton mint, at Birmingham, and bore the familiar "H" mint mark. During this extended interval the Canadian public became accustomed to the "H" on the coins they handled, but had little understanding of its significance. There was mild panic when the "H" ceased to appear on Canadian coinage after 1883. The products of the Royal Mint were suspected of being particularly deceptive counterfeits.

During the 1870's the antiquated machinery of the Royal Mint, installed by Matthew Boulton about seventy years earlier, suffered breakdowns of increasing frequency and severity. The Royal Mint could barely cope with the Imperial coinage requirements, and colonial orders were routinely redirected to the Mint, Birmingham. In 1881 Parliament finally voted the funds needed for refitting the Royal Mint. The ancient, ponderous screw presses were replaced by more efficient and quieter lever presses, purchased from Heaton's, in 1882. The physical plant was extended to enlarge the gold melting facility, and a new rolling room was added(1). The Royal Mint was then capable of meeting all domestic and colonial coinage requirements for the next several years. However, the Canadian High Commissioner had placed the order for the Dominion coinage with Heaton's in 1883,(2) probably supposing that this was the normal practice. Thus, the Royal Mint did not resume production for Canada until 1884, when the "H" mint mark disappeared, at least temporarily, from new Canadian coins.

In November, 1885 *The Monetary Times* picked up the story from a London, Ontario, journal that "counterfeit 5 and 10-cent pieces are in circulation in London".(3) These supposedly counterfeit coins were diabolically deceptive – "they are new, bright, and have a ring when thrown on any hard substance." This made a frightening contrast with

the other counterfeit coins then somewhat frequently encountered, which were cast in base metal, dumb when struck, and often dark, leaden and greasy in appearance. But the wily counterfeiters, so it was thought, had made one fatal blunder – "The only way they can be detected is by the absence of the letter 'H' under the wreath.(4)"



The Monetary Times was widely circulated, and apprehension spread. New 25-cent coins were rejected in Perth on the strength of the news item, and there was concern in Guelph. *The Monetary Times* published a correction in its next issue, a week later. Doubts had arisen when the staff examined 1871 and 1871H 25-cent coins, and these doubts were confirmed when the real situation concerning the mint mark was ascertained. The paper commented – "Thus it is unsafe to conclude that because a Canadian silver piece has an initial under the wreath, it is genuine, or vice-versa." It may be presumed that the counterfeit scare thereafter died quickly and quietly.

In an apparent attempt to save face, *The Monetary Times* ended its correction with a rather sour complaint made by an anonymous banker. "In the new 25-cent pieces dated 1885... the milling is very bad; in fact it is a disgrace to the Government to allow such coins to be is-

sued."(5)

Footnotes

- 1 G. P. Dyer, *The Royal Mint. An Illustrated History*. Royal Mint, 1986, pp 32, 33.
- 2 James O. Sweeny, *A Numismatic History of the Birmingham Mint*. The Birmingham Mint, 1981, pp 20-25
- 3 One might question why the eagle-eyed London observer had not sounded the alarm the previous year, when the 1884 coinage entered circulation. It could be speculated that perhaps none of that year's small issue of silver had been released in London.
- 4 *The Monetary Times* 13 Nov. 1885, p 538.
- 5 *Ibid.*, 20 Nov. 1885, pp 568, 569.

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1999 PLATED COIN SET SPECIFICATIONS

- DENOMINATION	REVERSE	COMPOSITION	WEIGHT (G)	DIAMETER (MM)	EDGE
- Medallion rated	Royal Canadian Mint -Winnipeg (Manitoba)	Steel core 93.2%, Ni 0.8%, Cu 4.8%, Ni 1.2%.	6.9	26.98	Ser-
- 50 cents rated	Coat of Arms of Canada	Steel core 93.2%, Ni 0.8%, Cu 4.8%, Ni 1.2%.	6.9	26.98	Ser-
- 25 cents rated	Caribou	Steel core 94%, Ni 1.3%, Cu 3.9%, Ni 0.8%	4.4	23.58	Ser-
- 10 cents rated	Fishing Schooner	Steel core 92%, Ni 1.4%, Cu 5.5%,	1.75	17.88	Ser-