

## **“The Bulletin” October, 2002**

### **President's Message**

Once again it is time to be thinking of our December Christmas party and membership renewals. I'm sorry to bring this up, even before Halloween, but it's only about 7 weeks away! The meeting is scheduled for December 10, the second Tuesday of the month. There are no plans to change arrangements from last year, so you can get a head start and see Treasurer Len Kuenzig with your money and menu selection. It's still \$6 for a Chicken Dinner (with white or dark meat) or \$8 for a Rib Dinner. Remember to specify french fries, baked potatoe or rice.

While you're at it, you can also pay membership and renew dues for 2003... still only \$10 for the year.

The North York Executive is reminded of its next meeting on November 12, 7:00pm at the usual location.

If you are now on the Internet, please send an e-mail to the editor at **[p.petch@rogers.com](mailto:p.petch@rogers.com)**. This will allow us to send you any last-minute emergency announcements. You may contact the President, Bob Wilson, at **905-677-3765** or the Editor, Paul Petch at **416-303-4417**.

***Next Meeting:  
October 22***

## **Royally Commemorative**

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on **Tuesday, October 22, 2002**, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive. We start gathering about 7:30pm with meeting start scheduled for 8:00.

After having enjoyed the recent Royal visit, the theme for this month's meeting is royal collectibles. This is going to be a bit of a change because it is a wide-open invitation for coins, paper, medals, china or whatever may comprise your collection of Royal commemoratives. Bring your most interesting stuff!

There is a small listed auction this month and you are encouraged to bring your own auction material for this meeting. Hope to see you there.

### **Coming Events**

**Scarborough Coin Club 6th Annual Coin Show**, October 19, 9am-4pm, at the Mid Scarborough Community Centre, 2467 Eglinton Ave. E. (New location near Kennedy Subway Station) Free admission Contact Dick Dunn at [cpms@idirect.com](mailto:cpms@idirect.com) .

**Stradford Coin Club 40th Annual Coin Show**, Oct. 20, 10am-4pm at the Festival Inn, 144 Ontario St. Free admission. Highlights include penny sale. Contact (519) 565-5354.

**Torex**, October 26-27, Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 10am-3pm at its new location: Champagne Ballroom, Novotel Downtown, 45 The Esplanade. Daily admission \$5. Coins, paper money, cards, books, supplies, pens, watches, and militaria. Contact Brian Smith, (416) 861-9523, e-mail [brian@torex.net](mailto:brian@torex.net). Web site: <http://www.torex.net>.

**Windsor Annual Fall Coin Show**, November 10, 10am-4pm at the Caboto Club, 2175 Parent Ave. Admission \$1, door prizes, free parking. Contact Windsor Coin Club, (519) 735-0727, e-mail [mclarke@wincom.net](mailto:mclarke@wincom.net).

**TICF - The International Coin Fair**, November 15-17, at the Ramada Inn and Convention Centre, Oakville. Features more than 40 tables of Canada's finest numismatic dealers. Charles Moore numismatic auction. Contact Paul Fiocca, (905) 646-7744 ext. 237, e-mail: [fiocca@trajan.com](mailto:fiocca@trajan.com).

**CAND Show** Jan 25-26, Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 10am-4pm at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, 150 King St. Large bourse, draws. Admission: adults \$3, others \$2, young numismatists free. Contact Terry (905) 318-1638, e-mail [rscoins@netaccess.on.ca](mailto:rscoins@netaccess.on.ca)

*Courtesy of Canadian Coin News*  
(<http://www.canadiancoinnews.ca>).

## Meeting News from the September 24 Meeting

The 477th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, September 24, 2002 at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Dr., Willowdale, Ont.

The President, Bob Wilson, opened the meeting at 8:04 p.m. and welcomed 24 members and 6 guests.

We were sorry that the On Time Attendance Draw pot of \$6 was missed by Jean Orr. There's \$8 available at the October meeting.

The Minutes of the August 21, 2002 meeting were read by the Secretary and accepted by the Chair.

John Regitko and Dick Dunn favourably reported on the Guelph show and others noted the London coin show and upcoming shows.

It was Paul Petch's pleasure to act on behalf of J. Douglas Ferguson Chairman Ronald Greene and present the J. Douglas Ferguson Award for 2002 to Mr. William K. "Bill" Cross. Bill had been unable to attend the Vancouver convention but resides in our area. Paul read the citation, (see the full text on page 3) which will be engraved on a plaque, and presented him with the J.D. Ferguson Medal. Bill gave a brief but heart felt speech expressing his thanks.

Member's participation was the feature for the evening. We were greatly appreciative of the efforts of the following participants.

**Marvin Kay** spoke on medically-related medals, which included two by Dora de Pédery-Hunt.

**George Fraser** had two new items for his "Funny Money" and gave an interesting account of a 1957 mint set of Cody Coins.

**Rick Craig** gave a fascinating historical account surrounding his purchase of Hamilton Bridge Works Annual Picnic

ribbons.

**Del Murchison** spoke on his lovely display of Dora de Pédery-Hunt medals and plaster casts.

**John Regitko** presented a cast of the 1991 Canadian Numismatic Association Convention medal (1 of 3), which was the most detailed object, produced by the Mint.

**Roger Fox** spoke on his further investigations of Amer. \$1.00 note; explored his collection of American numismatic mementos and reported a new Canadian Tire replacement note.

**Paul Petch** was attracted to the non-circulating coin commemorating the life of the Queen Mother just announced by the Royal Canadian Mint and limited to 10,000.

**Bob Wilson** produced two 2002 one cent coins — one without a "P" and one with. He commented that he has been searching rolls and only found ones

without a "P". He related that his wife got a few with a "P" in circulation.

Dick Dunn presented an autographed copy of Jim Charlton's Canadian Coins and Canadian Government Paper Money, 2001 Collector Edition as a gift to our library from Mr. Charlton

The thirsty crowd was ready for refreshment kindly served by Roger Fox.

Lucky Draw winners were: Del Murchison(3), Len Keunzig, Lucille Colson (2), Paul Johnson(3), Bob Velensky, George Fraser, Vince Chiappino and Bob Wilson. The draw run by Roger Fox with Paul Petch selling tickets brought proceeds amounting \$28.00.

An auction of 7 lots was ably run by Bob Porter with the assistance of Marvin Kay and Paul Petch and earned a commission of \$6.25 and a \$1.00 donation.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:51 p.m.



*Canadian Numismatic Association Executive past and present participate in the presentation of this year's J. Douglas Ferguson Award to Mr. William K. "Bill" Cross. From left to right, Paul Johnson, John Regitko, Mr. Cross, Dr. Marvin Kay and Paul Petch*

### Question of the Month

For the October Question of the Month, and in keeping with our Royal Theme, who can tell us about the design placed on the gold sovereign of Great Britain for this year?

The September Question of the Month asked for background information on Dora de Pédery-Hunt. Ron Zelk recalled how he, Jack Veffer and John Regitko formed a three-man fan club. Paul Johnson, Paul Petch and John Regitko came up with many interesting anecdotes regarding Dora. Some historical notes from Del Newbigging appear in an article beginning on page 4.

### 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.

## J. Douglas Ferguson Award 2002

William K. "Bill" Cross

By authority of the Board of Award, it is our privilege to inform you that you have been awarded the J. Douglas Ferguson Award for distinguished service to Canadian numismatics.

Your involvement with the hobby has been noteworthy over decades, as collector, dealer and publisher of numismatic reference books. In addition to the Charlton Standard Catalogue of Canadian Coins and the Charlton Standard Catalogue of Canadian Government Paper Money which you have continued to improve issue after issue, you have published highly authoritative catalogues with much less commercial appeal which have proven to be a boon to the collecting fraternity, such as the Charlton Standard Catalogue of Canadian Chartered Bank Notes, and your recent series on Canadian Medals, to name only two.

Additionally you have been a strong financial supporter of the Canadian Numismatic Association with regular gifts of books to the library, bullion for our convention medals, support for our conventions and continue to guide us with your business acumen.

We are proud to present to you the J. Douglas Ferguson Award for 2002, the highest award of the Canadian Numismatic Association.

Geoffrey G. Bell, President

Ronald Greene, Chairman, Board of Award

### October Meeting Auction List

	Starts at
1) Shekinah Chapter 138 Toronto Masonic Commemorative issued in 1921. Aluminum; VF .....	\$3.00
2) Two US Mint Medals, Bronze, New Orleans and San Francisco Mints. ....	\$3.00
3) 1974 plus 1975 US First Day covers for the Bicentennial each with a bronze medal included.....	\$3.00
4) Uniface Medal for Rotary International. Gold colour with blue enameling and hanger.....	\$3.00

## Dora de Pédery-Hunt by Del Newbigging

*This article appeared in the July 2002, Issue 3 of the Newsletter of the Medallist Art Society of Canada (MASC). Its author, Del Newbigging, is the MASC President and has appeared as a guest speaker at the North York Coin Club. Membership in the MASC is \$35 per year and is available through Mr. Carlo Toccalino, Treasurer, 23-25 Heartwood Drive, Belleville, ON K8P 5M2*

Dora was my first sculpture teacher. I learned much from her and still continue to be inspired. To her, even clean up was an art. She had endless patience. As a student I looked up from my work to see that I had become the subject of a miniature portrait. When I thought it was completed she spent two more days on it, carefully observing and contemplating each plane and detail. Quality is a characteristic she lives by, in choosing her friends, her food, her music and especially in the creation of her art.

In her long life, Dora has experienced a great deal. As she says, two world wars, three or four revolutions, Spanish influenza and the loss of beloved friends made many changes in her life and that of her family. But for her, every-thing has a story and I have heard many, each with a sense of adventure, sometimes danger and intrigue but most often with lots of fun and laughter.

To visit her home and studio is a celebration. I always learn something new as I marvel at the craftsmanship. Especially in the medals, you will find the story of Dora de Pédery-Hunt. The stories they tell are endlessly interesting. The illustrations are wonderful but as a medal maker she excels in the lettering, an artistic skill that she has perfected. To hold one of her medals in your hand is to experience the joys of this art form. I have listened to her talks on the history of medal making. I have learned about the Gonzagas and Pisanello and the medals of France. She has sculpted

and chatted with many great people and still has a love for the common folk. Look at her medals and you will find the great honoured by the world and you will also find the small honoured by Dora.

Dora de Pédery-Hunt was born on November 16, 1913, in Budapest, Hungary. "My cheerful young mother, in the midst of an elegant party, suddenly felt that something was happening. And it did. Right there, although I was not expected for another couple of months, I arrived and successfully ruined the whole party. A shoebox was found and I was placed in it as my father was fetched from his usual Sunday Opera Evening. He just peered into the box and declared that if I survived, my name should be Dorothea, 'Gift of Gods'". Since her arrival, Dora is known as always being on time or a little bit early. She was the middle child of three sisters born to a scientist father who knew and understood art well and a mother, creative by nature and very interested in art.

Talented in many areas, she was almost twenty-five years old when she realized she was meant to be an artist. After six



years at The Royal School of Applied Arts, she graduated in 1943 with a Master's Diploma in sculpture with specialized training in medal and coin design. Her student jewellery was sold in the shop of Mme. Joli Gabor, mother of Zsa Zsa and Eva.

In 1945, Dora and her family escaped to Germany as the Communists took over Hungary. Dora worked with her father for four years in Germany on a special lab project for the British Admiralty. She acquired a BMW car and fortunately there were few cars on the roads as Dora's driving talent was not the best.

In 1948 she immigrated alone to Canada. It was not easy to leave her family and home, change countries, learn new languages, meet new people and adjust to seemingly strange customs. She began work as a homemaker, worked in a factory, designed church interiors and taught art classes. She was befriended by Frances Loring and Florence Wyle and they presented her to the art community in Toronto. Alan Jarvis, director of the National gallery bought the first large sized sculpture which she made in Canada. He encouraged her to apply to the Canada Council for funding. In 1958 she received a grant to study for six months in Europe. It was the year of Expo in Brussels. At the Hungarian Pavilion she observed a magnificent display of medals by Ferenc Csucs. At last, she had found her passion.



*Dr. Norman Bethune*

(Continued from page 4)



In 1961 the Canada Council medal was created. It was the first commissioned cast art medal entirely created and produced in Canada. In 1963, Dora organized the Canadian contribution to the exhibition of the Federation Internationale de la Medaille (FIDEM) at The Hague. As the only Canadian present, she became the Canadian Delegate, a position in which she served for thirty-five years.

In her "Swansong" address, presented at the FIDEM Congress in Weimar, Germany in 2000, Dora expressed her feelings for the International Medal Federation. "FIDEM gave me some important presents-the friendship of other medallic artists, the chance to see their work, to learn, to compare and to compete. With FIDEM, I had the good fortune to travel, to see parts of the world I would not otherwise have visited. I still call this period of my life the most enjoyable one."

Over the years, Dora de Pédery-Hunt has created well over 500 medals. The themes are varied from everyday happenings, special events, anniversaries, favourite flowers, fantasies, figures and splendid portraits. In her 89th year, Canada's foremost medallist is still working everyday. Her latest commission will be presented to the Pope when he visits Toronto for the

World Youth Conference in July, 2002.

In 1990 Dora received a commission from the Royal Canadian Mint to design a new effigy of a slightly older Queen Elizabeth II for all Canadian coins. In fact, all of our coins now have Dora's design for the effigy of Queen Elizabeth II. The monarch's effigy is to be changed every 20 years in order to accurately depict the Queen. Her first coin commission was received in 1976 from the Royal Canadian Mint. It was a \$100 gold coin to commemorate the Olympic Games in Montreal. In 1986, Dora designed the gold \$100 "Peace" coin and she created the Canadian Government's official medal for Expo '70 in Osaka, Japan.

The National Archives in Ottawa has over 500 pieces of Dora's work.

She is also represented in many major European and North American museums including the British Museum, London and the Smithsonian Institute, Washington and the Berlin National Gallery. In Canada her work may be seen in the National Gallery of Canada, Art Gallery of Ontario, Royal Ontario Museum, MacLaren Art Centre and many other galleries and museums.

Dora de Pédery-Hunt has collected many honours in Canada. She became an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1974 and in 1991 received The Order of Ontario. While holding honorary doctorates from York University, The University of Waterloo and The University of St. Michael's College, Dora is also a Fellow of the Ontario College of Art & Design, Fellow of the American Numismatic Society and a member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts.

In 1998, I asked Dora to recommend a book that I could use to learn how to create medals. Dora replied. "I am the book". For the past few years I have been reading this "book" with great delight and now know there are many, many more chapters to study. I have discovered that I never can tell what new and exciting things I might learn each time I turn a page.



## Las Vegas and Numismatics by Dr. Marvin Kay

Early this year, just as winter was about to turn to spring, I took a four-day trip to Las Vegas, Nevada. It began early on a Thursday morning, very early. We were at Pearson airport by 6:30 AM. First we lined up to get our boarding passes. Then we lined up to have our luggage inspected. Then we lined up to pass through US Customs and Immigration. Then we lined up to have our carry-on bags x-rayed. Finally we lined up at the jetway to board our Skyservice aircraft. It was an Airbus 320, with seats six abreast and only a tiny aisle down the middle. For the next five hours we were squished in with only minimum wiggle room. (The word 'sardines' come to mind.) Finally, five hours later we set down in Las Vegas. The sky was blue; the temperature was a balmy 20°C. We were whisked by luxury coach to the Bellagio, the newest and finest hotel in this gambling city.

During the ensuing four days, I made it my business to visit as many of the casinos as possible. Now don't get the wrong idea. This was not a gambling junket. This was a numismatic discovery excursion. Each casino has distinctive dollar tokens for its slot machines and distinctive chips for the blackjack tables. I wanted to gather enough tokens for a numismatic display. My first stop upon entering a casino was to find the cashier's cage. I asked to buy one of their dollar tokens. I always asked the cashier for a new token. They simply shrugged and handed me the best-looking one they had in their cash drawer. Unfortunately, without exception, they were all worn and scratched. These were sad specimens. I'm almost embarrassed to display them here in this collection.

Well, I must admit I did play a bit of blackjack once in a while. But it was really just for the purpose of acquiring some interesting casino chips. And I guess I did deposit a few coins in the occasional one-armed bandit; but it was purely to acquire some more numismatic items.

In addition to their distinctive designs, the legend on each token stated that they were for use only in the casino where they were purchased. In fact, when I tried to use some of the tokens from one establishment in the slot machines of another casino, the slot machines rejected them.

I managed to accumulate several interesting gaming tokens and one blackjack chip.

Here they are in alphabetical order....

- **Aladdin**; Obverse; Aladdin's lamp; Reverse; Aladdin; a large 1; and the date, 2000;
- **Bellagio**; Obverse, a large, ornate letter B; Reverse; a large 1; and a Bellagio Blackjack chip; Bellagio Las Vegas \$1; same on both sides



- **Caesars Palace**; Obverse; laureate bust of Caesar, facing left; Reverse, Roman chariot drawn by four horses;
- **Golden Nugget**; Obverse, Golden Nugget logo, Reverse, 1 dollar, 'Golden Nugget';

- **Mirage**; Obverse; palm trees around a large 1; Reverse; palm trees,
- **Monte Carlo**; Obverse; the Mirage hotel building; Reverse; Top hat and cane;
- **Paris**; Obverse; Eiffel Tower, Reverse, Place de la Concorde;
- **Treasure Island**; Obverse; skull, with pirate's bandana, over two crossed swords. Reverse; identical
- **Venetian**; Obverse; mythical winged gryphon (half lion and half eagle), Reverse; a large 1;

All of the above tokens cost just one US dollar. I had almost despaired of finding a slot machine token in half-decent condition at any cost. But one morning I came across a slot machine in the lobby of the Bellagio. In all the casinos slot machines were usually aligned in rows of twenty or so, side by side. What caught my eye was that this machine stood alone. And it seemed larger than the regular slot machines. It had the usual reels of symbols that you hoped would line up to pay out a jackpot. But this machine didn't pay out in tokens or quarters. Here the payoff was a brilliant uncirculated gaming token, .999 sterling silver. I inserted a quarter and pressed the button to spin the reels. I was astounded to see three symbols line up in a row! To my delight, a beautiful bimetallic token encased in plastic, dropped into the tray below. It was gorgeous, a ten-dollar, limited edition, bimetallic token. And it was in pristine condition. The obverse depicts the Bellagio Hotel and Casino and the date, 2001. The reverse has the curved B for the Bellagio and the words .999 Fine Silver.

I debated about trying my luck and putting another quarter in this machine. But conventional wisdom in the gambling world urges you to quit while you are ahead.