

“The Bulletin” January, 2003

President's Message

I am pleased to extend a very Happy New Year to all members and their families as I enter my second year as President. I also wish to note and extend sympathies to the family of Ken Wilmot, a NYCC member and past president of the ONA, who passed away on December 27.

Your 2003 membership renewal is now due. Please bring your renewal to Len Kuenzig at the next meeting or send it in by mail. Those who have paid (well over half of our members) can pick up their new membership cards at the January meeting. Those still on hand will be sent with the February mailing.

I wanted to note a kind donation to the Club included with the dues from Frank Zarah. As usual, the money was put to good use in subsidizing our annual Christmas Party. I also wanted to express our thanks to Ted Boxall for the bulk of material he donated at the meeting.

If you are now on the Internet, please send an e-mail to the editor at “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**.

Decidedly Decimal

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on **Tuesday, January 28, 2002**, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive. We start gathering about 7:30pm with meeting start scheduled for 8:00.

With lots of interest in coin collector circles in the recent Belzberg Canadian decimal sale, we decided timing is good to “get back to our roots” where most collectors began, and feature a theme evening on decimal coins. Come out and participate with stories and samples of those special decimal coins in your collection.

This is the Annual Meeting so financial reports will be presented. We have a listed auction this month (see page 3) but you are encouraged to bring additional auction material for this meeting.

Coming Events

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

South Western Ontario Numismatic Coin and Collectibles Show Feb. 2, 9am-4:30pm at the Convention Centre, Paris Fairgrounds, 139 Silver St. Admission \$2. More than 50 tables of tokens, coins, paper money, sports cards, jewellery, militaria, and artifacts. Contact Ted Bailey (519) 442-3474.

Oshawa & District Coin Club's Coin-A-Rama 2003, Feb. 15, 9:30am-5:30pm at the 5 Points Mall, Ritson Rd. and Taunton Rd. Display/show & sale of coins, paper money and tokens. Contact Earl or Sharon MacLean (905) 728-1352, e-mail: papman@idirect.com.

12th Annual Cambridge Coin Show, March 15, at the Cambridge Newfoundland Club. Admission free. Over 40 tables. Tokens, trade dollars, coins, paper money, militaria, post cards, sports cards, CTC coupons. Contact: Vincent Nevidon (519) 622-6625 or Chris Piercey (519) 623-2356, e-mail: wolfed@sympatico.ca

ONA Convention, Holiday INN, Guelph, April 12-13 Highlights include: bourse, exhibits, banquet, free parking, specialty collector meetings, fun and fellowship. Annual ONA general meeting and club delegates meeting. Sponsor/Affiliate: Ontario Numismatic Association. For more information, contact ona-info@look.ca.

This information is courtesy of Canadian Coin News and its web site.

***Next Meeting:
January 28***

Meeting News from the November 26 Meeting

The 479th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, November 26, 2002 at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Dr., Willowdale, Ont.

The President, Bob Wilson, opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m. and welcomed 25 members and 3 guests.

On Time Attendance Draw of \$2.00 was won by Franco Farronato.

The Secretary announced Jean Orr had contacted her to say she has become seriously ill. Our sincerest best wishes for a speedy recovery were extended. She then read the minutes of the October 22, 2002 meeting and, after Roger Fox's third item was corrected to read "He also had a Canadian Tire connection to royalty through a description of 1953 Coronation decorations at the flagship store which was written up in the 75th Anniversary book published in 1997." they were accepted by the Chair.

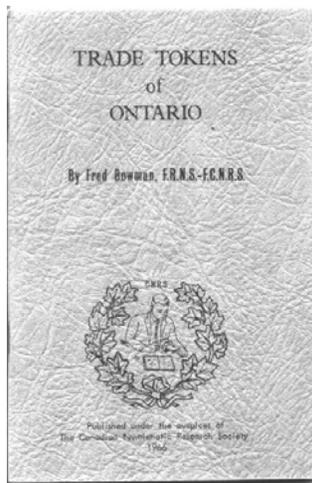
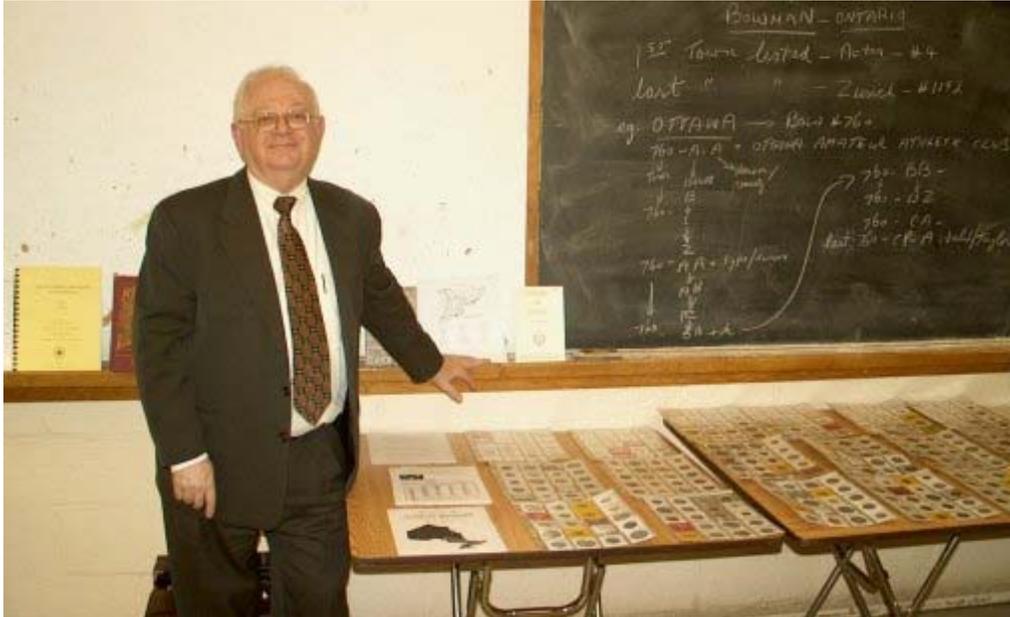
The Mint Box was passed to one junior.

John Regitko brought along his membership plaque for the Dora de Pédery-Hunt Fan Club – member #2 as well as a copy of her Order of Dora medal.

The Chair reminded members to pay their dues and to order their Christmas dinner. Note: the Xmas Party will be held on the second Tuesday, Dec.10.

The Chair introduced Rick Craig as guest speaker for the evening. Rick's subject was "Collecting post confederation merchant tokens". They are also more formally known as Trade Due Bills. He explained how the pre-confederation tokens

had received most of the attention and that post-confederation tokens were little known until 1966 when Fred Bowman undertook the publishing of his book on Ontario Trade Tokens. Bow-



man completed the remarkable task of cataloguing most post-confederation tokens without assigning a value. He put the towns in alphabetical order and used a numbering system that can be easily understood. Generally, these tokens are collected by county and town associated with family. Rick distributed copies of "An Overview of Collecting Canadian Colonial Tokens" which contained concise information from the be-

ginning of Canada's economic development along with a map of all of the Ontario Counties. Rick's presentation was well-received with many questions from the floor.

Roger Fox presented the second Canadian Tire Coupon denomination (5 cent) of the issue that began last spring with the 10 cent. This series does not show a bank note printers name. It is the only series, since 1958, without a printer's name. Regular note numbers

start with the prefix 02 and replacement notes start with the prefix 9.

Coffee break prepared by Roger Fox allowed members to view Rick's display of tokens and books.

Lucky Draw winners were: Paul Petch, Vince Chiappino, Roger Fox, Lucille Colson, Del Murchison(2), Paul Johnson, Franco Farronato, Russ Brown(2), Bob Velensky, John Regitko, Dick Dunn, Bill O'Brien and Dallas MacPhee. The draw was called by Roger Fox, with Albert Kasman selling the tickets. It brought in proceeds amounting to \$31.00.

Bob Porter ably ran the special auction of 24 lots with the assistance of Mark Argentino and Dallas MacPhee as runner. It earned a commission of \$5.90

An application for membership has been received from Bill O'Brien of Toronto. It accepted his number will be #518.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:55 p.m.

Meeting News from the December 10 Meeting

The 480th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, December 10, 2002 at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive, Willowdale, Ont.

The President, Bob Wilson opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and welcomed 20 members and 5 guests to our Christmas Party evening.

We were so sorry that Rick Craig could not be here to collect the \$2.00 pot in the On Time Attendance Draw.

The hot Chicken Chalet dinners had arrived and the buffet table was all set up with salads, pickles, sweets, coffee, pop and juices, so everyone proceeded to enjoy a tasty dinner. We wish to thank the following: Paul and Carolyne-Marie Petch for picking up and delivering the hot food, Roger Fox for setting up the refreshments and Marg. Fox, Carolyne-Marie Petch, May Bunnett, Doris Wilson, Monina Regitko, Franco

Farronato and Lucille Colson for their donations to the buffet.

Following dinner, the business meeting continued with the Secretary's reading of the minutes of November 26, 2002 which were then approved by the Chair.

Paul Johnson highlighted the Michigan State Coin Show at Dearborne near Detroit. They had 200 dealers, 100 display cases and 5,000 attendees. It was a good show and a good experience.

Roger Fox attended the Nuphilex show at the Montreal Convention Centre. The Canadian Tire Coupon Collectors Club held a meeting and manned a weekend table. It was a great show, a wonderful opportunity to meet people and they had a marvellous time.

The party continued with a Christmas Quiz provided by Lucille Colson and conducted by Paul Petch. Everyone responded with his or her usual great ca-

maraderie and Dick Dunn was given a consolation prize for giving the most wrong answers!

The Gift Exchange was run by Albert Kasman.

Lucky Draw winners were: (1st prize was a receipt for our NESAs donation of \$50.00) George Fraser, Bill O'Brien(4), Terry O'Brien(3), Norman G. Gordon, Len Keunzig(3), Vince Chiappino(3), Franco Farronato, Doris Wilson, Paul Johnson(3), Norm Belsten(3), Carolyne-Marie Petch, Ted Boxall, and Marg. Fox. The draw run by Roger Fox with Albert Kasman selling the tickets brought proceeds amounting to \$29.00. Many thanks to Paul Johnson for his donations.

The Chair extended all best wishes for a Happy Holiday and best wishes for the coming New Year and closed the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Listed Auctions

Bring any material you would like to be considered for the listed auction in February, 2003 to the January meeting and give it to Rick Craig. The items should be presented 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 of premium items in the bulletin.

Those members not requiring this service are still invited to bring along any material they wish to enter into the auction to any meeting.

The listed auction is a way of publicizing your more premium material in advance of a meeting, to give notice to all Club members and to generally raise the caliber of material offered.

January Meeting Auction List

	Starts at
1) 1992 RCM Proof Loon Parliament Dollar in case.....	6.00
2) 1987 RCM Proof Loon Dollar in case.....	8.00
3) 1987 RCM Silver Proof Davis Strait Dollar in case	10.00
4) 2000 RCM PL set.....	10.00
5) \$5.00 Canadian. note in VG but a replacement "FNX"	6.00
6) \$10.00 Canadian. Bird Series note with radar serial no. BEB0962690 VG with a small tear at centre fold.....	12.00
7) Year 2000 Canadian. set of 25¢ in holder, all UNC.	5.00
8) Striking Impressions by Dr. James A. Haxby, Ottawa, Canada: Royal Canadian Mint, 1984. Hard Cover with dust jacket. First Edition. The Royal Canadian Mint celebrated its 75th anniversary with the publication of this book. The Modern Mint chapter is illustrated with colour photographs. Other chapters are illustrated with black & white drawings and photographs. 288 pages. The book is in excellent condition. Clean and tight. A donation to the Club from Ted Boxall	5.00

Some Personal Views on A Great Canadian Collection by Paul R. Petch

At 6 P.M. on January 13, 2003, the auction for the Sid and Alicia Belzberg Collection of Canadian Coinage took place at the New York International Numismatic Convention held at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. This was one of the great recent auctions of Canadian material, classed with the John Jay Pittman Collection (1997), the Norweb Collection (1996) and the McKay-Clements Collection (1976).

I finally received my copy of the catalogue about a week before the auction. It had been placed on order back in November and, as New Year's Eve rolled around, I called the auction house, Heritage World Coin Auctions, with the concern that it had got lost in the mail. "I don't think there is a problem," came the reply, "we mailed them on Christmas Eve and they are just getting into people's hands now."

Not that the catalogue was a necessity. The sale was up on the Internet and bidding was well underway. Still, I was looking forward to having the catalogue as a permanent record of the collection, with its colour photographs and descriptions of all the specimens.

With its arrival in the daily mail, I immediately set aside what I was doing, got it out of the wrapper and quite literally

gasped at the sumptuousness of the 294 page all-colour catalogue. Skipping the introduction, I began a speed read through its 813 lots. It starts with 12 lots of paper notes and has as its bulk offering 598 Canadian decimal pieces followed by 3 Indian Peace Medals. Next appears a section of what were termed "Provincial" issues with Nova Scotia (11 lots), New Brunswick (15 lots), Prince Edward Island (2 lots), Newfoundland (58 lots) all represented. The section finished with the celebrated set of 4 British Columbia pattern specimens. The catalogue concludes with 9 spectacular mint errors, some of them unique.

Over the next few days I found that my enthusiasm for the sale started to fade. There were many descriptive superlatives attached to the host of excellent pieces, but there was very little background information, and what there was seemed rather thin. When I noticed that the catalogue didn't even include a bibliography of references used, I realized what had come to bother me about the sale: It was an investor's catalogue, not a collector's catalogue.

I say this because I can easily contrast it with the Norweb sale catalogue where there is reference material attached to many lots, as opposed to the comments

in Belzberg indicating where the specimen ranks in excellence compared to other known specimens.

I don't think this reflects that the Belzbergs' own numismatic interests are shallow, just that Heritage decided on a particular selling and promotion strategy.

A total of 144 lots did not sell, including the 4 B.C. patterns. The total value, Canadian, of what did sell stands at about \$5,375,000. A quick look through the prices realized for the Newfoundland material indicates that copper was strong, with a few exceptions, and that there were many bargains in the silver.

Brian Cornwell of ICCS observes that most of the material was put together in the last 4 years. I expect that the Belzberg's were at the top of every dealer's buyers list. The dealers knew they had money from their successful stock trading software business and I expect he got very few bargains. That's not a bad thing, if you're going to hold on to the collection for a lifetime, which is what I think the original intention was. Too bad about the business financing needs that forced this sale... it was a great Canadian collection made all the better because it had its home in Canada.

A Countdown of the "Top 25" Lots —Canadian values

Item	Grade	Value	Item	Grade	Value
1911 Pattern Dollar	SP65	\$1,210,526.	1921 5 Cent	MS66	\$48,421.
1936 1 Cent "Dot"	SP66	\$403,509.	Newfoundland, 1872 Reeded Edge \$2	SP65	\$47,412.
1870 50 Cent No L.C.W.	SP64	\$181,579.	Newfoundland, 1896 50 Cent	SP64	\$40,351.
1921 50 Cent	MS65	\$137,193.	1884 5 Cent Near 4,	SP65	\$38,333.
1936 10 Cent "Dot"	SP66	\$131,140.	1948 1 Dollar MS66	MS66	\$38,333.
1892 50 Cent	MS65	\$121,053.	1936 50 Cent	SP66	\$34,298.
Newfoundland, 1885 50 Cent	SP65	\$80,702.	1889 10 Cent	MS63	\$32,281.
1872-H 50 Cent	SP65	\$76,667.	1916-C Gold Sovereign	MS63	\$31,272.
1911/12 Specimen Set	SP55	\$70,614.	1906 25 Cent Small Crown	MS62	\$30,263.
1875-H 25 Cent	SP68	\$68,596.	Newfoundland, 1873-H 5 Cent	MS64	\$28,246.
Newfoundland, 1870 50 Cent Plain Edge	SP66	\$60,526.	Newfoundland, 1870 50 Cent Reeded Edge	SP63	\$28,246.
Newfoundland, 1874 50 Cent	SP66	\$56,491.	1875-H 10	MS64	\$26,228.
			1871 20 Cent Pattern, Reeded Edge	SP65	\$26,228.

The fishing ship that became a national symbol

The tall ships have come and gone along the East Coast of North America. During the first summer of the new millennium, they helped to give us a sense of where we came from and how we arrived at the year 2000. These sailing vessels, be they barquentines or brigantines, clippers or barques, are mighty and majestic examples of naval history preserved in canvas, wood, brass, and hemp.

As the tall ships raced westward across the Atlantic from England and Italy, they had a rendezvous with their New World counterparts in the Caribbean for Tall Ships 2000 Bermuda. From there, they made their way to Charleston, S.C. competing in races up the coast of North America. After participating in a grand celebration in New York Harbour, they sailed to Boston, and from there, raced to Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Peter Mansbridge, chief news anchor for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, hosted *The Tall Ships in Canada* television coverage during the festivities in Halifax Harbour in July. When it came to identifying the lead ship out of 65 vessels in the Parade of Sail, Mansbridge said. "If you're unsure what it is, reach into your pocket and pull out a dime, and it will look very similar to this, because this is, of course, *Bluenose II*." David Flemming, a nautical expert and historian, added during the broadcast, "I remember being at a tall ships event in Boston in 1976 (during America's Bicentennial celebration) and *Bluenose II* was there at the time and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth was making a visit and there was a very enterprising

American entrepreneur who was selling Canadian dimes for 50 cents as both souvenirs of the Queen's visit and souvenirs of the tall ships."

For many years, the official Canadian government stance on the 10-cent design was that it is a "fishing schooner under sail," even though it was generally accepted that designer and artist Emmanuel Hahn used the original *Bluenose* as his model. Then, in a press release of March 15, 2002, the Royal Canadian Mint announced that it officially recognized the ship as the *Bluenose*. The statement confirmed that, "Comprehensive historical research carried out by the Mint, in conjunction with the *Bluenose II* Preservation Trust, provided information by which the Mint could confirm that the original design is, in fact, the *Bluenose*."



All citizens of Canada know the schooner that appears on the Canadian 10-cent piece. Colleen Jones, a CBC commentator, interviewed dozens of people during the three days of the tall ships events around Halifax Harbour. To a person, everyone agreed that their favourite tall ship was *Bluenose II*, even though it is a two-masted schooner half the size of some of the three- and four-masted Class A ships taking part in the events.

Canada's Famed 'Bluenose' by William E. Hagans

Why do Canadians have such a love affair with the *Bluenose*? Why has it been placed on a coin making it a national symbol? To better understand the reasons, it is necessary to look at the history of the original *Bluenose* and to learn about its unusual name.

For starters, it is not the *bluenose* that denotes, as defined by *Webster's New World Dictionary*, "a puritanical person who tries to impose a strict moral code on others." The *Bluenose's* name is derived from sailors' slang for ships and sailors from Nova Scotia. The moniker has become synonymous with the province of Nova Scotia, to the extent that the official Web page for Nova Scotia is titled "Bluenose Web." Some historians believe the nickname was given to crewmembers who carried Nova Scotia-grown blue-skinned potatoes to Boston ever

since the mid-1780s. Some think the expression comes from the blue dye in the homemade woolen mittens, leaving a distinctive blue tint.

Canada's pride in the *Bluenose* stems from its racing history. Canadian and American fishermen, back in the days when fishing grounds were still plentiful, enjoyed a friendly rivalry. This rivalry culminated in the creation of the International Fisherman's Trophy. The trophy came about when fishermen on both sides of the border became fed-up with what they perceived as

prima donna-like attitudes of upper crust yachtsmen, who competed for the America's Cup, The working men of the fishing vessels noted that these yachts were constantly being towed in from races for what they perceived as only minor repairs,

What really stuck to their craw was an incident that happened in 1919. That year the New York Yacht Club cancelled a race because the winds reached 23 knots – a laugh to the men who fished the

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often-dangerous Atlantic waters on a daily basis. The schooner men could take no more. Sen. William H. Dennis, publisher of the *Halifax Herald*, Canada's oldest newspaper, established a formal racing series in 1920 and donated the trophy. The race's main criterion was that the vessels be sail carriers that were working ships.

In the first race, the Canadians were defeated by the *Experanto* out of Gloucester, Mass. Not pleased with the results, Nova Scotians gave a young



Halifax designer, William Rouse, the task of building a schooner that could bring the cup to Canada. Rouse's *Bluenose* was built in 1921 at Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, a town famous for its ship building traditions – Lunenburg has been designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. This was the golden age of boat design in North America, with Gar Woods' sleek and classic mahogany runabouts making their debut on lakes and rivers in the United States along

with Chris Smith's Chris Craft boats.

The *Bluenose*, captained by Angus Walters of Lunenburg, was launched in 1921 and spent the season fishing on the Atlantic's Grand Banks. In October 1921, the *Bluenose* defeated Gloucester's *Elsie* in its first race, bringing the International fisherman's Trophy home to Canada. Despite efforts on the part of Americans to best Rouse's design, the *Bluenose* successfully defended the trophy for the next 17 years. In 1938, on the eve of World War II, the *Bluenose* won its final race, a year after its image first appeared on the Canadian dime's reverse.

Throughout its racing career, the *Bluenose* never relinquished the trophy. Further demonstrating its versatility, when

not racing or fishing, the *Bluenose* was used as a rumrunner during Prohibition!

The war brought an end to the era of the great fishing schooners, which were replaced by diesel-powered trawlers. Capt. Walters and others fought to keep the *Bluenose* in Nova Scotia, but in 1942, she was sold to the West Indian Trading Company and was modified to carry freight. As Peter Mansbridge reported: "[The *Bluenose*] did come to an inglorious end, rather than being preserved at the time." David Fleming added: "Yes, they cut down her top masts and she became somewhat of a motorized cargo vessel and went aground on a reef in Haiti, and came to a bit of an [unfortunate] end [in 1946], considering the fame she brought to her captain, crew, the town of Lunenburg, and Nova Scotia and Canada."



The *Bluenose*, however, still lived on in the pocket change of Canadians. In addition, Capt. Walters and the *Bluenose* were inducted into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame in 1955. The *Bluenose* had been honoured on its own Canadian stamp as early as 1929. In 1988, Capt. Walters appeared on another Canadian stamp, along with an image of the *Bluenose*. (Canada also issued a new series of tall ship stamps in July, to coincide with the events in Halifax.)

There have been a number of changes to the "Bluenose dime" since its debut in 1937. On the reverse, the date was enlarged in 1938 after excessive wear was noticed on the date of the 1937 version. Another modification occurred, this time on the obverse, when India freed itself from British colonial status in 1947; "*Et Indiae Imperator*" ("And Emperor of India") was deleted from the legend surrounding the uniquely bareheaded bust of King George VI, designed by T. H. Paget. Some of the 1947 issues have a small maple leaf to the right of the date to signify that they were actually struck in

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1948. Only 422,741 coins bearing the 1948 date were minted, so that year comes with a premium. There have been three different busts of Queen Elizabeth II employed on the obverse: the laureate bust by Mary Gillick (1953-1964), the tiara bust of Arnold Machin (1965-1989), which was made smaller in 1979, and the diadem bust by Dora de Pédery-Hunt (1990 to present). The latter was the first bust of the sovereign designed by a Canadian.

The year Canada celebrated its Confederation Centennial (1967), the Bluenose design did not appear on the reverse. In its place was a circulating commemorative. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick joined the Province of Canada in 1867, forming what we know today as the country of Canada – or more formally, the Dominion of Canada. The one exception was Newfoundland, which did not join the confederacy until 1949. The Canadian silver dollar of that year bears a commemorative reverse that depicts the ship *Matthew*, which John Cabot used to “discover” Newfoundland for England. The 1967 centennial commemorative dime has a design by Alex Colville, who depicted a mackerel on the reverse. Like America’s Bicentennial coins, these dimes have two dates, 1867 and 1967. A more significant change occurred to the coin that year. Up to that date, the 10-cent piece contained 80% silver. Beginning in 1967, the composition of the coin was changed to 50% silver. The next year, 1968, the issue began with the same percentage of silver but in mid-year, the precious metal was abandoned completely in favour of nickel. Because of time restraints, it was arranged for 85 million of the new nickel 10-cent pieces to be struck by the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia – 87 million were struck at the Royal Canadian Mint in Ottawa. In 1969, the Bluenose design and date were reduced in size and only four coins from that year are known to exist with the large ship and large date. As a result, they carry an enormous premium. Most of the “Bluenose dimes,” however, are affordable, and a set of this 63-year-old series can be assembled, especially in lower grades, without too much sacrifice.

By the 1960s. Nova Scotians were no longer satisfied with only memories of their great *Bluenose* schooner, and so they received help from a brewery in Halifax. Needing a vehicle to promote its new brand, Schooner Beer, the Oland Brewery decided to fund the building of a replica of the *Bluenose*. Like the original, it was built at the shipyard of Smith and Rhuland in Lunenburg and was, crafted by many of the same shipwrights who had built the first version.

The original *Bluenose* was built for \$35,000 (Canadian) in 1921, while its replica cost the brewery \$350,000 in 1963. It is projected that a newer version would likely cost upward of \$3.5 million.

As for the year 2000 Race of the Century from Halifax to Amsterdam, which was scheduled to begin after the Parade of Sail in July, the *Bluenose II*, despite its predecessor’s racing prowess, did not participate. As Peter Mansbridge stated: “It’s never raced – won’t be in this race. It doesn’t want to jeopardize that winning record of the original [*Bluenose*].” Like the first, *Bluenose II*’s hull is black, not blue, and is 143 feet in length, with a mast height 125 feet. A crew of 18 sees to the operation of the vessel, which under the sail can reach a top speed of 16 knots. The masts, booms, and deck are fashioned from Douglas fir.

Many of the working features of the *Bluenose II*, such as deck hatches, are mahogany. Its hull is made of red oak, spruce, and pine. Only the Dacron sailcloth gives away the fact that we are



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in the 21st century, not the early 20th century, when canvas was used. The *Bluenose* has the largest working mainsail in the world at 4,150 square feet.

The first *Bluenose* was a sailing salt-banker type – that is, it went out for the season for cod, preserving them in salt until her holds were full. Because of this method of fishing, the Nova Scotia schooners had to be both large and sturdy. This differed from the Gloucester schooners; they returned to port with their fresh catch.

Because of the way they fished, the Gloucester ships were built for speed. Even with this advantage, they were no match for the *Bluenose*. The average lifespan of a wooden schooner was 10 years, but the *Bluenose* lasted on the Grand Banks for nearly 20.

She received the designation of *high-liner* of the Lunenburg fleet more than once for landing large catches.

The *Bluenose II* was never intended to be a working vessel, so its under-deck area was modified from the old salt-banker design. She has comfortable

quarters, a chart room, and a large salon in the area where the fish were stored on its namesake. The *Bluenose II* is outfitted with the latest navigational gear.

In 1971, the Oland family sold the *Bluenose II* to the government of Nova Scotia for \$1, or 10 “Bluenose dimes.” Today the ship is operated by the *Bluenose II* Preservation Trust, a volunteer organization that preserves and operates the *Bluenose II* for the citizens of Nova Scotia. The mission of the trust is to “preserve the schooner and ensure that the legacies of traditional seamanship skills and the craft of building great wooden ships are maintained for future generations of Nova Scotia.” The *Bluenose II* is a goodwill ambassador for Nova Scotia and Canada.

On June 21, 2000, a reader of the Hali-

fax *Chronicle Herald* wrote a letter to the editor that captures the spirit of the *Bluenose* and the pride Nova Scotians and Canadians take in her: “On Sunday..., while visiting Charleston, S.C., I had the great pleasure of viewing the tall ships... To say seeing the *Bluenose II* in her glory was thrilling is a great understatement. Her beauty overwhelmed me... Nova Scotia, be very proud of the *Bluenose II*; she is a one of a kind and should be held in very high regard. Support her. Remember, she’s not just an image on a dime; she’s a living, breathing part of our history.”

*Edited from an article in
Coins Magazine, December, 2000*

Question of the Month

Since we’re talking Canadian decimals for January, we have a decimal Question of the Month. Consider what you would tell a friend if you were asked for this advice: “I’ve just starting collecting Canadian 25-cent pieces right out of my pocket change. All I can seem to find are Queen Elizabeth quarters, so that’s all that I’m really after. What are the scarce pieces in the series that I should really keep my eyes open for?” What would you tell your friend?

For the November question you were challenged to identify the Canadian collectible that shows the monarch’s effigy more than once on its obverse (it appears 3 times). Del Murchison’s answer – the 2002, \$300.00 triple cameo on fine gold was correct. Read the full answer on the right.

2002 \$ 300 Triple Cameo Coin-Portraits of a Queen

Struck in pure silver and set against a shimmering background of 14-karat gold, the cameos chronicle the presence of the Queen on Canadian coins over the past 50 years: 1953-1964 by Mary Gillick (top right), 1965-1989 by Arnold Machin (top left), and 1990 to the present, by Dora de Pédery-Hunt (bottom.)

A Victorian rose unfolds at the centre of the coin. The reverse design reflects this ornamentation with added garlands of maple leaves that cascade from the dates of The Queen's Golden Jubilee years (1952-2002).

With a diameter of 50 mm, this coin is larger than most. It weighs 60 grams of which 33.67 grams are fine gold. The precision of its three cameos testifies to the ongoing evolution of minting capabilities at the Royal Canadian Mint.

This 2002 \$ 300 gold coin was authorized by the government of Canada. It is proof quality and was expertly struck by the Royal Canadian Mint. Mintage has been limited to 1,000 coins worldwide. It retailed for \$1095.95 (\$716.45US).

