

## "The Bulletin" April, 2003

### President's Message

There will be a meeting of the Executive Committee on Tuesday, May 13. Executive Committee members are asked to make every effort to attend, since this is the final meeting of "the season". Annual topics which come up at this meeting include our full meeting schedule for 2003-2004. So far, it appears the Club can continue to meet free of charge at Edithvale for the rest of 2003 at least.

By the time you read this another O.N.A. Convention will have come and gone. I was not able to make the trip to Guelph to attend myself, but we were well-represented by Roger Fox and many members. There will be lots of convention news at the next meeting from Roger Fox and others.

If you are now on the Internet, please send an e-mail to the editor at "[p.etch@rogers.com](mailto:p.etch@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:  
April 22***

## What's My Coin? Quiz Night

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club, will be held on **Tuesday, April 22, 2003**, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive. We start gathering about 7:30 p.m. with meeting start scheduled for 8:00.

For this meeting we have arranged for a C.N.A. slide set with the title, *What's My Coin?* based on the television show "What's My Line?". Mr. Rod Rekofski created this quiz using a moderator and participants to identify a total of 32 world wide numismatic items. It should be a lot of fun and folks will have a chance to do better than they did with our Christmas quiz.

We have a listed auction this month (see page 4) and you are encouraged to bring additional auction material for this meeting. Hope to see you at the meeting!

### Coming Events

**Peterborough Coin Club Show**, May 3 at Portage Place 9am-5pm Draw for Uncirculated set. Contact (705) 742-0114.

**Windsor Coin Club Annual Spring Show**, May 4 at Caboto Hall, 2175 Parment Ave. 10am-4pm Admission \$1 includes hourly door draw and a grand prize. Juniors free. Free parking. Contact Margaret Clarke (519) 735-0727, e-mail [mclarke@wincom.net](mailto:mclarke@wincom.net).

**Burlington Show**, May 10, 10am-4pm at 2300 Duncaster, off Brant St. N. Free parking, admission, coffee and donuts (while they last). Contact Nancy Meredith, (705) 788-3159.

**TNS**, May 23-25 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, Hamilton. Friday 4pm-8pm; Saturday 10am-5pm; Sunday 10am-4pm. Contact Terry McHugh 905-318-1638.

**Brantford Numismatic Society 42nd Annual Coin Show**, June 8 at the Woodman Community Centre, 491 Grey Street 9am-4pm. Over 50 tables, hourly draws, Free Admission, Free Parking. Contact: Ed (519) 759-3688

**Torex**, June 28-29 at the Novotel Toronto - Centre, 45 The Esplanade. Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 10am-3pm. Admission \$6 - Under 16 Free! Coins, paper money, cards, books, supplies, pens, watches, and militaria. Contact Brian R. Smith (416) 861-9523. Web site: <http://www.torex.net>.

**Canadian Numismatic Association 2003 Convention**, July 17-20, hosted by the Windsor Coin Club, Cleary International Centre, 201 Riverside Dr. W. Contact T.L. (Tom) Clarke (519) 735-0727, e-mail [mclarke@wincom.net](mailto:mclarke@wincom.net).

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

## Meeting News from the March 25 Meeting

The 483<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, March 25, 2003 at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive, Willowdale, Ont.

The President, Bob Wilson, opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m. and welcome 25 members and 2 guests. The following new member was welcomed - #519 Shawn Hamilton.

We were sorry that Dion VanLaethem was not present to accept the \$2 pot for the on time attendance draw. We go to \$4 for April.

The Chair announced Roger Fox has willingly agreed to act as Club Delegate to the 2003 ONA Convention and encouraged members to sell the Dream Vacation Raffle Books.

Len Keunzig graciously read the minutes of the February 25, 2003 meeting for the Secretary and, after "Gordon G. Gordon" was corrected to read "Norman G. Gordon", the Chair accepted them.

Dick Dunn reported the recent Cambridge Show was very, very busy until 2:00. Roger Fox stated he was anticipating the up-coming Kingston Show where the Canadian Tire Paper Money group will hold a meeting.

Paul Petch brought our attention to the picture of David Dingwall in the Canadian Coin News. He is the new Master of the Mint.

Mark Argentino very kindly donated some novelty notes to the draw and distributed a few to members.

The theme for the evening was titled "The Stuff That Dreams are Made Of!" or, in other words, what key items are members looking for or what "dream" additions would they love to get but doubt they ever will. The following members came up with some weird and wonderful things!

**Len Keunzig** is desperately looking for two B.C. milk tokens for his 1967 memorabilia collection.

**Del Murchison** would dearly love to see an Encyclopaedia of Numismatics, which hasn't been made yet. Otherwise, one or two Iranian gold coins or some expensive books would be nice!

**Bill O'Brien** would like to have a 1916 Canadian Sovereign to go with Canadian decimals, gold coins and phoney gold pieces.

**Jim Heifetz** saves anything that looks like a credit card or coins with Queen Elizabeth II.

**Rick Craig** favours campaign medals of the Canadian 1812 War but also saves tokens and personal issues of metallic cards – would really like to have a "Cardinal" token. He would give his right arm for a mint state 1906 Edward 25 cent piece with the small crown.

**Vince Chiappino** one day would like to see a gold Aureus picturing him with either his two children or one of him with and his wife. Failing that, he would settle for a Julius Caesar, Septimius Severus, a Denarius or any coin.

**Shawn Hamilton** collects one coin from each country.

**Leon Saraga** collects Canadian decimal and recently managed to get a 1948-dollar. He plans to collect Prince Edward Island coinage.

**Mark Argentino** craves a Bank of Canada 1935 \$500.00 note. He has a passion for Coca Cola memorabilia and dreams of finding a "Vendo 44" coke machine.

**Terry O'Brien** collects Canadian bank notes but her passion is antique cars and she would die to have a complete set of Canadian silver dollars.

**George Fraser** is always interested in Canadian paper money but is past wanting anything new.

**Dick Dunn's** greatest desire is to have more bank notes of Scotland but so many are unavailable. He said, "I would like to open a book and find a couple of them!"

**Paul Petch** says books are his number one interest. A fairly easy one to find is Ancient Coin Reference Reviews by David Kroh, but he has now bought two copies and both have failed to appear in the mail. A famous book he will never own is the private print edition of "The Seven Pillars of Wisdom" by T.E. Lawrence, but he does have the trade edition published by Doubleday.

**Paul Johnson** specializes in Architectural medals by Jacques Veneer and he really would like to see a reference book published with all of Veneer's medals.

**Norm Belsten** specializes in wooden nickels and is working on a book depicting 7000 Ontario woods.

**Norman G. Gordon** would really like to find a 1982 Constitution nickel dollar with a reverse die, otherwise, he would like a 1965 and a 1982 dollar with small beads.

**Franco Farronato** wants 1990 and on prestige and custom specimen sets.

The Chair thanked the participants for a very interesting evening

Refreshments served by Roger Fox were much appreciated and, as usual, provided the opportunity for lots of social interaction.

Lucky Draw winners were: Avner Bar-Moshe(3), Dick Dunn, Terry O'Brien, Paul Johnson, Dr. George Gale, Norm Belsten, Bob Wilson, Norman G. Gordon, Len Keunzig, Russ Brown, Franco Farronato and Vince Chiappino. Roger Fox ran the draw with Albert Kasman selling \$29.00 worth of tickets.

Bob Porter ably ran the special auction with the assistance of Mark Argentino and Vince Chiappino. Between high bid sales and donations the Club collected \$26.30. Many thanks to Bill McDonald, Frank Zahra and Mark Argentino for their donations.

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

## Canadian Coinage of 1953 Rich in Varieties

If you talk with collectors, you will find there are many die varieties to be collected across all the denominations of Canada's 1953-dated coinage. By "die variety" we mean that the actually dies at the Mint were manufactured with slight variations, and these variations can now be found on the coins themselves.

The most significant feature of 1953-coinage that covers all denominations are the "Shoulder Fold" and "No Shoulder Fold" varieties. The Royal Canadian Mint report entry from the Die and Medal Branch, giving information on the operations of 1953, provided this information:

The Die Department prepared 2,685 matrices, punches and dies during 1953 for coinage and medal work, compared to 2,154 in 1952.

New Dies made in 1953 were as follows:

### *For Coins*

Obverse and reverse punches and dies for all denominations to improve the designs and overcome difficulties in striking.

The first dies made with the Queen Elizabeth effigy were slightly higher in relief than the 1952 dies of King George VI, and small technical imperfections appeared in the reduction punch that were not apparent in the large plaster model. The coins struck from these dies therefore suffered materially in reproduction, and gave rise to great difficulties from the mechanical point of view. Not until the Mint engraver lowered the relief to 3/4 and strengthened the weaker parts of the design by hand on the intermediate steel reduction, to arrive at the literal interpretation of the artist's model on the reduced size of the striking or working dies, was it possible to produce well executed coins.

Dies for 25-cent coins were increased in diameter from .912" to .923" to allow for the wider "flat" on the 25-

cent coin, and to increase the diameter of the finished coin from .930" to .940". Greater die life has resulted from the improved flat or rim at the edge, and from the lowered relief on the obverse, and a much better looking coin is being turned out.



*Plaster model of the Queen Elizabeth obverse*

Individual denominations have their own varieties.

The 5-cent denomination has a variety on the reverse side. The maple leaves above the beaver and at each side of "5 cents" may be seen to be either near or far from the edge of the coin. When combining the obverse and reverse varieties, all combinations of the two can be found. The most rare is the no shoulder fold with the maple leaf near the edge. Next comes the type with shoulder fold and the maple leaf far from the edge. We can tell from quantities that the Mint began 1953 striking the no shoulder fold with the maple leaf far from the edge and ended the year striking the shoulder fold with maple leaf close to the edge.

The 25-cent denomination exists with large and small dates on the reverse. Most of the strikes show the large date with the no shoulder fold type and a small date with the shoulder fold type. It is said there exists a few no shoulder

## Question of the Month

The March Question of the Month asked you to name all the significant features collectors look for on any or all of the denominations of Canadian 1953 Canadian coinage.

There was good participation from the floor on this one, so we have listed all the ideas and even included a short excerpt from the Royal Canadian Mint Report of 1953 at the left.

Now, for the April question of the month, we ask "How many branch Mints are there in Canada? What Mint mark do they use? And, list the coinage where the mint mark appears. The Question Man won't really load you down with three questions. There are two branch mints in Canada. The original is in Ottawa and it uses the "C" for Canada mint mark. The second is in Winnipeg and, naturally enough, it uses the "W" mint mark. There! That's two out of the way... now you are left to answer only the final question, which are the coins that show these mint marks?

fold with small date specimens. The large date was used at the start of the year and a switch was made to the small date in the second half of the striking. It is thought that the small date variety has the smaller striking.

Finally, the same large and small date combination also exists with the 50-cent denomination. In this case, however, the small date was used at the start of the year in combination with the no shoulder fold. The switch to the large date came in the second half of the year when the shoulder fold obverse went into use. There is a well-documented and fairly common variety that features a large date with the no shoulder fold obverse. Out of the 1.6 million 50-cent coins struck in 1953, fully half are the small date, no shoulder fold variety. From current trend values, it would seem that there are 200,000 to 300,000 of the large date no shoulder fold variety with the remainder being of the large date with shoulder fold type.

## The 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention Medal:

### The Ontario Numismatic Association Celebrates Local History in 2003

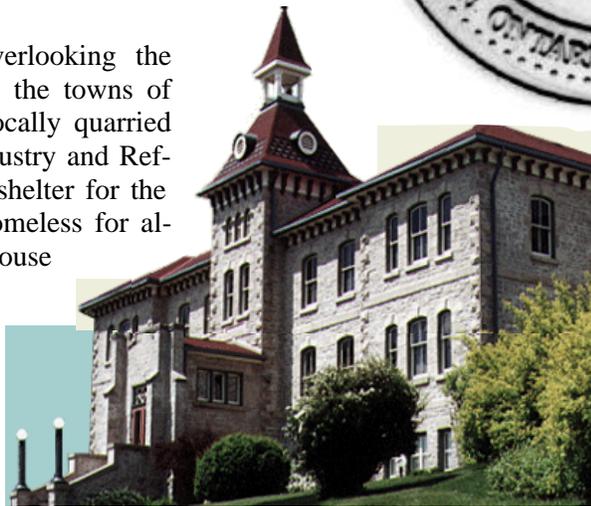
*The Ontario Numismatic Association is celebrating the history of Wellington County by depicting the Wellington County House of Industry on its annual convention medal.*

This museum stands majestically overlooking the once mill-laden Grand River between the towns of Fergus and Elora, Ontario. Built of locally quarried limestone in 1877 as the House of Industry and Refuge, this landmark structure provided shelter for the “deserving poor”, the aged and the homeless for almost a century. It is Canada’s oldest House of Industry.

The Wellington County Historical Research Society and the County of Wellington assumed ownership in 1957 and the building has flourished as a museum ever since.

The medal design had been proposed by the ONA Immediate Past President Ken Wilmot, prior to his death at the end of 2002. The Convention planning committee had agreed and asked the Great Canadian Mint of Edmonton, Alberta, to take his concept and convert it into a line drawing. For balance, a front view of the museum was proposed.

The medal has been produced in 3 metals. A quantity of 50 bright copper were struck for inclusion in registration kits. An additional 40 in plated brass and 35 in .999 fine silver were also produced for sale. The brass are available at a price of \$10.00 each, the .999 silver at a price of \$30.00 each.



#### April Meeting Auction List

	Starts at
1) C.N.A. 1958 Bronze Convention Medal Ottawa.....	\$10.00
2) 1792 British Conder token John of Gaunt .... Lancashire.....Dalton & Hamer 22 listing .....	8.00
3) Royal Australian Mint 1988 \$5 Proof .....	8.00
4) U.K. 1982 Uncirculated Mint set -- 7 coins .....	8.00
5) 1953 Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal by Pinches in goldene/anodized aluminum .....	5.00

#### Listed Auctions

Bring any material you would like to be considered for the listed auction in May, 2003 to the April 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 calibre of material offered.

## How to Select a Coin Holder by Reid Goldsborough

We buy coins to look at them, and how we look at them can greatly affect our viewing pleasure. You have many choices in how you store your coins. This article looks at the plusses and minuses of various coin holders, and why you should remove your coins from one type of coin holder in particular to avoid damaging them. These are the opinions of the writer.

It is common knowledge among coin collectors that there is no such thing as the perfect coin holder. What's more, much about coin holders is subjective. What I like in a coin holder may be different from what you like. What follows resulted from talking with coin collectors, coin supply dealers, coin holder wholesalers, and coin holder manufacturers, as well as my own experiences in testing out or using each of these holder types.

Your choices in coin holders include but aren't limited to the following, in order of estimated popularity:

### **2x2s**

These holders consist of white cardboard with a clear Mylar pocket to let you view the coin. You can attribute and describe coins on the cardboard with pen or pencil. These holders are called 2x2s because the holder's dimensions measure 2-inches by 2-inches, though most coin holders are this size as well. (In Europe larger and smaller sizes are used more commonly than they are in the U.S.)

One problem with 2x2s is that paper dust from the cardboard can cause spotting over time. Some holders, however, advertise that they're dust free. The staples on the staple-type holders can potentially scratch a coin if you're not careful when removing it or rust and leach chemicals onto coins. The adhesive on self-sealing 2x2s can potentially damage coins over time, and the adhesive can wear out as well, causing the holder to pop open.

2x2s are somewhat chintzy looking, but they're inexpensive, relatively safe, and popular. They're often used by coin deal-

ers because of their low cost and because it's easy to write on them.

### **Safety flips**

With these all-plastic two-part holders, you flip up the part of the holder holding the coin to view the coin's reverse. You can choose flips with one pocket (for the coin) or two pockets (one for the coin and the other for a paper insert on which you can attribute and describe coin, optionally using a computer). Unlike many other holders, safety flips let you view edge of the coin. They're called "safety flips" because they're relatively safe for long-term coin storage.

There are two kinds of safety flips, generic safety flips and Kointain Saflips. Generic safety flips are made from low-plasticizer PVC. They're often mistakenly called non-PVC flips, PVC-free flips, or unplasticized flips despite the fact that they do contain PVC, which is an abbreviation for the plastic with the name polyvinylchloride (or vinyl for short).

Generic safety flips are much safer than ordinary PVC flips for long-term coin storage because of their low levels of plasticizers. It's primarily the plasticizers used to soften the PVC, not the PVC itself, that can damage a coin's surfaces over time.

Generic safety flips aren't perfect. Their hard edges may scratch a coin when you insert or remove it if you're not careful. They may crack with repeated opening and closing, forcing you to replace the holder. They may turn pale colour over time, also forcing you to replace them. Generic safety flips shouldn't be used with proof coins because they can outgas small quantities of hydrogen chloride gas (hydrochloric acid), which can cause microscopic pitting, leading to hazing. This out-gassing probably occurs more if the holders are exposed to excessive heat, humidity, or sunlight.

There are several different kinds of generic safety flips. The Super Safe brand (sometimes called Madison coin flips since they're made by Frame-A-Coin of Madison, N.J.) is available at many coin shows and through Brent-Krueger Coin Supplies. They come in sheets -- you tear off the individual flips.

Other generic safety flips are made by International Plastics of Altadena, California, and are available from Jake's Marketplace. They're thicker and sturdier than the Super Safe flips (and they consequently make nice mini-coin stands), but they crack more easily and are thus not as practical for large coins.

Still other generic safety flips are made by various manufacturers in China, including those sold by Brooklyn Gallery Coins & Stamps.

Generic safety flips are attractive, relatively inexpensive, and popular.

The other main type of safety flip is the Kointain Saflip. These flips are made from Mylar, which is one brand name for the plastic with the name polyethylene terephthalate. Mylar is thought to be somewhat safer over the long term than low-plasticizer vinyl. It's also not as prone to cracking.

One negative of Kointain Saflips are their horizontal striations, which are unsightly and can interfere with viewing of the coin inside. These flips also have sharp corners. Kointain Saflips are more expensive than generic safety flips but can be a good choice for proof coins.

### **Flips**

Flips, also called soft vinyl flips or PVC flips, are commonly used by dealers to sell coins and by grading services when people submit coins to them because they make it easy and safe to insert and remove coins from them and because they're inexpensive. However, regular flips are unsafe for long-term coin storage.

*(Continued on page 6)*

*(Continued from page 5)*

Flips consist of PVC (polyvinylchloride, also known as vinyl), stabilizers (to prolong life), and plasticizers (to soften the plastic). Plasticizers mixed with the PCV can damage coins over time, causing "PVC damage," which looks like green goo. Damage occurs faster when flips are exposed to excessive heat, humidity, or sunlight. Early PVC damage can be removed with acetone. More severe PVC damage can corrode a coin's surfaces, causing permanent damage.

If you buy a coin in a soft vinyl flip, you should remove it and place it in another storage medium. One rule of thumb is that no coin should sit in a soft flip for more than six months.

#### **Air-Tites**

Air-Tite holders are the most attractive coin holders next to slabs, and depending on your views about slabs, you may find them more attractive. You can choose various colour combinations to best highlight your coins, whether copper, nickel, silver, gold, or other metal.

The Air-Tite system consists of a snap-together acrylic inner holder that fits snugly around the coin; a polyethylene white or black ring that fits around the inner holder; a black-, blue-, burgundy-, red-, or green-coloured velour-covered cardboard display card into which fits the holder and ring; and a black polystyrene frame holder with a wood finish and stamped with gold- or silver-coloured lettering.

You can optionally use a host of other accessories, including storage boxes, display easels, albums, display boxes, wall frames, and presentation cases.

The Air-Tite system is relatively safe for long-term storage. The size is non-standard, with the 2-3/4 inch by 2-3/4 inch display cards being larger than the 2-inch by 2-inch size of most other holders. Air-Tites are considerably more expensive than most other holders, but they may be worth it.

#### **Intercept Shield holders**

These relatively new holders are made with a material that's designed to inter-

cept and neutralize sulphur and other contaminants and thus prevent toning. This can be beneficial or not. Many people regard nicely toned silver coins as the ultimate in eye appeal. On the other hand, coins that have toned unattractively just look tarnished or stained, and brown copper coins are generally less attractive and worth less than red ones.

Intercept Shield holders measuring 2-inches by 2-inches are made for different sized coins as well as for coins that are already in slabs. You can also buy different sized Intercept Shield boxes and albums. You can optionally use the Intercept Shield boxes with other 2-inch by 2-inch coin holders.

On the negative side, it can sometimes be difficult to place coins inside the flexible gasket of the Intercept Shield holders. The holders are also relatively expensive.

#### **CoinEdge holders**

Formerly called CoinSafe holders, these all-plastic holders let you view the often-neglected third side of a coin, the edge. Whether lettered, reeded, or flat, a coin's edge can tell you a lot about a coin, including whether it may be a cast or electrotype counterfeit or whether it was once used in jewellery.

CoinEdge holders are made from Mylar (polyethylene terephthalate) and are safe for long-term storage. They have somewhat of a chintzy look and feel, though you may disagree. You can buy optional accessories, including albums and boxes.

#### **Whitman (or Gallery) holders**

These all-plastic holders consist of polystyrene, a relatively safe plastic for coin storage. Made by either Whitman or Gallery, these snap-together holders are an inexpensive way to store your coins. The downside is that coins can slide and bang around inside the holders, potentially causing damage over time.

Whitman or Gallery holders are widely available at coin shows, coin stores, and through coin supply dealers.

#### **Eagle holders**

Made of polystyrene encasing with Mylar (polyethylene terephthalate) windows, these holders are relatively safe for long-term storage. They're attractive, with the encasing available in white or black. They also come with optional accessories, including attractive display boxes and albums.

On the negative side, it's time consuming to insert coins into these holders. Small coins don't always remain in position within the holder. Large coins can cause the holder to pop open. The company recommends that you glue shut the large holders to keep them from popping open with large coins, though this is stopgap rather than permanent solution, as there's the possibility that the glue can damage the coin over time.

#### **Capital holders**

These plastic (Lucite) holders come in two varieties, one that you screw together, one that you snap together. They're similar to Whitman (or Gallery) holders but are both more impressive looking and more expensive.

Inserting and removing coins, however, can be labour intensive. Coins can also slide or bang around inside, potentially causing damage.

#### **Kointain holders**

These holders consist of just a round shell that fits snugly around the coin. They're similar to the Air-Tite inner holders. They're made of non-PVC plastic and are relatively safe for long-term storage. The company advertises that some museums use these holders for coin storage. Kointain holders can be used alone or inside other holders or albums.

The above aren't your only options for coin storage. Others include slabs, slab-like holders, coin albums, coin folders, paper envelopes, poly bags, coin cabinets, coin cases, coin frames, coin tubes ... and even pockets and purses!