



# North York Coin Club

Founded 1960

MONTHLY MEETINGS 4TH Tuesday 7:30 P.M. AT  
Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive, North York

MAIL ADDRESS: NORTH YORK COIN CLUB, P.O.BOX 10005  
R.P.O. Yonge & Finch, 5576 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, M2N 0B6

## Contact the Club :

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## Member :

Canadian Numismatic Association  
Ontario Numismatic Association

President .....Nick Cowan  
1st Vice President .....Bill O'Brien  
2nd Vice President.....Shawn Hamilton  
Secretary .....Tony Hine  
Treasurer .....Len Kuenzig  
Past President .....Robert Wilson

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Director .....Tony Hine  
Director .....Roger Fox  
Director .....Vince Chiappino  
Junior Director .....  
Auctioneer .....Bob Porter  
Auction Manager .....Mark Argentino  
Co-Editors .....Paul Petch/Tony Hine

Receptionist .....  
Draw Prizes .....Bill O'Brien  
Social Convenor .....Bill O'Brien  
Librarian .....Robert Wilson  
Program Planning .....

## THE BULLETIN FOR MARCH 2008

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi again, fellow members...

I just heard that we are in for another 6 weeks of winter. I am not sure if this is a cruel joke by some politician, who just happens to be in the salt business or whether it is global warming. If the "Global Warming" crisis really does exist, how is it that we have had a cold winter, the Arctic ice is reforming its bridges and we had the second largest snowfall in some 40 years? I invite your comments on this.

My messages are going to be shorter, now and in the future. The reasoning behind this is that in my past messages, I have used space to ask questions and asked for suggestions and help. Almost none have been forthcoming. I must tell you that from my perspective, it is very frustrating to keep looking to you for answers and they just don't get to me. So, from here on, it will mainly be face-to-face conversations on such matters.

Who went to the Polish and / or the Cambridge shows? I went to both and have to surmise that the Polish show offerings were way overpriced and the Cambridge show was as good or better than I have seen it for a while. Good product, fair pricing and a decent variety. I think this is one of my favourite shows.

At the next meeting, I will be taking a vote on whether you, as the membership really want us to bring the 2011 ONA to Toronto. I will be doing this at the very start of the meeting. If you accept this, then we will proceed, however, please be reminded that we, the Executive will be looking to

### NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY, MARCH 25

*We start gathering at 7:00 p.m. with meeting start scheduled for 7:30 p.m.*

There is no guest speaker scheduled this month, which means it is your opportunity to bring the club up-to-date with news of your recent collecting adventures, or perhaps a chance to get information on a puzzling piece. Catch the President's eye, and the floor can be yours!

**Please Don't Forget:** *Bring donations to our supply of draw prize material, and please bring some items for the auction.*

### THIS COIN CLUB MEETING FAIRLY CLOSE TO HOME

I'm sure you are familiar with the old expression about a speaker's expertise increasing the further he may be from home. The Waterloo Coin Society will welcome **Ronald Greene** of the Victoria Coin Club (B.C.) at their April 8 meeting,

each and every one of you for help in many different ways. It may be advice, it may be phone numbers and contacts or it may be physical help. We will need it all, if we are to bring this together. I will be in Sudbury next month for the duration of the convention, to study the show and all its complexities, and I am sure there are many. Once we start, there will be questions at each meeting from herein to help us along the way.

And with that I will close and repeat myself by saying we will need your help. Some of you have done this before. Now you have an Executive that is new and "Green," so please help us out and make this a success; after all, it is your Club.

*Nick*

and he is expert on many topics, irrespective of his distance from home.

Ron is a lifelong resident of Victoria and started collecting at an early age in the 1950s. His specialties are trade tokens of B.C., medals and Canadian bank notes. Ron's B.C. tokens collection is probably the best in existence today. Ron is an avid researcher, writer, and has received many exhibit awards for his displays, especially at C.N.A. conventions. Ron serves as Chairman of the Board of Award for the J. Douglas Ferguson Award, is a member of the J. D. Ferguson Historical Research Foundation and is also Secretary of the Canadian Numismatic Research Society. Ron served as Chairman of the recently completed Canadian Numismatic Bibliography project.

The Waterloo Coin Society meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at the R.C.A.F.A. Rotary Centre, 510 Dutton Drive, Waterloo, Ontario. Members begin gathering at 7:00 p.m. with meeting start at 7:30 p.m. and guests, of course, are welcome.

## MEETING NEWS OF THE FEBRUARY 2008 MEETING

Sorry, there is no meeting news available for the February meeting. However, Tony Hine has now agreed to serve as our recording secretary to take minutes, so the news should return in the next Bulletin.

### COMING EVENTS FOR SPRING 2008

**MARCH 28 - 30, Kingston** E.O.N.S., Days Inn & Convention Centre, 33 Benson St. Hours: Friday, 2:00 to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission \$4 includes ticket on gold coin. Early admission Friday \$20 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., good for all weekend. Fifty tables of coins, paper money, jewellery and more. Hotel reservations 1-800-267-7888. For more information, contact Ted Bailey at 1-866-747-2646, E-mail: [tedscollectables@bellnet.ca](mailto:tedscollectables@bellnet.ca).

**APRIL 4 - 6, Niagara Falls, NY** Buffalo Numismatic Association, Niagara Frontier Coin Club Gold & Silver over Niagara 2008, The Conference Center, 101 Old Falls St. Hours: Fri. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Over 200 tables, exhibits, free appraisals, door prize drawings. For more information, contact 716-694-2724 or 716-628-9440. Web site: <http://www.goldandsilveroverniagara.com>.

**APRIL 6, Chatham** Kent Coin Club 40th Annual Spring Coin Show, Wheels Inn, 615 Richmond St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free Admission and parking, 25 dealer tables (coins and paper money for all interests). Hourly draws and a raffle. Displays with prizes in 10 categories. For more information, contact Lou Wagenaar (President), 27 Peters St., Chatham, N7M 5B2, (519) 352-5477 [lous@netrover.com](mailto:lous@netrover.com).

**APRIL 11 - 13, DEARBORN, MI** Michigan State Numismatic Society Spring Show, Hyatt Regency Hotel. Free admission. Hours: Friday and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Exhibit area. For more information, contact Brian Malnar PO Box 87931, Canton, MI, USA, (586) 453 0504. Web site: <http://bam68@comcast.net>.

**APRIL 12, Guelph** South Wellington Coin Society Spring Show, Colonel John McCrea Legion, 919 York Rd., Guelph or Hwy 7. One of Southwestern Ontario's biggest shows, 50 dealer tables, free parking, fully

accessible. Large display area, hot meals. Admission \$2 for age 16 and up. Free gold coin draw. For more information, contact Lowell Wierstra, 8 Smart St., Guelph, N1G 4K9, phone (519) 824 6534.

**APRIL 25 - 27, Sudbury** ONA 46th Annual Coin Convention hosted by the Nickel Belt Coin Club, Radisson Hotel & Conference Centre, 85 Ste. Anne Rd. Hours: Bourse floor opens at 10 a.m. each day. Admission \$3. Buy, trade, sell. 56 bourse tables. Auction 6 p.m. Friday. For more information, contact Tom Rogers, 519-451-2316 or Gerry Albert, 705-523-1778.

**MAY 3, Peterborough** Peterborough Numismatic Society Show, Portage Place. Show runs from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Coins and paper currency bought and sold. Dealers welcome. For more information, contact Colin (705)742-0114.

**MAY 4, Windsor** Windsor Coin Club 57th Annual Spring Show, Caboto Club, 2175 Parent Ave.. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$1, includes draws for hourly prizes and grand prize. Juniors admitted free. Free parking. For more information, contact Margaret Clarke (519) 735-0727, [mclarke@wincom.net](mailto:mclarke@wincom.net).

**MAY 23 - 25, St. Catharines** TNS, Quality Hotel, 327 Ontario St. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Saturday and Sunday. Daily admission is \$4, Show pass is \$20. For more information contact Rick Simpson, Jo-Anne Simpson, [rscoins@cogeco.ca](mailto:rscoins@cogeco.ca) (905) 643-4988, fax (905) 643-6329.

**JUNE 28 - 29, Toronto** Torex - Canada's National Coin Show, Hilton Toronto Airport Hotel, 5875 Airport Road. Featuring Canada's finest dealers. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission \$6. Official Auctioneer: Moore Numismatic Auctions Inc., Charles Moore. The Hilton hotel is located directly across from Toronto's Pearson International Airport. For more information, please call 416-705-5348. Web site: <http://www.torex.net>.

### WORLD VENDING ASSOCIATION PRODUCE COIN DESIGN HANDBOOK FOR MINTS

The World Vending Association (WVA) Coin Design Handbook was recently produced under the aegis of the Mint Directors Conference Technical Committee (MDC-TC) and is a guide to understand the coin validation process and its consequences. Its ultimate aim is for mints to design and manufacture coins for optimized electronic validation. The MDC-TC has already warmly welcomed the document. The WVA Coin Design Handbook has been selected for presentation at the Mint Directors Conference in May 2008, which will bring together the major mints worldwide and associated industries, such as the blank manufacturers. It has been written from the perspective of coin validator equipment and coin counting/ sorting equipment manufacturers which share similar principles of coin sensing technology.

The handbook has been jointly written by Coinco, MEI Conlux, NRI and SCAN COIN, and endorsed by all major manufacturers of validating equipment. Because of its contents, the circulation of the document is limited to mints, central banks, treasury departments, law enforcement and anti-fraud authorities, blank manufacturers and manufacturers of coin validating equipment members of European Vending Association or WVA.



RCM CENTENNIAL - CHAPTER 3: DOMINION TO NATION - 1931 TO 1949

BY TONY HINE

In honour of the centennial of the Royal Canadian Mint, The Bulletin presents the third installment in our serialized history of the Mint. Previously, our January story looked at the mint's 1908 opening and events that preceded it. Our February installment traced the years 1908 to 1931. This month we will track the Mint from 1931 to 1949.

On December 1, 1931 the Ottawa branch of the Royal Mint became the Royal Canadian Mint. Canada took another step in the path to nationhood.

1949 saw the completion of Confederation as the tenth province joined ROC on March 31, Canada's April Fools joke on the beautiful island province and its mainland appendage usually referred to with the definite article as "The Labrador."

1949 was also the year when the Supreme Court of Canada became Supreme through the elimination of the right of appeal to the Privy Council in London.

It is worth remembering that in 1927, the Ottawa branch of the Royal Mint struck a sixtieth anniversary medal for the "Dominion of Canada," whereas in September 1939, Canada declared war on Germany separately from Britain. The Royal Canadian Air Force was officially born on April 1, 1924. 1931 saw the establishment of Trenton Ontario as the main training base for the RCAF. In 1936, the RCAF role was restricted to a military one, freeing the force of its civil aviation duties. During World War Two, the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan made a major contribution toward training allied pilots and aircrew. This work played a key role in Canada's emergence into nationhood.

1936 Dot Coinage

The United Kingdom's abdication crisis of 1936 came at a time when the European theatre was on the brink of World War Two, as Germany armed itself and expanded east. In Canada, 1937 saw the founding of Tran Canada Airlines, the company that ultimately became Air Canada, Canada's Via Rail of the skies.

The stock market crash of 1929 created a financial crisis that broadened into a global depression, known in North America as the dirty thirties.

The death of King George V in January 1936 meant that King Edward VII was due to become king. However, when he announced plans to marry American Wallis Simpson, U.K. Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin refused to sanction the marriage, on the grounds of her two divorces. As a result, Edward abdicated on December 11, 1936, and his brother Bertie became King George VI. The Charlton Catalogue reports that this created great strain on the Royal Mint, which then had to scrap its Edward VII obverse tools in order to create new George VI obverse tools. The delay forced the Royal Canadian Mint to strike its initial 1937 coinage using the 1936 dies and an altered reverse die marked with a tiny raised dot under the "1936."

Despite a reported mintage of almost 700,000 pieces, only three 1936 dot copper cents have been authenticated, all in mint state. Accordingly, prices are high. A 2003 sale from the Belzberg collection fetched US\$230,000.00. The silver ten-cent coin of 1936 was struck in 1937 had a dot on the reverse under the wreath. Although the reported mintage was

191,237, only five are known to have survived, all in specimen condition. One was sold in 2003 from the Belzberg collection for US \$74,750.000. The silver twenty-five cent coin of 1936 is more plentiful. Beginning in 1940, some collectors noticed that some 1936 quarters in circulation had a dot under the wreaths. The only mintage information is that the dot quarters were included in the 1936 mintage figure of 1,125,779. An unspectacular VG-8 catalogues at \$45.00, a value reflected in the current trends.

The Detroit Red Wings under coach Jack Adams won the Stanley Cup for 1936/7.

The outbreak of peace in 1945 in both Europe and the Pacific launched a rebuilding drive in Europe and Japan while North America adjusted to peace and "Civvy Street" with a release of pent-up consumer demand including the utmost consumer perishable: a baby boom. 1937 had seen the launch of new reverse designs on the circulating lower denomination coins (one, five, ten twenty five and fifty cent), which became quite popular. During the War strategic metals including aluminum for aircraft and nickel for stainless steel caused changes in civilian consumption patterns. In 1942, the Royal Canadian Mint changed the shape and material of the five-cent nickel coin from the round nickel to a twelve-sided brass alloy called tombac. The twelve-sided shape approximated the round 21 mm diameter, but was slightly larger. In 1943 the design switched to a victory design containing a torch and a V symbol but the 12-sided shape remained. On lone error a U.S. grading firm has certified



piece struck on nickel. In 1944 after a significant number of tombac coins were struck, the majority were melted down. Only one is known to have survived.

The shortage of copper and zinc resulted to another change in material to coated steel. The plating was a two-step process where a thin (0.0127mm) nickel coating was first applied followed by a thinner (0.0003mm) coating of chromium. The coining process including blanking was commenced after plating making the resultant coins prone to rusting, as the Charlton catalogue points out.

The 1946 five cent returned to nickel using the nickel design of 1937 to 1942, but retained the twelve sided shape introduced during the war. The twelve-sided shape was kept until 1962. The Chronology of Canadian Coins website reports that an order in council changed the twelve sided shape back to round was passed on November 8, 1962. The 1946 mintage of 6,952,684 is just under seven million, so the initial production was not scarce by mintage levels compared with

other Canadian five cent coins. Die life for George VI nickel five-cent coins is an interesting question. H.E. Ewart retired as Mint Master in 1944. He had been the Ottawa Finance Department candidate to replace Arthur Cleave as Deputy Mint Master upon his retirement in August 1925. Ewart, a

Canadian, was Engineer in the Mechanics and Die Shop, but was passed over in 1925 for John Campbell, a former deputy master of the Sydney Mint in Australia. Campbell was elevated to Mint Master in 1931 when the Ottawa branch of the Royal Mint became the Royal Canadian Mint, a post that he held until his retirement in 1938, when Ewart took over. Upon Ewart's 1994 retirement, A. P. Williams was appointed Acting Master of the Mint. W. C. Ronson was appointed Mint Master in 1947 and served until 1953. On January 2, 1946, a proclamation set the dimension and design

of the nickel five-cent coin. On July 23, 1946 a further proclamation called for removal of the copper and zinc (tombac) coins from circulation. The Chronology of Canadian Coins website reports that during 1946, the government recalled 5,033,403 tombac 5c coins from circulation. The Calgary Coin website reports that: "Some 1946 nickels show what at first appears to be a slightly doubling inside of the 6, and are known as the 6/6 variety. On closer examination, rather than an true doubling of the 6 it is probably die deterioration in that region that causes this appearance."

Die usage statistics in the RCM Annual Report for 1942 through 1947 do not illuminate why the 1946 obverse strikes are weak.

The weak obverse strikes on the 1946 five cent coin are not readily explained by the die usage figures given in the Royal Canadian Mint's Annual Reports. This begs the question: "Is nickel just a difficult metal to strike coinage in using a steel die?"



Metallurgist Craig Hagopian, the Quality Control Manager at Laurel Steel in Burlington Ontario says the metallurgy of the coin blanks is a real issue, but so too is metallurgical variation in the tool steels used to create the dies.

**1948: After Indian Independence Mintages were low**

Canada's decimal coinage from 1937 to 1947 bore an uncrowned portrait of King George VI and the legend: "GEORGIVS VI D.G. REX ET IND. IMP." a Latin Inscription which translates as; George the

sixth, by the grace of god, king and emperor of India. With the partition and independence of India on August 15, 1947, amended inscriptions for the obverse legend omitting ET IND. IMP. were required before the coinage for 1948 could be struck. The title was coveted by Queen Victoria, and finally awarded to her in 1877, although it never appeared on her Canadian coinage, it appeared in the U.K. from 1893 on. During the reign of Edward VII, Canadian coinage bore the inscription EDWARDUS VII DEI GRATIA REX IMPERATOR Indeed; the first apparent use of ET IND IMP in my collection is the godless coinage of 1911. This coinage caused controversy because the new dies prepared by the Royal Mint in London omitted DEI GRATIA. Anthony Kissmate, the manager of communications at the Royal Canadian Mint in Ottawa confirms that no Canadian coins prior to 1911 bore the inscription: "ET IND IMP."

In Europe, the recovery from the devastation of World War II got a kick-start on April 3, 1948, when the United States aid funding under the Marshall Plan (officially the "European Reconstruction Plan") began to flow. On May 14, 1948, the British mandate in Palestine expired and Israel, inspired by Paul Newman and Eva Marie Saint, declared itself a state. In June, 1948, the new (1946) United Nations, created its first observer mission in Palestine (the UNTSO.)

The Toronto Maple Leafs won the Stanley Cup in 1948. The 1947 rookie of the year, Howie Meeker received his second of four entries on the cup.

On January 30, 1948, Indian independence hero Mohandes K. Ghandi was shot and killed while walking to prayers.

New Canadian Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent appointed Charles Decatur Howe as his trade and commerce minister, allowing St. Laurent to focus on negotiations with Newfoundland about joining Confederation.

Newfoundland joined Canada on March 31, 1949. Howe went on to hold the cabinet post until 1957, when the Liberal government went to defeat in a general election. One of the best films of 1948 was a production of Hamlet starring Laurence Olivier. Olivier won the best actor Oscar for 1948, while John Huston won best director for The Treasure of The Sierra Madre

Canada became the first Commonwealth country to gain its own citizenship act when the Canadian Citizenship Act took effect on January 1, 1947. Prior to that, Canadians were considered British subjects residing in Canada, not Canadian citizens. Prime Minister Mackenzie King had the honour of receiving the first citizenship certificate.

TransCanada Airlines sold one of its first DC-3 aircraft to Goodyear Rubber in 1948. Goodyear flew it until 1983, when it presented the aircraft to the National Aviation Museum. Work was underway on production of the world's first passenger jet. The deHavilland Comet would fly in 1949. Its design with rectangular windows allowed metal fatigue, with, we later discovered, catastrophic results.

In this environment, the British Parliament delayed granting approval for the new dies for Canada's coins. As a result, the Charlton catalogue reports, coinage was initially struck bearing the 1947 date, with the addition of a maple leaf to differentiate the coins from the regular striking of 1947. The five cent and twenty five cent denominations also continued to mint on the 1947 dies, with initially a maple leaf, and then a dot. The five-cent mintage of 1, 810, 789 for 1948 was the lowest since 1926. The twenty-five cent mintage of 2, 5664,424 was about half the mintage for 1945, a more typical year. The ten-cent mintage of 422,741 represented less than ten percent of the mintage for 1947, and only 5% of the 1947 maple leaf mintage. California financial advisor Mark G. Hewitt calls the 1948-dime the Duke of Canadian coins and advocates hoarding them. The mintage for the fifty-cent piece was 37,784, the lowest since 1936, when the abdication crisis delayed the issuance of coins following the death of George V. But the lowest mintage coin for 1948 was the voyageur silver dollar at 18,780, the lowest silver dollar mintage reported for any year, and less than

half the mintage of the 1945 silver dollar. The ICCS Population report for 2006 discloses 672 Mint State 1948 Silver Dollars, only one of which is MS-65.

Indeed the 1948 date regularly shows up in the list of stolen coins. Certified coins are especially difficult for a thief to resell, because the certification number makes them traceable. The Bashaw coin collection of Alberta, stolen November 5, included an ICCS certified MS-63 1948 five-cent piece. An October 24, theft from M. J. Daniels, near Toronto Intl. Airport, included an MS-62 twenty five cent piece, bearing ICCS certificate number FM034. Willard Burton of B & W Coins and Tokens, and the vice-president of CAND says he does not detect any trend, although Rick Simpson of R&S Coins, the President of CAND, says thieves are getting the good stuff.

Canada's silver dollar of 1949 was the third commemorative silver dollar in its history.



On March 31, 1949, Newfoundland became Canada's tenth province. This made Joey Smallwood a father of Confederation. Newfoundland's decision to join Canada was neither unanimous nor free of controversy. There was considerable desire within the island to either remain independent or become a state of the United States.

Just as P.E.I.'s decision to join Canada was tied in part to relieving railroad indebtedness, many islanders believe the passenger train known as the Newfie Bullet was a sacred trust that Ottawa committed to as the price for Newfoundland's acquiescence to join Canada.

The Royal Canadian Mint reports that it struck 672, 218 silver dollars dated 1949. The reverse master die was hand- engraved by Thomas Shingles directly, without the aid of a reducing machine. According to Robert C. Willey in his *Dictionary of Canadian engravers*: "Cutting the dies directly without using a reducing machine presented no problems to him. "That's the way I was trained," he said. Excerpted from: Willey, R.C., The Designers and Engravers of Canadian Decimal Coins. CNJ Oct. 1987 (Vol. 32 N0.9) p. 402)

Dr. James Haxby reported in Striking Impressions that production of the popular 1949 silver dollar continued into 1950 to meet demand. He also opined that many collectors believe that the 1949-dollar still ranks as one of Canada's most beautiful coins. While trends show the 1948-dollar as more valuable, the 1949 is a key date for its beauty and history (of both the province and the engraver) for serious Canadian silver dollar collectors.

Serious fans of Newfoundland numismatics may wish to investigate the A.P.N.A. (Atlantic Provinces Numismatic Association at [www.apnaonline.ca](http://www.apnaonline.ca)) or Newfoundland Numismatic Enthusiasts; (contact Bill Kamb at [nfld73h@siscom.net](mailto:nfld73h@siscom.net))



Signing ceremony admitting Newfoundland into Confederation

## CANADA POST SALUTES THE ROYAL CANADIAN MINT CENTENNIAL! COMMEMORATIVE STAMP TO BE ISSUED JUNE 4, 2008

by Peter McKinnon



*The 100-year-old coin appearing on the stamp was one of the first struck at the Royal Canadian Mint in Ottawa*

On June 4, 2008, Canada Post will issue a commemorative domestic rate (524) stamp to mark the centennial of the Royal Canadian Mint (RCM).

The story of currencies used in Canada is a rich part of the country's heritage. From wampum and playing cards to tokens and Sols, currencies used to facilitate trade evolved continually. With Confederation came the Canadian dollar-but this country's currency was produced elsewhere until 1908.

For many years, Canada's coins were minted in Great Britain. By the turn of the century, however, the chorus of calls to establish a mint in Canada grew steadily louder. The government of Canada chose to locate the new facility near Parliament Hill and construction began in 1905. In January 1908, Governor General Earl Grey activated the RCM's press to strike Canada's first domestically produced coin.

Originally established as a branch of the Royal Mint, the RCM did not pass completely into Canadian hands until 1931. By that time, the RCM regularly minted coins for other Commonwealth countries, including Jamaica. During the next decade, the RCM produced the first Canadian military decoration, the Canada Medal.

As Canada's population increased, so too did the demand for coins. By the 1960s, the RCM's facilities in the

and plans for a second facility began to take shape. Given its proximity to major markets and nickel mines, Winnipeg was the obvious choice. The new facility began to strike coins in 1975 and now produces all of Canada's circulation coins. In addition to currency for dozens of other countries.

The RCM's commitment to quality and innovation has earned it an international reputation and a growing list of clients. In the past 25 years, the RCM has struck more than 52 billion coins for dozens of countries. A Crown corporation since 1969, the RCM also turns a handsome profit: in 2006, it earned a net income of \$11.2 million.

The RCM is a crucible of innovation. The institution created the world's first coloured circulation coin the 2004 Remembrance Day quarter featuring a red poppy. In 2007, the RCM became the first to strike a coin made of 99.999 per cent pure gold. Among the RCM's many technical innovations is a patented multi-ply plating process that creates electromagnetic signatures that can be read by vending machines.

*Souvenir Pane showing the first series of coins struck*

National Capital Region could no longer keep pace with demand,

The commemorative stamp showcases one of the first coins minted at the RCM: a 50-cent piece featuring a crown and a border of maple leaves. The back of the coin — a portrait of Prince Albert Edward, Queen Victoria's son — appears on the pane, along with images of other coins from the series.

"I wanted to create a design that captured the essence of what the RCM produces," says designer Stéphane Huot. "A coin is not only a national symbol, but also a part of everyday life. So rather than feature a mint-edition copy, I chose a coin that Canadians had actually held in their hands."

To create the design, Huot worked with an original coin supplied by the RCM. To further accentuate the coin, the stamp features a high-relief image achieved through special embossing techniques.



## TRUCK LOSES LOAD OF NEW CANADIAN QUARTERS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

From the Associated Press

KAMLOOPS, British Columbia—A truck carrying new quarters from the Royal Canadian Mint in Winnipeg went over a 30-foot embankment and spilled part of its load, Royal Canadian Mounted Police said.

The driver and passenger were slightly injured when the truck went off the Trans-Canada Highway on Thursday night west of Kamloops, about 150 miles northeast of Vancouver.

Police have not said what might have caused the accident, which occurred on a steep, narrow section of Highway 1.

Officers were posted at the accident scene overnight to prevent traffic backups and discourage any would-be coin collectors.



Flashback  
to 1897

### THE WRECK AT PALMER'S POND

Coins have often been used, officially and unofficially, to commemorate important events. This counterstamped one-cent piece is an example of an unofficial use to mark an event of local significance.

On January 26, 1897, a CPR train on its way from Halifax to Saint John was a few minutes late leaving Sackville. It was scheduled to arrive in Moncton at noon. As the train entered the first bend of a sharp S curve, the passengers braced themselves to avoid being thrown into the aisles. On the second bend, the cars began to vibrate. The train left the rails, rolled down a steep embankment and finally came to rest on the ice of Palmer's Pond. Two passengers were killed.

After the dead and injured had been attended to, the rescuers and onlookers turned their attention to the mail car, which contained about 5.6 tons of bronze cents struck in England and destined for Saint John and Montreal. Eighty boxes of coins had been smashed and the ice on the pond was covered with new, shiny one-cent pieces, in some places 2 to 3 feet deep. By evening the new cents were circulating in nearby communities.

Subsequent investigation revealed that all the boxes had been placed in one end of the car. It was generally believed that the

wreck was caused by the load shifting. Some of the recovered pieces were privately counterstamped PALMERS POND WRECK 26.1.97. The one-cent piece illustrated comes from the wreck and forms part of the National Currency Collection.

*From the Bank of Canada Review,  
April 1992  
as reprinted in the  
Transactions of the CNRS  
Vol. 29 No. 3 p. 61*



*Bank of Canada  
photography by James Zagon*

## PRINCETON COINS ARE GATEWAY TO HISTORY

by Chris Newmarker

PRINCETON, N.J. (AP) — Alan Stahl has a lot of change on his hands — and not the kind you can cash in at any bank. The curator of Princeton University's numismatic collection is in charge of protecting and displaying tens of thousands of coins, tokens, medals, and pieces of paper money. "The funny thing is, I've never owned a personal coin collection," said Stahl, 60.

The 150-year-old collection started as an assemblage of plaster casts of ancient Greek and Roman coins. Stahl estimates it now contains about 80,000 items. New acquisitions in the past year have made the collection even more diverse: a donation of 2,000 ancient Chinese coins, and the purchase of more than 800 medieval Greek coins, bought for hundreds of thousands of dollars. About a dozen university students each spend a few hours a week cataloging the coins. So far, the collection's online system has more than 3,000 coins listed, about 1,000 coins entered in each year. "At this rate, we'll be done in 50 years," Stahl said.

For the students, cataloging the coins is an education in itself. As a junior majoring in classics, 21-year-old Joe Codega has read a great deal about the ancient Romans. But he felt a greater connection with the subject he loves last week as he held a brass coin with the image of the big-chinned Roman Emperor Nero on the front. The back showed Rome's temple of Janus with its doors closed — a symbol that the empire was at peace. "It's neat to be able to hold something that an ancient person held," Codega said.

Some of the collection's coins are on display at Princeton's Firestone Library, where the collection is housed. Any member of the public can also ask to see a tray with some coins, though Stahl will keep close watch to make sure coins don't go missing. Stahl still cringes when he recalls a theft at the American Numismatic Society when he was there in the late 1980s. "I'm pleased to say I wasn't the person handing him the trays," Stahl said.

Half of the collection, about 30,000 coins, comes from Princeton University archaeological work in Antioch, in what is now Turkey, during the late 1930s. The dig turned up a trove of ancient Greek, Roman, Byzantine and Islamic coins. Stahl still handles envelopes with the handwriting of the lead archeologist's wife, who catalogued the money. "Sometimes I can see where she

scraped just a little to bring up a mark for identification. We wouldn't do that today, but I can see her rationale. I do feel a certain kinship to her," Stahl said.

The collection includes Byzantine coins that are bent, almost in cup shapes. Some of the ancient Chinese coins are shaped like knives and keys. But for the most part, the coins are round and flat — a feature Stahl guesses might be due to functionality. "The knife coins would sure punch a hole in your pocket or purse. I guess a square coin would be bad," Stahl said.

Stahl first became interested in coins in the early 1970s while studying for his doctoral degree in medieval history at the University of Pennsylvania.

Kingdoms and empires, Stahl said, usually have rulers on the front of their coins, though the Byzantine Empire also used Jesus. Republics in history have avoided living people, and instead concentrated on symbols of what is valued by the state. Particularly in the past, most average people didn't see their country's capital and its public buildings, or the nation's important documents. But they did see coins. "Virtually every person is exposed to the coinage of that country," Stahl said.

On the Net: The Princeton University Numismatic Collection is at [www.princeton.edu/rbsc/department/numismatics](http://www.princeton.edu/rbsc/department/numismatics)



## ROYAL CANADIAN MINT LAUNCHES 2010 OLYMPIC BULLION COINS

OTTAWA, March 17—The Royal Canadian Mint (RCM) today officially launched the 2008 issue of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games Gold and Silver Maple Leaf bullion coins. These unique RCM bullion products are the world's first bullion coins promoting the spirit of the Olympic Games. The RCM's Ottawa facility will produce up to 50,000 coins in gold for the 2008 issue and the silver version will be produced on demand. Two more annual issues (2009 and 2010) will follow.

In July 2007, the RCM received permission from the International Olympic Committee and the United States Olympic Committee to produce and market these new gold and silver bullion coins. The designs for these coins were first unveiled in August 2007.

"I'm very proud that the Royal Canadian Mint is again launching a series of bullion coins which will stand out in a very competitive marketplace," said Ian E. Bennett, President and CEO of the Royal Canadian Mint. "Gold and silver have long symbolized the pinnacle of international athletic competition and we are delighted that the Royal Canadian Mint's world-renowned bullion coins are now associated with the Olympic Movement."

The Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games Gold Maple Leaf bullion coin is made of one ounce of 99.99% pure gold and bears a \$50 face value. Bearing a \$5 face value, the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games Silver Maple Leaf bullion coin is struck from one ounce of 99.99% pure silver. Both are now available through the RCM's extensive network of bullion dealers.

Royal Canadian Mint President and CEO Ian E. Bennett (left) and RCM Bullion and Refinery Services Executive Director John Moore display samples of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games Gold and Silver Maple Leaf bullion coins at the Mint's facility in Ottawa, Ontario

