



North York Coin Club

Founded 1960

**MONTHLY MEETINGS 4TH Tuesday 7:30 P.M. AT
Edithvale Community Centre, 131 Finch Ave. W., North York M2N 2H8**

**MAIL ADDRESS: NORTH YORK COIN CLUB,
5261 Naskapi Court, Mississauga, ON L5R 2P4**

Web site: www.northyorkcoinclub.com

Contact the Club :

E-mail: info@northyorkcoinclub.com
Phone: 416-897-6684

Member :

Ontario Numismatic Association
Royal Canadian Numismatic Association

PresidentBill O'Brien
1st Vice PresidentLen Kuenzig
2nd Vice PresidentDavid Quinlan
SecretaryHenry Nienhuis
TreasurerBen Boelens
Past PresidentNick Cowan

Executive Committee

DirectorRoger Fox
DirectorVince Chiappino
DirectorAndrew Silver
Junior Director
AuctioneerDavid Quinlan

Auction ManagerMark Argentino
EditorPaul Petch
ReceptionistFranco Farronato
Draw PrizesBill O'Brien
Social ConvenorBill O'Brien
LibrarianRobert Wilson

THE BULLETIN FOR FEBRUARY 2012

RCM INTRODUCES 25-CENT ORCA CIRCULATION COIN

Special 25-cent coin is the fourth of five commemorative circulation coins honouring Canada's legendary nature

The Royal Canadian Mint has announced that Canadians can soon collect a new 2011-dated 25-cent circulation coin celebrating the Orca. This new coin, which entered circulation on February 9, 2012, joins a one-dollar circulation coin dedicated to the centennial of Parks Canada; a two-dollar coin featuring Canada's Boreal Forest; and a 25-cent coin honouring the Wood Bison, in celebrating Canada's legendary nature. It will soon be followed by a 25-cent coin that will feature the Peregrine Falcon as this commemorative series of circulation coinage concludes. All five of these special circulation coins are inspired by the theme of "our legendary nature"; a core element of Canadian pride and identity.

Ian E. Bennett, President and CEO of the Royal Canadian Mint said, "It is an icon of Canada's Pacific Coast and a powerful symbol of First Nations culture that also inhabits our Atlantic waters. The Orca is a truly national treasure which belongs on a new circulation coin for Canadians to collect, learn about and enjoy."

Equally at home in Canada's Pacific and Atlantic coasts, the Orca is a highly social sea mammal, of which some populations are considered threatened or endangered. Thanks to active conservation efforts, significant Orca pods have found sanctuary near the British Columbia mainland in places such as the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve of Canada and the Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area Reserve.



In celebration of this inspiring creature, the Mint's newest 25-cent circulation coin features an artistic interpretation of an Orca which is enhanced by the addition of blue colour (symbolizing its marine habitat) on half of the 12.5 million circulation coins dedicated to this theme. The Mint remains unique in the world by being the only producer of coloured circulation coins since 2004.

The Mint ran a special campaign allowing the public to trade their loose change for the 25-cent Orca circulation coin at its boutiques

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

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

We return to our usual location in the Gibson Room for this meeting.

Our 1st Vice-President, Len Kuenzig, will continue Paul Petch's theme from last month of looking back at prominent numismatists at our February meeting by spotlighting Joseph LeRoux, MD. Len is a collector of tokens and the work of LeRoux is an important source of information. This will be good, so don't miss it!

We appreciate all donations to our supply of draw prize material. Please remember to bring your auction lots if you would like an auction at this meeting.

in Ottawa, Winnipeg and Vancouver from February 9 to 11, 2012.

A free collector card in which all five coins in the *Legendary Nature* series can be kept, will also be distributed to the public at these locations, as well as the Mint's special coin exchange at the Vancouver Aquarium on February 9. While supplies last, Canadians may also visit www.mint.ca/legendary to exchange three dollars for a special "circulation pack" of twelve new Wood Bison, Orca and Peregrine Falcon circulation coins, containing two coloured and two non-coloured versions of each coin.

Membership Is Important!

Club Treasurer Ben Boelens reminds everyone that your 2012 \$10 membership dues are now overdue. Payment will be accepted at the meeting or may be mailed. Cheques may be made out to the North York Coin Club and mailed to the club address shown on the masthead. The operation of this club depends upon the revenues from membership dues.

A Reminder to Executive Committee

members: Our next executive meeting is on Tuesday, March 13 in the Edithvale boardroom.

MEETING NEWS OF THE JANUARY 2012 MEETING

The 573rd meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, January 24th, 2012 in the 2nd Floor Board room at the Edithvale Community Centre, 131 Finch Ave. West. (Our 572nd was the December 2012 Christmas Party, for which no minutes were taken.) Due to a scheduling problem at the community centre our regular room was double booked for the evening. The camera club, holding the other booking, has a much larger membership and so the NYCC executive agreed to move our meeting to a different room for the evening.

Our annual general meeting was hammered to order at 7:35 p.m. with our President, Bill O'Brien, in the chair. There were 29 members and 2 guests in attendance.

The on-time attendance draw was the usual first order of business. Unfortunately there was no winner drawn so the prize will increase to \$4.00 for the February 28th meeting.

Bill asked the members present if they had noticed any errors or omissions in the minutes of our November meeting as published in the January newsletter. It was brought to the secretary's attention that a donation by Russell Brown was not recorded. Ben Boelens mentioned, in Nick Cowan's absence, that Nick wanted to clarify that he had made no commitment to the club to guarantee the sale of 10 tables for our upcoming collectibles sale in May. Also, Roger Fox wanted to clarify that the anniversary he celebrated at the November meeting was the 50th anniversary of him first attending a NYCC meeting. He actually didn't join the club until January, 1962! Paul Petch joined one month later in February, 1962. With these modifications noted member Phillip Simms made a motion to accept the revised minutes. This was seconded by member Len Kuenzig. Motion carried.

The next order of business was to hear the Treasurer's report. This being our Annual General Meeting, our treasurer, Ben Boelens, tabled the financial report for the year ending 2011.

There being no questions from those present at the meeting, member Dr. Marvin Kay made a motion to accept the minutes as published. This was seconded by member Norman G. Gordon. Motion and carried.

Bill asked if any of the members present

wanted the floor to talk about anything of general interest.

Len Kuenzig asked for the floor to talk about a Swansea Medal that he had in his collection. Len mentioned that an article by Lorne Barnes, reprinted in the ONA's Ontario Numismatist, had brought his attention to the medal, which he passed around so that everyone could see it. Len also mentioned that in his capacity as treasurer of the Canadian Association of Token Collector's, he received an email from a gentleman in France who was looking for collectors interested in golfing related items that would be willing to trade with him. If you are interested please contact Len and he will put you in touch with the gentleman.

Roger Fox brought a very interesting item that he had just received from the TD Bank branch in Newmarket. Roger is a collector of United States \$1.00 and \$2.00 denomination notes. He had ordered 1,000 one-dollar bills from the bank to sort through. What he received was an un-opened brick of \$1,000.00 from the Chicago Federal Reserve District; one of the twelve districts. In addition Roger brought in a "Premium Millennium Federal Reserve Set" of twelve one-dollar notes, one from each district—with the same serial number; bound into very beautiful book. The set was produced by the U.S. Bureau of Engraving in 2000. When asked, Roger believed he had paid \$400.00 for the set at that time.

Jared Stapleton, a new member, talked about his new numismatic show "Toronto Coin Expo" that he is launching this year on June 1–2 at the Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street. The official auctioneer is Geoffrey Bell Auctions. Jared was offering a special pre-registration wood that would give you \$1.00 off the show's admission if you presented it at the time.

As there no further show-and-tell requests, it was time for our speaker for the evening, Paul Petch. Paul's topic for the evening was "Token Enthusiasm: The Colonial Coinages Authors (and their books)." Paul originally presented his topic at the Educational Symposium in conjunction with the Royal Canadian Numismatic Association convention at Windsor in 2011. The power-point program Paul developed for the symposium, which has been updated since, deals with 150

years of Canadian coin books, in particular highlighting the books and articles by 6 authors that document "colonial coinage research" in Canada. Paul defined "colonial coinage" as the tokens issued by merchants and semi-regal (banks) institutions that were used for daily commerce prior to the establishment of the Dominion of Canada in 1867. He went on to say that the early coin books acted as a catalyst for the formation of coin collecting in North America. For example, the "American Numismatological Manual," an impressive book for coin collectors published by Dr. Montroville W. Dickeson in 1859, contributed to the flurry of activity that helped the growth of the American Numismatic Association based on his research.

Bill thanked Paul for his very informative treatment of the topic and at 9:20 pm, called for the refreshment break—consisting of cookies, juice and coffee -for the evening.

With the refreshment break ending at 9:35 pm, the last portion of the meeting was devoted to lucky draws and auction. Lucky draw winners were- Jared Stapleton (4), David Quinlan (2), Richard Duquette, David Bawcutt (2), Roger Fox, Harvey, Ben Boelens, Vince Chiappino, and Andrew Silver. The club earned a generous \$33.00 through the sale of the draw tickets! The lucky draws were intermixed throughout the evening's auction, called by David Quinlan our new official auctioneer, and volunteer runner Len Kuenzig. Paul Johnson ably acting as our substitute auction manager reported that receipts from the auction added \$10.45 to the club coffers.

The club executive would like to send out a special thank you to club members for supporting the club through the purchase of draw tickets and for draw prize donations. We would especially like to thank Lucille Colson, Paul Petch and Russell Brown for their continued support of the club through donations this month. Keep up the good work and to the other members, please consider supporting your club through a donation of numismatic material, etc. (Please mention your donations to the club secretary so that your support can be recognized in the minutes and newsletter.)

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



TOKEN ENTHUSIASM :

*The Colonial Coinages Books
(and their authors)*

Paul R. Petch



Adelard J. Boucher 1835-1912

- Began collecting about 1855
- Became President of the Numismatic Society of Montreal at its founding December 9, 1862
- Chaired the committee for the production of the first Canadian coin catalogue
- Sold his collection in 1866 to raise money for his business
- It was the second Canadian numismatic sale



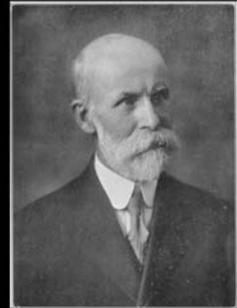
Alfred Sandham 1838-1910

- Joined the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Montreal in 1865
- Wrote, illustrated and produced his coin and token book in 1869
- Assisted with incorporation of the Society and production of a medal in 1870
- Took responsibility for the Canadian Antiquarian and Numismatic Journal as editor and writer from founding in 1872 to 1876
- He relocated to Toronto in 1878 where he worked with the YMCA



Robert Wallace McLachlan 1845-1926

- Began collecting "funny coppers" as a 13 year old school boy about 1858
- Mentored by J. Bronsdon about 1862 towards classification and study of the coins in one's collection
- Joined the Numismatic Society of Montreal in 1864 when he turned 19
- Elected a member of the editing committee for the Canadian Antiquarian and Numismatic Journal upon its founding in 1872
- Joined the ANA in 1908 reaching the position of 1st VP in 1913 but lost in a bid for President in 1915 and 1916



Joseph LeRoux, M.D. 1849-1904

- Had a very strong academic background
- He was initially involved in education, but achieved Bachelor of Medicine in 1882 and Doctor of Medicine in 1883
- Began collecting in 1876

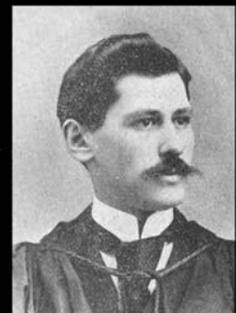


Eugene G. Courteau, M.D. 1868-1934

- Produced monographs 1907 through 1934
- Started collecting 1898 and undoubtedly applied medical training to detailed numismatic research
- Joined the ANA in 1900
- Specialized in tokens, especially die varieties – however, his examination sometimes led him to seeing a variety where there was only die wear



Courteau numbers are cross-referenced in Charlton



COMING EVENTS FOR WINTER & SPRING 2012

APRIL 13 - 15, Kitchener, 2012 ONA Golden Jubilee 50th Annual Coin Convention, Holiday Inn Conference Centre 30 Fairway Road S. Admission \$3. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) Auction 6 p.m. Fri., Military Auction Sat., 52 table bourse. Educational seminars, banquet (with keynote speaker), exhibits, good as gold draws (including one troy ounce of Gold), and awards. There will be several numismatic groups and associations holding meetings, which provides an opportunity to learn more about the benefits and fellowship of membership. Robb McPherson General Chairman, e-mail: robb4640@sympatico.ca. Website: <http://ontario-numismatic.org>.

MARCH 3 - 4, Mississauga, IX Polish - Canadian Coin, Stamp & Collectibles Show 2012, John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd. (just south of Hwy.403). Sat. \$2 adult admission, Sun. free admission. Free parking, refreshments available. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. *Stamps, coins, medals, paper money and militaria, exhibits, "Troyak Junior" table with boxes of free stamps for kids. Troyak special token and show souvenirs.* For more information contact Tom Malicki, telephone 905-281-0000; or Wieslaw Grzesicki telephone 416-258-1651; or go to www.troyakclub.com, email info@troyakclub.com. Website: <http://www.troyakclub.com>.

MARCH 11, Windsor, LA COIN SHOW, Windsor Moose Lodge 777 Tecunseh Road, West. New Hours 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 25 dealer tables, free admission, free parking. Donations of can goods will be accepted for the LA FOOD BANK (LaSalle Ontario). For more information contact: Glen Gibbons, telephone 519-256-2013, email ggibbons1@cogeco.ca.

MARCH 17, Cambridge, Cambridge Coin Club 21 Annual Coin Show, Cambridge Newfoundland Club, 1500 Dunbar Rd. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Free admission, buy, sell, trade and evaluate at 52 tables. Tokens, trade dollars, coins, paper money, militaria, sports cards, CTC coupons.* For more information

contact Vince Nevidon, telephone 519-740-1416; Louie Schmidt, telephone 519-653-7838, or Wolfe Derle, email wolfe1937@hotmail.com.

MARCH 24, Guelph, South Wellington Coin Show, Colonel John McCrae Legion, 57 Watson Parkway South. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$3, under 16 years Free. *Legendary Lunch Counter! Free draw for Gold Coin! More than 40 Dealer tables. One of Ontario's best advertised, best attended shows, top numismatic dealers in attendance. Coins, banknotes, tokens, medals and more. Free parking, fully accessible.* For more information contact Mike Hollingshead, Box 1000, Arkell, ON, telephone 519-823-2646, email cholling@uoguelph.ca.

MARCH 31, Toronto, Canadian Error and Variety Seminar, Humber College North Campus. *This full-day seminar is designed for both the beginner and advanced collector of Canadian errors and varieties, or anyone that is considering this popular and interesting numismatic specialty. The fee of \$75 includes many useful give-aways designed for the error specialist that will please and surprise you. A detailed program is available from the instructor, John Regitko.* For detailed information contact John Regitko, email errorman@look.ca, telephone 416-407-4122.

APRIL 22, Chatham, Kent Coin Club Annual Spring Coin Show, Active Lifestyle Center 20 Merritt Ave N7M 6G9. Hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Free admission and parking, free token or foreign coin to every person entering the show complements of the Kent Coin Club, 25 dealer tables (coins and paper money), food available on site for purchase, hourly draws and a raffle, displays with prizes in 10 categories.* For more information contact Lou Wagenaer, 27 Peters St., Chatham, ON N7M 5B2, telephone 519-352-5477.

APRIL 29, Brampton, Brampton Coin Show, Century Gardens Recreation Centre, 340 Vodden Rd. E. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission \$3, under 14 free. *Buy, sell, trade and appraise at more than 40 tables of dealers, featuring coins, medals, tokens, paper money, trade dollars, militaria. Children's table. Free parking. Funds raised for children's charities.* Sponsor/Affiliate: B&W Coins & Tokens and the Brampton Rotary Club. For more information, contact B&W Coins & Tokens, Willard Burton telephone 905-450-2870, email b_and_w@sympatico.ca.

MAY 12, Toronto, Edithvale Hobby Show, Banquet Room, Edithvale Community Centre, 131 Finch Avenue West. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., free admission, all sorts of collectibles and featuring coins, paper money, stamps, etc. Sponsor/Affiliate: North York Coin Club & Mississauga-Etobicoke Coin, Stamp & Collectibles Club. For more information, contact Paul Petch, telephone 416-303-4417, e-mail p.petch@rogers.com. Website: <http://northyorkcoinclub.com>

Listings are courtesy of Canadian Coin News Coming Events

MAKING A NEW MONEY GALLERY AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM

Catherine Eagleton, British Museum

The Money Gallery at the British Museum opened 14 years ago, and was at the time a new way of displaying coins and medals. It represented a new way of thinking about the history of money, and changed the way museums around the world told this global story.

Now, a new partnership between *Citi* and the British Museum means we are able to redisplay the gallery, make changes to the design and content of the displays, and take advantage of new knowledge and new ideas in museology and monetary history.

We will be building on the results of an evaluation of the current Money gallery that has

been done over the past few years. This gives us some clear pointers for how it can be clarified and updated, and we have already started a programme of consultation with key audiences to find out what they would like to see the new gallery containing, and what questions they have about money and its history.

The gallery will use money as a lens through which to look at the history of the world, as well as showing the different forms and functions money has taken and had around the world in the last 3,000 years or so. The challenge for me as the lead curator on the project is to work out how to edit a complex global story down so that it can be told in a single room. But here I am lucky to be able to draw on the expertise of my subject-specialist colleagues.

Throughout the coming year, members of the project team will be tracking the progress of this exciting project at <http://blog.britishmuseum.org/category/collection/money-gallery/> right up to the opening in June 2012.

I'll post something about once a month and, in between, there will be contributions from other people on how the project looks from their point of view.

We will be writing about (among other things) evaluation, object selection, text writing, design, conservation, and the tricky business of how you remove thousands of small objects from display and keep track of where they all are while the gallery works are in progress in the first few months of 2012.

CANADIAN TIDBITS FROM THE NUMISMATIST OF FEBRUARY 1912

“Godless” Canadian 1911 Coinage

Judging by a special dispatch to the *Toronto Globe*, dated Jan, 7, the words “*Dei Gratia*,” which were omitted from Canadian silver coins struck during the latter part of last year, are to be reinserted according to a new proclamation, by order in Council. The coins hereafter minted will bear above the effigy of his Majesty King George the inscription, “*Georgius V., Dei Gra, Rex et Imp. Ind.*”

According to the English Parliamentary Report for October 26, 1911, taken from Spink’s Numismatic Circular for January, the following dialogue took place regarding the omission of “*Dei Gratia*” from the Canadian coins: “**Mr Evelyn Cecil** (U. Aston Manor) asked the Secretary to the Treasury why the Royal Mint had supplied to the Canadian Mint dies for the new coinage on which the legend *Dei Gratia* or *D: G:* was for the first time omitted on Canadian coins; and whether, in view of the strong public condemnation which was expressed in this country in 1849 with regard to the florin when the same omission was made and was speedily corrected, he would take immediate steps to rectify this error, as it had caused considerable annoyance in Canada. **Mr. McKinnon Wood**—The omission of the legend *Dei Gratia* or *D : G :* from the dies sent to Canada occurred by inadvertence. They were used for coining in Canada without the attention of the Royal Mint being called to the omission. When this was done fresh dies were at once prepared and sent to the branch mint at Ottawa.

The Canadian Silver Dollar Not Yet Decided Upon.

We are indebted to H. L. Doane of Truro, N. S., for the following letter from the Ottawa Mint, which would seem to indicate that, after all, there may not be an issue of silver dollars from the Canadian Mint: *OTTAWA, January 14, 1912.*
H. L. Doane, Esq., Truro, N, S.
 Sir:

Replying to your enquiry of 26th ultimo, I am desired by the Deputy Master of the Mint to inform you that no silver dollars were struck in 1911, and, at this date, it is not known whether there will be an issue of this denomination.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,
G. W. Honore

Tiffins.

The series of tokens known among Canadian collectors as “Tiffins” bear the following device : *Obv.* Bust of George III, to the right within a wreath of oak leaves. *Rev.* HALFPENNY TOKEN, 1812 ; female, representing commerce, to the left seated on a bale of goods. This is a light weight imitation of a common non-local nineteenth century English token imported into Canada about the year 1825 by Joseph Tiffin, a general merchant of Montreal. There are three varieties of the real Tiffins, all struck in copper and all common. So popular did this piece become as a substitute for the altogether inadequate legal copper currency, that vast quantities of brass imitations, more or less barbarous in workmanship, were issued. Seventeen varieties of these brass Tiffins were issued, mostly common or very common, although one or two are quite rare. *R. W. McLachlan.*

What is the True Date Of The North American Token?

Mr. W, C, Moore, in an article on *Colonial Numismatic Ships*, which appeared in the December NUMISMATIST, states that “the North American Token was issued in 1781 and is so dated on the obverse.”

Now, notwithstanding the evidence of its face, I have long attributed it to a much more recent date, for the following reasons : First, it bears the style of the nineteenth rather than of the eighteenth century tokens. Second, it circulated rather plentifully among the Canadian brass and other coins that constituted the copper currency up to its withdrawal in 1870. Third, it is usually found in a fair or even good condition, which would not have been the case had it continued in use from 1781. Fourth, it is similar in design and workmanship to the Trade and Navigation Token, dated 1820, described by Breton under No. 894. Although I am at a loss to know why he attributed it to Nova Scotia, while it should be classed as miscellaneous or non-local, I am strongly of the opinion that it was issued in Lower Canada,

This is no new claim, for as far back as 1886, in *Canadian Numismatics*, under Number DXLIV, where I described the token, I stated “that it was put into circulation ... at a much more recent time than the date on the coin would seem to indicate.” I would place it, as well as the “Trade and Navigation Token,” above mentioned, among the Canadian brass tokens—the Tiffins, Harps and Blacksmiths, all antedated—issued between the years 1825 and 1835. *R. W. McLachlan.*

INTERESTING NEW BOOK IS AVAILABLE

PRESENTING A SELECTION OF COINS DEPICTING THE NATURAL WORLD

Sacred Life

COINS OF THE NATURAL WORLD

A new book by Martin Gray

www.naturecoins.com

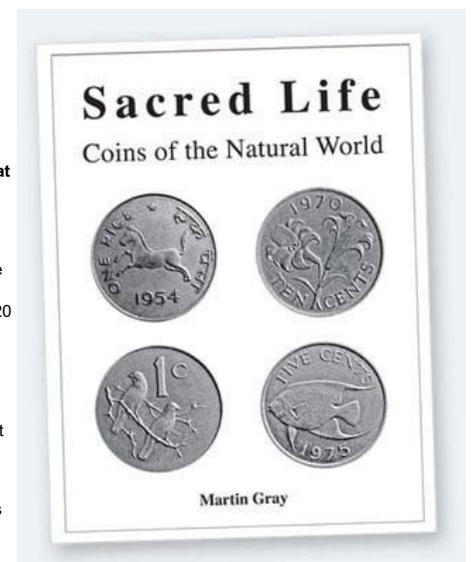
We have living beings shown on our money, let's use that money to protect them.

During the past twenty-five years thousands of species of animals, birds, fish and plants have been taken to the brink of extinction and beyond because of mankind's destruction of the natural world. The rate of extinction is increasing every day with more than one species currently becoming extinct every 20 minutes.

The nations of the world spend trillions of dollars on weapons and military expenditures, but only a fraction of that on the protection of the natural world. The living species we humans share the planet with have as much right to life as we do and it is only through the our actions that we can protect and save them.

Featuring hundreds of close-up photographs of beautiful coins from around the world and showing a large variety of animals, plants, birds and fish, *Sacred Life* is a visual feast and a plea for respect of the natural world. These are not valuable coins but they illustrate the greatest value of all, which is life. Money can cause harm or promote life. The choice is ours.

Martin Gray is a National Geographic photographer whose work focuses on the protection of art, sacred architecture and cultural diversity. He has traveled extensively in more than one-hundred and thirty five countries. His books include *The Geography of Religion* by National Geographic and *Sacred Earth* by Barnes & Noble. His web site, Places of Peace and Power is visited by millions of people each year.



ROYAL CANADIAN MINT 2012 ANNUAL GOLD COINS

adapted from a review in *Coin World* with files from the RCM

This year's themes are the Bluenose, the Caribou Gold Rush, Vikings and the Quebec Coat of Arms

For those collectors with deep enough pockets to buy into the Royal Canadian Mint's annual offerings of gold coins, they will find some changes this year. The official denominations on these pieces released on January 23 ranges from 50-cents through \$100, \$200 and \$300. When compared to the corresponding 2011 releases, collectors will find changes in fineness, mintage and pricing. As last year, the obverse of all these 2012 gold coins features the Susanna Blunt effigy of Queen Elizabeth II.



Bluenose 50-cent coin

Leading the set is the .9999 fine gold 50-cent coin, which continues a familiar design from Canadian numismatics, the celebrated Canadian schooner Bluenose. This ship won many International Fisherman's Trophy series of yachting races from its launch in 1921 through the 1930s. The original Bluenose was lost off Haiti in 1946 after a distinguished racing and commercial career. The Bluenose II was launched in 1963, and as songwriter Stan Rogers says, "Now only her namesake daughter remains to show what she has been"

The Bluenose has graced Canada's 10-



cent circulation coin since 1937. A different design of the ship, derived from original artwork by late Nova Scotia artist Philip MacReady, which was based upon a 1921 photograph, is used for the reverse of the 2012 coin. The design was approved by the Bluenose II Society and was developed in collaboration with the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

The 1.27-gram coin measures 13.92 millimetres in diameter, unchanged from 2011; the mintage limit of 15,000 pieces and price of \$129.95 each reflect increases from 10,000 coins and a \$109.95 price in 2011.



Gold Rush \$100

The year 2012 is the 150th anniversary of the rush to the Caribou Gold Fields in 1862, a significant event in British Columbia's history.

The RCM's annual .5833 fine gold, .4167 fine silver gold coin features a Tony Bianco design recalling the days when reports of "rivers of gold" in 1861 from four men returning from the creeks of the Caribou region triggered a gold rush from as far south as California.

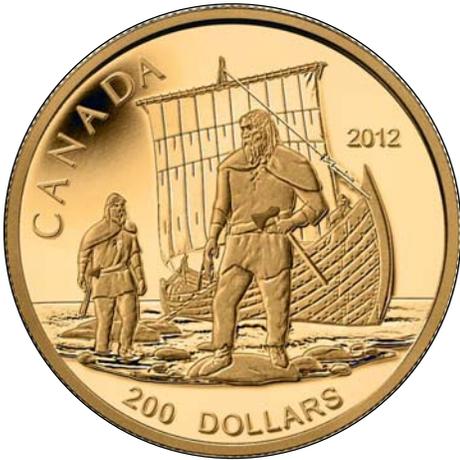
The wild and inaccessible territory required the building of an expensive and dangerous wagon road through mountains and across canyons and glacial rivers. This challenge of accessibility inspired one entrepreneur to introduce some innovation of his own. Hearing that camels had been successfully used for long distance transport in Texas,

Arizona and California, an enterprising merchant named Frank Laumeister thought these animals would solve the big logistical challenge of reaching the Caribou gold fields. These animals were not built for the treacherous mountain terrain of the Fraser Valley and the experiment of "Laumeister's Camels" came to a swift end.

A miner rests on a rock in the foreground, with another miner working a sluice box in the middle ground. A third miner rides one of the camels in the near background, with the scenic vista of British Columbia behind.

The coin weighs 12 grams and measures 27 millimeters, as was the case with the 2011 issue. A mintage of 2,500 pieces and a price of \$599.95 reflect reductions compared to 2011 from a 3,000-coin mintage limit and \$639.95 issue price. This is the lowest mintage for coins in this annual series.





The Vikings \$200

For 2012, the Mint’s annual Proof gold \$200 coin is crafted from .9999 fine gold, up from the .9167 fine gold used since 1990 when the RCM began issuing such coins.

The 2012 coin honors the Vikings, Canada’s first European explorers and settlers, opening a new series theme, the *Great Explorers of Canada*.

While the exploits of legendary Norseman Leif Erickson are well documented, credit for the first European sighting of Canadian land goes to a seafaring merchant named Bjarni Herjulfsson, who in 986 ventured off course between Iceland and Greenland. His story of a great forested shore inspired Erickson to set out on his successful quest for Vinland 15 years later, which brought him to the coast of modern-day Newfoundland.

The legacy of the Vikings in Canada, preserved at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of L’Anse aux Meadows at the north-west tip of Newfoundland, is now commemorated on the coin in a design from artist Yves Bérubé. The reverse of the coin shows a pair of Vikings standing on the shores of a new world, with their trusty knarr merchant ship anchored in the background.

The coin weighs 15.43 grams, down from the previous 16-gram weight of previous years, but the increase in fineness means the coin has more gold—15.43 grams versus 15.67 grams in previous issues. The size remains 29 millimeters in diameter.

The mintage is 3,000 pieces at \$1,199.95, up from 2,800 coins at \$1,079.95 in 2011.



Quebec Coat of Arms \$300

The RCM continues its series honouring the coats of arms of each of its provinces, issuing .5833 fine gold, .4167 fine silver \$300 coins for two provinces per year, and the first such coin for 2012 celebrates the Province of Quebec.

First granted by Queen Victoria in 1868, Quebec’s coat of arms was revised in 1939 by the provincial government to more accurately reflect the province’s history and heraldic symbols.

A shield composed of three horizontal fields represents its founding influences: three fleurs-de-lis at the top for its French

roots, the lion in the middle for Great Britain and the three maple leaves at the bottom to represent Canada. Beneath the shield is the motto JE ME SOUVIENS, which calls on all Quebecers to honor and preserve their history.

The coin weighs 60 grams, measures 50 millimeters in diameter and has a mintage limit of 500 pieces, unchanged from the two 2011 examples.

The coin is priced at \$2,649.95, continuing the pricing on the Nova Scotia coin released back on November 1, but up from the \$2,429.95 for the Manitoba coin released January 10, last year.



ROYAL MINT ACCUSED OF MAKING A MINT FROM OVER-PRICED SOUVENIR COINS

by Dalya Alberge, *The Independent*, January 25, 2012

Leading dealers say market is devalued by excessive number of commemorative issues—and the Diamond Jubilee brings it to a head

The Royal Mint is being accused of exploiting the general public with overpriced commemorative coins that have minimal investment value.

After 38 years as a Royal Mint agent, a leading numismatic dealer with 57 years in the business, is now refusing to trade in any more of its coins because he believes the market has been devalued by the vast numbers of issues and exorbitant prices.

Richard Lobel – the UK’s biggest dealer in the secondary market for Royal Mint coins – condemns what he sees as the exploitation of people who pay up to four-figure sums for what they assume are valuable keepsakes.

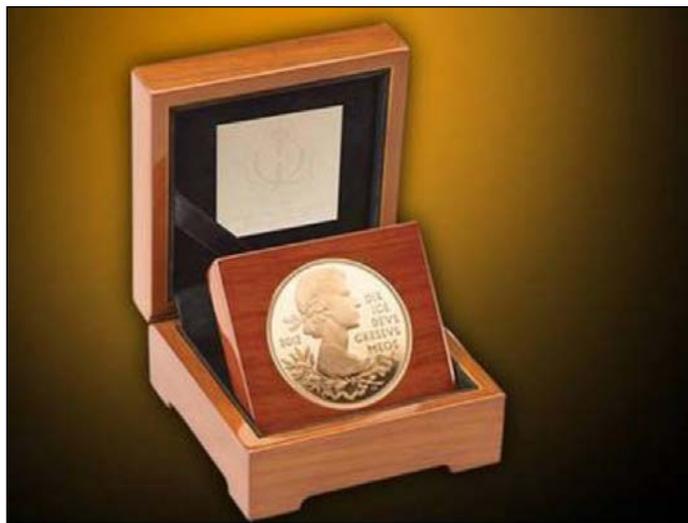
He said that coins celebrating the 2012 Olympics and the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee are among issues that are worth far less than the prices paid. The resale value of most non-gold coins is under 50 per cent of the original price.

Mr Lobel, managing director of Coincraft, said: “I’m tired of how many people’s hearts we’ve had to break.”

Until a few years ago, the Royal Mint issued commemorative coins for exceptional events. Now, there are dozens of issues – 68 for the Olympics alone. They include a gold £5 coin now selling on the Royal Mint website for £2,880, for which the owner might get £1,400 at most. A dealer would resell it for £1,500 to £1,600, Mr Lobel said.

Other experts echoed his criticisms. Seth Freeman of Baldwin’s, numismatic dealers since 1872, said: “Once somebody’s bought a set from the Royal Mint, it’s worth about a quarter to a third of what you paid for it ... and I’ve never known anyone to get their money back, even in these days of high gold prices.”

Experts believe that the Royal Mint issues too many coins, in too many different metals, while repeatedly raising prices. Mr Lobel said: “In the last four or five months,



Less bang for your buck: What buyers stand to lose

Olympics gold proof £5 coin

Royal Mint price: £2,880

Likely value if sold on to dealer: £1,400

The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee UK Gold Proof Coin

Royal Mint Price: £2,400

Likely value if sold on to dealer: £1,300

2011 UK Mary Rose £2 Gold Proof Coin

Royal Mint price: £995

Likely value if sold on to dealer: £550

they’ve started charging almost £100 for a silver-proof crown. We saw it go to £49.50 and we were shocked. Then it went to £55 and we were stunned. I don’t know what word we used for £99.50.”

There is no real investment in older issues, he said, citing coins marking the wedding of the Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer in 1981, sold then for around £39: “Today, we’d sell them for the same price.” Those done for a Diana and Prince Charles overseas tour fared even worse, he added: “We melt those.”

Peter Jackson, another numismatist dealer, said: “With the economic situation, people are tending to look upon coins as an investment. A lot of people don’t really know what they’re buying ... I think there’ll be a lot of tears shed in a few years’ time when people realise. The Royal Mint ... is trading on their name to such an extent that they’re pumping out all sorts of things.”

Ivan Macquisten, editor of the *Antiques Trade Gazette*, said: “I think ... the public would have serious cause for complaint if they discovered that they were paying the Royal Mint four times the price... they would pay elsewhere. Not everyone collects ... with an eye to resale ..., but to be so out of pocket the moment you buy something ... just isn’t right.”

But Shane Bissett, the Royal Mint’s director of Commemorative Coin, argues that with sales of £150m last year, demand is strong and prices reflect the craftsmanship involved.

On being asked about the disappointment of owners about resale values, he said: “Commemorative coins are not sold as investments. They’re sold to celebrate commemorative events.”