



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**

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Member :

Ontario Numismatic Association
Royal Canadian Numismatic Association

Executive Committee

PresidentBill O'Brien
1st Vice PresidentHenry Nienhuis
2nd Vice President.....
SecretaryHenry Nienhuis
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...../Paul Johnson
EditorPaul Petch
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Draw PrizesBill O'Brien
Social ConvenorBill O'Brien
LibrarianRobert Wilson

THE BULLETIN FOR JANUARY 2014

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow, I can't believe that it's 2014 already and that 2013 is in the history books. Last year seems to have just flown by and we are already counting down the days until the start of the R.C.N.A. convention that the club is hosting. In case you have forgotten about the R.C.N.A. convention, it is being held here in the GTA this August and North York is the host club. If you are willing to help us host this event, please come out to the executive meetings that we are holding at Edithvale on the second Tuesday of each month.

The New Year also has the newly elected club executive taking office for the next two years. A lot of the positions are filled by names very familiar to all with little or no new blood volunteering to help us out. Maybe we can get the rest of you members making a commitment to help on the convention if serving on the executive is not your calling. So we hope will see you on February 11th for the next convention-planning meeting.

Also on the calendar this year is the 3rd annual NYCC Collectibles Hobby Show. It will be held in the banquet room at Edithvale on May 10th. The tables are being sold already so if you wish to participate in this annual event see the club treasurer and reserve your table. Prices are up slightly from last year but still very competitive when compared the price charged at other local club shows.

The club has a busy year planned and its dues continues to be one of the best values in the entire world. Our membership fee of \$10.00 for the entire year allows you to attend twelve lively and educational meetings a year. Each meeting also has coffee, cold drinks and

snacks available, an option to submit material into our auction and a generous draw table, where valuable items are there for the picking. Now, tell me where you can get that many hours of entertainment for only ten bucks. That said, to all of you who have not paid your dues for 2014 as yet, see Ben our Treasurer at your earliest convenience. For our upcoming meeting on January 28th we have arranged for an out of town guest speaker, Ron Cheek, who is speaking to us on "A Personal Journey Back to the Great Exhibition of 1851". That would be a perfect night to come in and get caught up on all the club and R.C.N.A. convention news, book a table for the Hobby show, hear and interesting speaker and pay your dues all at the same time. Now that would be a productive night out as well as educational, so plan on attending.

If you are looking for something to do one weekend, possibly attending one of the upcoming local coin shows could be a perfect way to fill a dull afternoon. They are all listed on the Coming Events page in this issue. Get off the 401 and head out to either Oshawa for the Coin-A-Rama show on February 15th or to Paris on February 2nd for SWON. Both locations are an easy drive from Toronto and allow the local collector an opportunity to purchase material that is more affordable than usually seen here at the Toronto shows. If you want to stay closer to home, Torex is downtown on February 22nd and 23rd at the Hyatt Regency with accompanying auctions.

Well, that seems to cover everything I wanted to talk about. Read the rest of the bulletin and come out to join us on the 28th for

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

IT'S IN THE BANQUET ROOM:

We start gathering in the Banquet Room on the first floor of the Edithvale Community Centre, at 7:00 p.m. with meeting start scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

January is traditionally the annual meeting of the Club when a new executive takes office and the financial report for the last year is reviewed. Our guest speaker at this meeting is Ron Cheek with his subject "A Personal Journey Back to the Great Exhibition of 1851." Ron's talk is being supplemented with a PowerPoint presentation.



Last and not least, this is a reminder to bring \$10 to pay your 2014 Club dues.

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.

an evening of fun and fellowship and submit any coin duplicates you have in the nightly auction – another membership benefit!

Numismatically yours,
Bill O'Brien

NEWS OF THE NOVEMBER 2013 MEETING

The 595th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, November 26, 2013 in the 1st floor Dempsey Room at the Edithvale Community Centre, 131 Finch Ave. West. The meeting was hammered to order at 7:30 P.M. with our President Bill O'Brien, in the chair; there were 29 members and 2 guests in attendance.

Our on-time attendance draw was the first order of business. Member Tony Hine was present when his name was drawn to receive the prize of \$2.00. The draw will reset to \$2.00 for the January, 2014 meeting.

Bill asked our guests to stand and tell us a little about what their collecting interests are. Ron Cheek indicated that he collects world coins by type, medals and some paper money. Don R. told us that he was just getting started collecting again after a hiatus of 30 years. He

The meeting then moved on to the theme for the meeting, a general member participation *show-and-tell* night.

- First up was **David Bawcutt** who talked about special hand-made woods he produced to celebrate the Xmas holiday. David started collecting woods as a member of the Scarborough Coin Club when he purchased a collection of woods the club had issued. He mentioned that NYCC member Norm Belsten publishes a comprehensive catalogue on the subject. He also reminded everyone that dues for CAWMC, the wooden money collectors club, remain a great deal at only \$10.00/year.
- **Raj Makhijani** displayed his recent acquisitions from the RCM as well as bullion items including a 1 oz. troy bar with a face value of €.



is interested in silver dollars and Newfoundland 50-cent and \$2.00s.

Moving on to business items, Bill asked members present if they had noticed any errors or omissions in the minutes of the October meeting as published in the November/December newsletter. Member David Bawcutt pointed out a typo erroneously reporting the minutes to be from the August meeting rather than the September meeting. With that correction identified, Raj Makhijani made a motion to accept the minutes with seconding by Vince Chiappino. Motion carried.

Ben Boelens, recently back from his trip to Europe, gave a brief report on the club's financials.

Bill then took some time to discuss final plans for holding our December 3rd holiday meeting at Tucker's Marketplace. Bill confirmed he has negotiated an inclusive price of \$25.00 (incl. tax and gratuity, alcohol extra) per person with the manager at the Etobicoke restaurant located at 15 Carlson Court—Hwy 27 & Dixon Road—near the airport. For those considering taking public transit, the Malton 58B TTC route (from the Lawrence West Subway Station) will drop you off at the Atwell Drive and Dixon stop; just a short walk away from the restaurant.

Dick Dunn, acting as our nominations chairman, reported that the following positions had been filled by acclamation: President- Bill O'Brien, 1st Vice President- Henry Nienhuis, Treasurer- Ben Boelens, Secretary- Henry Nienhuis and Junior Director- Michael G. Welcome to the incoming 2014–2015 executive committee.

Bill then asked if anyone had any news they wanted to share. Ron Cheek mentioned that he had the opportunity to visit the CoinEx show in London, England. He reported that the show is very similar in size to our Canadian shows with approximately 40-dealer tables. He also mentioned that he had the good fortune to meet Christopher Eimer author of the standard reference "*British Commemorative Medals and Their Values.*"



Raj Makhijani



Phillip Simms

- **Phillip Simms** displayed a number of items that he was assisting a colleague at work identify. He mentioned that the person, knowing he was a coin collector, came to him with a paper cup full of items. Phillip assisted by placing each item in 2x2s.
- **Arie Yark** brought along three interesting items including- a 1937 East Africa coin with Edward VIII in the legend, an 1855 PEI Free-Trade penny and East India trade cash.
- **Dr. Marvin Kay** passed around three medical themed banknotes including- a Brazilian note featuring the president's personal surgeon, and a Lithuanian 15-enti note issued while under Russian control.
- **Arnie Goldstein** brought his collection of US silver Morgan dollars for people to view as well as four varieties of the 2013 Arctic Expedition 25-cent pieces that he discovered by looking through roles he obtained though the bank. He was quite happy to discover the varieties.
- Our friend and guest **Ron Cheek** brought along some *odd and curious* items he recently came across including- 1800s-1970s dividend cheques struck in tin, with incuse details on the reverse issued by the Royal Arsenal Society (a purchasing co-operative established in 1868 with over 500,00 members at its peak).
- **Jim Heifetz** passed around two 2012 South African coins a 10-cent rand (valued at about 1-cent Canadian) and a 5-rand bi-metallic coin.



From 8:39 - 9:00 pm Bill called for the refreshment break consisting of cookies, juice and coffee.

The last portion of the meeting was devoted to the customary lucky draws and auction. Lucky draw winners for the evening were- Michael G., Jared Stapleton, Vince Chiappino, Henry Nienhuis (2), Franco Farronato, Andrew Silver, Raj Makhijani (3), Phillip Simms, Bill O'Brien, and David Bawcutt. The club earned \$33.00 through the sale of the draw tickets! The lucky draws were intermixed throughout the evening's auction, called by our auctioneer David Quinlan and volunteer runner Jared Stapleton. Our auction manager, David Bawcutt, reported that receipts from the auction added \$14.05 to the club coffers.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:38 P.M.

The club executive would like to thank members for supporting the club through the purchase of draw tickets and draw prize donations. We would like to thank Ben Boelens for his donation of binders. Please consider supporting your club through a donation of numismatic material or other items. (Don't forget to mention your donations to the club secretary so that your support can be recognized in the minutes and newsletter.)

Please remember our next meeting will be the Christmas banquet held on December 3, at Tucker's Marketplace located at 15 Carlson Court (Dixon Rd and Hwy 27). Also, our next regular club meeting will be held on January 28, 2013, in the first floor Banquet Room of the Edithvale Community Centre. The next 2014 R.C.N.A. Convention planning meeting will be held on January 14th and everyone is invited to attend the meeting.

- **Paul Petch** showed an interesting Power Point presentation entitled "*Interesting Notes About Christmas*" featuring Santa Clause themed vignettes from issued notes both real and fantasy. He used both the book, of the same title, on the topic authored by Roger H. Durand in 1993 and the Stack's Ford Auction catalogue. One note that he favours was issued by the St. Nicholas Bank.
- **Ben Boelens** was reminded of a tongue-in-cheek symbol he has seen in the Netherlands during his extensive travels of a *Sinterklaas* (St. Nicholas) image with a red bar through it. The caption feigned racial discrimination because of his servants *Zwarte Piet* who are *Black Moors* in the original folklore.
- **Henry Nienhuis** passed around a tombac 1867–1927 Canadian Confederation Diamond Jubilee medal. The 3" medal was struck at the Ottawa branch of the Royal Mint in 1928. The reverse tools were prepared in London by engraver Raymond Delamarre (Paris Mint) from a sketch by Canadian historical artist Charles William Jeffreys. Henry commented that this was one of his favourite medals with the fantastic, art-deco, allegorical figure of Canada with arms outstretched "*from sea to sea.*"

Pictures from our Christmas Party by Henry Nienhuis and Paul Petch ...



COMING EVENTS FOR WINTER AND SPRING

JAN. 25 - 26, Hamilton, CAND Annual Show, Sheraton Hamilton Hotel, 116 King St., West. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Show pass \$60 (good for Friday dealer set-up, Saturday and Sunday). Daily admission \$3. *Auction to be conducted by Jeffrey Hoare Auctions Inc. with numismatic auction Saturday, military auction Sunday.* For more information contact show chairman, Tom Kennedy, telephone 519-271-8825, email cand@cogeco.ca.

FEB. 2, 2014, Paris, S.W.O.N, Convention centre (Paris Fairgrounds). Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fifty-six tables of coins, paper money, military, gold and silver bullion, pocket watches and more. *Excellent food and beverages available. Admission \$3, which includes a ticket on the gold coin draw.* For more information contact Ted Bailey, telephone 519-442-3474 or toll free 1-866-747-2646, email tedscollectables@bellnet.ca.

FEB. 15, 2014, OSHAWA, COIN-A-RAMA, Five Points Mall, 285 Taunton Rd E. at Ritson. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. *Free dealer and membership draws and NEW hourly public draws, free admission, featuring paper, coins, tokens, medals and many other items.* For more information contact Sharon, telephone 905-728-1352, email papman@bell.net.

FEB. 22 - 23, 2014, Toronto, Torex - Canada's National Coin Show, Hyatt Regency Toronto On King, 370 King St. W. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. admission \$7, under 16 free. *Canada's finest dealers in Canadian, ancient, and foreign coins, paper money, hobby supplies and reference books.* Official auctioneer: The Canadian Numismatic Company. For more information telephone 416-705-5348. Website: <http://www.torex.net>.

Royal Canadian Numismatic Association 2014 Convention, AUG. 13 - 16, Greater Toronto Area, Delta Meadowvale Hotel, 6750 Mississauga Road, Mississauga ON, Admission hours: Thurs., Fri. and Sat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$6, juniors under 18 free. *Over 60 dealer tables from across North America, competitive and non-competitive displays, annual meetings of national collector groups. Official auctioneer: The Canadian Numismatic Company. Book your hotel early and win an iPad and make it a family event at this resort location!* Sponsored by the R.C.N.A. and hosted by the North York Coin Club. Bourse Chairman Len Kuenzig len.kuenzig@sympatico.ca or phone 905-601-4893. For more information contact co-chairmen Paul Petch & Henry Nienhuis, telephone 416-303-4417, email 2014convention@rcna.ca. Complete information on the website at <http://www.rcna.ca/2014>

Ontario Numismatic Association 52nd Annual Convention, APRIL 4 - 6, Windsor, Saint Clair Centre for the Arts, Canadian Club Room, 201 Riverside Dr. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$2 for adults, juniors under 18 and students with ID free. Educational program, numismatic meetings, exhibits, and 54 tables. See website for exhibit application and registration in January. For more information contact Brett Irick, telephone 313-207-3562, email xr7gt@prodigy.net. Website: <http://www.the-ona.ca/2014> and <http://windsorcoinclub.com>

MARCH 8 - 9, Mississauga, Mississauga's 11th Annual Polish-Canadian Coin, Stamp & Collectibles Show 2014, John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd. (just south of Hwy. 403). Hours: Sat. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$3 for adults Sat., free Sun. Kids 16 and under free both days. *Free parking, 25+ dealers of Canadian and international stamps, gold and silver coins, Royal Canadian Mint coins, paper money, military and other collectibles, Canada Post shop. Bring coins, stamps or collectibles to be evaluated and get best prices.* For more information contact Tom, telephone 905-281-0000 or Wesley, telephone 416-258-1651, email info@troyakclub.com. Dealers call Peter (Janusz), telephone 416-724-4410 Website: <http://www.troyakclub.com>.

MARCH 15, Cambridge, 23rd Annual Cambridge Coin Show, Cambridge Newfoundland Club, 1500 Dunbar Rd. off Highway 24 (Hespeler Rd.). Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Free admission, buy, sell, trade and get appraisals from more than 50 qualified dealers. Find coins, paper money, tokens, medals, trade dollars, official Mint products, hobby supplies, reference books and more. Accessible, free parking and a fabulous lunch counter. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to local charities.* For more information contact Robb McPherson, telephone 519-577-7206, Website: <http://www.waterloocoinociety.com>. email coinshow@waterloocoinociety.com

MARCH 21 - 23, Montreal, Nuphilex, Holiday Inn Midtown, 420 Sherbrooke West. Hours: Fri. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$3 Fri. and Sat., free on Sun. *More than 74 dealers tables of coins, stamps, paper money, tokens, military medals, jewelry and watches. Coin auction conducted by Lower Canada Auction in the Gouverner Room.* For more information contact Gabriel, telephone 514-842-4411, email nuphilex@bellnet.ca. Website: <http://www.nuphilex.com>.

APRIL 12, Guelph, Guelph Spring Coin Show, Colonel John McCrae Legion, 57 Watson Parkway South. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$3, under 16 free, *legendary lunch counter, free draw for gold coin; coins, banknotes, tokens, Canadian Tire money, medals, books and supplies at more than 36 dealer tables; buy, sell, trade or evaluate. Some of Canada's top numismatic dealers. Free level parking, fully accessible.* For more information contact Mike Hollingshead, telephone 519-823-2646, email cholling@uoguelph.ca.

MAY 4, Windsor, Windsor Coin Club 64th Annual Spring Coin Show, Caboto Club, 2175 Parent Ave. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Free parking, 39 tables, admission \$1, juniors under 12 free.* For more information contact Brett Irick, telephone 313-207-3562, Website: <http://windsorcoinclub.com> email xr7gt@prodigy.net.

MAY 10, Toronto, Edithvale Hobby Show, Banquet Room, Edithvale Community Centre, 131 Finch Ave. W. Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., *Free admission, free parking, all sorts of collectibles and featuring coins, paper money, stamps, etc.* For more information contact Paul Petch, telephone 416-303-4417, email p.petch@rogers.com. Website: <http://www.northyorkcoinclub.com>.

Listings are courtesy of Canadian Coin News Coming Events

ISRAEL MUSEUM OBTAINS WORLD'S FIRST JEWISH COIN

American donor gives Jerusalem institution collection of 1,200 silver Persian coins, including 4th century BCE drachm with earliest mention of Judea

The Israel Museum has acquired over 1,200 ancient silver Persian coins, among the earliest known currency from the area, including what the museum has identified as the world's oldest Jewish coin.

The coins, dated to the 5th and 4th centuries BCE when the region was controlled by the Persian Empire, constitute "the largest collection in the world of Persian-period coins." The collection includes a number of previously unknown varieties, the museum said. Chief among the rare artifacts is a silver drachm, an ancient coin based upon the Greek drachma, which, in clearly legible Aramaic script, bears the word *yehud*, or Judea.

"It's the earliest coin from the province of Judea," the museum's chief curator of archaeology, Haim Gitler, said in an interview with *The Times of Israel*, calling the 5th century silver drachm the "first Jewish coin."

The coin collection dates to the period a century or more after the Achaemenid Persian Empire under Cyrus II (the Great) conquered and annexed the Neo-Babylonian Empire in 539 BCE. The Persians ruled the Levant for the next two centuries, until Alexander of Macedon stormed through and toppled their empire. Roughly a century before Persia conquered the Middle East, the earliest known currency was minted from electrum — a silver-gold alloy — in Lydia, western Asia Minor. The idea of precious metal coinage spread across the empire. Judea, Samaria and Philistia, part of the satrapy of Syria and Jerusalem, began minting their own coins shortly thereafter.

The 3.58 gram *yehud* coin — a hair or two lighter than today's one shekel coin — was reportedly found in the hills southwest of Hebron and was bought at auction by New York antiquities collector Jonathan Rosen. Rosen, "one of the world's most important private collectors of Mesopotamian art" according to *The New York Times*, agreed to donate his entire collection of Persian-era coins to the museum in March 2013. The acquisition was completed in November. *Apollo*, an international art magazine, ranked the collection among the top museum acquisitions of 2013.

Although there are a handful of other examples of coins bearing the name Judea, Gitler said the silver drachm was a "unique coin" in its design, and was likely minted in Philistia, the coastal plain encompassing the modern cities of Ashdod, Ashkelon and Gaza, for use in the province of Jerusalem. "Only later did Judea start to mint its own coins," he said.

Then, as now, Judea, Samaria and Philistia sat at the crossroads of civilizations and at the far reaches of the Persian Empire, and local artisans would imitate styles from coins that arrived from abroad. The coinage represented in the collection consequently exhibits a stunning array of artistic influences from Persia, Greece, Anatolia and Egypt.

Many coins feature owls, a symbol closely associated with the goddess Athena, both of which appeared on Greek drachmas in antiquity. Other coins bear images of deities, heroes, mythical beasts and animals familiar to the Middle East — including camels, horses, cows, eagles, and lions.

The Judean drachm's iconography is representative of the local fusion of artistic designs. Emblazoned on its obverse is a gorgoneion, a Greek icon of the head of a gorgon which serves as a talisman against evil, but its hair is stylized like the Egyptian goddess

Hathor. On the reverse side is a lion astride a cow with the Aramaic letters *yod*, *heh* and *dalet*. The exact meaning of the coin's iconography remains undetermined.

Based on the stylization of the gorgon head, which in earlier incarnations was demonic and bestial and over the centuries became more anthropomorphic, and the style of the Aramaic script, Gitler dated the coin to the early 4th century BCE.

"We barely have any information or texts describing the Persian period in Palestine, so almost all that we know comes from these coins," he said. Gitler explained that the tiny images engraved in silver offer a glimpse into the appearance, manner of dress and language spoken by inhabitants of the region at the time.

It is clear from the collection that the die-engravers of Persian Palestine who designed the coins demonstrated a proclivity for creative expression unseen elsewhere in the empire, creating a "local flavor" of coinage, Gitler said. Coins from Tyre and Sidon, just up the coast, have a much smaller variety of styles.

A Philistian drachm from the late 5th century BCE in the collection employs a clever example of "optical trickery" in its design, he noted. When turned 90° counterclockwise, the lion on the coin's reverse becomes the helmet of the bearded man, and its paws becomes the man's hair. Gitler said such illusions were fairly common, noting that a Samarian coin from the same period showed the head of a bearded man whose face is composed of two faces in profile. Hidden owls also roost within the designs of other creatures. (Image)

"The coins really show us a variety of motifs which is unequalled" in the Persian Empire, Gitler said. "It shows that the people who were designing these coins weren't just making the coins because they had to do them, but they enjoyed doing it."

A selection of coins from collection is now on display in the Israel Museum's Archaeology Wing, including the lion optical illusion coin shown above.

"Of course in the future we'll start incorporating more of the collection," he said, voicing interest in holding an exhibition of a selection of the coins in the collection which he said would be "even more amazing" than the White Gold exhibit in 2012 that showcased the world's earliest electrum currency.



The obverse of a Samarian drachm with a lion (left) which, when turned 90° (right), becomes a bearded man. (photo credit: Vladimir Naikhin/Israel Museum)



*A 5th century silver drachm from Persian era Palestine with a gorgoneion on the obverse (left) and a lion and bovine on the reverse (right). Above the lion are the Aramaic letters *yod*, *heh* and *dalet* — Judea. (photo credit: Vladimir Naikhin/The Israel Museum)*

KRAUSE PUBLICATIONS 2014 COIN OF THE YEAR

Compiled from Krause press releases and images from the Royal Canadian Mint

Krause Publications, a leading producer of coin and paper money books, magazines, events and online products, announced the 99 nominees for the **2014 Coin of the Year** awards on October 17, 2013. Each year, the awards honor the best in coin design from around the world.

Voting has taken place and the winners in each category and the overall winning **Coin of the Year** were announced December 12. The awards will be presented during a ceremony February 8, 2014, at the World Money Fair in Berlin, Germany.

The coins nominated for this year's awards were released in 2012, and represent the highest achievement in theme, design and marketing from mints and central banks from around the world.

A panel of judges who are authors, editors and numismatists, as well as members of the American Numismatic Association and Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee, met October 4 in Iola, Wisconsin, to choose the nominees from hundreds received from around the world.

These nominees were reviewed by a worldwide panel of judges comprised of mint and museum officials, journalists and individual experts. They will choose a winner in each of 10 individual categories. A second round of balloting will select the Coin of the Year from among the category winners.

Last year's COTY winner was a 5-euro silver coin issued by the Royal Dutch Mint commemorating the 100th anniversary of the building of the Mint's present facility in Utrecht. The coin's obverse features the image of the former Queen Beatrix and her title, Beatrix Koningen Der Nederlanden, just above. The reverse features the denomination of 5 euros, the year of minting (2011) in Roman numerals and a Quick Response Code which can be scanned with a smart phone for more information about the coin and a game.

Here is presented are all the nominees for the 2014 Krause Publications' Coin of the Year Awards with the winner of voting in each category highlighted.

Most Historically Significant Coin

1. Canada—KM# 1322a, 25 Cents, Nickel-Plated Steel, War of 1812—Sir Isaac Brock
2. Czech Republic—KM# 127, 200 Korun, Silver, 150th Anniversary of the Sokol Sport and Gymnastics Movement
3. Fiji—KM# 197, 50 Dollars, Silver, 100th Anniversary of the Titanic
4. Germany—KM# 310, 10 Euro, Silver, 200th Anniversary of Brothers Grimm Fairy Tales
5. **Greece—KM# 248, 10 Euro, Silver, Greek Culture—Socrates**
6. Hungary—KM# 841, 10,000 Forint, Gold, Golden Florin of King Charles I
7. Latvia—KM# 129, 1 Lats, Silver, 200th Anniversary of Riga Zoo
8. Niue—KM# 638, 2 Dollars, Silver, RMS Titanic
9. Russia—KM# 1367, 3 Rubles, Silver, 1150 Years of Statehood
10. Transnistria—KM# 139, 100 Rublei, Silver, Khotyn Fortress



Best Contemporary Event

1. Ascension Island—KM# 25, 60 Crowns, Silver with Diamonds, 60th Anniversary of Reign of Queen Elizabeth II
2. Australia—KM# 1744, 50 Cents, Copper-Nickel, Bombing of Australia in World War II
3. Brazil—KM# 680, 5 Reis, Silver, Delivery of Olympic Flag London to Rio
4. France—KM# 1850, 10 Euro, Silver, 20th Anniversary of the Eurocorps
5. Germany—KM# 309, 10 Euro, Silver, 50th Anniversary of Fighting World Hunger
6. Great Britain—KM# 1216, 5 Pounds, Copper-Nickel, 60th Anniversary of Reign of Queen Elizabeth II
7. **Great Britain—KM# 1227, 10 Pounds, Silver, London Olympics**
8. Greece—KM# 246, 10 Euro, Silver, Dr. George Papanicolaou
9. Latvia—KM# 128, 10 Lats, Silver, London Olympics
10. Poland—Y# 818, 10 Zlotych, Silver, Stefan Banach



Best Gold Coin

1. Austria—KM# 3214, 100 Euro, Gold, Imperial Crown
2. Canada—KM# 1520, 1 Cent, Gold, The End of the Penny
3. Great Britain—KM# 1207, One Sovereign, Gold, New Depiction of St. George Slaying the Dragon
4. Greece—KM# 250, 100 Euro, Gold, Balkan War Centennial
5. Hungary—KM# 843, 5,000 Forint, Gold, Summer Olympics—Canoe
6. Israel—KM# 494, 10 New Sheqalim, Gold, Tel Megiddo
7. **Italy—KM# 352, 20 Euro, Gold, Fauna in Art—Middle Ages**
8. Lithuania—KM# 180, 10 Litu, Gold, Science—Mokslas
9. Netherlands—KM# 313, 10 Euro, Gold, Amsterdam Canals
10. Slovakia—KM# 125, 100 Euro, Gold, 300th Anniversary of the Coronation of Charles III



Best Silver Coin

1. Australia—KM# 1830, 1 Dollar, Silver, Kangaroo in Ultra High Relief
2. Austria—KM# 3209, 20 Euro, Silver, Egon Schiele
3. Canada—KM# 1237, 20 Dollars, Silver, Maple Leaf
4. Cook Islands—KM# 1599, 1 Dollar, Silver, Gold Cup
5. **France—KM# 2079, 10 Euro, Silver, SS France Ocean Liner**
6. Italy—KM# 353, 5 Euro, Silver, Monetary Unification
7. Japan—Y# 195, 1,000 Yen, Silver, International Monetary Fund Meeting
8. New Zealand—KM# 356, 1 Dollar, Silver, Queen's 1953 Christmas Message
9. South Africa—KM# 532, 50 Cents, Silver, Baobob Tree
10. United States—KM# 522a, 25 Cents, Proof Silver, Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park



Best Crown Coin

1. **Australia—KM# 1853, 5 Dollars, Silver, Southern Cross in Blue Sky**
2. Belarus—KM# 425, 10 Rubles, Silver, 150th Anniversary of Railways
3. Canada—KM# 1238, 20 Dollars, Silver, Diamond Jubilee High Relief
4. China—Y# 2047, 10 Yuan, Silver, Zhang Fei Mask
5. Finland—KM# 189, 20 Euro, Silver, UNESCO Equality and Tolerance
6. Hungary—KM# 839, 500 Forint, Silver, Istvan Orkeny
7. Ireland—KM# 72, 15 Euro, Silver, Wolfhounds
8. Kazakhstan—KM# 222, 500 Tenge, Silver, Fairytale Characters
9. Kyrgestan—KM# 50, 10 Som, Silver, Kurmanjan Dakta
10. Lithuania—KM# 178, 50 Litu, Silver, Turtle



Best Circulation Coin

1. Armenia—KM# 214, 50 Dram, Brass-Plated Steel, Armavir Region
2. **Australia—KM# 1738, One Dollar, Aluminum-Bronze, International Year of the Farmer**
3. Canada—KM# 1258, 2 Dollars, Bi-Metallic, War of 1812—HMS Shannon
4. China—KM# 2041, 1 Yuan, Brass, Year of the Dragon
5. Denmark—KM# 945, 20 Kroner, Aluminum Bronze, 40th Anniversary of Queen Margrethe II
6. Fiji—KM# 334, 20 Cents, Nickel-Plated Steel, Parrot
7. Finland—KM# 182, 2 Euro, Bi-Metallic, Helene Schjerfbeck
8. Germany—KM# 305, 2 Euro, Bi-Metallic, Bavaria-Schloss
9. Latvia—KM# 135, 1 Lats, Copper-Nickel, Hedgehog
10. Russia—Y# 1417, 5 Rubles, Nickel-Plated Steel, Patriotic War of 1812—Capture of Paris



Best Bi-Metallic Coin

1. Austria—KM# 3212, 25 Euro, Silver and Niobium, Bionics
2. Canada—KM# 1132, 5 Dollars, Silver and Niobium, Winter Moon
3. **Finland—KM# 180, 50 Euro, Silver and Gold, Helsinki World Design Capital**



4. Great Britain—KM# 1224, 2 Pounds, Bi-Metallic, Charles Dickens
5. Japan—Y# 191, 500 Yen, Bi-Metallic, Black-Beaked Storks
6. Luxembourg—KM# 120, 2 Euro, Bi-Metallic, Royal Wedding
7. Portugal—KM# 813, 2 Euro, Bi-Metallic, European Cultural Capital—Guimaraes
8. Slovenia—KM# 109, 3 Euro, Bi-Metallic, 100th Anniversary of Rudolph Cvetko's Olympic Fencing Medal
9. Switzerland—KM# 142, 10 Francs, Bi-Metallic, Combat of the Bulls
10. Uganda—KM# 278, 1,000 Shillings, Bi-Metallic, 50th Anniversary of Independence

Most Innovative Coinage

1. Aruba—KM# 50, 5 Florin, Silver, Shoco Bird—World's First Augmented Reality Coin
2. **Canada—KM# 1252, 25 Cents, Nickel-Plated Steel, Glow in the Dark Dino Skeleton**



3. Cook Islands—KM# 1600, 5 Dollars, Silver, Nano-Sistine Chapel
4. Isle of Man—KM# 1446, 1 Crown, Copper-Nickel, Tennis—Commemorates Both Table Tennis and Lawn Tennis
5. Kazakhstan—KM# 223, 500 Tenge, Silver, Dinmukhamed Konayev—ex-Soviet Republic Honors ex-Soviet Leader (Distinct visual themes)
6. Latvia—KM# 131, 1 Lats, Silver, Riga Technical University—Technical Draftsmanship Tools
7. Niger—KM# 17, 1,000 Francs, Silver, Mecca Pointer
8. Poland and Ukraine—Y#824, KM# 666, 10 Zlotych + 10 Hyrvnia, Silver, European Football Championship—Yin Yang Design for Two Nations
9. Poland—KM# 825–828, 10 Zlotych, Silver, European Football Championships—4 Pieces Make A Square

Most Inspirational Coinage

1. Alderney—KM# 219, 5 Pounds, Copper-Nickel, Remembrance Day
2. Canada—KM# 1248, 5 Dollars, Silver, Man in Motion—Rick Hansen Wheelchair



3. Cyprus—KM# 98, 5 Euro, Silver, Presidency of the European Council
4. Finland—KM# 187, 10 Euro, Silver, Arvo Ylppo
5. Hungary—KM# 837, 3,000 Forint, Silver, 150th Anniversary of Tragedy of Man—Imre Madach
6. Netherlands—KM# 309, 5 Euro, Silver, 400 Years of Diplomatic Relations with Turkey
7. New Zealand—KM# 354, 1 Dollar, Silver, 50 Years of Friendship Between New Zealand and Samoa
8. Poland—Y# 814, 20 Zlotych, Silver, Holocaust Families
9. United States—KM# 530, 1 Dollar, Silver, Star-Spangled Banner
10. Vatican City—KM# 435, 2 Euro, Bi-Metallic, 7th World Meeting of Families

Most Artistic Coin and Coin of the Year!

1. Armenia—KM# 223, 100 Dram, Silver, Sergei Parajanov
2. Australia—KM# 1625, 20 Cents, Copper-Nickel, Fields of Gold (Wheat)
3. Austria—KM# 3206a, 5 Euro, Silver, Society of Music Lovers
4. Belarus—KM# 426, 20 Rubles, Silver, Folk Legends—Bear
5. Estonia—KM# 72, 12 Euro, Silver, London Olympics
6. Finland—KM# 186, 5 Euros, Bi-Metallic, Northern Nature—Winter
7. **France—KM# 2087, 10 Euro, Silver, Yves Klein***
8. Italy—KM# 356, 10 Euro, Silver, Michelangelo and David
9. Lithuania—KM# 179, 10 Litu, Silver, Artist's Palette
10. Portugal—KM# 815a, 2.5 Euro, Silver, Painter Jose Malhoa



NEW BANK OF ENGLAND BANKNOTES TO BE PRINTED ON POLYMER

Bank of England Press Release

The Bank of England is today announcing that the next £5 and £10 banknotes will be printed on polymer, a thin flexible plastic film, rather than on the cotton paper used for notes currently in issue.

The new polymer notes will retain the familiar look of Bank of England banknotes, including the portrait of Her Majesty the Queen and a historical character. The first polymer note will be the £5 note featuring Sir Winston Churchill and will be issued in 2016. It will be followed around a year later by a polymer £10 note featuring Jane Austen.

The decision follows a three-year research programme by the Bank looking at the materials on which banknotes are printed, and which concluded that there were compelling reasons to move to printing on polymer. In particular, the research indicated that:

- Polymer banknotes are resistant to dirt and moisture so stay cleaner for longer than paper banknotes.
- Polymer banknotes are secure. They incorporate advanced security features making them difficult to counterfeit and further enhancing the strong security of Bank of England banknotes.
- Polymer banknotes are more durable. They last at least 2.5 times longer than paper banknotes so will take much longer to become “tatty,” improving the quality of banknotes in circulation.

In addition, polymer banknotes are more environmentally friendly and, because they last longer are, over time, cheaper than paper banknotes. Being thin and flexible they fit into wallets and purses as easily as paper banknotes.

Despite these benefits, the Bank announced in September that it would print notes on polymer only if persuaded that the public would continue to have confidence in, and be comfortable with, notes printed on polymer. A programme of public consultation was therefore a vital part of the assessment of the merits of polymer notes.

The response to that consultation was overwhelmingly supportive of polymer notes. Over the course of two months, the Bank hosted events across the United Kingdom to give the public the opportunity to learn more about polymer banknotes, to handle the notes, and to provide feedback. Nearly 13,000 individuals gave feedback during the public consultation programme. 87% of those who responded were in favour of polymer, only 6% were opposed and 7% were neutral.

Support for polymer was broadly consistent across geographic regions, demographics and socio-economic groups. The most notable difference in feedback was that people who had the opportunity to see and handle the notes were 20% more likely to support polymer than those responding on the Internet.

Further detail on the public consultation programme can be found on the Bank of England’s website at <http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/polymer/Pages/pcp.aspx>.



Sample polymer 10-GB pound banknotes are seen on display at the Bank of England in London (Cluis Radcliffe/Reuters)

In parallel with the public consultation, the Bank engaged with a wide range of stakeholders in the cash industry. A new polymer note would require greater change to cash handling practices than a new paper note so the Bank will continue its dialogue with the industry and work collaboratively towards a smooth introduction of the first polymer note. The Bank will host an Industry Forum in February 2014 to initiate this work.

The new polymer notes will be slightly smaller than their existing paper equivalents, but the current practice of note size increasing with note denomination will be maintained. Bank of England notes are currently large compared with their international counterparts, making the largest denomination notes harder to fit into cash handling technology and less convenient for everyday use. Smaller notes will also reduce printing and storage costs.

The contract for printing the Bank of England's notes from April 2015 is currently being tendered. Notes will continue to be printed at the Bank's printing works in Debden, Essex. The Bank expects to enter a contract with Innovia Security to supply the polymer material for the new-style £5 and £10 notes, in which case Innovia would establish a polymer production plant in Wigton, Cumbria, in 2016.

Commenting today, Mark Carney, Governor of the Bank of England, said: "Ensuring trust and confidence in money is at the heart of what central banks do. Polymer notes are the next step in the evolution of banknote design to meet that objective. The quality of polymer notes is higher, they are more secure from counterfeiting, and they can be produced at lower cost to the taxpayer and the environment."

Chris Salmon, Executive Director for Banking Services and Chief Cashier, said: "We are grateful to the thousands of people who came to talk to us about polymer banknotes. We know that the public care greatly about their banknotes and the feedback we received provided an invaluable input into our final decision."

The issue of the new notes will be supported by a comprehensive education programme, which will include information about the new security features for authentication of the banknote as well as details of how the current paper £5 and £10 banknotes will be withdrawn from circulation.



FACTS ABOUT POLYMER BANKNOTES

1. Polymer banknotes are manufactured from a transparent plastic film, specially coated with an ink layer that enables it to carry the printed design features of banknotes. The material allows the inclusion of 'windows' or clear portions in the design, which enhance protection against counterfeits.
2. The planned issuance dates for the Churchill £5 and Austen £10 reflect the need to finalise the design of the new banknotes, to undertake trial print runs to identify if any modifications are necessary for large-scale production, to print the initial launch stocks and to allow the industry to update cash handling machines to accept the new designs.
3. The Bank consulted with the Royal National Institute of Blind People on the proposed size change and they have indicated their support. The polymer £5 note will measure 125mm in length and 65mm in height. Each subsequent denomination will measure 7mm longer and 4mm higher than the previous denomination; therefore the £10 note will measure 132mm x 69mm. These will be a little larger than the equivalent Euro notes.
4. Link to news release announcing the consultation, can be found at <http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/Pages/news/2013/103.aspx>
5. The consultation programme comprised three different types of events run by the Bank: stands in shopping centres, drop in sessions at office premises and universities, as well as presentations and Q&A sessions with a wide range of parties (e.g. chambers of commerce and small business groups). Detailed factual information was provided on our website. We also commissioned from TNS, the independent market research firm, 36 focus groups and an omnibus survey. Each of the Bank and TNS events provided people with an opportunity to handle mock up Bank of England polymer notes, so that they could experience polymer first hand. Comment cards were provided at all of the events, and an on-line comment form was set up on the Bank's website. In addition, there was a display in the Bank's museum accompanied by comment cards.
6. A short video of Victoria Cleland, Head of Notes Division, providing more details about polymer banknotes can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q97EKImhq3Q>
7. Over 25 countries currently issue polymer banknotes. These include Australia, which introduced them in 1988, New Zealand, Mexico, Singapore, Canada and most recently Fiji, and Mauritius, which both introduced polymer banknotes in 2013.

MINTCHIP AND THE DIGITAL DOUGH DEMONSTRATION

by Gemma Karstens-Smith, Staff Reporter, Toronto Star

from The Canadian Press

It's not this



but this

Using loonies and toonies to pay for your double-double could soon be an extinct experience for Canadians. Next week, the Royal Canadian Mint will unveil the latest step in MintChip, their research and development project on a digital replacement for pocket change.

First announced in spring 2012, MintChip has evolved from an idea into software by Ingenico, a company that designs all kinds of payment methods. The software allows mobile devices with MintChip accounts to send small amounts of digital currency to point-of-sale terminals using near field communications.

“The transaction is very cash like,” said Marc Brule, Chief Emerging Payments Officer at Royal Canadian Mint “The value is transferred instantaneously and securely from one account to another”

Unlike credit or debit, no third party is involved and no personal information is used in the transaction, Brule explained. Instead, the transfer has the ID of the chip receiving the funds, the date, and the amount being sent.

Privacy has been one of the critiques levelled at digital currencies, such as Bitcoin, known for being popular with people looking to execute criminal transactions online. MintChip skirts those concerns by limiting the funds that can be transferred and having a cap on how much can be in a MintChip account at any one time, Brule said

The Mint and Ingenico will be demonstrating MintChip Monday and Tuesday at the 2014 National Retail Federation’s Annual Convention & EXPO in New York. City, and, later this month, Mint employees will test the new technology for themselves. Cafeterias at the Mint offices in Ottawa and Winnipeg are getting Ingenico terminals that can accept MintChip transfers, and employees will get their own MintChip accounts. “Employees can do more than buy lunch with the new accounts,” Brule said. They’ll also be encouraged to use MintChip for online purchases and to transfer money to other people with MintChip.

Brule sees MintChip—or something similar—having a future not only in Canada, but also around the world.

The Royal Canadian Mint’s ambition to launch a secure system to send and spend digital currency, nicknamed MintChip, has passed a new milestone. While still in research and development mode, MintChip’s first proof-of-concept implementation—an integration with a retail point-of-sale terminal made by Paris-based Ingenico—is being displayed this week at the National Retail Federation’s annual convention in New York.

First launched in April 2012, just days after federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announced the penny’s days were numbered, MintChip was introduced as a potential way for consumers to digitally exchange money in small denominations, in transactions of about \$10 or less.

It could be used in place of cash to buy a coffee or fast food, and online it was envisioned to enable easy transactions for things like buying music, news articles, or add-ons for video games. Consumers could use MintChip with a mobile device at a cash register or send money with a text message, email or potentially a social media message.

“We call it a digital cash-like product and we like to dub it as a product that’s been architected for the 21st century,” said Marc Brule, the Royal Canadian Mint’s chief emerging payments officer. “I think one of the target markets or demographics for a product like MintChip is the digital native, the millennials who grew up with the Internet and grew up with digital-type products. “This will be just another arrow in their quiver in terms of ways of paying (for their purchases) that will be easy and fast.”

Brule said the rise of BitCoin, a peer-to-peer digital currency system that’s still in its infancy but gaining in popularity, has helped, not hurt, MintChip’s chances of getting fully developed. “I think it’s raised the consciousness and awareness around digital currencies, virtual currencies, digital products, whatever you want to call them,” he said. “I think it’s been very helpful to the MintChip proposition.”

The eBay-owned digital platform PayPal has also grown in Canada since MintChip was first unveiled and now allows consumers to spend money in their accounts at e-commerce sites including Babies “R” Us, the Bay, Best Buy, Future Shop, Macy’s, Saks Fifth Avenue, Sport Chek, the Shopping Channel and Toys “R” Us.

But Brule said he’s not concerned with the competition that already exists for MintChip and new entrants that may emerge. “We view MintChip as offering consumers some choice and we don’t necessarily see it displacing any or all of the other products that are out there today,” he said. “I don’t believe there’s going to be one (digital cash product) that’s going to conquer the world.”

Brule said the next step for MintChip is further testing of the proof-of-concept implementation within the Royal Canadian Mint. External testing is expected to be launched later in the year, although he wouldn’t say exactly where or when that would happen.

“It’ll be in 2014 is our belief,” he said.