



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

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Royal Canadian Numismatic Association

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1st Vice PresidentHenry Nienhuis
2nd Vice President.....
SecretaryHenry Nienhuis
TreasurerBen Boelens
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THE BULLETIN FOR OCTOBER 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome again to all fellow numismatists and everyone receiving this monthly bulletin. The fall colours are beginning in the Toronto area and already in fully splendid eye-catching colours further north of the city. Get out and enjoy them, and the last remnants of summer weather, because before long you know what we will be complaining about, snow. Why not hit the road and attend one of the local coin shows and also enjoy a fall drive.

The upcoming October 25th meeting will be one of those don't miss meeting as we have a well known local collector and author, Ted Banning, This will be an in-depth look at one of most significant early Canadian numismatist, P.N. Breton of Montreal and his collection at auction. Please show your support for Ted's effort and attend the meeting and participate in the draw and auction as well.

As mentioned last month, the on time attendance draw has remained at \$2 for a very long time and we thought that it should now be raised to \$5. At the September meeting a motion was made for the increase and it passed. Also at the same meeting the club voted in favour of hosting the R.C.N.A. 2018 convention and supporting the R.C.N.A. Canada 2017 medal program. Thanks to all you voted to support those initiatives.

The club has finalized the date for the North York Coin Club Annual Coin Show. It has returned to its traditional spot in the month on the second Saturday, making our next one May 13, 2017. It will be held in the same place as all previous years, in the Banquet Room at Edithvale Community Centre on Finch Ave. in North York. As with prior years we have 18 tables for sale and the price has been frozen at \$40 for the day. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. and close at 3:00 p.m. See the club's treasurer Ben to reserve your table now.

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EXECUTIVE MEETING

The next executive meeting is at Trend Signs on November 8 at 7:00 p.m. We ask all the club executive to plan on attending the meeting and invite all members as observers.

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25

**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.**

Our guest speaker for the October meeting is long time numismatist Ted Banning. Ted is a professor at the University of Toronto in anthropology, but he is leaving that discipline behind and will be speaking to us about "Bids and Bidders at the Chapman Brothers' Sale of the Breton Collection in January 1902" at our next meeting.

To frame this presentation, Ted writes, "On January 31, 1902, Davis & Harvey, auctioneers in Philadelphia, sold several numismatic collections catalogued by S. H. and H. Chapman, the most prominent ones being those belonging to J. O. Stevens of Chicago and Pierre Napoléon Breton of Montreal. As part of my continuing research on early Canadian numismatists, I had occasion to browse an online scan of this catalogue on archive.org and was pleasantly surprised to discover that it was a copy, once belonging to Harry Bass, that must originally have been the auctioneer's own record copy. Not only is it richly annotated in the margins with notes on the bids on each lot, but it also has pages appended that list all the registered bidders, their code names, and the totals of their successful bids. The catalogue thus provides a unique insight into the collecting habits of some of the most prominent, as well as some of the more obscure, Canadian collectors at the turn of the 20th century."

We encourage all members and friends of the club to join us for this very special talk.

Don't forget to bring along your recent finds or special treasures to share with us during the show and tell!

Please remember to bring your auction lots so we can have a really fine auction at this meeting. Also, we appreciate all donations to our supply of draw prize material.

*Treasurer Ben Boelens invites you to pay your 2017 dues at the next meeting ... still only \$10.
Ben will be away for the start of 2017 so is trying clean this up early.*

NEWS OF THE SEPTEMBER 2016 MEETING

The 625th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, September 27, 2016 in the 1st floor Banquet Room at the Edithvale Community Centre. It was hammered to order at 7:35 p.m. with our Vice-President, Henry Nienhuis, in the chair and 30 members and 1 guest in attendance.

Prior to commencing the regularly scheduled meeting agenda Henry mentioned that at the last executive meeting held September 13 there was a motion put forth by Bill O'Brien and discussed by the executive present. It was decided that the motioned would be put in front of the next members' meeting prior to the start of regular business. Henry read the motion by Bill "It is moved that we increase the on-time attendance draw from \$2.00, with \$2.00 increments if the draw is not won, to \$5.00, with \$5.00 increments if the draw is not won, and the increase shall take effect immediately." The motion was seconded by Len Kuenzig, at which time the motion was then opened to discussion. During the discussion an amending motion was made by Italo Villella "moved that the increase to \$5.00, with \$5.00 increments, be effective starting January 24, 2017." Norman G. Gordon seconded the motion. After additional discussion Henry called for a vote on the amending motion by show of hands. The motion was defeated by a majority of the members present. Henry then called for a vote on the original motion; the motion was carried by a majority of members present.

With that preliminary business now complete, we continued with the regular agenda. Member Richard Duquette was present when his name was drawn to receive the on-time attendance draw prize of \$5.00. The draw will reset to \$5.00 for the October 25th meeting.

Henry asked members present if they had noticed any errors or omissions in the minutes of the August meeting as published in the September newsletter. John Regitko indicated that the report of his receiving the Fiocca Award at the last meeting omitted to mention that the Fiocca Award is the highest award presented by the R.C.N.A. With that correction noted, Carl Anderson made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Phillip Simms. Motion carried.

Treasurer, Ben Boelens, reported the status of club finances.

Henry Nienhuis mentioned three further items of business that came out of the last executive meeting.

The first item of business concerned the "Canada 150 Medal Initiative" being presented by the R.C.N.A. to its member clubs. The initiative is an opportunity for the NYCC to issue a commemorative medal using a die donated by the R.C.N.A. After some discussion, Paul Petch motioned "moved that the club express its interest to the R.C.N.A. that we would like to participate in the Canada 150 initiative pending final details." The motion was seconded by Phillip Simms and carried through a show of hands.

The second order of business concerned the invitation made by the R.C.N.A. to the NYCC for our club to act as hosts of the R.C.N.A. convention in 2018. After some discussion a motion was made by Carl Anderson "moved that the NYCC accept the R.C.N.A. invitation to be the host of the R.C.N.A. convention in 2018." Phillip Simms seconded the motion. Henry called for a vote by show of hands and the motion carried by a large majority of the members present.

The third business item concerned the annual Holiday Banquet meeting. After some discussion during the last meeting the executive recommended that we once again hold the meeting at Tuckers Marketplace, located at 15 Carlson Court in Etobicoke. Henry mentioned that Bill had taken the action item to follow up with the venue to see if December 6 or 13 would be available and to confirm the final cost. Unfortunately he was not able to do this for this meeting but would report back next time. For the time being, Henry asked if there were other venues that might be considered and what date the majority of member wishing to attend the meeting would prefer. With some discussion it was agreed that December 13 was the preferred date and that the Tuckers venue was thought to be our best choice. It was generally agreed that last year's meeting was very enjoyable, especially since we were able to have the back of the restaurant to ourselves. The members also agreed to extend our customary invitation to the Etobicoke-Mississauga club and also, this year, to invite the Toronto Coin Club to join us. Bill will confirm the final information.

As the last business item, Henry mentioned that our Treasurer Ben Boelens was once again planning an extended holiday at the beginning of 2017. As a result he mentioned that we are looking for a substitute to take on his duties for the months of January to March. He asked any interested parties to talk to himself or Bill.



The first English silver crown appeared in 1551 under the reign of Edward VI. It was struck at the combined Tower and Southwark mints, bearing the mark "Y" for the mint master Sir John Yorke. This is known as the "fine" coinage as the ancient silver standards of fineness had been restored after the debasement of coins under Henry VIII.



This "Gothic" style crown of Victoria struck in 1847 is one of the most ornate coins in the English series and the crowning achievement of William Wyon. Only a limited number were minted and most were withdrawn from circulation as treasured works of art that they are seldom found in worn condition.

Phillip Simms asked for the floor to remind everyone of the “Coin Buddy” program and to give a quick update on its status. He ended by reminding everyone to contact him with any further questions.

With the business of the club now concluded we moved on to our show-and-tell session. Phillip Simms passed around a display of 15th century coins from India, which he had in his collection. Carl Anderson talked about finding a few forgeries in a collection that he recently purchased. He passed the items around so that members could see the coins as he described the differences from the real coin.

Our speaker for the evening was Paul Petch who presented one of the O.N.A.’s slide programs from the London Numismatic Society entitled “English Silver Crowns.” The presentation, originally developed by Herbert A. Seaby, was richly supported by images of the large silver crown denomination coins issued by England between 1551 and 1965. The presentation was well received by the members present; who supplemented the presentation with added details.

Henry then called for our customary refreshment break from 8:40–8:55 p.m. We would like to thank Carolyne-Marie Petch for picking up supplies and for helping out during refreshment break.



The crown of William III and Mary, 1688 - 1694 was issued in 1691 and 1692. This is the only example of conjoined busts on an English coin. The reverse design shows the shield of Orange-Nassau with the four shields of England, Scotland, France and Ireland arranged crosswise.

We then resumed the meeting with our regular club auction and lucky draw. David Quinlan served as our Auctioneer and Jared Stapleton as the Runner for the evening. Lucky draw numbers were called at various times while the auction took place. Lucky draw winners for the evening were- Ben Boelens (2), Christopher Dunsmuir, Bob Velensky (2), Phillip Simms, Tony Hine (2), Henry Nienhuis, Carl Anderson, David Bawcutt, Len Kuenzig, Linda McQuade-Simms and Vince Chiappino. The club earned \$30.00 through the sale of the draw tickets! Our auction manager for the evening, Paul Petch, reported that receipts from the auction added \$10.60 to the club coffers with \$6.00 resulting from donated material.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

The club executive would like to thank members for supporting the club through the purchase of draw tickets and draw prize donations.

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.)

Our next regular meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 25, 2016, in the 1st floor Banquet room of the Edithvale Community Centre.

President’s Message ... continued from page 1

By the way if you wanted to help out the club, we are looking for a temporary treasurer to cover the first few months of 2017 during the time Ben Boelens is away on a winter holiday. This position needs filling for approximately three months. If that is not what you had in mind to help out the club how about volunteering to bring refreshments to the monthly meeting. This is simply purchasing a few items each month and bringing them to the meeting. This will provide the members with a cold drink or hot coffee and biscuit at the meeting. Please consider this job and if interested speak with the club’s president.

The December meeting, which traditionally has been a restaurant buffet, will be in the same spot as last year, which is Tucker’s Marketplace, on December 13th. The restaurant is located at 15 Carlson Ct. which is just steps away from the Dixon Road and Attwell Drive TTC stop. The evening begins at 6:00 p.m. with your beverage of wine or beer. This is followed by an all you can eat festive buffet with dessert and coffee. Also included is the gratuity and our governments’ cut at a total of \$30 per person. Extra beverages are available at additional cost.

This year we are again planning the 50–50 draw, gift exchange and draws for extraordinary prizes. This is a “don’t miss it event” so make your payment now to the treasurer.

Talking about our fine treasurer, he is accepting your dues payment for the 2017 calendar year now. Bring in your annual dues of \$10.00 to Ben so we can clean that up before he is off on his trip.

Speaking of Ben’s holiday we are looking for a temporarily replacement for the short duration he is away to take on the treasurers duties. If interested see your club’s president to discuss. If that is not your thing you can always volunteer to be on the club’s executive and help the club that way.

The show schedule is going strong with many of the smaller local shows taking place as well as one of the big shows, Nuphilex. The month ends with the show in Stratford on October 30th sponsored by the local coin club. The following week the multi day Nuphilex show down the 401 in Montreal takes place between November 4th and 6th. Locally the same weekend the Scarborough Coin Club is holding their 20th annual show and finally the following weekend the Troyak Club’s show at the Polish Centre in Mississauga is on the 13th. Get out and support these local shows before the weather turns nasty and travelling becomes more difficult.

Well, that’s a wrap, until the meeting on the 25th, “ Happy Collecting”

Bill O’Brien

RCM Unveils Coin to Honour Battle of Hong Kong

Two veterans of the Battle of Hong Kong, both in their 90s, joined the Royal Canadian Mint in unveiling a new commemorative coin marking the 75th anniversary of the battle.

George Peterson of Winnipeg and Ralph McLean of Calgary were on hand as the Mint launched the new \$20 silver coin at the Manitoba Legislative Building on Thursday September 29.

The coin pays tribute to the soldiers of the Winnipeg Grenadiers and the Royal Rifles of Canada who fought to defend Hong Kong from Japanese invasion during the Second World War. The allies' battle to defend Hong Kong ended on Christmas Day in 1941, and the survivors were imprisoned either until their death or the end of the war. They were imprisoned in Hong Kong until early 1943, and then in Japan until liberation in September 1945.

"I never, ever thought of myself as a hero. I did my duty, that was all. And I was as afraid, as scared as everybody else was at times," Peterson told the audience. "I never did anything that I figured was heroic. I am a survivor."

"This Royal Canadian Mint silver collector coin pays a lasting tribute to the bravery and resolve of the Canadians who fought to defend Hong Kong in December 1941 and whose actions remind us all of the high cost of defending our values," said the Honourable Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance. "Even though the soldiers of the Winnipeg Grenadiers and Royal Rifles of Canada had not seen combat before the Battle Hong Kong, they stood firm in the face of aggression and showed a courage that will never be forgotten."

"With a new silver coin commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Hong Kong, the Mint recognizes the dedication of Canadian soldiers who fought hard to defend our values despite overwhelming odds," said Sandra Hanington, President and CEO of the Royal Canadian Mint.

Canadian artist Joel Kimmel designed the 99.99% pure silver Battle of Hong Kong silver collector coin. It features two Canadian

soldiers in Pacific uniform fighting on the rugged terrain of Hong Kong Island as Japanese ships massed in the waters below evoke the scale of the enemy invasion facing Commonwealth troops. The obverse of the coin features the effigy of King George VI, the monarch who reigned throughout the Second World War.

Peterson, 96, is one of two Battle of Hong Kong veterans in Winnipeg and a former Mint employee. McLean, 94, travelled from Calgary to Winnipeg for the event.

The Grenadiers and the Royal Rifles were part of C Force, the Canadian military contingent of 1,975 soldiers that was sent to Hong Kong in November 1941.

By the time Hong Kong was surrendered to Japan the following month, 290 Canadian soldiers were killed and many others were sent to prison camps in Hong Kong, mainland China and Japan.

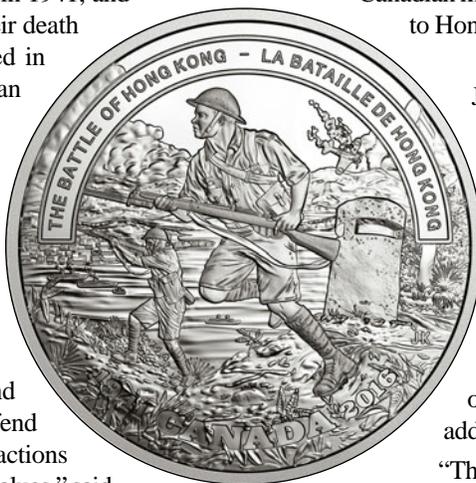
Prisoners in the camps were forced to work as slaves while being beaten, malnourished and mistreated for several years.

"When Emperor Hirohito finally accepted the unconditional surrender of his forces, 1,420 of us were left to return home," said Peterson, who added that two nurses were also released.

"There are only 18 of us surviving today," he said. "I intend to be the last one to go."

In 2011 Canada accepted the Japanese government's apology for the treatment of prisoners held during the Second World War for five years after the Battle of Hong Kong. More than 50 per cent of the Canadians sent to defend Hong Kong, then a British colony, against the Japanese invasion during the Second World War died or were wounded, either during the 171/2-day battle or during the years of imprisonment, hard labour and deprivation that followed. Many soldiers who became prisoners of war were subjected to torture and starvation.

The commemorative coin has a limited run of 10,000 and sells for \$89.95 from the Mint.



Veterans Ralph McLean, left, of Calgary and George Peterson of Winnipeg have their photo taken in front of a new silver coin commemorating the Battle of Hong Kong on Thursday. (CBC)



Canadian soldiers are inspected at Hong Kong, shortly after their arrival, November 1941.

Photo: Library and Archives Canada - C049745

THE CHRISTIANIZATION OF ROMAN COINAGE

by Mike Markowitz from CoinWeek on the Internet

We speak sometimes of the Roman religion as though it possessed a firm basis, but in fact it was constantly changing, the gods melting away and being replaced by others (Hale, 73).

Decline of Paganism

By the beginning of the fourth century CE, the religious life of the Romans was in flux. Inevitably, this was reflected in coinage, where designs often depicted deities. Although the 12 Olympian gods were still venerated in state-funded temples, the common people increasingly practiced a variety of “Eastern” or “mystery” religions. These included worship of the Egyptian goddess Isis; Mithras, a divinity of Persian origin who was especially popular with soldiers; and Serapis, a syncretic “Graeco-Egyptian” god invented by the Ptolemaic dynasty in the third century BCE.

And at a certain risk to themselves, a small minority turned to Christianity.

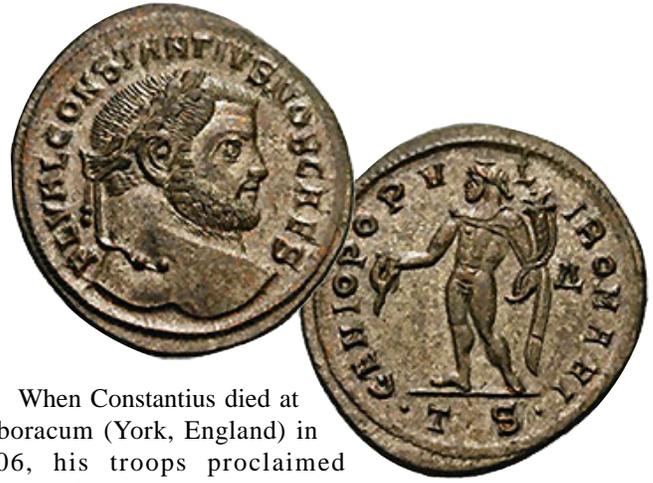
For even though pagan polytheism generally accepted imported gods, the growing population of Christians was persecuted or tolerated depending on the whim of the current ruler². Christians (along with the Jewish minority) insisted that there was only one God, all others being either demons or false idols. Participation in official rituals showed allegiance to the state; refusal was a kind of treason.

Under the “Tetrarchy”, a system of two emperors and two co-emperors established by Diocletian (ruled 284 – 306 CE), a common deity on Roman coinage was “GPR” (*Genius Populi Romani*). In Latin, *genius* originally meant a protective spirit, like a guardian angel in Christian theology. He was depicted on coins as a muscular nude holding a *patera* (a shallow bowl used to pour offerings of wine) and a *cornucopia* (“horn of plenty.”) Pagans throughout the empire could identify “GPR” as one of their own gods or as a mythic hero like Hercules or Melqart.

Another popular “Eastern” divinity of the era was Sol Invictus, “the Unconquered Sun.” Emperor Aurelian (ruled 270-275) adopted Sol as his patron, and the god became popular with the legions, appearing on coins until the time of Constantine I (c. 325). Sol Invictus was depicted as a powerful youthful figure wearing the spiked “radiate” crown³. On some coins he drives the solar chariot across the sky; on others he stands beside the emperor, surrounded by the inscription *Sol Invicto Comiti* (“to the companion of the Unconquered Sun”).

Constantine the Great

Constantine was born about 272 at Naissus (Niš, Serbia). His father, Constantius Chlorus (“Constantius the Pale”, lived c. 250 – 306), was an army officer who rose to be a provincial governor and eventually co-emperor in the West (305-306). Constantine’s mother Helena (lived c.250-330) was a Christian, described as a “bar-maid” or innkeeper⁴.



When Constantius died at Eboracum (York, England) in 306, his troops proclaimed Constantine emperor.

In 312, Constantine invaded Italy to fight the rival army of Maxentius. Just before the battle of the Milvian Bridge outside Rome (28 October 312), Constantine had a vision:

Constantine was directed in a dream to cause the heavenly sign to be delineated on the shields of his soldiers, and so to proceed to battle. He did as he had been commanded, and he marked on their shields the letter X with a perpendicular line drawn through it and turned round at the top ... being the cipher of CHRIST... (Lactantius, 203)

In another version reported years later, Constantine was said to have seen the symbol in the sky, with the words, “By This, Conquer” in Greek, or *in hoc signo vinces* in Latin (most educated Romans understood Greek, the language of the Christian scriptures). The Chi-Rho symbol, or Christogram, combines the first two Greek letters of the word “Christ”⁵.

In gratitude for victory, Constantine adopted the Christian God as his patron, but as a politician and commander, he continued to observe the traditions of his predominantly pagan subjects and soldiers. The Edict of Milan in 313 legalized Christianity throughout the empire, though persecution of Christians had largely ended with the death of Galerius in 311. The first appearance of the Christogram on coinage, datable to 315, is a rare silver *miliarensis*⁶. The tiny symbol appears on the crest of Constantine’s elaborate jeweled helmet.

The detail of the helmet indicates that Constantine’s commitment to Christ was already beginning to replace his devotion to Sol, just as that had replaced his devotion to Mars (Kent, 331).

The sacred imperial standard (labarum) carried before the army was a pole with a gilded Christogram at the top, and a crossbar bearing a purple banner emblazoned with silver medallions of the emperor and his sons. On a very rare bronze issue from Constantine’s new capital (which he modestly named after himself—Constantinople) this labarum appears piercing a serpent, a Christian symbol of evil⁷.

Constantine appears on the obverse of some late gold *solidi* with no inscription, his eyes raised upward. In one of the few written references to an ancient coin design, Constantine's biographer Bishop Eusebius (c. 260 – 340) wrote:

The great strength of the divinely inspired faith fixed in his soul might be deduced by considering also the fact that he had his own portrait so depicted on the gold coinage that he appeared to look upwards in the manner of one reaching out to God in prayer. Impressions of this type were circulated throughout the entire Roman world⁸. (Cameron, 15⁸)

Constantius II

Constantine had four sons. Crispus was executed in 326, accused of an illicit relationship with his stepmother Fausta (also executed). When Constantine died in 337, having been baptized on his deathbed so he could go to Heaven free of sin, his remaining three sons battled each other and a series of rebels for control of the empire. Constantine II was killed by his brother Constans in 340. Constans, in turn, was murdered by his troops in 350, leaving Constantius II as sole emperor until his death in 361. Perhaps 50% of the empire's population was Christianized by then.

On his extensive and complex coinage Constantius II often depicts himself carrying the labarum, accompanied by the winged figure of Victoria (Roman version of the Greek goddess Nike.) Some types bear the inscription *Hoc Signo Victor Eris* ("By this sign, you will be the victor") – a reference to the vision of Constantine. Ironically, Constantius II ordered the Altar of Victory⁹ removed from the Roman Senate house in 357.

Magnentius and Vetranio



Magnentius commanded the imperial guard in Gaul. When his troops revolted against the cruelty and misrule of Constans in 350, they proclaimed Magnentius emperor. Although he was a pagan, Magnentius tried to gain support from his Christian population by placing the Christogram prominently on the reverse of his coinage. The Greek letters alpha and omega appear between the arms of the X, a scriptural reference (*Revelation 1:8 and 21:6-7*). Defeated in battle by Constantius II, Magnentius, killed himself (11 August 353).

Vetranio commanded the legions on the Danube frontier when Constans was killed. Constantina, sister of Constantius (who was away fighting the Persians in the East), asked Vetranio to proclaim himself co-emperor to protect the dynasty. For 10 months he loyally performed this duty, abdicating when Constantius returned in December 350.

On his coinage Vetranio depicts himself holding a labarum in each hand.

Julian: Back to Paganism?

Born about 331, Julian was a cousin of Constantine I. Most of his relatives were killed in a savage purge, when the sons of Constantine attempted to eliminate every potential rival claimant to the throne. Julian was spared because he was a child.

Brought up as a Christian, he came to reject that faith, embracing Greek philosophy and pagan traditions.

When Constantius II died without an heir, Julian was the only surviving male relative of sufficient status to be emperor. Julian attempted to revive paganism without persecuting Christianity. On his coinage Julian appears with a beard, as a token of paganism (Constantine and his sons were all clean-shaven). The reverse of Julian's common bronze coinage bears the image of a bull and two stars. Scholars have debated the meaning of this symbol; perhaps Julian was born under the sign of Taurus (April 19 – May 20). Unfortunately, his birthdate is unknown.



Was the bull an endorsement of Mithraism, which sacrificed bulls as a cult ritual? Woods (2000) argues that the symbol is a "solar bull" connected to the worship of Sol Invictus.

Julian died in battle against the Persians in 363. His successors reversed his attempt to restore paganism. The novel *Julian* by Gore Vidal (1964) has boosted the popularity of his coins among collectors with an interest in Roman history.

Theodosius the Great

The dynasty of Theodosius (379 – 457) completed the eradication of paganism in the empire.

Theodosius I ("The Great") decreed that Christianity would be the only legal religion in the Empire (Jews were grudgingly tolerated, with sporadic episodes of official persecution). Remaining pagan temples were closed, and the imperial treasury confiscated their wealth. The eternal fire tended by the Vestal Virgins in Rome was extinguished. The Olympic Games were banned in 393 because athletes competing naked offended Christian sensibilities.

The Cross, which horrified pagan Romans as an instrument of execution for criminals, gradually began to appear as a major design element on coins. For example, the reverse of a solidus of Honorius, son of Theodosius, shows an angel (re-imagined from the pagan Victoria) beside a tall jeweled cross. Coins struck in the names of several Theodosian empresses show the cross, surrounded by a wreath on the reverse.



For many early Christians the Biblical prohibition of idolatry (Exodus, 20:4) discouraged the representation of Jesus in art. The earliest appearance of Jesus on a coin is the reverse of a unique gold solidus (now in a museum in Glasgow) struck to commemorate the marriage of Marcian and Pulcheria in 457. The reverse shows the wedding scene. Since the bride and groom had no living fathers to preside over the traditional Roman joining of hands, the engraver boldly depicted the standing figure of Christ conducting the ceremony.

A generation later, for another dynastic marriage of a middle-aged couple (Anastasius and Aelia Ariadne in 491), the image was repeated on a coin¹⁰.

The Image of Jesus

The first appearance of the image of Jesus on a regular circulating coin (rather than a ceremonial issue) came two centuries later, as a defiant gesture of religious propaganda.

The Muslim Umayyad Caliphate had removed all pictorial imagery from its coinage, issuing purely calligraphic designs asserting the oneness of God. Emperor Justinian II ordered his mint to place the bearded image of Christ on the obverse of his gold solidus with the inscription “Jesus Christ, King of Kings.” He places his own standing figure on the reverse, holding a cross, with the inscription “Justinian, Servant of Christ.” In recent auctions, high-grade examples of this popular type have sold for US\$4,000 – 6000.

Notes

- ¹ Jupiter, Juno, Neptune, Ceres, Minerva, Apollo, Diana, Mars, Venus, Vulcan, Mercury and Bacchus.
- ² Population estimates for the ancient world are guesses, but the consensus of historians is that the empire had about 60 million people in 300 CE, and about 10% were Christian.
- ³ Familiar to Americans as the headgear of the Statue of Liberty.
- ⁴ “It is unknown when or how she became a Christian” (Hill, 186). Constantine made her an empress; after her death the Church made her a saint.
- ⁵ Coincidentally, for Latin speakers the symbol was a monogram of the word PAX (meaning “peace”).
- ⁶ The coin is in a museum in Munich.
- ⁷ In pagan imagery the serpent is more commonly a symbol of healing.
- ⁸ Eusebius of Caesarea, *Life of Constantine* 4:15
- ⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Altar_of_Victory. This controversial Pagan object was restored by Julian in 361, removed by Gratian in 382, briefly restored by Eugenius in 392 and subsequently lost.
- ¹⁰ Now in the Dumbarton Oaks collection. There is no good online image of this unique piece.

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17. Woods, David. “Julian, Gallienus and the Solar Bull”, *American Journal of Numismatics* 12 (2000)

COMING EVENTS FOR FALL 2016

Oct. 22, Oshawa, COIN-A-RAMA, Five Points Mall, 285 Taunton Rd E. COIN-A-RAMA, at Five Points Mall, 285 Taunton Rd E. at Ritson. One day only. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. *Free dealer and membership draws, plus new hourly public draws, free admission, featuring paper, coins, tokens, medals, books & supplies and many other items. So come out and look for that special item for your collection or for a gift. I am sure you'll find what you need.* For more information contact Sharon, email papman@bell.net, telephone 905-728-1352. Website: <http://www.oahawacoinclub.ca>

Oct. 30, Stratford, Stratford Coin Show, Festival Inn, 1144 Ontario St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$2 adults, 16 and under free. *Buy and sell coins, paper money, tokens.* For more information contact Larry Walker, email lswalker@cyg.net, telephone 519-271-3352. Website: <http://www.stratfordcoinclub.ca>

Nov. 5, Scarborough, Scarborough Coin Club 20th Annual Coin Show, Cedarbrook Community Centre, 91 Eastpark Blvd. Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. *Coins, paper money, tokens, medals, club table, etc. Free admission and draws. Refreshments available. We are at the location where our club meets.* For more information contact Dick Dunn, email cpms@bell.net

*Listings are courtesy of
Canadian Coin News Coming Events*

Nov. 13, Windsor, Windsor Coin Club 55th Annual Fall Coin Show, Caboto Club, 2175 Parent Avenue Show hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$1 with juniors free when accompanied by an adult. *Thirty-nine dealer tables. Handicap accessible entrance. Plenty of free parking.* For more information contact Margaret Clarke, email mtclarke@mnsi.net, telephone 519-735-0727. Website: <http://www.windsorcoinclub.com>

Nov. 13, Mississauga, Troyak Club's Fall Coin & Stamp Show, John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd. Sponsored by the Troyak Club Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Over 30 dealers & 60 dealer tables. Canadian and world coins, banknotes, stamps and supplies. Buy, sell, trade, appraise.* For more information contact Les Plonka, email leszkep@rogers.com, telephone 416-505-7999. Website: <http://www.troyakclub.com>

Nov. 19 – 20, Toronto, TOREX® - Canada's National Coin Show, Hyatt Regency Toronto on King., 370 King Street West. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission \$7. Under 16 Free! *Featuring Canada's finest dealers in Canadian, ancient, and foreign coins, paper money, coin and paper money supplies and reference books.* Official Auctioneer: The Canadian Numismatic Company. Auction Viewing begins on Friday. For more information contact Brian R. Smith, email brian@torex.net, telephone 416-705-5348. Website: <http://www.torex.net>

Nov. 26, Niagara Falls, Niagara Falls Coin Club Show, Our Lady of Peace Hall, 6944 Stanley Avenue *This popular one-day coin show will feature dealers from across Canada selling coins, paper money, tokens, books, supplies, jewelry, stamps, post cards and sports cards.*

Dec. 4, Brampton, Rotary Club of Brampton Coin and Trading Card Show, Century Gardens Recreation Centre, 340 Vodden Rd. E Hours: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$3, under 14 free, free parking. *Buy, sell, trade at more than 40 tables of dealers, including a Children's table.* For more information contact B&W Coins & Tokens c/o Willard Burton, email willardb@bwcoin.com, telephone 905-450-2870.

Jan. 13 – 15, 2017, Downsview, UNIPEX STAMP & COIN SHOW, Montecassino Hotel, 3710 Chesswood Dr. *A large selection of stamp and coin dealers. For the stamp, postcard, precancel, coin, foreign currency collector and more, come to buy, sell or trade.* Contact Susan Cartini, telephone 416-242-5900, email susancartini@rogers.com

May 13, 2017, North York, North York Coin Club Annual Coin Show, 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, tokens, etc.* For more information contact Paul Petch, email coinshow@northyorkcoinclub.com, telephone 416-303-4417. Website: www.northyorkcoinclub.com

“Spirit of Canada” Pure Silver Coin

Combining timeless scenes designer by Steve Hepburn presents a cross-country journey that ties together some of Canada's most iconic images. The upper portion features that celebrated emblem of Canada's Pacific coast, the orca whale. The scene transitions smoothly to the northern coastline of the Canadian Arctic, which is represented by an inukshuk and a polar bear with cub. Beneath these are the majestic Rocky Mountains, which once made the land seem impenetrable to early European explorers. The peaks tower over the vast boreal forest on the left, which stretches across much of Canada, and the agricultural landscape of the Prairie Provinces on the right, where a tractor is at work in a hay field. Atlantic Canada is represented by a Nova Scotian/New Brunswick Herring Seiner, which slightly overlaps the stirring image of a raised Canadian flag blowing in the wind. Finally, the nation's northern climate is represented by the heartwarming image of two youths playing Canada's beloved winter sport: hockey.

This collector coin is presented in folder-style packaging and is offered for \$19.95 with unlimited mintage through the usual Royal Canadian Mint sales channels ... available in Canada and the US only!

