



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

Executive Committee

PresidentBill O'Brien
1st Vice PresidentHenry Nienhuis
2nd Vice President.....
SecretaryHenry Nienhuis
TreasurerBen Boelens
Past PresidentNick Cowan

DirectorRoger Fox
DirectorPaul Johnson
DirectorAndrew Silver
Junior Director
AuctioneerDick Dunn

Auction Manager.....Paul Johnson
EditorPaul Petch
ReceptionistFranco Farronato
Draw PrizesBill O'Brien
Social ConvenorBill O'Brien

THE BULLETIN FOR AUGUST 2017

RCNA 2018 CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEETING + NORTH YORK EXECUTIVE MEETING + NEXT NORTH YORK COIN CLUB ANNUAL SHOW IS MAY 12

The next convention planning meeting is at Trend Signs on Tuesday August 29 at 7:00 p.m. Please mark your calendar now and plan to be attend.

This will be followed two weeks later on Tuesday September 12 with a meeting of the North York Coin Club executive. We ask all the club executive to plan on attending the meeting and invite all members as observers.

Finally, it is not too early to book your table for the club's next coin show on Saturday May 12, 2018. Contact coinshow@northyorkcoinclub.com if you want to beat the rush!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Good day to all of you fellow numismatists and to everyone who receives the North York Coin Club's monthly bulletin. I'm looking at the calendar and it says more than half of the summer is over; excuse me but mine is about to begin.

I'm writing this message a little early to allow myself a trip to the west coast of our continent and a wedding in British Columbia. I will follow this by a couple weeks on the road to California, on the coast, and a return trip through the NW metropolises. I will also be viewing the eclipse from a fantastic vantage point. Some things can mix with numismatics when planned properly. Maybe I can still find a local coin club meeting on the way.

Well back to why they call this a numismatic bulletin. Informing the members about the news from the club and events or activities that we feel would be of interest to the North York members. The biggest news in Canadian numismatics happened during the R.C.N.A. convention in Boucherville as one of our members has again been selected as the recipient of the J. Douglas Ferguson Award.

May I have a drum roll here and a standing ovation for another of the NYCC membership obtaining the highest honour in Canadian Numismatics? The J. Douglas Ferguson Award, established in 1969, is considered the highest Canadian numismatic distinction and has once again been awarded to one of our members. We should be proud.

For 2017 it is Paul Petch, who has been a fixture with the club and an unstoppable participant in the numismatic community since the 1960's and who has been just as much relevant with the club back then as he is now. As we applaud Paul's numismatic triumphs we remember past winners John Regitko (1991), Paul Johnson (1995) and Dick Dunn (2004) with their never-ending support to the hobby and me. Again, special congratulations for these four gentlemen and their achievements. *[Going back in history, let's also remember another five members who are no longer with us: Jim Charlton (1972), Bill McDonald (1974), Louise Graham (1976), John Wilkinson (1980) and Jack Veffter (1982) Ed.]*

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, AUGUST 22

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

The August meeting is our usual R.C.N.A night with a report on all the events and news from the Boucherville convention.



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.

Also I'm happy to report that the R.C.N.A. held its biennial election this year and the club was well represented again with the election of Henry Nienhuis as President of the organization for a second

NEWS OF THE JUNE 2017 MEETING

The 634th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, June 27, 2017 in the 1st floor Banquet Room at the Edithvale Community Centre. It was hammered to order at 7:40 p.m. with our President, Bill O'Brien, in the chair and 30 members and 4 guests in attendance.

The first order of business was the on-time attendance draw. Member Chris Dunsmuir was not present when his name was drawn to receive the on-time attendance draw prize of \$5.00. The draw will increase to \$10.00 for the August 22nd meeting.

Bill asked the members present if they had noticed any errors or omissions in the minutes of the May meeting as published in the June newsletter. With no corrections identified, Mark Argentino made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Arie Yark. Motion carried.

Ben Boelens, our treasurer, then gave a brief report on the club's financial status.

Our special guest speaker for the evening was Ron Cheek; his topic was *The 1867 Confederation Medal*. Ron has given excellent presentations at the club on a number of occasions and this was no exception. His nicely detailed talk was supported by a well-produced PowerPoint presentation full of images. A number of members participated in the discussion including Len Kuenzig who brought along his examples of the 1967 Pinches re-strikes in silver and Paul Petch who brought his example of a plastic version of the medal also produce in 1967 as part of an information package on the medal issued to schools.

Bill then presented Ron with a certificate of appreciation as small token of our appreciation.

Bill then resumed the business portion of the meeting with three items on the agenda. First, he gave a quick update of items discussed in the 2018 Convention Committee meeting. He then mentioned that the club had received their ballot for the pending R.C.N.A. election. After discussing the ballot and the election with the members present, Bill took the action to enter the club's vote and mail the ballot in. Henry Nienhuis mentioned that the club's domain names were coming due and asked for permission to renew them. After a short discussion centred on the number of years to renew the names for it was decided to extend the lease for as long as possible. Henry took the action to renew the names.

With the business of the club now concluded Bill asked everyone if they had brought in a show-and-tell. Mark Argentino brought along two specimen bank notes that he bought from the original Bank of Canada auction held by Chuck Moore in 1990. Roger Fox came to the front to talk about the new special edition Canadian Tire 10-cent coupon that was being issue by CTC to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary. He mentioned that the commemorative note would be limited to a printing of only 2 million notes Canada wide. He showed his version that had been personally signed by the CEO of the corporation, Stephen G. Wetmore. Roger obtained his signed note at the last CTCCC meeting held at the recent Torex show.



Bill O'Brien, NYCC President (left) presents a certificate of appreciation to Ron Cheek, our guest speaker for the June meeting.

President's Message ... continued from page 1

term. It is a job well done, Henry. We are blessed to have so many individuals who give to the hobby whenever they are asked. I'm hoping more take their lead.

Speaking about the R.C.N.A. convention, next year's convention is here in the GTA at the Hilton Meadowvale, and if that sounds familiar, that's where the R.C.N.A. 2014 convention was held. Like that last convention, the North York Coin Club will be the host and I need your help to ensure a wonderful time for all attendees.

As I have mentioned before and will be doing again and again during the next few years I encourage everyone to take on a more active role within the club. This will lessen the burden of the few who run the club and give all an opportunity to gain experience in the operation of a club and the logistics of holding a national convention. The next convention-planning meeting will take place on August 29 at my place of employment. More information will be sent to club members with time and directions closer to the date.

Paul Petch has been very busy since the last meeting besides winning prestigious awards. He has obtained all the necessary permits for all the regular club meetings, the club executive meeting and the R.C.N.A. 2018 planning committee meetings. Also the annual coin show has already been booked and paid for and next year it will be held on Saturday May 12, 2018.

The show schedule is picking up steam as this so called summer is winding down with shows being held by the Brampton Rotary Club on September 10th, the London Numismatic Society on September 17th, the Guelph Fall Coin Show on September 23rd and last but not least is the Toronto Coin Expo on September 29th and 30th. As usual we have a more complete listing on the Coming Events page.

Bill called for a short refreshment break from 8:40–8:50 p.m.

We resumed the meeting with our regular auction and our customary lucky draw. Lucky draw numbers were called at various times while the auction took place. Lucky draw winners for the evening were- Paul Johnson, Richard Duquette (4), David Quinlan (3), Nick Cowan, and Franco Farronato. The club earned \$38.00 through the sale of the draw tickets! Our auction manager, Paul Johnson, reported that receipts from the auction added \$14.95 to the club coffers including \$5.00 received for material donated to the club. We thank Dick Dunn our auctioneer and Jim Heifetz who volunteered as runner for the auction.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:37 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, August 22, in the 2nd floor Board Room of the Edithvale Community Centre. The next host Convention Meeting will take place on Tuesday, August 29 at Bill's offices. We hope to see everyone there!



Ronald Greene, Chairman of the J. Douglas Ferguson Board of Award (left), presents the framed citation and Ferguson medal to 2017 recipient Paul Petch

As usual, our draw material stockpile is nearly non-existent. I ask all members to follow the lead of people like Franco and Mark and donate surplus numismatic material to the club so that we may replenish our stores.

That's it for me. I hope to see all of you on the 29th at my shop for the next R.C.N.A. convention-planning meeting and don't forget the regular club meeting on August 22nd. Unlike me, I hope you can be there.

Bill O'Brien



Peter Becker (left) attended the June meeting with Jeff Wilson, a frequent NYCC visitor. Peter was distributing CANADA 150 medals from the Canadian Centennial Collectors Club.

A REVIEW OF THE EDITORS OF *THE BULLETIN*

by Paul R. Petch

An inquiry and request came to me from Judy Blackman, Editor of the Ontario Numismatic Association's Ontario Numismatist, asking for some background on my time working as the editor of this newsletter. A bit of research into that request grew into a full project researching our long-running monthly newsletter. Here is the full story, as best I could put it together.

There has been quite a group of people who have taken on the responsibility of editing the North York Coin Club Bulletin over the 57 years of the club's existence. In the earliest days from February, 1960 the job of sending out a newsletter rested with the Secretary/Treasurer. **Kenneth Bunnett** was the first person to type up the news and get the notices in the mail. **May Bunnett** took on the task in December of 1961 when her husband Ken moved up to become club president.

The first true Editor was **Selby O'Brien** who put out his first issue in November of 1962. Selby maintained the position until he answered the call of Richmond Hill, a more local club for him, about a year later. **Roger Fox** was then at the ready with his excellent graphic talents and carried on the editor position from March 1964 until October 1966.

This was an especially memorable time for Roger and myself because we paid a monthly visit to Mrs. Louise Graham, who was then the General Secretary and Treasurer of the Canadian Numismatic Association, to do the proof reading. Over these years

Roger and I established a warm relationship with Mrs. Graham, and probably inhaled dangerous levels of second-hand smoke in the process. That special relationship was maintained as long as she could get out to coin events. Whenever she saw us, there was always a hug, a big smile and lots of conversation with "my boys" as she called us.

I took on my first term as Editor in November 1966 and was able to continue until February 1968 when I turned the position back to Roger Fox. I personally was coming into a time of growth in my computer career and was finding it difficult to not only produce *The Bulletin* but to even make it out to the club meetings. I changed jobs, moved out of the neighborhood, got married and had four kids. It was not until 1988 that I would return with my oldest son to attending club meetings. Nevertheless, I maintained my club membership uninterrupted during the entire time.

With my departure, Roger Fox was back on the job from March 1968 until October of the same year. Then in November 1968 **Jean C. Orr**, a wonderful person and local resident, carried on production until April 1969, at which time Roger stepped forward once again. Roger toiled in this stint from May 1969 until February 1970 when outside pressures forced him to step down. Secretary/Treasurer May Bunnett produced a bridge issue in March until **Michael M.S. Zigler** took on the mantle of editor from April 1970 until January 1972, with May Bunnett covering with a couple of emergency issues during that time.

In February 1972 **Stan Clute** became the editor and maintained the responsibility until December 1974. It was then the turn of **Ted**



NORTH YORK COIN CLUB
MONTHLY MEETINGS 4TH TUESDAY 8 P.M.
 NORTH YORK MEMORIAL COMMUNITY HALL
 8090 YONGE STREET, WILLOWDALE, ONTARIO

ADVANCE NOTICE - NORTH YORK COIN CLUB SHOW AND AUCTION (No Banquet)
 SATURDAY MARCH 30, 1963, NORTH YORK MEMORIAL COMMUNITY HALL
 5090 YONGE STREET, WILLOWDALE, ONTARIO

As you no doubt remember, last years show was a big success and we have planned this show to be bigger and better than ever. It is hoped that members will bring along their exhibits, remember there are still a few members in the club that do not possess '56 "dog" cent or a '21 "hair" dollar so exhibit what you have, remember young fellow members are still interested in your collection as well as their own. If you contact our DISPLAY CHAIRMAN, Ken Bunnett at SA. 1-3665, he will be pleased to supply the necessary display cases for you.

DISPLAY CLASSIFICATION
 No displays will be classified as follows
 1 Canadian Decimals 6 Foreign Coins
 2 Canadian Tokens (English and U.S.A.)
 3 Paper Currency 7 Die Varieties
 4 Medals 8 Ancient Coinage
 5 Gold Coins 9 Miscellaneous

POINTING OF DISPLAYS
 No displays will be judged according to the following classifications for a total of 100 points.
 1 Accuracy of information of interest to viewer 25 points
 2 Neatness and originality of presentation 25 points
 3 Condition of coins 15 points
 4 Completeness of sets 15 points
 5 Variety of coins 10 points

AWARDS FOR PRIZES
 Ribbons will be awarded as prizes with a special prize for the best of show.

JUNIOR DISPLAYS
 All displays by junior members will be judged separately and under one classification only (General Classification.)

SECURITY MEASURES
 Full time security will be provided by Metro Police for all displays.

SHOW FRANCHISE
 During this years coin show we are featuring a refreshment table for the sale of hot and cold beverages, a supply of Numismatic materials and also a coin information centre to deal with inquiries from the general public and members alike.

PARKING FACILITIES
 Ample parking area is provided at the rear of the building.

ADMISSION PRICES
 The admission price will be 25 cents for adults and 10 cents for children, this admission applies to members as well as visitors to the coin show.

MEMBER NEWS
 It is the hope of the club officials that members one and all will exhibit their displays and so help to make this show bigger and better than ever. Remember this is your show and your club should put in a lot of their valuable time to put this show on the road as it were, and I know that they will appreciate your effort in this matter.

Good Collecting will see you on the 26th.
 Selby O'Brien, (Editor)

Selby O'Brien - March, 1963



NORTH YORK COIN CLUB
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NEWS BULLETIN FOR MAY, 1964

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SHOW
 The North York Coin Club's annual Coin Exhibition will go down as another great success, and the enthusiasm of all could be noticed at the various displays, around the bourse tables, and at the auction. There were thirty-nine display entries, all of excellent calibre and the judges; Dr. J. C. Wilkinson of Toronto and Mr. David Ash of Oakville had quite a job picking the winners. The club wishes to express its appreciation to the judges for a job well done. The best in Show award went to Mr. Don Flick of Oakville for his outstanding display of medals.
 Mr. A. C. Gilmore won the Scan-o-matic Viewer which was the first Lucky Draw prize.
 Because of limited space, the names of the winners in the separate categories could not be printed at this time.

NEXT MEETING
 The next meeting will be on Tuesday May 26, 1964, at the North York Community Hall, 5090 Yonge Street, Willowdale, Ontario. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., meeting starts at 8:00 p.m.

The popularity of Canadian Numismatics has risen sharply in the last few years and it is on this subject that our guest speaker Mr. Murray Swigman will be talking. This is a subject that should be of interest to everyone.
 This meeting is also of special significance since it marks our 50th meeting, and at this time a full attendance is hoped for.

The usual draw for a 1963 Proof-Like Mint Set and floor auction will follow.

LAST MEETING
 Last meeting we were fortunate in having Mr. Hart Peadar as our guest speaker and his talk on paper currency was of interest to all. His display of Canadian "changelings" and bills of the British Isles were very colourful and impressive.
 Applications for Membership have been received from the following:
 Mr. J. E. Charlton, 49 Queen Street East, Toronto 1.
 Mr. F. Priest (Judge), 73 Boken Ave., Willowdale.
 Mr. Paul M. Dunning, 13 Horton Ave., Willowdale.
 Mr. J. Omar Walmsley, 64 Highbrough Ave., Willowdale.
 Mr. Grant Neilson, 4444 Agincourt Ave., East, Toronto.
 Mr. John J. Cloran, 21 Irvington Cres., Willowdale.

50TH MEETING
 MAY 26, 1964
 EDITOR: Roger A. Fox

Roger Fox - May, 1964



NORTH YORK COIN CLUB
MONTHLY MEETINGS 4TH TUESDAY 8 P.M.
 NORTH YORK MEMORIAL COMMUNITY HALL
 8090 YONGE STREET, WILLOWDALE, ONTARIO

Season's Greetings

CHRISTMAS PARTY: December 13, 1964 NORTH YORK MEMORIAL COMMUNITY HALL
 MEETING STARTS: 8:00

MEMBERS ON-Last month's Bulletin
 Your editor got off to a definite bad start last month and sends his apologies for the lateness of the bulletin. The problem occurred with the printer, it taking them somewhat longer than was expected to complete the job. We trust that this bulletin is in the members' hands in ample time for the December meeting.

MEMBERS ON-The Centennial Project
 Mrs. Bunnett notified the club at the October meeting that the North York Historical Society was most enthusiastic with the club's idea for a centennial display at the Queen Hotel, located directly behind the Willowdale Post Office. The Centennial Committee comprising Mr. DeWey, Chairman, Mrs. Bunnett, and Mr. Alfred's name has been established.

MEMBERS ON-a Program Committee
 It was suggested at the October meeting that a group of three people be appointed for the purpose of arranging the agenda for each meeting. As guest necessary I believe it is an excellent idea, provided only we will the difficulty in locating appropriate numismatic speakers.

MEMBERS ON-our Christmas message
 Mr. Don Harcourt of Harcourt Book Publishing was on hand at our last meeting to speak on coin literature. This firm, in cooperation with the Canadian Numismatic Association, has offered to collectors since the December of 1954 a low-cost form of coin literature. Since that time 94,000 worth of premiums have been collected as compared to 36,000 worth of coins sold out. A written order book, about 50 minutes rounded up the sale. Mr. Harcourt expressed the club's appreciation to Dr. Harcourt.

MEMBERS ON-the Christmas party
 There were only 15 members and guests at the November meeting because of the late bulletin and as a result there was an ever so slight overflow from the ranks of delayed newcomers. Mr. Clarence Smith was the star at the October meeting. (Mr. Smith also was in September- I've heard of good luck, but that's the friend's share!)

MEMBERS ON-the Christmas party
 At the November meeting Mr. Roger Fox showed films from past parties held in 1958, 1964 and 1965 to recall to members' minds some of the proceedings. From the ranks of delayed newcomers, Mr. Clarence Smith was the star at the October meeting. (Mr. Smith also was in September- I've heard of good luck, but that's the friend's share!)

Without money it would not be possible for you to live. So it is with this club. Our treasury is grossly low because of a drop in income from the monthly dues and the expense of our September show. To offset these situations and the added expense of the Christmas Party, we are going to the club. For this to be a success and which our treasury to be "rehabilitated", numismatic or non-numismatic, which could readily be sold in the form of cash, coins, mystery packages, and even more. Some of the items are brought from our previous year's sale. In the top of this is needed only a more thing! Members with open wallets who want to see this club go through another successful year of operation!

Best wishes for a Happy Christmas and Happy New Year from
 Paul R. Petch
 Editor, 261-0609

Paul Petch & Roger Fox - December, 1966

Banning to apply his writing talents to *The Bulletin*. Ted performed an admirable and professional job from January 1975 to May 1976. This ushered in a dark time in the club's history, generally referred to as the Juniors' Revolt, during which time the large number of junior members sought the full rights of adult membership. It was elevated to the level of a court action, at which point negotiation between the parties was forced, ultimately resulting in no change to the club's constitution. The entire matter was wrapped up by March 1977. A newsletter was produced during this time and a little beyond, but without an editor and no responsibility for its publication was recorded or can be located.

Finally, with a new executive in January 1978, **George Fraser** stepped up as editor and continued to ably produced newsletters for the next three years until December 1981. **Ken Kitay** then carried out the job through the next year until December 1982 when a lack of personal time due to work made it impossible for him to continue.

Good friends **Harvey Farrow** and **Wally Ciona** then came forward as co-editors to churn out the monthly news between January 1983 and December 1985. With Harvey moving up to president in January 1986 a new co-editor team of **Dr. Marvin Kay** and **Wally Ciona** took over. They continued their work for two years until December 1987.

As the new club president, **Ron Zelk** then soloed as editor from January 1988 until January 1990 when Harvey Farrow as his co-editor joined him. That arrangement continued until the December 1991 issue. Ron had some good technical skills and being computer-savvy used a dot matrix printer to produce the master for *The Bulletin*.

After an absence of 24 years I came back to co-editor with Harvey from January 1992 until June 1994. Then for the next issue after that in August of 1994 I became full editor and stayed with the job until November 2003. Starting in January of 1992 the master was



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Editor: Michael A. S. Zigler

Meeting 118 April 1970.

NEW MEETING: In accordance with the club's program to encourage member participation in the meetings, we will have the pleasure of hearing Mr. Mark Drake as this month's speaker. His topic will be the Greenback Coins of Canada. This should be an interesting topic, so please plan on attending, and support your club!

The April meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 28, 1970, at the North York Community Hall, 5090 Yonge Street, Willowdale, Ontario.

LAST MEETING: At the March meeting the speaker was your new editor. I had the pleasure of talking on the Paper Money of Africa emphasizing political changes in Africa in the last decade.

In the raffie for a 1960 Canadian silver dollar, the winner was fellow member Mr. Peden.

It was decided at this meeting that the meetings of June, July and August should be cancelled for summer holidays. Also at the March meeting, a new editor was to be chosen to fill the vacancy left by Bruce Fox who served the club faithfully as editor for seven years. Mr. Jewett suggested Mr. and Mrs. George Fraser, and I, as a guest, I accepted. I hope that I can serve my club adequately, and I will welcome suggestions from any member. I can be contacted at 226-2015.

COMING EVENTS:

Wednesday, April 22, 1970: The Thistletown Coin Club will hold its 15th anniversary coin show at the Community Centre at Alton Road and Kipling Avenue in Etobicoke. The show begins at ten A.M. and ends at ten P.M. with an admission charge of twenty-five cents.

Saturday and Sunday, May 2nd and 3rd, 1970: The Ontario Numismatic Association will hold its annual convention at the Sheraton Hotel, 1000 Bay Street, Toronto. For information, write to THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, PO BOX 100, BARRIE ONT. The speaker at the convention will be Mr. John J. Pittman, president of the Canadian Numismatic Association. Registration for the convention will be at the door, and banquet tickets are five dollars. General admission is free.

And of course, the April meeting of the North York Coin Club on April 28, 1970, at 8:00 p.m. and the meeting begins at 8:15 p.m. **SEE YOU THERE!**

Next meeting: Tuesday the 28th of April, 1970, 7:30 p.m.

Michael Zigler - April, 1970



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NORTH YORK MEMORIAL COMMUNITY HALL
8090 YONGE STREET, WILLOWDALE, ONTARIO

MAILING ADDRESS: Box 294, Willowdale
EDITOR: Stan Clute

MEETING: **NEW MEETING:** The March meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held at 8:00 P. M., Tuesday, March 25, 1972, at the North York Memorial Community Hall, 8090 Yonge Street, Willowdale. The program will again feature a series of short talks, by members, on various topics.

LAST MEETING: The twelfth anniversary meeting of the North York Coin Club was held at the Community Hall on February 22, 1972, with ten people in attendance. Michael Ziegler displayed a collection of banknotes of the People's Republic of China.

Mr. F. C. Jewett spoke on the Fenian Raid period of Canadian history and displayed several British "Fenian Raid" service medals.

Mr. R. Strong delivered a very informative talk about our country's early French regime and its effect on Canadian Numismatics, and also displayed a gold coin from the wreck of the French ship, "Le Chameau".

Stan Clute announced plans to form a society of collectors of ancient coins.

Dealer, Bill Lavelle had a bourse table set up at the back of the room.

NEW MEMBERS: Applications for membership have been received from Mr. George V. Fraser, Toronto and Mr. Ray G. Pleau, Chatham.

COIN SHOW: The 1972 North York Coin Club Show and Bourse was a definite success. The dealers in attendance seemed very satisfied and two inquiries about bourse tables for the 1973 show have already been received. The Club's White Elephant table was very capably managed by Mrs. Louise Graham and Mrs. Lucille Colson (shown at right with Club President Harvey Farrow), with much help from Mrs. Gordon Vansum. Displays ranged from Canadian coins and railway tokens to Japanese and Roman coins. Notable in attendance were Mrs. and Mrs. Pat Lambert of St. Catharines.

COMING EVENTS: April 8 - Thistletown Coin Show, Albion Hall, Albion Road. April 16 - Kent Coin Club, 40 annual coin show, Holiday Inn, Keil Drive and Highway 2, Chatham, Ontario. April 22 and 23 - Ontario Numismatic Association convention, Sheraton-Hotel, Niagara Falls, Ontario.



Stan Clute - March, 1972



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MAILING ADDRESS: BOX 294, WILLOWDALE
EDITOR: TED BANNING
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT: EDWARD

FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY MEETING

February 25, 1975, was the club's 15th anniversary meeting, and so we made a little more special with the inclusion of a fried chicken buffet and the distribution of 15th anniversary novelty notes, brought by Ted Banning. Unfortunately, the notes did not reproduce very well, so it is observed to be a loss. The business of the meeting was kept rather short, but there were several announcements concerning the upcoming Show. All members are urged to bring their own coins to the Show. It was also announced that the Toronto Coin Club was willing to rent twenty-two cases at \$1.00 per case. Afterward, however, cases were offered by Central Coin Club, Thistletown Coin Club, and others. The rental of Toronto Coin Club cases was unnecessary. With most of the Show business out of the way, John Peavey announced the establishment of a Franklin Mint Dealer & Film Circuit, with 77 four weekly use club's super-automatic, and also announced that the meeting both the President, Stan Clute, and the North York Coin Club archives were recipients of a 1975 Chatham 50th Anniversary Medal, designed by Fay.



Ted Banning - March, 1975



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NORTH YORK MEMORIAL COMMUNITY HALL, 8090 YONGE STREET, WILLOWDALE, ONTARIO

MAIL ADDRESS: NORTH YORK COIN CLUB, P.O. BOX 294, STATION A, WILLOWDALE, ONT. M2B 509

JANUARY 25 MEETING PROGRAM: "COINS OF ISRAEL" BY MARVIN KAY. MEETING STARTS AT 8:15 P.M., DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 P.M., DRAFFLES CAN GET UP AFTER 8:45 P.M.

1982-1983 Executive:

President: F. C. Jewett,	Junior Director: Ron Knick
Vice-President: Alan Cornish	Auctioneer: Carl Anderson
2nd. Vice-President: Stan Williams	Social Convener: Jean Orr
Secretary: Lucille Colson	Receptionist: Louise Graham
Treasurer: Frank Dennis	Liberaries: Vacant
Directors: George Fraser	Co-editors: Wally Ciona
Neil Latham	Harvey Farrow

LAST MEETING: We had a number of members who put in displays, May Bennett for her collection of old metal money, Harvey Farrow for his collection of bank notes of banks of Toronto, George Gale on British tokens of the 18th and 19th centuries, Marvin Kay on British Double Florins of 1887-1890, Neil Latham on early Canadian French colonial coinage, John Reardon on Numismatics of the seas, and Bill Penketh on grading of coins. The winners were: 1st. prize of \$5.00 went to Marvin Kay, 2nd. prize of \$3.00 went to George Gale, and 3rd. prize of \$2.00 went to John Reardon. The winners will be thanked by Paul Johnson and Ron Postill for acting as judges for the displays which they had a difficult job in showing the winners.

The President presented Paul Johnson with a honorary membership in the club for 1983 for acting as master of ceremonies at the club's meeting in September when they honored their 15 years and over members of the club. Paul Johnson, presented on behalf of the C.N.A. Ken Bennett's 25 years certificate of Membership in the C.N.A. Paul then presented Harvey Farrow with his certificate of Life Membership in the C.N.A.

The "on time attendance draw" the name of Bill McDonald was pulled but not been in attendance the prize for the January meeting will be \$6.00.

As a club thank you for the year for the members who buy the draw tickets, everyone present when entering the meeting was given one "draw" ticket for the evening. The club had enough prizes for everyone so nobody went home without a prize. The gift exchange was held with everybody getting something from "them".

The club would like to thank the following who helped out in preparing the meal we had, Jean Orr, May Bennett and George Fraser, and the following who donated with the "extra" besides the Saturday Dinner which the club supplied, such as the salads, desserts, Eleanor Jewett and Eliza Beatty.

please turn over.....

Wally Ciona & Harvey Farrow - January, 1983



NORTH YORK COIN CLUB
MONTHLY MEETINGS 4TH TUESDAY 8 P.M.
NORTH YORK MEMORIAL COMMUNITY HALL, 8090 YONGE STREET, WILLOWDALE, ONTARIO

MAIL ADDRESS: NORTH YORK COIN CLUB, P.O. BOX 294, STATION A, WILLOWDALE, ONT. M2B 509

NYCC NYCC NYCC NYCC NYCC

THE NORTH YORK COIN CLUB

NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY JANUARY 26, 1988

IN THE BURGUINDY ROOM
NORTH YORK COMMUNITY CENTRE
5110 YONGE STREET

Doors open at 7:00 P.M. Meeting begins at 8:00 P.M.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 1988-1989

President: Stan Clute	Secretary: Neil Latham	Librarian: Lucille Colson	Director: Neil Latham
Vice-President: Bob Porter	Receptionist: C. Almonester	Treasurer: George Fraser	Director: Neil Latham
2nd Vice-President: Ted Jewett	Social Convener: Ted Jewett	Director: Neil Latham	Director: Neil Latham
Director: Neil Latham	Director: Neil Latham	Director: Neil Latham	Director: Neil Latham

NYCC NYCC NYCC NYCC NYCC

Ron Zelk - January, 1988



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2nd Vice-President: Ted Jewett	Social Convener: Ted Jewett	Director: Neil Latham	Director: Neil Latham

**** ANNIVERSARY MEETING ****

Next meeting

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on Tuesday, February 25, 1992 at the Edinville Community Centre, 7 Edinville Drive. This is the 20th anniversary meeting of the club. Our very special speaker for this meeting will be Dr. Marvin Kay whose topic will be *Anniversaries and Numismatics*. Harvey and I will be highlighting and giving some examples of numismatic commemorations from his collection.

For those of you who may have missed it, there is a very fine biographical sketch of Dr. Kay in the February, 1988 Canadian Numismatic Journal. In total it says: "Dr. Marvin Kay is a Toronto numismatologist who has been collecting for over forty years. His specialty is the collecting of coins, medals and banknotes that pertain to the field of medicine. Dr. Kay has written numerous numismatic articles for the Canadian Numismatic Journal, the Medical Post, and several other numismatic bulletins." It goes on to point out that he is the only Canadian in recent years to receive the Health Literary Award for his major article "Medicine in Numismatics" which appeared in the September, 1987 issue of the Numismatist. Besides being a member of the North York Coin Club, he is a member of numerous national and international organizations, including the American Numismatic Association, and the Canadian Numismatic Association, where he is First Vice President. Dr. Marvin Kay is a Past President of the Toronto Coin Club. The biographic information introduced part of the series "The Romance of Medical Numismatics" which is co-written with Dr. Richard L. Golden.

We hope you can join us on February 25 for what promises to be a very fine talk (and some coin talk)!

Dear Club Members

It doesn't seem like it is 20 years on February 19th, that the club was founded by 12 young, energetic collectors. That the club was founded in the basement of the North York Community Hall at 5090 Yonge Street. North York has gone in those 20 years from a Township, Borough and now a city from a small community to a large one with all of the high rises in business and apartment complexes.

The club has received back quite a few books of tickets on the O.N.A. draw which was sent out with last month's bulletin. A reminder that they must be back by this meeting or via mail no later than March 15th. The draw will take place on Saturday, March 29th, two days before our March meeting.

In addition to the Executive members of the club, the next Executive Meeting will be on Wednesday, March 11th, at 7:00 P.M. at 4200 Yonge Street.

Next Meeting: February 25

Harvey Farrow & Paul Petch - February, 1992

produced using a mainframe computer application, which gave a very crisp appearance. While Harvey was co-editor he used his typewriter to add some extra material at the end, for which I always left some blank space.

Actually, I took a bit of time off from the editor job towards the very end of June through to November 1996. During this time I had a good rest for 100 days in hospital plus recovery time at home after being hit by a car making a left hand turn, and not paying enough attention to pedestrians. Following settlement with the driver's insurance company, I was back in form and ready to resume duties. During my time off Dr. Marvin Kay once again made sure that meeting announcements went out to the membership.

As I returned with the December 1996 issue it was time for another change to the production of *The Bulletin*. Microsoft Publisher now became the tool of choice to produce the master for each issue. The innovation caught the attention of the C.N.A. and *The Bulletin* was awarded "Best Canadian Club Newsletter" for 1997.

Things then got very busy for me and those other members of the club serving on the C.N.A. 2004 Convention committee. Thankfully **Vince Chiappino** was available to take on the editorship, continuing the high standards he had set when previously being editor for the Toronto Coin Club. He got started in January 2004 and continued through to June 2006 when he put out the

request to be relieved. During this time Vince did document layout using MS Word.

I came back for my third and current turn as editor beginning in September 2006. At the time I was hoping that someone else would pick up on the job, being quite busy with ailing parents and trying to complete work on the Canadian Numismatic Bibliography. Alas, no such interest materialized, but **Tony Hine** did collaborate with articles as co-editor through all of 2007 and 2008. There were two special highlights for the September 2006 issue: it was the first issue to be distributed to a majority of members by e-mail and it was also the first issue to be produced using the professional publication layout application called QuarkXpress. A new graphic design was established at that time, and it has been maintained pretty much in that format right up until today.

Incidentally, the method of sending e-mail was upgraded for the November 2007 issue. Now circulation@northyorkcoinclub.com continues to be the origin of each issue. More importantly, there is an archive of all the issues by all the editors at www.northyorkcoinclub.com in the archive. You may pick up new issues there each month. You may also ask to be put on the mailing list by making your request to circulation@northyorkcoinclub.com.

In asking me to recount the story of the North York Coin Club Bulletin, O.N.A. Editor Judy Blackman presented a few questions: how many issues have you turned out, what most do I enjoy, and why do I keep doing it?

The number of issues I have done is now over 260 but still represents less than half of the time the North York Coin Club has been in existence. As to what it is I most enjoy, that has to be finding articles that will appeal to both numismatic specialists and generalists and putting those articles in front of our readers. Every effort is made to present the stories with full original content while enhancing them with appropriate illustrations in what I hope is an easy-to-read format.

The last question is a real challenge and one I have not thought about all that much. I've been doing the editing for so long it has become part of my monthly activity. It's definitely not something I do to fill my spare time! Perhaps it goes back to my training as a computer programmer, and the satisfaction I feel in producing something where nothing existed before. Now with the Internet, the job has become a much easier one with no running to the printer and only a few envelopes to take to the post office; all the information may be gathered, compiled and produced from a computer at home.

Ben Boelens continues to provide a valuable contribution by printing the black and white issues and getting them in the mail for those few members who are not on the Internet.



North York Coin Club

FOUNDED 1960

MONTHLY MEETINGS 4TH Tuesday 8 P.M. AT
Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive, North York

MAIL ADDRESS: NORTH YORK COIN CLUB, P.O. BOX 8888 Sheppard Plaza P.O.
187 Sheppard Avenue East, North York, Ontario, M2N 6K7

Member	Paul Petch	President	Paul Petch	Secretary	Paul Petch	Assistant Secretary	Paul Petch
Canadian Numismatic Association	Albert Stearn	Treasurer	Albert Stearn	Public Relations	Albert Stearn	Newsletter Editor	Albert Stearn
Ontario Numismatic Association	John Fyfe	Member at Large	John Fyfe	Member at Large	John Fyfe	Member at Large	John Fyfe

ONA Videos at our 37th Anniversary Meeting

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on Tuesday, February 20, 1997, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive.

This is the Club's 37th Anniversary meeting. We will be featuring three excellent videos from the ONA Video Library. We will begin with "Sticking the Success", a look at the history of the Royal Canadian Mint and the various production plants. Then we have "Canada from Every Corner", the story of the design selection and minting of the 12 quarters and 1 dollar coin in 1982, the 125th anniversary of Confederation. And, for our big finale, we have "The Bank of Canada: Not Your Average Bank" which describes the history and workings of Canada's national bank.

Members and guests will also be able to enjoy a slice of anniversary cake during the break. Hope to see you there.

"The Bulletin" February, 1997

Coming from 

TOKYO FEBRUARY 22-23, at the Princess Hotel, 111 Carlton St., Toronto, ON, Canada. Sat. 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sun. 12 a.m. to 3 p.m. Daily admission \$5.00 (U.S. \$3.00). For more information contact Ingrid K. Smith at (416) 290-9070.

HAMILTON COIN CLUB SPRING SHOW April 12, at the Royal Canadian Legion, 840 St. E., across from Centre Mall, Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$1, includes drink ticket. Free Parking, Lunch Bar. For more information contact Henry Karaman at (905) 579-3817 or George Butt at (905) 264-5644.

KENT COIN CLUB ANNUAL & CARDS SHOW April 13, 10am-6pm, Wharfedale Inn & Conference Centre, 3011 Richmond St. W., Chatham, ON. FREE ADMISSION! Info: Lou Wagner (519) 362-4100

O.N.A. CONVENTION April 19-20, at the Ramada Inn, Windsor, ON, Hours: Sat 10a.m. to 6 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsored by the WINDSOR COIN CLUB. For more information contact S. J. Colantoni at 505 E. Windsor, Ontario N9P 1E4, or Don Smith at (519) 254-6855

President's Message

Members who have not renewed their membership as yet are reminded that this is their last chance. If you find a coin, don't let it go! Please send in your coin right away!

One of the ways this Club supports the C.N.A. and makes a few dollars towards it, is with the C.N.A. Annual Officers Election. Draw Albert Stearn has books of order forms available and has members book along to get at the last meeting. Albert requests to have more books, so please call what you have and pick up another book to sell this month. If you missed the last meeting or haven't got a book to sell, be sure to pick one up at the February meeting.

Members who missed the January meeting will find a copy of the Club's annual financial statement enclosed

Next Meeting: February 25

Executive Committee members are reminded of our next meeting on March 19 at Edithvale in the upstairs meeting room at 7:00 p.m.

As you can see, I continue to work on the Bulletin to come up with a need, reasonable format. I think we're getting along. As was mentioned last month, what we need now is some content. Thanks to Marvin Kay for his contribution this month, but what about other folks with articles on their special interests this month? Please contribute!

Need to contact the President? Please call, calls are welcome at 416-745-0027 (leave a voice mail message if you can't get through in person) and e-mail may be sent to petch@nycoc.com.



North York Coin Club

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Ontario Numismatic Association	John Fyfe	Member at Large	John Fyfe	Member at Large	John Fyfe	Member at Large	John Fyfe

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As you are all aware by now the January meeting was cancelled because of a bad storm that hit Toronto. We attempted to notify everyone by telephone or Email but if you did not get the message in time and forgot the meeting to show up for the meeting we apologize.

As usual February is our anniversary month. To celebrate our 44th birthday cake will be served during the break. I hope to see you all there.

The annual C.N.A. Division Victoria draw tickets will be on hand. Please pick up a book for you to sell. Not only will you be helping the C.N.A. but for each book sold the Club will get \$2 and you will get a free ticket.

Please remember that your 2004 membership renewal is now underway. Bring your renewal to the Treasurer at the next meeting or send it in by mail. Those who have already paid can pick up their membership cards at the February meeting.

Members of the Executive Committee are reminded of the following on Tuesday, March 9th at the Edithvale Centre.

If you are on the internet, please send an Email to the editor at petch@nycoc.com

NEXT MEETING Tuesday February 24, 2004

We start gathering at 7:30 pm with meeting start scheduled at 8:00 pm.

CAKE, FIRM and the letter "Z"

The letter theme we used for the November meeting was very successful, so we decided to try it again, but this time with the letter "Z". You are requested to bring along a numismatic item with a connection to the letter Z and talk briefly about it.

Roger Fox will be showing a short ANNCYC video (originally 1 min film) showing footage from early Christmas Party meetings.

This meeting is normally our Anniversary Meeting but due to the cancellation of the January meeting it will also be our Annual Meeting, so the financial reports will be presented.

We do not have a listed auction but you are encouraged to bring auction material for the meeting.

COMING EVENTS

Cambridge Coin Show, March 20, 7:00 am to 4:00 pm, Cambridge Newfoundland Club, 1500 Dufferin Road (From Hwy 401, take Hwy 24 South to Dufferin Rd.)

C.N.A. Convention July 8-11, Toronto. (Mark these dates on your calendar)

This information is courtesy of the Canadian Coin News and is not an advertisement.

Toronto Coin Show & Auction, February 28-29, Niagara Hotel Centre, Adelaide St. E., children 10 and under free. Contact Brian Smith at brsmith@telus.net

MEETING NEWS OF THE JANUARY 27, 2004 MEETING

The meeting was cancelled.



North York Coin Club

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MAIL ADDRESS: NORTH YORK COIN CLUB, P.O. BOX 8888 Sheppard Centre P.O.
4841 Yonge Street, North York, Ontario, M2N 6H7

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THE BULLETIN FOR SEPTEMBER 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fellow Members and welcome back to the 84th session of the NYCC.

I have enclosed with this Bulletin an Application for the Ontario 1997. I believe it to be clear and if you have any questions, please contact me as soon as possible. Also, I have included a Member Update. Please e-mail or mail the book to me as soon as you can, however, bring it to the September meeting.

We have a phone member that is for the Club and the number is 416-945-9299. Also, we have a new e-mail address for Club Members only. Please make sure that you put it in your address for EXACTLY as it is shown. The e-mail is nycc@northyorkcoinclub.com. Although it is hard to see, there is an **underlining** between the word "nycc" and "northyorkcoinclub.com". (Great for screen readers) I will give you the password and access directions.

Now, down to the letter itself. I hope that all of you had a great summer here and, as we discussed at the end of last season, with our Christmas program.

For November, I will be looking to the Club for a volunteer. Please put on your thinking cap and see if you are able to come up with something completely different. I have, however, spoken with many people who did attend and will give a full report for you and send it

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

We start gathering at 7:30 p.m. with meeting start scheduled for 8:00 p.m.

Theme Topic: CNA. Night with reports on the convention and specialty group meetings. Nick Cruise was our Club Delegate and will report.

If you attended a specialty group meeting, please be prepared to share meeting news.

Don't Forget: Please bring some numismatic material for the auction.

As you are at the next meeting, as well as at a shorter volunteer report. Along with the reports from other Members, the draw and Auction and then some general conversation, the evening will get on back to the Dinner. Also that evening, we are going to have our first Auction Night. The balance of the evening will be nothing but Dinner and the Auction. If all Members would please find up to 10 items they would like to sell, and someone to get no later than the October meeting. I will post the list and send everyone a copy to your list please show all the details of the items and what you require in. This way all Members are prepared to bid by the time they come to the meeting. We will get all items on display, prior to the start of the meeting and hopefully everything will sell and all of us will have a good time.

As usual, my closing statement is "Bring a game". We need new members as usual and will be introducing someone to our Club and by the introduction someone to our Club. Thanks, Nick C.

Paul Petch - February, 1997

Vince Chiappino - February, 2004

Paul Petch - September, 2006

THE 1867 CONFEDERATION MEDAL

A PRESENTATION TO THE NORTH YORK COIN CLUB BY RON CHEEK AT THE JUNE 27, 2017 MEETING

This is an overview of Ron Cheek's presentation. The complete text is available in the July/August issue of the Canadian Numismatic Journal.

The Bronze Medal

What does it commemorate?

- On July 1, 1867, an act of the British Parliament received Royal Assent, which created our nation. Three colonies were joined
- The Province of Canada (Canada East and Canada West)
- Nova Scotia
- New Brunswick
- The official name of the act was “British North America Act, 1867, 30-31 Vict., c.3 (U.K.) An Act for the Union of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, and the Government thereof, and for Purposes connected therewith.”

Why Confederation came about

- Unlike our southern neighbour, not because of a strong desire for independence from Britain
- Concerns about U.S. expansion ambitions
- Fenian raids exposed our vulnerability
- Encouragement from Great Britain for confederation to promote self-reliance
- Discontent between the two Canada's with the existing form of government; Maritimers were less enthusiastic but eventually joined

How it came about

- Charlottetown Conference, September 1864
- Quebec Conference, November, 1864
- 72 resolutions hammered out
- Composition of Canadian Parliament decided
- Distribution of powers between the federal Government and the provinces
- P.E.I and Newfoundland opted out
- And finally, the London Conference in December 1866 which framed the British North America (BNA) Act to unify the Province of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick
- The 1867 B.N.A. Act was only the first of many B.N.A. acts passed by the British Parliament (21 to date) as our nation evolved into the Canada we know today.
- But the 1867 Confederation Medal commemorates the first.



The rare silver Confederation Medal in a Wyon presentation case.

While in London in 1866, Sir John A. Macdonald arranged for the medal

- A medal to commemorate the Confederation was discussed by the Confederation partners and agreed upon in 1866.
- The medalist firm, J.S. & A.B. Wyon was commissioned
- Queen Victoria agreed to sit for the portrait for the obverse, created by J.S. Wyon
- The reverse design was created by J.S. and his brother, A. B. Wyon
- Sir John promised to send a definite order and a down payment when he got back to Canada, but it took until June 3, 1868 for an Order in Council to authorize the medal
- An initial payment of \$2000. was made
- 1 gold (for the Queen), 50 silver, and 500 bronze were ordered.
- There were a further two payments.
- Medals were sent in more than one shipment, and probably struck in several runs, almost certainly by John Pinches
- The order completed September 18, 1869

Initial distribution of the medals

- A gold medal for Queen Victoria
- Silver medals for the 16 delegates to the London Conference, four members of Cabinet who had not been delegates and 14 other dignitaries (Prince of Wales, Governor General, Colonial Secretary, the Premiers of the three founding provinces, and one placed in the Library of Parliament)
- Initial distribution of the bronzes
- 181 Members of the House of Commons
- 72 Senators
- Delegates to the Charlottetown and Quebec Conferences not previously considered
- Deposited at each of 75 named institutions
- All these early distributions were for “lofty position” or to institutions (libraries, universities, museums, etc.)

Canada becomes a nation from sea to sea to sea

- Originally the newly created provinces of Ontario and Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia were in the 1867 federation
- North West Territories purchased in 1870
- Manitoba created from the North West Territories in 1870
- British Columbia joined in 1871
- Prince Edward Island joined in 1873
- Yukon (1898); Alberta and Saskatchewan in 1905
- Newfoundland joined, after a divisive referendum, in 1949
- The B.N.A. Act, 1867 was “patriated” in 1982 and renamed the Constitution Act, 1867
- Nunuvut created from part of the North West Territories 1999

By 1872 ...

- All of the silver medals had been distributed
- 425 of the bronze medals had been distributed

Further distributions of the bronze 1867 Confederation Medals

- Through the late 19th century and early 20th there were further distributions, some to dignitaries for their lofty position
- Also awarded for merit
- Sometimes called “the first honour of the Dominion” (A bit of a stretch)
- But the original intent was as a commemorative

Distribution of the bronzes in more recent years

- By July 1, 1937 there were 22 left with the Department of the Secretary of State
- One given to W.L. Mackenzie King that year
- One went to the Royal Canadian Mint
- By 1986 “about five” were left
- One sent to the Chancellery of Honours 2003
- Corporate memory seems to be lost – are any left?



The Fathers of Confederation
Painting of the Quebec Conference by Rex Woods, 1968, replaced the original by Robert Harris, which was lost in the 1916 fire that destroyed the Parliament Buildings – three more figures were added – those being attendees at the London Conference

HOW ANCIENT COINS WERE MADE

by Mike Markowitz from the CoinWeek Ancient Coin Series on the Internet

Bricks were probably the first mass-produced industrial product. Cast bronze arrowheads, produced by the millions, might well have been the second. But ancient coins were the most challenging mass-produced industrial product in antiquity.

The successful mass production of ancient coins required many advances in metallurgy and a complex division of labour. At Athens, the mint workers were slaves owned by the state. The mint stood near the southeast corner of the Agora (marketplace). At Rome, mint workers were mostly free. Originally located at the Temple of Juno Moneta¹ on the Capitoline Hill, the mint later moved to a site 400 meters east of the Colosseum, where it remained until at least the late fourth century.

Some ancient coins were cast in molds, but most were “struck” by hand. Yet after centuries of archaeology and numismatic research, there are still plenty of unanswered questions about how ancient coins were made.

Cast Coins

Bronze is easily cast in ceramic or stone molds. The crude and clumsy **aes grave** (“heavy bronze”) coinage of the Roman Republic (c. 290—220 BCE) was cast. The **Etruscans** and several other Italian peoples in the third century BCE also made cast bronze coins.

Bronze shrinks a small percentage of its original size as it cools, so successive generations of molds made from circulating coins (rather than a standard master) gradually became smaller and lighter.

Counterfeiters often used casting to copy official coins, and thousands of ceramic counterfeiters’ molds (perhaps deliberately buried to hide them from authorities) have been found, notably in Western Europe and Egypt. Two halves of a complete counterfeiter’s mold for a coin of Licinius (313 CE) brought US\$225 in a 2009 auction².



A Lydian coin maker using a hammer and punch on an anvil.

Struck Coins

Struck coins were individually hammered between dies that were carved or engraved by hand. A few hundred ancient coins dies have survived. Most of these are counterfeiter’s dies, since official dies were carefully controlled and melted down or defaced when no longer serviceable. Most early dies were made of high-tin bronze, a durable alloy of copper with up to 20% tin. Later, dies of iron and even hardened steel appeared³.

A Roman counterfeiter’s bronze die for the reverse of a denarius dated to 136 BCE is mounted in a square iron shank 70 mm long. In a 2009 auction it brought \$6,750⁴.

At ancient mints, the first step in production was the preparation of coin blanks or “flans”⁵ from metal ingots delivered from the mines. Blanks could be cast in molds, chiselled from round bars, or cut with shears from hammered-out plates. Some blanks were struck cold (particularly pure gold and silver, which are relatively soft), while others were heated in a furnace before striking, and handled with tongs. The question of hot versus cold striking is a continuing controversy in classical numismatics.

A Roman denarius of 46 BCE shows some of the tools used in making coins. It was issued by mint official Titus Carisius. The reverse shows a pair of tongs and hammer flanking an anvil, above which is a round garlanded object sometimes identified as a punch die, but possibly a depiction of the protective leather hat worn by metal workers (an attribute of the god Vulcan). The head of the goddess Juno Moneta

appears on the obverse. A well centered, sharply struck example of this coin brought \$3,000 in a recent auction,⁶ lower-grade examples typically go for a few hundred dollars.

Another controversy is the question of heads vs. tails—or, in technical terms, obverse vs. reverse. Normally the obverse die (“heads”) was fixed in a heavy anvil, such as a section of tree trunk, while the reverse die (“tails”) was embedded or welded to an iron shank that the mint worker held in his left hand to allow him to strike with the hammer in his right hand. It might take several blows to fully strike a coin, and if the die shifted between blows, we often see evidence of this “double-striking.”

The obverse die is typically carved in deeper relief, with the head of a ruler or divinity, while the reverse die was flatter, to better transfer the force of the blow to the metal of the blank. In some cases, however, it is not obvious which side was the obverse.

How many coins could a die strike before it broke, or wore out? This vexed question is a source of endless debate. Dies typically lasted three to four months in heavy use. A die might last five years or more in intermittent production. One estimate, based on a specific issue of Delphi (338–333 BCE), is that an obverse die was good for 23,000 to 47,000 strikes, while a reverse die could sustain 11,000 to 28,000 strikes (Howgego, 32).

Dies were sometimes kept in use after they cracked, and broken ones repaired and recut.

The artisan who engraved coin dies was called a celator in Latin. Some were exceptionally gifted artists who also engraved seals in hard stone. A number of famous Greek die engravers of the fifth and fourth centuries BCE are known by name because they signed some of their dies: notably Euainetos, Kimon, and Phrygillus⁷. The extremely fine details engraved on the finest dies lead to speculation that some artists used rock crystal magnifying lenses, which are known to have existed in antiquity. On the other hand, the prevalence of spelling errors and letters engraved backwards on late Roman coins suggests that by that era some celatores were illiterate and semi-skilled.

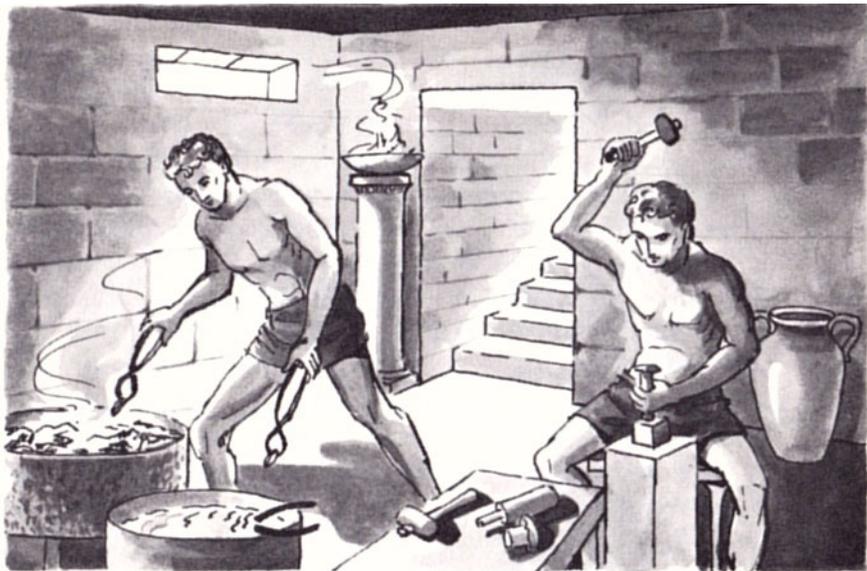
A major controversy in classical numismatics centers on the use of “hubs” in the manufacture of dies. A hub is a specially hardened “positive” master punch that is pressed into softer metal to produce multiple “negative” copies for use as dies. A counterfeiter’s hub for the obverse of a denarius of Domitian as Caesar (c. 81 CE) appeared in a 2011 auction.

Most known ancient coin dies are in museum collections (though rarely on display), but some occasionally appear in major auctions, where they command high prices. A unique Byzantine iron die for the reverse of a follis of Justin I brought \$15,000 in a recent sale. The cataloguer wrote:

This spectacular discovery of a very large early Byzantine coin-die is of major numismatic importance and of the highest rarity, and it is of the greatest interest since it allows an unprecedented glimpse behind the scenes of coin production⁸.



The only known representation of an actual coinage scene is this ancient funeral marker from the 3rd century.



An artist's conception of a Greek minting house.

This old illustration shows one worker heating coin blanks before they are struck. The Calgary Coin dealer Robert Kokotailo recently produced an article on whether ancient coins were struck hot or cold, and he comes down firmly on the side of cold striking. Interested readers are directed to his article on his web site at

<http://www.calgarycoin.com/reference/articles/strikingtemperature/strikingtemp.htm>

Notes

1. From which we get our word “money”; see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_Juno_Moneta
2. CNG Electronic Auction 217, 26 August 2009, Lot 423.
3. Steel is an alloy of iron with a small percentage of carbon, and often other elements. In antiquity steel was difficult to produce and highly prized. All modern coin dies, which have to withstand high-pressure machinery, are made of steel.
4. CNG Triton XII, 6 January 2009, Lot 469.
5. The numismatic term “flan” derives from a Latin word, flado, meaning “flat cake.” A delicious Hispanic caramel custard bears the same name.
6. CNG Triton XIX, 5 January 2016, Lot 400.
7. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phrygillus>
8. CNG Auction 105, 10 May 2017, Lot 1029.
9. http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Historia_Augusta/Aurelian/3*.html
10. Numismatik Nauman Auction 51, 5 March 2017, Lot 609. Realized US\$42

References

1. Becker, Thomas. *The Coin Makers*. Garden City, NY (1969)
[This book is highly recommended, is quite affordable and is readily available on the used book market. Ed.]
2. Conway, Charles. “Aurelian’s Bellum Monetarium: An Examination,” *Past Imperfect* 12 (2006)
3. Hill, George F. “Ancient Methods of Coining,” *Numismatic Chronicle* (1922)
4. Howgego, Christopher. *Ancient History from Coins*. London (1995)
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6. Meadows, Andrew. “Technology of Coinage,” *Oxford Handbook of Engineering and Technology in the Classical World*. John Peter Oleson (ed.). Oxford (2008)
7. Stannard, Clive. “Evaluating the Monetary Supply: Were Dies Reproduced Mechanically?,” *Quantifying Monetary Supplies in Greco-Roman Times*. François de Callataÿ (ed.). Bari (2011)
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The War of the Moneyers

One of the strangest episodes in the history of ancient coinage is a revolt by Roman mint workers that broke out in 271 CE early in the reign of the emperor Aurelian. Felicissimus, a treasury official, reportedly led the rebellion in which he died. According to the *Historia Augusta* (a notoriously unreliable source), seven thousand troops were killed in the suppressing of this Bellum Monetarium (“War of the Coiners”).

One theory is that the mint workers had become accustomed to stealing a portion of the silver provided by the treasury for the thin silver coating surface on the **antoniniani**. When the harsh reformist emperor cracked down on this practice, they rebelled (Conway).

Exactly how these mostly copper alloy coins were “silvered” is uncertain. A minor amount of silver was mixed into the alloy. The silver might have been concentrated on the surface with careful heat treatment, or the blanks might have been “pickled” in strong vinegar to dissolve some of the copper, leaving an enriched layer of silver to be consolidated by striking.

Aurelian’s early coins from the mint of Rome are certainly of indifferent workmanship, but examples with partial silvering are common, and relatively inexpensive¹⁰.

COMING EVENTS FOR SUMMER & FALL 2017

Aug. 27, Woodstock, Woodstock 28th Annual Coin Show, Woodstock Community Centre (Goff Hall), 381 Finkle St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. *Buy, sell, evaluate. Free parking, lunch counter, hourly draws. Admission \$1, kids free.* For more information contact Rick Johnson, email martjohn@execulink.com, telephone 519.537.3858.

Sept. 10, 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 and free parking. *Buy, sell, trade and appraise at more than 40 tables of dealers, including a children's table. Funds raised for children's charities.* For more information contact Willard Burton, email willardb@bwcoin.com, telephone 905-450-2870.

Sept. 17, London, London Numismatic Society (LNS) Annual Show, The Ramada Inn, 817 Exeter Road (off Hwy 401) Hours 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$2, under 12 free. Exhibit displays plus the popular show and bourse featuring dealers for coins, medals, banknotes, tokens, supplies etc. For more information contact Ted Leitch, email tedleitch@hotmail.com, telephone 519-472-9679.

Sept. 23, Guelph, Guelph Fall Coin Show, Colonel John McCrae Legion Branch 234, 57 Watson Pkwy. S. Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission \$3, under 16 free. Free level parking, fully accessible. Legendary lunch counter. *Never been to a coin show? This is where you start! Coins, banknotes, tokens, Canadian Tire money, medals, books and supplies at more than 35 dealer tables. Featuring some of Canada's top numismatic dealers. Club-sponsored Kid's Table for under 14; buy, sell, trade or evaluate.* For more information contact Mike Hollingshead, email cholling@uoguelph.ca, telephone 519-823-2646. Website: <http://www.southwellingtoncoinsociety.com>

Sept. 29 – 30, Toronto, Toronto Coin Expo – Canada's Coin & Banknote Show, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St. Hours: Fri. and Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission \$6, under 16 free. Join us at Canada's premier coin and banknote show and auction, representing Canada, United States, and the world of collectible currencies. Located on the 2nd floor. *Featuring 30+ internationally renowned coin and banknote dealers, . This is the place in Canada to buy, sell, trade. Appraisals with internationally renowned dealers in coins, banknotes, tokens, medals, militaria, gold, silver and jewelry.* Partnering with Geoffrey Bell Auctions; auction Sept 28-29, 2017. You are sure to find a one-of-a-kind coin or banknote treasures! For more information contact Jared Stapleton, email torontocoinexpo@gmail.com, telephone 647-403-7334. Website: <http://www.torontocoinexpo.ca>

Oct. 15, Mississauga, Mississauga 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 leszekp@rogers.com, telephone 416-505-7999. Website: <http://www.troyakclub.com>

Oct. 22, North Bay, Fall 2017 Northeastern Antique, Collectible & Nostalgia Show, North Bay Elks Club, 325 Elks Ln. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$5 admission. 12 and under free. *Largest collectible show in Northern Ontario featuring coins; extensive stock of commemorative medals and tokens; stamps; postcards; vintage toys; posters; militaria; comics; small antiques; vinyl and much more. Lunch counter. Door prizes.* For more information contact Jeff Fournier, email jfournier14@gmail.com, telephone 705-491-1735. Website:

<http://www.facebook.com/northeasternantiquecoincollectible/>

Oct. 22, Stratford, Stratford Coin Show, The 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>

Oct. 29, Oshawa, COIN-A-RAMA, Jubilee Pavilion, 55 Lakeview Park Ave. One day only. Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. *Free dealer and membership draws, 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.oshawacoinclub.com>

Nov. 4, Scarborough, Scarborough Coin Club 21st Annual Coin Show, Cedarbrook Community Centre, 91 Eastpark Blvd. One day only. Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free admission and draws. Coins, paper money, tokens, medals, club table, etc. Refreshments available. We are at the location where our club meets. For more information contact Dick Dunn, email cpms@bell.net.

Nov. 5, Sudbury, Sudbury Coin and Stamp Show, Dynamic Earth, Big Nickel Rd. Nickel Belt Coin Club and the Sudbury Stamp Club will again be extending a welcome to collectors. *Our location cannot be missed as we have the BIG NICKEL to show the way. There will be displays, vendors, guest speakers, and lots for the kids. Looking forward to seeing you there.* For more information, email robert.denton@sympatico.ca, telephone 705-626-3305. Website: <http://www.nickelbeltcoinclub.com>

Nov. 12, Windsor, Windsor Coin Club 66th Annual Fall Coin Show, Caboto Club, 2175 Parent Ave. Hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$1. 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. 18 – 19, Toronto, TOREX® – Canada's National Coin Show, Hyatt Regency 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! *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>

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