



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,
2001 Albion Road, Units #19 & 20, Toronto ON M9W 6V6

Web site: www.northyorkcoinclub.com

Contact the Club :

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

Member :

Ontario Numismatic Association
Royal Canadian Numismatic Association

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

Executive Committee

Director
DirectorPaul Johnson
DirectorAndrew Silver
Junior Director
AuctioneerDick Dunn

Auction Manager.....Paul Johnson
EditorPaul Petch
ReceptionistFranco Farronato
Draw PrizesRobert Durant
Social Convenor

THE BULLETIN FOR JUNE 2019

THE MEETING IS ONE WEEK EARLIER THIS MONTH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Good day to my fellow North York numismatists and all our friends who receive this monthly bulletin. Finally, a few days in a row that it did not rain. I believe the during the last two months we did not go more than two consecutive days that it did not rain. Well, last weekend we made three days without rain, but it sure is raining now.

As most of you know, the club lost one of our life members last week with the sudden passing of Bob Velensky. It was my pleasure to know Bob for most the time he was a member of this club, but I did not join until several years after he did. His presence at the meetings will be greatly missed. He was always a gentleman but spoke his mind with conviction. He was an avid collector and contributor to the club meetings well into his 91st year.

As mentioned last month we recently completed another successful North York Coin Club Coin Show thanks to Paul Petch. However, we are still looking for a Bourse Chairperson to replace Paul for running the show next year and beyond. Booking the banquet room, selling the bourse and manning the refreshment table are the main duties associated with the position. Please consider this position to help the club. Participating is a way to enhance your enjoyment of the hobby with many hands making light work for all of us, so consider it seriously.

The club is also actively looking for someone to replace Bill as the refreshment

go-for. This position is responsible for bringing the coffee, drinks and snacks to each meeting along with the necessary glasses and cutlery. The person that is filling this position is also responsible for buying the refreshments. The benefit of this position is that the open leftovers go home with you for your personal consumption. If any regular attending member would be interested in either position, please see the club President Bill O'Brien.

At our May meeting the club voted unanimously, again this year, to donate to the Canadian Association for Numismatic Education. The donation will be \$200.00 and will be presented along with other donations at the R.C.N.A. convention on the evening of Thursday, July 18 during the CAFNE reception. This organization provides grants to many shows and groups all over the country to help subsidize

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Club member **BOB VELENSKY** passed away peacefully on Tuesday, June 4, 2019 at the age of 91. A service was held at Benjamin's Park Memorial Chapel, 2401 Steeles Avenue West on Thursday, June 6, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. Interment was at Congregation Darchai Noam Section of Pardes Chaim Cemetery. Bob was welcomed as life member number 33 of this club at a special celebration meeting in May, 2018.

**NEXT MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 18
THAT'S ONE WEEK EARLY!**

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.

For the June meeting we welcome back Ben Boelens who is returning after five months of travel. Just as at our June meeting last year, Ben will be talking about the numismatic aspects of his trip and some of the items he brought home with him.

You are also invited to share your numismatic news as well as your recent finds or special treasures with us during the show and tell part of our meeting!

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.

NEWS OF THE MAY 2019 MEETING

The 655th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, May 28, 2019 in the 1st floor Banquet Room at the Edithvale Community Centre. President Bill O'Brien was in the chair and hammered to order at 7:32 p.m. with 21 members and 3 guests in attendance.

Member Valerie Limasi was not present at the time her name was drawn to receive the on-time attendance draw prize of \$25. The draw will increase to \$30 for the June 18, 2019, meeting.

Bill asked the members present if they had noticed any errors or omissions in the minutes of the April meeting, as published. With no errors identified; Robert Durrant made a motion to accept the minutes as printed, which was seconded by John Bratton. Motion carried.

Unfortunately, Terry Maksymjuk is not able to continue as Treasurer. At the club's most recent executive meeting Bill O'Brien assumed the role and provided a financial report.

Bill asked Paul Petch to report on the results of the Coin Show held in May 11. Paul mentioned that the show was a sell-out. Receipts for table sales were approximately \$600, which along with the proceeds from the December meeting 50/50 draw and the March meeting Auction Night, covered the permit costs for our 2019–2020 season. He also mentioned that as of this show he would like to step down as bourse chair and welcomed anyone interested in the job to come forth and see Bill. Mark Argentino commented that he enjoyed participating in the show and felt it was our best yet. Paul also reported that he had applied for and received the permits for next year, including our Coin Show scheduled for May 9, 2020.

Bill then introduced the topic of a donation to the Canadian Association for Numismatic Education (CAFNE). He suggested that the club consider a donation of \$200, at the same level as last year. After some discussion there was a motion made by John Bratton, seconded by Robert Durrant to this effect. The members present voted unanimously in favour.

On a sad note Bill reported that he learned that long time member Arie Yark, who has been absent from our meeting for sometime will no longer be able to attend due to health reasons.



Before the meeting Phillip Simms set up a dealer table while members inspect lots to be put up for auction



Bill O'Brien (left) presents a Certificate of Appreciation to speaker Hezi Shami

Henry Nienhuis asked for a moment to ask that anyone who may have received their April/May Canadian Numismatic Journal please look for a collating error that results in pages missing. He mentioned that if you did received the error version, contact him and he will make sure you get a replacement.

Bill introduced our special guest speaker for the evening, club member Dr. Hezi Shami, Ph.D. His topic was *Design Continuity in the Obsolete Banknotes of the British 'Influence Sphere'/Empire from 1911 to 1966*. Hezi mentioned that he began collecting coins of the British Empire and upon completing his collection decided to move on to bank notes.

He began his presentation by introducing common currency terms and valuations such as the *Pound* and *Sovereign* and discussed the *gold standard*. The Gold Standard Act of 1925 caused currency notes to no longer be exchangeable for gold coins. He also mentioned that during the 'non-golden' era (1936-1952) that most commonwealth bank notes show a portrait of George VI. Countries whose bank notes do not show the monarch are independent states that chose not to and colonies for which the United Kingdom did not provide necessary permission to their governing Treasury Board.

Hezi decided to establish a type collection of all denominations of notes showing George VI and then of Elizabeth II where design continuity was maintained. Also to be included were "Kingless" colonial notes where permission for use of the portrait was not granted. Not included are those independent countries that chose not to include the portrait, comprising the United Kingdom, New Zealand and South Africa. He began collecting George VI on colonial notes and then moved to George V and Elizabeth II. Hezi's presentation was very informative after which Bill presented him with a certificate of appreciation as small token of our gratitude.

A short refreshment break was called from 8:45–8:55 p.m.



East Africa 5 Shillings of George V 1933, George VI 1938 and Elizabeth II 1955

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, Robert Durrant (2), Eric Epstein (2), Jim Heifetz (2), Bill O’Brien, Henry Nienhuis, Dan Booth (2), and John Bratton. The club earned \$30 through the sale of the draw tickets! Our auction manager, Paul Johnson, reported that receipts from the auction added \$23.95 to the club coffers. We thank Dick Dunn, our auctioneer, Mark Argentino, who volunteered as runner, and Paul Johnson, our auction manager, for their help.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

The club executive would like to thank members for supporting the club through the purchase of draw tickets and draw prize donations. We thank Dick Dunn and Eric Epstein for their kind donations at the meeting. Please consider supporting your club through a donation of numismatic material or other items. (Don’t forget to mention your donations to the club secretary so that your support can be recognized in the minutes and newsletter.)

Please remember that our next regular meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 18, in the 1st floor Banquet Room of the Edithvale Community Centre.

President’s Message ... continued from page 1

speakers and provide funding for kid’s programs. All these endeavours are geared to help educate the public about numismatics. Thank you everyone for supporting this worthwhile organization.

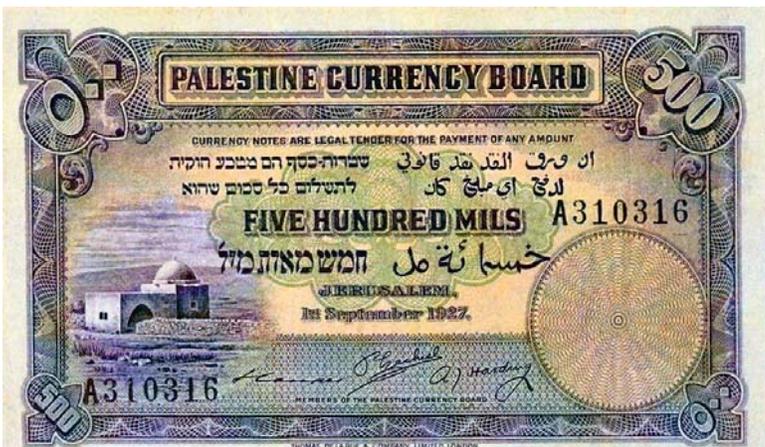
As mentioned in passing above, the club has obtained and paid for in full the permits for the club meetings for the next season and the Coin Show May 9, 2020. We have ten meetings and our annual coin show booked at Edithvale. Our December meeting as well as all the executive meetings are being held off site. The upcoming meetings of the club are as follows. The next meeting is one week earlier on June 18, and then we will be taking July off. The August meeting is also one week earlier on the 20th. I hope to see you all at these meetings and, if not, then in the fall.

The time is running out to book your summer vacation in Calgary Alberta. The R.C.N.A. convention, that a lot of you helped with last year, is in the great province of Alberta this summer between July 16-20 at the Best Western Premier Plaza on 33 Street N.E. Tours are planned to include a trip to the badlands and the Drumheller area visiting a world-famous museum of Palaeontology. Other tours will be a visit to Studio Bell, home of the National Music Centre, and the next day there’s a trip to the trendy Inglewood area of Calgary and a glass blowing tour and demonstration. The last items on the list of things to do at the convention for the ladies is a visit to the Calgary Zoo, or dinner at Big Rock Grill or the opportunity to just relax a bit in the hospitality suite. It looks like the ladies will be busy and won’t even miss their spouse, which gives you ample time to pursue your hobby and rekindle old friendships.

Well I guess that is it for club news so I will highlight some of upcoming shows in the area over the summer just in case you don’t get out to Alberta. The show schedule is somewhat sparse over the summer but there are enough shows to get your fix of numismatics until the calendar fills up in the fall. The TOREX show at the end of the month is in downtown Toronto on June 29-30. The other show I like to highlight is the Paris Coin show on August 11 run by club member Jared. Please see the full Coming Events listing and get out and enjoy yourself over the next few months, because before you know it fall will be upon us.

That’s a wrap on club news and everything you need to know to plan your month in numismatics and the NYCC. Don’t forget to circle Tuesday, June 18 on your calendar for the next meeting of the club because we have Ben Boelens to speak to us with some new material acquired in Europe earlier this year. Come early for the 7:30 meeting to have some time to check out the dealer’s wares and auction material as well as socialize a bit with the club members. Remember that we do not have any meeting booked for July so the next meeting of the NYCC is August 20 2019.

Bill O’Brien



*Trilingual text on a George V Palestine bank note
The face of the note shows the Rachel Tomb, Bethlehem, about 400 AD while
the back shows the Tower of David and Walls of Jerusalem
first built by King Herod about 30 AD*

ILLEGAL VIKING COIN HOARD WORTH £500,000 COULD REWRITE ENGLISH HISTORY

Compiled by Paul R. Petch with files from Ashley Cowie, Ancient Origins web site

A hoard of Viking coins could change our understanding of English history, after showing how Alfred the Great 'airbrushed' out a rival king

A hoard of Viking coins worth at least half a million British pounds has been recovered by police investigating the illegal trade of historic treasures and they tell a completely different story of Alfred the Great's role in English history. The treasure suggests that Alfred the Great, the Saxon king who ruled from AD 871 to 899, might be less great than history records.

The Recovery of the Viking Coins

Codenamed "Operation Fantail," the sting was directed by Detective Inspector Lee Gosling of Durham police who said several suspected criminals have been arrested on suspicion of dealing in "culturally tainted objects."

He told reporters, "We believe the material recovered comes from a hoard of immense historical significance relating to the Vikings and we are delighted to have been able to hand it over to the British Museum. We are in the very early stages of what is going to be a very long and complex investigation. This is an extremely unusual case and it is not every day we get the chance to shape British history. It is the legal responsibility of the finder of any precious metal objects that are over 300 years old to report them to the local coroner as possible treasure under the terms of the Treasure Act 1996."

The coins (and a silver ingot) were recovered by police at homes in County Durham and Lancashire earlier this month and would have circulated around 878 AD, at a time when Alfred the Great of Wessex, a powerful Anglo-Saxon warrior king fought a series of battles against Vikings which was to lead to the creation of a unified England under Alfred and his successors.

The Viking Coins Tell A Different Political Story

A 'leading expert' informed the MailOnline that the Viking coins could "add significantly to our understanding of the political history of England in the 870s AD" as they depict King Alfred of Wessex standing beside King Ceolwulf II of Mercia, who until now was held by historians to be "a puppet of the Vikings—a minor nobleman rather than a proper king," in his own right. Ceolwulf, who ruled from AD 874 to about 879, got a bad press in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, an annual record of the time, of as "a foolish king's thegn [minor nobleman]" and a

puppet ruler who maintained his land "ready for them on whatever day they wished to have it."

It was thought that Ceolwulf had ruled for five years before vanishing from history around 879 AD when Alfred took over his kingdom, but the coins challenge this theory by showing the two rulers standing together as allies.



*Trove of ancient Viking coins recovered.
Source: bukhta79 / Adobe Stock*



Damaged silver Viking coin showing Ceolwulf II of Mercia. (Fæ / CC BY-SA 2.0)

Undoing of the Danes

- Alfred the Great inherited the kingdom of Wessex from his brother in AD 871 in the midst of a war with Danish settlers and would go on fighting them for much of his reign.
- His first big skirmish as king was at Wilton, now in Wiltshire. The Viking victory was at such a cost to both sides that they agreed a peace settlement that lasted for five years.
- In 876 the Vikings returned, were repelled by 877 but came back the next year, almost gaining control of Wessex. Alfred staged a decisive counterattack at the Battle of Edington in 878 AD and then defending Wessex with a string of forts. Guthrum, the Viking king, surrendered and was baptised with Alfred as his godfather.
- Alfred saw off a Danish invasion of Kent in 885 and went on the offensive the next year to depose Viking rule in London. His ability to unite all Englishmen not under Viking control allowed his successors eventually to drive out the last Viking ruler, Eric Bloodaxe, in 954.

Dr. Gareth Williams, curator of Early Medieval Coins and Viking Collections at the British Museum described the coins as a “nationally important hoard.”

He said: “The coins I have seen so far add significantly to our understanding of the political history of England in the AD 870s.

“This is the period in which Alfred the Great was fighting the Vikings, but which also led to the creation of a unified kingdom of England under Alfred and his successors.

“Ceolwulf is described in unflattering terms in surviving sources written at Alfred’s court some years later, but around the time the

hoard was buried, probably in AD 879, Ceolwulf mysteriously disappeared, and Alfred then took over Ceolwulf’s kingdom as well as his own.

“The coins point to an alliance between the two which the later sources from Alfred’s court ‘forgot’ to mention, while at the same time stressing Alfred’s new alliance with his former enemy, the Viking leader Guthrum.”

The depiction suggests an entirely different history and experts now think that the Mercian king might have been “airbrushed out of history” by Alfred’s chroniclers and if these speculation are confirmed, the coins will reshape views on how England was united.

Fake News By Careful Design

Highlighting the importance of Alfred in English history, Barbara Yorke, Professor emeritus of early medieval history at the University of Winchester commented to reporters that Alfred was the only Anglo-Saxon ruler “able to prevent his kingdom from falling into the hands of the Vikings.”

The Fake News undermining Ceolwulf’s dynasty appears to have occurred when Alfred declared he was embarrassed by the poor standards of Latin learning in Wessex and had texts translated into English, a process in which he personally participated. The Victorians bought the Anglo-Saxon king’s revised history hook line and sinker, even though many of the important achievements didn’t come from him.

Wouldn’t it be great if we all got to write our own histories?



Alfred the Great is depicted on the Viking coins.
(Brobra694 / [Public Domain](#))



A rare coin showing King Alfred ‘the Great’ of Wessex (r.871–99) and King Ceolwulf II of Mercia (874–79)

SO YOU WANT TO BE A CLASSICAL NUMISMATIST? ANCIENT COINS FOR BEGINNERS

By Mike Markowitz, September 2015, from the CoinWeek web site

The highest praise that one ancient coin collector can give another is to say he or she “has an eye for coins.” Someone with this remarkable ability can look at a tray of a hundred nearly identical pieces and unerringly pick out the three or four best examples.

In his book *Outliers: The Story of Success* (2011), Malcolm Gladwell argues that it takes ten thousand hours to achieve mastery in any field of endeavour. So, you want to be a classical numismatist? Better start right now!

But where to begin?

Invest in Yourself

As far as I know, no American college or university offers a degree in Numismatics¹ (the study of coins), but that doesn't mean there is no place to learn. The American Numismatic Association (ANA)² in Colorado Springs offers summer seminars for aspiring classical numismatists, and the American Numismatic Society (ANS)³ in New York City has a summer program that provides graduate students and junior faculty with rigorous training in numismatic research. Ancient coin clubs—notably in Los Angeles, Chicago, and Washington, DC—provide many opportunities to share the experience of experts. National and local coin shows, despite the pressure of crowds and time, can be great places to learn.

The inscriptions on ancient coins are (mostly) in Latin and Greek, but modern German, French and Italian are the languages of numismatic literature. Even for those of us without fluency, a little study and a good dictionary help to make this literature accessible.

Most collectors of ancients start out as collectors of Canadian or world coins, discovering the allure of antiquity after years of collecting experience. Others begin with an interest in the ancient world and find that coins are real artefacts of that world that you can actually touch. A fortunate few with deep pockets begin as investors, captivated by the excitement of the auction room and the thrill of the chase.

Some know immediately exactly what they want to collect; others find their particular niche after years of exploration. The right answer is: whatever brings you delight. If you're not enjoying your coins, you're doing it wrong.

Buy the Book Before You Buy the Coin

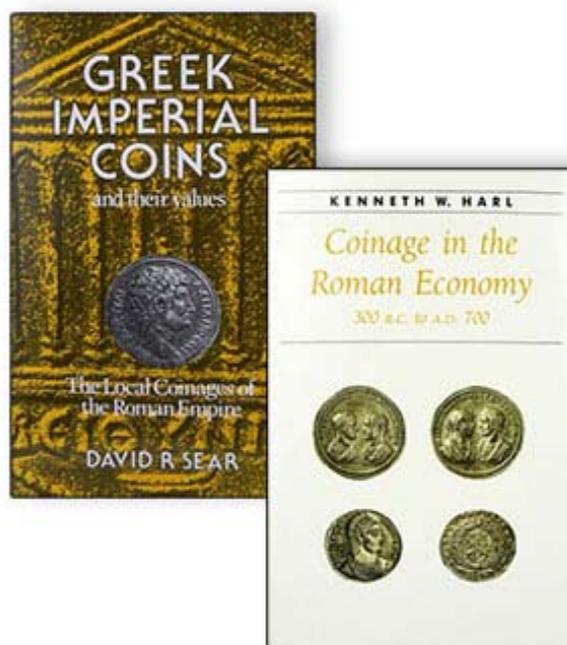
Experienced collectors often seem to spend almost as much on books as they spend on coins.

In the vast literature of classical numismatics, an excellent starting point is the series of beginner's guides by Wayne Sayles, particularly the first volume, *Ancient Coin Collecting* (Krause, 2003).

Kolbe & Fanning offers a wide selection of books on Ancient coins. Visit www.numislit.com to check out their current inventory.

For many collectors, David Sear's handbooks are an indispensable early acquisition. *Roman Coins and Their Values*, which began as a single volume in the late 1960s, has now grown into a five-volume set. Similarly, *Greek Coins and Their Values*, first published in 1959, is a two-volume set, with a third book on Greek coinage under the Roman Empire.

The first coin book I ever bought was the title *Collecting Roman Coins* by Kiely and Van Meter (1989), an accidental find in a second hand bookshop. Twenty years later, I keep running out of shelf space—and not just for the books but also for the dealer catalogues that provide such valuable references. You'll learn a lot from the books, but you may well learn even more from the catalogues. Books give you the historical context of the coins, but sale catalogues, especially when accompanied by the listing of “prices realized,” let you understand trends in the ancient numismatic market.



Buy the Best You Can Afford

“I have the simplest tastes. I am always satisfied with the best.”
—Oscar Wilde (1854–1900)

Beginning collectors are often tempted to acquire a large number of inexpensive coins. This is a good temptation to resist. Some of the best advice I ever got was “buy fewer, better coins.” Buying a coin is never an emergency. Try to relax and enjoy the process. I prefer to buy ancient coins at coin shows, where I know many of the dealers, having done repeat business with them for several years. Although I have acquired some wonderful pieces bidding in online auctions, one should not become frustrated or disappointed when your best bid for a desirable coin is “sniped” at the last minute by a collector with deeper pockets and quicker fingers.

Unlike collectible American coins, which are mostly encapsulated and trade in a relatively liquid market, ancient coins can be hard to sell, particularly common types in lower grades. There will always be a strong demand for great rarities in exceptional condition, of course, but these are likely to be well beyond the reach of most collectors.

Remember that the bitterness of low quality remains, long after the sweetness of low cost is forgotten.

Invest in Good Tools

The basic tool kit for a beginning numismatist is simple, compact and inexpensive.

You need a good magnifying lens.

Many professionals use the Bausch & Lomb Packette⁴, a 5x lens that slides into a black plastic case⁵. Since the attribution (or formal description) of an ancient coin should always include the exact weight in grams (and incorrect weight is often a strong indication of a fake) you want a digital electronic scale accurate to 0.01 gram. These used to be pricey, but can now be purchased at coin shows or found online for under \$15. Some collectors like to use precision callipers to measure the diameter of a coin in millimetres (this is also part of a complete attribution.) You can spend a lot on a digital electronic calliper, but perfectly good plastic “vernier” callipers can be found online for as little as \$3. I just use a transparent ruler marked in millimetres to measure my coins.

What about equipment for cleaning coins? The answer is easy—Don’t!

Beginners should generally not clean ancient coins. The risk of damage is too great and the probability of a good outcome too low. Collectors of modern coins understand that cleaning is a task



for experts, but I know many ancient collectors will take issue with this, and argue that this or that “foolproof” formula is safe.

Let’s agree that cleaning is a subject best left for the advanced collector.

When it comes to photographing coins, the required equipment is bulkier, harder to use and probably more expensive. This is a subject for another day and, hopefully, another article. I’m slowly learning to photograph coins with a cell phone camera, a small tripod, and a remote shutter release, but I need to learn a lot more about lighting to produce good results. Mark Goodman’s book, *Numismatic Photography*, 2nd edition (2009) is a useful introduction to the subject.

“I Need Your Help”

The four most powerful words in the English language can be “I need your help.” Numismatists can be incredibly patient and generous in sharing their knowledge and resources but if you never ask, you won’t find out.

Notes

- ¹ Professional classical numismatists often have degrees in Classics, History, Art History, or Archaeology.
- ² <https://www.money.org/school-of-numismatics>
- ³ <http://numismatics.org/Seminar/Seminar>
- ⁴ List price is US\$11.60; the lowest price I found online was \$7.17.
- ⁵ Tip: If you tape your initials on the case it won’t get mixed up with the identical magnifiers of other collectors when you set it down on a busy dealer’s table.

References

1. Gladwell, Malcolm. *Outliers: The Story of Success*. New York (2011)
2. Goodman, Mark. *Numismatic Photography*, 2nd ed. Zyru (2009)
3. Kiely, Michael and David Van Meter. *Collecting Roman Coins*. Laurion (1989)
4. McNall, Bruce. *Fun While It Lasted: My Rise and Fall in the Land of Fame and Fortune*. New York (2003)
5. Sayles, Wayne. *Ancient Coin Collecting*, Vol. 1. Krause (2003)
6. Sear David. R., *Greek Coins and their values*, Vol. 1 and 2. Seaby (1978/79)
7. —, *Greek Imperial Coins and their values*. Spink (1982)
8. —, *Roman Coins and their values*, Vol. 1–5. Spink (2000–2013)
9. —, *Byzantine Coins and their values*. Seaby (1987)



COMING EVENTS FOR SUMMER 2019

May 12 – Sept. 2, Ottawa, “A Noteworthy Woman”, Bank of Canada Museum, 30 Bank St.; an exhibition exploring the imagery on Canada’s new vertical \$10 bill, highlights human rights inspiration and portrait subject Viola Desmond. Desmond the first Canadian woman to appear on a regularly circulating Bank of Canada note. The exhibition is on now until Sept. 2 and is free to attend. For more information contact Nicole Gurski, email museum-musee@bankofcanada.ca, telephone 613-782-8914. Website: <https://www.bankofcanadamuseum.ca/explore/exhibitions/special-exhibitions/a-noteworthy-woman/>

June 29 – 30, Toronto, TOREX – Canada’s National Coin Show & Auctions, 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! *Numismatic excellence since 1962, featuring Canada’s finest dealers in Canadian, ancient, and foreign coins, paper money, coin and paper money supplies and reference books.* Official auctioneer is 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>

July 17 – 20, Calgary, 2019 Calgary RCNA Convention, Best Western Premier Calgary Plaza & Conference Centre, 1316 33 Street N.E. The 2018 Calgary RCNA Convention is being hosted by the Calgary Numismatic Society. For full details, visit the Royal Canadian Numismatic Association’s website at rcna.ca/2019. For more information contact James A. Williston, email jawilliston@shaw.ca, telephone 403-461-2663. Website: <http://www.rcna.ca/2019>

Aug. 11, Paris, Paris Coin Show, Paris Fairgrounds, 139 Silver St. Show hours 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$4 Admission and includes draw ticket for a Gold Coin. Canada’s Best 1 day Coin and Collectables show. *Over 50 tables of coins, paper money, tokens, military & more. Buy, Sell & Appraise at the show with professional Coin & Banknote Dealers. Hot & cold food and drinks are available at the show.* Geoffrey Bell Auctions is holding its Summer Sale on August 10 in the Grand Ballroom at the Hampton Inn & Suites, 20 Fen Ridge Ct., Brantford with viewing from 10am-4pm and the auction at 5pm. For more information, email pariscoinshow@gmail.com, telephone 647-403-7334. Website: <http://www.pariscoinshow.com>

Listings are courtesy of Canadian Coin News Coming Events

RCM RECREATES THE HMS NEW BRUNSWICK TOKEN

The history of coinage in the British colonies is fascinating for those who love coins. Before Confederation, the colonies tried a number of schemes to make up for shortages of Crown-approved currency. These shortages happened frequently, and an economy emerged that mixed bills of exchange, cheques, and bank notes with official coinage, unofficial tokens, hole-punched silver pieces, and alternative currencies. Many of these coins could only be used locally and had little or no value in other parts of Canada. Only coins officially sanctioned by the Crown retained their value across the colonies.

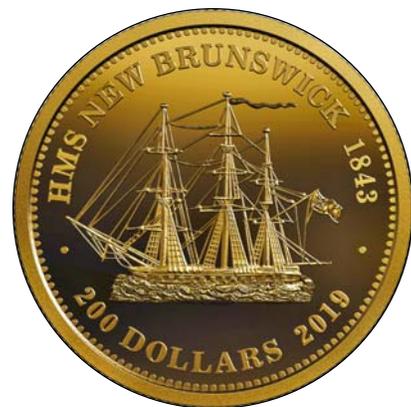
After an unsuccessful attempt to circulate British copper, the New Brunswick government decided to issue penny and halfpenny tokens dated 1843. The Colonial Office, on being informed of the plan, disallowed the initiative because that was exclusively a Royal prerogative. Because New Brunswick was so desperate for coinage, the tokens ended up being secretly struck after all by Boulton & Watt at the Soho Mint in Birmingham, England. They were surreptitiously introduced into circulation once they reached New Brunswick.

The design, created by the Soho Mint, is a detailed depiction of a three-mast frigate at anchor—reflecting the importance of sea trade and shipbuilding for New Brunswick. A frigate was a type of ship that was designed to sail at a high speed. Frigates bore dozens of guns on the foredeck. At the height of the frigate’s popularity, merchant frigates were sometimes designed to look just like naval frigates, with false gun ports to dissuade piracy. The Soho Mint referred to it as the most beautiful design they had ever produced. Although collectors sometime refer to the vessel featured on this coin as “HMS New Brunswick,” no such naval ship actually existed. Instead, it is likely that this design was based on one or more of the naval and merchant vessels of this type that were common at the time.

Designed to appeal to numismatists with an interest in colonial coinage, as well as those wanting to invest in an ounce of .99999 pure gold, this product follows the Mint’s recent policy of creating products that are appealing to particular niche markets. With a selling price of \$2,799.95 and a limited mintage of 250, this \$200 face value coin sold out within days of its announcement.



New Brunswick 1843 Penny Token



RCM 2019 \$200 1 oz. gold