

Official Publication

of

The Ontario Numismatic Association

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William Clarke, 167 Delaware Street, London, Ontario.

Speakers' Circuit:

Frank Uttley, 35 Chestnut Street, Kitchener, Ontario.

Next Executive Meeting:

Sunday August 26, 1962. Time: 7.00 P.M.

Place: 130 Cameron Street South,
Hamilton, Ontario.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Today, in Canada and the United States, numismatists not only study their own national coinage, but delve deeply into monetary systems from other parts of the world.

At the present time in order to serve all numismatists in Ontario, the 'Ontario Numismatist' will pave a new road in numismatology. From time to time, international articles written by leading authorities will appear in your publication.

In our August publication of the 'Ontario Numismatist' we are privileged to reprint an article entitled 'Money Museum in Michigan' by arrangement with Lawyers Title News, Lawyers Title Insurance Corporation Richmond, Virginia, U.S.A. and James Keith Associates, Detroit, Michigan U.S.A.

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Any O.N.A. member desiring to submit numismatic articles for publication are asked to send their contributions to the O.N.A. Editor.

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O.N.A. NEWS REPORT

The O.N.A. Executive met at 239 Lancaster Street West, Kitchener, Ontario, on Sunday June 24th.

The O.N.A. Executive is pleased to announce the O.N.A. 1963 Convention will be held at Prudhomm's Motel on the Queen Elizabeth Way at Vineland, Ontario, on April 26, 27, and 28, 1963. St. Catharines Coin Club are to be host.

At the time of the August 'Ontario Numismatist' compilation a great deal of Convention formality is under due consideration, however, a full comprehensive report will be made known on a later date.

AUCTION TENDERS

Tenders will be considered by the undersigned in connection with the Ontario Numismatic Association's 1963 Convention to be held at Prudhomme's Motel, on the Queen Elizabeth Way, at Vineland, Ontario, on April 26, 27, and 28, 1963.

All tenders to be postmarked not later than 12:00 P.M. October 31, 1962.

Dated:
June 30 1962

Signed:
Ontario Numismatic Association
c/o Ruth Mueller (Mrs.) Secretary
239 Lancaster Street West,
Kitchener, Ontario.

The O.N.A. 'Letterhead Competition' is still open to all members. Members are invited to submit their ideas in this competition. Please direct all entries to your O.N.A. Secretary.

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The O.N.A. Executive will entertain applications from Ontario clubs in consideration for the 1964 and 1965 O.N.A. CONVENTIONS. These applications are to be made in writing with full data on accommodation available, locale, etc. Please direct all applications to the O.N.A. Executive: c/o Ruth Mueller (Mrs.) Secretary, 239 Lancaster Street West, Kitchener, Ontario.

O.N.A. SPEAKERS' CIRCUIT

Mr. Frank Uttley, O.N.A. Speakers' Circuit Director has announced the 'Speakers' Circuit' brochure is under revision. This brochure will be made available to all Ontario clubs in the later part of September.

Mr. Lloyd T. Smith of London Ontario, a member of the 'Speakers' Circuit' will speak at the WATERLOO COIN SOCIETY on September 11th, 1962, (Subject: "Coin Collecting, For Fun/Or Profit"). He will also speak at the OAKVILLE COIN CLUB on September 17th, 1962, (Subject: "An Outline of Currency in Canada").

COMING EVENTS

The LONDON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY has announced they will hold their Annual Banquet and Auction on Saturday, October 13th, 1962, in the Westown Plaza, London, Ontario.

Banquet tickets are \$3.00 per person, and all reservations must be received by Mr. Alex Sweeton, 172 Regent Street, London, Ontario, before October 10th, 1962.

Display competition will be open to all coin collectors; but anyone wishing to display must contact Mr. Sam Smith, 92 Elworthy Avenue, London, Ontario. Mr Smith will require information on the type of display, number of cases in the display and whether or not the exhibitor has his own cases. Non-competitive displays will also be welcome.

A Semi -Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Numismatic Association will be held during the afternoon of the Annual Banquet of the London Numismatic Society. All Executive members are requested to be present.

THE BLUE WATER INTERNATIONAL COIN SHOW will be under joint sponsorship of SARNIA NUMISMATIC SOCIETY and PORT HURON (Michigan) COIN CLUB on Saturday, October 20th, 1962, at Kenwick Terrace, Sarnia, Ontario.

Displays at the 'Blue Water' show will be divided into three classes. Members, Non-members, and Court of Honour.

Further information in regards THE BLUE WATER INTERNATIONAL COIN SHOW will be published in the 'Ontario Numismatist' for October. However, anyone interested in obtaining literature on this Banquet at the present time may write direct to: SARNIA NUMISMATIC SOCIETY c/o Don Park - Secretary, 308 Savoy Street, Sarnia, Ontario.

Mrs. Rose Thompson, Secretary of the ST. CATHARINES COIN CLUB has

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MONEY MUSEUM IN MICHIGAN

by James Keith

It has been said, and truly so, that money has been the scourge of mankind through the ages.

Yet money has served its useful purpose as a medium of exchange since brute men emerged from caves long forgotten to barter for the things they wanted to acquire or dispose of.

The Money Museum in the new National of Detroit Building demonstrates 5,000 years of coinage history including such items as a piece of stone money weighing half a ton; and a block of salt money which is considered as precious as gold in lands where there is no salt.

It might be said that this museum of coins and other forms of money was started in 1918. The place was Waco, Texas.

Living with his parents there in that last year of World War I was 13-year-old Oscar H. Dodson. One day a family friend came to the Dodson house, a soldier of fortune fresh from his wanderings in Africa, with tall tales of adventure among the cannibals living along the banks of the Congo.

The friend regaled the family with fantastic stories of fierce tribesmen--how they used various pieces of metal and artifacts for the purchase of wives, even fresh human flesh for the table.

Young Oscar's eyes nearly popped out of their sockets when the visitor pulled out of his greasy wallet some copper coins--Congolese money--at the same time hinting that he didn't come by them without great risk of being tossed into the kettle in the jungle clearing and feasted upon by the cannibals.

"From that day to this," said Rear Admiral Oscar Dodson, USN (Ret.), director of the Money Museum, "my great interest in life, the only real hobby I ever had, has been numismatics."

When the National Bank of Detroit opened its beautiful new downtown building on April 28, 1960, the Money Museum, with Admiral Dodson in charge, was ready. It is on the spacious mezzanine of the bank, and was opened to the public May 2, 1960, after previews by distinguished educators, members of the press and other well-wishers.

More than 76,000 persons have seen the collection. The visitors come from everywhere, said Admiral Dodson. This is what they see:

First, a museum designed to show primitive money forms as objects of fine art and beauty.

Second, the most extensive collection of gold coins and odd and curious media of exchange on public display in the new world.

There are only two major private money museum in the world, other than the one in Detroit. One of these is in the Chase Manhattan Bank in New York. The other is being created by the directors of Tokai Bank, Ltd., in Nagoya, Japan.

Admiral Dodson, incidentally, keeps in touch with the Tokai Bank people

Money Museum ... cont'd

and only recently had a letter from that bank's president inviting the Detroiter to Nagoya.

There are more than 12,000 items in the National Bank's Money Museum.

Visitors see coins from the Seventh Century B.C., from ancient Egypt, through the golden years when Byzantine emperors flourished and fought (over money).

The Western world's first silver coin is in one of the showcases. It was minted as early as the Seventh Century B.C., on the Greek island of Aegina.

There is a coin with the head of Hercules upon it. This was money Alexander the Great used to pay his soldiers as they marched, an innovation in the history of conquest wherein mercenaries were used...they killed for the fun of it, and for money.

The pieces of eight (dollars) are there, too. Pirates liked these coins so much they ranged the high seas and terrorized whole cities to get them, terrorized the Spanish Main and took ships laden with kegs of them. They led bearers ashore to lonely islands, made them bury the casks and kegs of gold, then cut the throats of their own cutthroats ... for dead men tell no tales.

An interesting object is a silver bar, once the money of Laos and known as the "tiger tongue."

There is a rare fifty-dollar gold coin used during the gold rush in California.

From Babylonia, the city of luxury and sorrow, there are clay tablets --money of a vanished people; beautiful coins from the city-states of Greece and goldpieces the Ptolemaic rulers of Egypt were wont to fondle and, when they died, take to their tombs.

In one case there are coins struck by decree of the Roman emperors and used in the building of that mighty empire.

From the caves of medieval Europe there are coins of primitive design and some of great beauty.

There are pressed bricks of tea leaves, dog teeth, beads, shells, feathers, beetle legs and wings, elephant and monkey tails, ivory, bells, drums, money trees --hundreds of items from every corner of the earth and dating back to ages when there was no way to measure time, much less to record history.

Current coins of the United States, bright and new from the United States mint, are displayed. So are forms of money now in use by member states of the United Nations.

The most valuable piece as a collector's item, according to Admiral Dodson, is, perhaps, a \$50 goldpiece, issued by Wass Molitor & Co., San Francisco, in 1855. This is what is known to numismatists as "private money." Gold money was actually scarce in California at the time, and certain firms bought the dust and nuggets from miners and made their own money. This goldpiece is valued at \$8,700 in the collectors' market;

Money Museum ... cont'd

but it isn't for sale.

The priceless collection features thousands of items gathered from faraway places by Mr. and Mrs. Nate S. Shapiro. Mr. Shapiro, a Detroit businessman-philanthropist and director of the bank, and Ruth Shapiro, his wife, have spent 40 years collecting more than 12,000 specimens.

To make exhibits the more interesting only a part of the total collection is on display at any given time. The items are rotated, new acquisitions highlighted and fresh and interesting displays arranged for visitors who come to the museum in all seasons.

Unusual pieces, like the Widow's Mite of the New Testament, however, may be seen during all hours when the bank is open.

Admiral Dodson and other Detroit numismatists are getting ready for a big money event in the Motor City, scheduled for August 15-18.

This will be the first international convention of the Numismatists of the United States and Canada. They will gather at the Sheraton-Cadillac Hotel. It is expected that some 4,000 persons interested in money, not as a medium of exchange but as a symbol of the development of civilization itself, will come to Detroit for the meeting.

In case the reader doesn't know, here's what you can get, all in one piece, U.S. currency, today:

A \$10,000 piece of greenery--very easy on the eyes--with a portrait of Salmon Portland Chase, Abraham Lincoln's Secretary of the Treasury, to identify it.

Not many are floating around, according to Admiral Dodson, but you can walk right up to the teller's cage and get one for a keepsake in a few minutes. They might have to buzz the Federal Reserve Bank across the way to get it over, if you are in a hurry; but that kind of money is available.

If you will settle for less, Uncle Sam can accommodate you, through the National Bank of Detroit, with a \$5,000 bill, crisp and clean like a freshly laundered shirt. The picture of James Madison, fourth President of the United States, is printed on the face of this one.

There used to be some \$100,000 bills in circulation, but the Treasury called all of them in a few years ago and they're hard to find. The National Bank of Detroit, however, isn't giving up. If one can be located in an old tomato can somewhere, Admiral Dodson is going to have it for the museum. Woodrow Wilson's picture was on that piece of currency.

For little spenders, the bank keeps on hand a supply of \$1,000 bills. Once in a while an oddball will come in and ask for one on a proffered check. He gets it.

But don't pull one of these biggies in the super-market.

The man might call the police.

Membership

Numbers 196 - 236 inclusive as published in 'The Ontario Numismatist' June issue are accepted as O.N.A. members in good standing.

New Members

The following applications for membership in the O.N.A. have been received. These applications are subject to the approval of the O.N.A. Executive, and if there are no written objections filed prior to August 26, 1962, these applicants will become members on this said date and notice to this effect will be published in 'The Ontario Numismatist' for October, 1962. The following numbers are tentative and is also subject to the approval of the O.N.A. Executive.

- 237 Mr. Ronald W. Higgin, 7 Burwell Street, Brantford, Ontario.
 238 Mr. J. Barchino, Box 953, Brantford, Ontario.
 239 Mr. Vincent G. Greene, F.R.N.S., 77 Victoria Street, Toronto 1,
 Ontario.
 240 Mrs. Rose Thompson, R.R. #1, Fonthill, Ontario.
 241 Mr. William Pachkowski, 304 Lakeshore Road, E., Port Credit, Ontario.
 242 Mr. Ross H. Wilby, 186 Old Orchard Road, Burlington, Ontario.
 243 Mr. Joseph Wm. Sim, 1358 Transley Drive, Oakville, Ontario.
 244 Miss. Kathleen M. Richards, Apt. 205, 44 Saranac Blvd., Toronto 19,
 Ontario.

Change of Address

- 13 Mr. Bruce H. Raszmann, 24 Mary Street, Kitchener, Ontario.
 44 Major Sheldon S. Carroll, P.O. Box 345, Norwich, Ontario.
 76 Mr. Larry S. Langs, 2 Garden Avenue, Hamilton, Ontario.
 89 Mr. Frank Rose, 3244 Lakeshore Road, Toronto 14, Ontario.
 158 Mr. F.O. Hicks, 1356 Church Street, Windsor, Ontario.
 C1 Waterloo Coin Society,
 c/o Mr. Bruce H. Raszmann, 24 Mary Street, Kitchener, Ontario.

Name and Address Corrections

- 55 Mr. Ralph R. Tickner, 804 Retlaw Drive, Sarnia, Ontario.
 57 Mr. Ross Hartoon, 212 S. Brock Street, Sarnia, Ontario.

O.N.A. LIBRARY

Lloyd T. Smith of London, Ontario, has kindly donated a large supply of plastic book covers. These heavy duty covers will be a great assist on the many fine books now available.

Members may borrow numismatic literature by writing direct to the O.N.A. Librarian.

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Coming Events cont'd

announced the ST. CATHARINES COIN CLUB will hold their Annual Banquet at the Hotel Leonard, St. Catharines, Ontario, on Saturday, September 15th, 1962. The Banquet Dinner will be at 7.00 P.M. with John J. Pittman as Guest Speaker.

Tickets are \$3.00 per person and may be obtained by writing direct to: ST. CATHARINES COIN CLUB c/o Mrs. Rose Thompson, R.R.#1. Fronthill, Ont.

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