



THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

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OTTAWA CONVENTION DRAWS 2,000

Lloyd Smith Awarded Medal of Honour

More than 2,000 Ontario Numismatic Association members and public attended the second annual ONA convention April 17-19 at the Chateau Laurier Hotel, Ottawa.

Lloyd T. Smith, London Free Press coin columnist and editor of the London Numismatic Society bulletin, was awarded the Medal of Honour for his contributions to the ONA and numismatics.

Selection of the winner was made by the committee headed by R. C. Willey, northern Ontario director.

Mr. Smith is a steady contributor to the ONA slide library. He also had transferred several articles into braille.

J. R. Beattie, deputy-governor of the Band of Canada opened the convention, which drew 240 registered guests. The affair was hosted by the Capital City Coin Club, headed by Earl Grandmaison, convention chairman.

ONA president Rod R. Rekofski, Kitchener, expressed gratitude to Mr. Grandmaison and members of the CCCC for the work they did preparing for the convention.

Dinner speaker Norval A. Parker, master of the Canadian mint, outlined the production of coins. Speaking on prooflike ('uncirculated') sets, he said only 18,000 were ordered in 1958. Last year, 673,000 were shipped out to collectors and dealers. Orders for 1964 sets number 1,500,000.

Richard Nash introduced the speaker. Mr. Parker was thanked and presented with a set of bronze and silver ONA medals by Vice-president Lloyd T. Smith.

Mr. Rekofski presented Public Archives curator A. E. H. Petrie with 1963 and 1964 ONA bronze and silver medals, and medals of the Quebec Numismatic Association, on its behalf, for display in the archives.

. . . AND ANOTHER AWARD

One could say it was Lloyd Smith weekend. Few will argue that. To augment his Award of Merit, he was given the Grand Award for his display of world gold coinage -- 15 cases full.

Other display winners (first, second and --if any---third places) were:

JUNIOR - W. Whetstone, Ottawa; Donald Desaulniers, Belleville
and S. Smith, Ottawa.

CANADIAN - Donald Flick, Oakville, Alan Guay and Cecil Paul, both
of Trenton.

UNITED STATES - William English, Waterloo; Ray Kelly, Ottawa, and
Albert Fuller, Kitchener.

CLASSICAL - Rod R. Rekofski, Kitchener; and Albert Fuller, both
of Kitchener.

EMPIRE, COMMONWEALTH - Rod R. Rekofski, Kitchener; Rudy Sauro,
Hamilton, and Mrs. Lloyd Carney, Toronto.

FOREIGN - Mrs. Ruth Mueller, Kitchener, first and second.

PAPER MONEY - Kenneth Hart, Oakville, first and third, and
Walter Allen, Oakville.

There were 40 exhibitors in all. Maj. Sheldon Carroll was head judge. He was assisted by judges Roy Hobin, J. E. Charlton, Alfred Petrie and Guy Potter.

A THEFT . . . AND A DONATION AUCTION . . .

On April 4, the ONA medals were among the \$4,000 loot taken from the Waterloo home of William English. This loss alone put the squeeze on the ONA treasury. To help out, Peter DeGraaf, Ottawa conducted a donation auction.

Meanwhile, members are asked to keep a lookout for any sales of these medals,

. . . A HELPING HAND

The Waterloo Coin Society donated \$200 to the ONA medal fund and it is providing an interest-free loan of \$300 to get the treasury back on its feet. President Rekofski gratefully acknowledged this on behalf of the membership.

He issued a plea to members and other clubs to provide financial aid to the treasury. Donations will be gratefully received by treasurer Bruce H. Raszmann, Box 33, Waterloo, Ontario.

People who have ordered ONA commemorative medals will receive them in due course after a new supply has been struck. They will be available in bronze (\$3.50 each),

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silver (\$5), 10K rose finish gold plate (\$15) and solid gold (\$40).

THE BUSINESS MEETING

ONA SERVICE - Frank Uttley, Kitchener, who handles the display case, audio-visual and speakers circuit services, said 186 three-part brochures are in the hands of 50 Ontario coin clubs (35 of which are ONA members) and other people. Mr. Uttley said these brochures may be obtained upon filling in the application form he will provide on request. He said too, that several who have these forms failed to complete them. This is necessary in order to obtain the ONA services brochures. Mr. Uttley can be contacted at 35 Chestnut St., Kitchener.

DELEGATES - There could have been more. The delegates meeting under First Vice-President Lloyd T. Smith provided much necessary crosstalk, self-criticism and fellowship.

CRITICISM - An apparent lack of club interest in the ONA was aired. This was evident in the relatively poor delegate turnout at the meeting. Another point was the fact that several clubs have been giving too-short notice to members of the speakers circuit for service.

INSURANCE - The theft of the ONA medals sparked a discussion-insurance for private coin collections. A survey is being taken on the various means of insurance coverage. Members will hear more of this when the survey is finished.

SOMETHING TO LEARN

David Ash presented illustrated talks on Lundy Island and World Famed Orders Part 1 during the educational segment of the convention. Numismatist editor Mrs. Claudia Pelkey, Oakville, presented her celebrated discussion on the Canadian voyageur silver dollar. These three topics are available through ONA services. The London Numismatic Society put on some fun-filled numismania: What's My Coin Part 3.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING - OCTOBER 17

The Toronto Coin Club will host the ONA semi-annual meeting at its fall rally on October 17, 1964.

UTTLEY DONATES BOOK

Frank Uttley has added another book to the ONA library. It is Domestic Coins, by the U. S. mint.

The ONA is always in the market for book and audio-visual donations. Past co-operation has been tops. If anyone has any ideas for a numismatic slide show, but lacks either skill or equipment to make slides, the ONA will provide them. All we need from you is your idea, willingness and material.

COMING EVENTS

May 2 - North York Coin Club Annual Show, North York Community Centre, 5090 Yonge St. Time: 1:00 p. m. to 11:00 p. m. Floor auction by Kirk & Safer. No banquet. For further information contact Kenneth Bunnett, 785 Willowdale Ave., Willowdale, Ont.

- May 25 - Oakville Coin Club Anniversary Night, Riverside Motor Hotel. Trophies for first place and Best of Show. Medals released depicting sea gulls, honouring the centennial of the schooner Sea Gull, the first ship built in Oakville to sail to Africa and return in one sailing season. Medal prices: 10K gold, \$36.50; sterling silver, \$4.75; and bronze, \$3.25. Address medal inquiries to Larry Pelkey, 440 Pineland Ave., Oakville. Allow two or three weeks for delivery.
- July 19 - Owen Sound Coin Club fourth annual exhibition, bourse and auction, Sauble Beach Pavilion. Open from noon to 11:00 p. m. For further information contact: Secretary, Box 94, Owen Sound, Ont. Further information on this exhibition will appear in the next issue of the Numismatist.

NEW MEMBERS

Applicants published in the April issue of the Numismatist have now been accepted. The following applications were received in April. If no objections are received, their acceptance will be acknowledged in the May issue of the Numismatist.

- 405 John W. Sutherland, Port Burwell, Ont.
406 William Batley, 3243 Niagara Ave., Niagara Falls, N. Y.
407 Mrs. J. Lloyd Carney, 9 Kinghorn Ave., Toronto 9, Ont.
408 Edward H. A. Smith, 304 Mona St., Eastview, Ont.
409 David V. Bagg, 379 Lafontaine Ave., Ottawa 7, Ont.
410 William D. Parkhurst, 272 Grooms Ave., Oshawa, Ont.
411 B. & M. COINS, 64 Marier Rd., Eastview, Ont.
412 Robert H. Whitehead, 1132 Bedbrook St., Ottawa, Ont.
413 John S. McDowell, 645 Kipp's Lane, Apt. 107, London, Ont.
414 Ken Hart, 207 Morden Rd., Oakville, Ont.
415 Roy E. Dumas, Black River Rd., Watertown, N. Y.
416 Alfred E. H. Petrie, 60 Stanley Ave., Apt. 18, Ottawa 2, Ont.
417 Ronald K. Misener, 1720 Paris St., Apt. 406, Sudbury, Ont.
- C33 PETERBOROUGH NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, c/o W. George P. Benton, 534 Harvey St.,
Peterborough, Ont.
C34 KENT COIN CLUB, c/o David B. Cregg, 192 Richmond St., Chatham, Ont.
C35 OSHAWA & DISTRICT COIN CLUB, c/o Box 212, Oshawa, Ont.
C36 EAST ELGIN COIN CLUB, c/o Ward McKenna, General Delivery, Aylmer, Ont.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- 61 Bruce R. Brace, 654 Hiawatha Blvd., Ancaster, Ont.
104 Laurence F. Brimer, 1 Forest Hill Dr., Apt. 11, Guelph, Ont.
115 Charles M. Turner, 357 Waverly St., Apt. 1, Ottawa 4, Ont.
135 Ross W. Irwin, 14 Tamarack Pl., Guelph, Ont.

264 William E. West, 166 Base Line Rd. West, London, Ont.

318 V. I. Cosgrove, 233 Victoria St. West, North Bay, Ont.

CL2 WINDSOR COIN CLUB, c/o Miss A. Watt, 1604 Goyeau St., Windsor, Ont.

THE TWENTY CENT PIECES

R. W. Irwin

The Province of Canada was formed in 1841 from the union of Lower and Upper Canada. At this time the dollar was rated in Halifax sterling at five shillings and in Halifax currency at four shillings and six pence. About 1850 talks were held with the governments of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia with reference to the desirability of establishing a uniform currency for British North America. This was set forth in a series of resolutions in 1851. It recommended a decimal system based on the dollar rated at five shillings.

In 1850 the Province of Canada gave authority to the Governor-in-Council to cause silver coins to be struck for circulation in Canada. These coins were to be 5/-, 2/6, 1/3, 1/-, 6d and 3d or \$1, 50¢, 25¢, 20¢, 10¢, 5¢. No action was taken and it was proposed during the session of 1852-53 that a gold coin of \$2.00 value with a silver coin one-tenth or 20¢ to be called a shilling should be issued. The majority of the legislature favoured the dollar and cents system so again nothing was done. The Currency Act of 1853 established the British shilling at 24 1/3¢ and was usually taken at 25¢. In 1858 there was agitation to take this coin at 24¢ but this coin's presence in Canada was the major influence in striking the 20¢ coin, a coin representing 25¢ already existed.

In 1857 the Act requiring government accounts to be rendered in dollars and cents meant that coins for this purpose must be procured. These were struck under authority of the Currency Act (16 Vict.c.158. 1854) and were to be a token currency of limited legal tender.

On October 16, 1857 the treasury approved the proposal of the Master of the Royal Mint that the weight of the new 20¢ piece be 71.73 grains of 925 fine silver. Its diameter was 0.930 inches or 23 1/4 mm. Queen Victoria approved the design for the coin July 17, 1858. Patterns were struck having both a plain and milled edge. Canada ordered twenty cent coins to the value of \$150,000 or 750,000 coins. The coin was engraved by Leonard Wyon and struck at the Royal Mint. The order in the Canada Gazette of December 12, 1858 legalized their currency in the Province of Canada.

The Toronto Leader and other newspapers objected to the striking of the 20¢ piece instead of a 25¢ piece. It was accepted as an equal to the Halifax shilling which was worth the same value. The coins were used in the Post Offices and for legal tender payments. The government saw its error and corrected it at the first opportunity.

Prior to and just following Confederation of the Provinces the systematic withdrawal of all foreign silver was carried out. This was substituted by a domestic issue in 1870 in which a 25-cent coin was used in place of the old 20-cent piece. The Minister of Finance in his proclamation of September 9, 1870 asked that the 20¢ coins be withdrawn from circulation by the banks since the 25¢ coin was more convenient for the public.

The coins were withdrawn over the years and the following nominal values were recoined as twenty-five cent pieces: 1885 - \$18,000; 1888 - \$17,174; 1889 - \$16,585; 1894 - \$14,518; 1899 - \$18,895 and in 1906 - \$7,461. A few old five and ten cent coins were included in the last two recoinages and it is also possible that other quantities were melted down in other years although it is strange that the fact is not mentioned in the mint reports. The total of the above infers that the circulation is still 286,735. This does not agree with the figures of the mint as given by Taylor and James which states that only 35,000 remain in circulation. It is the authors opinion that this figure is too small.

By 1891 the twenty cent piece had disappeared from circulation. Breton in 1894 gave its value as equal to face. The 1907 price list gives a range of 25 to 35 cents but in 1912 the list states no premium is paid for this coin. Breton states that a nickel counterfeit exists and Zoel shows a cracked die minor variety.

In New Brunswick the Currency Act of 1860 authorized the striking of coins. The 20¢ coin was equal to one shilling currency. The coin was the same weight, size and fineness as that of Canada. A striking of \$30,000 was made in 1862 and a further \$30,000 in 1864. These coins were assimilated into Canada and made current by the Uniform Currency Act of 1871. Newfoundland produced coins of this denomination from 1865 until 1912. They were always a problem for Canada so the 25 cent piece was substituted by mutual agreement in 1917. These coins are also a part of Canadian currency although they had largely disappeared from circulation by 1949.

The United States had minted a 25 cent piece from 1796 but on March 3, 1875 a 20 cent piece was authorized which was similar in size and design to the 25 cent coin. Complaints were numerous and the coins were only minted from 1875 to 1878. The Canadian Post, Lindsay, of September 3, 1875 states: "A new silver coin has just made its appearance which is likely to cause some inconvenience owing to its approximation in size to two current Canadian coins, viz., the 25 and 20 cent pieces. It is an American 20 cent piece not quite as large as our 20 cent coin, and not quite as heavy. Another difference between it and our 20 cent piece in general appearance is that it is not milled. By the exercise of about the same amount of vigilance that is now necessary to distinguish between our 25 cent and 20 cent coins, any one may easily avoid taking it for the latter. Like all other American silver coins, it is subject to discount in this country."

The 20 cent coins are type items necessary for any collection. A well struck copy is a joy to behold and own; a reminder of the growing pains in our achieving decimal currency.

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The first die to be wholly prepared by the Royal Canadian Mint was for the 1943 five-cent piece.

Ten and 20 dollar gold coins were struck in 1862, at the height of the Gold Rush, for British Columbia. Although ordered by the provincial authorities, they were disallowed by the British government. They are generally rated as pattern pieces.

New Brunswick issued pennies and half-pennies in 1843 using a diademed head of the queen, never before used on coinage.

The Bank of Upper Canada gained the right to coin copper when the capital was moved to Toronto, after the burning of the Parliament Buildings at Montreal during the riots in 1849. Later the capital was fixed at Ottawa.

Newfoundland coinage has been struck at London, Birmingham and Ottawa mints.