



THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Vol. 3--No. 9

September, 1964

Page 58

ONA OFFICERS

President --
R. R. Rekofski
First Vice-president --
Lloyd T. Smith
Second Vice-president --
Edward Knight
Secretary --
Mrs. Ruth Mueller
239 Lancaster St. W.
Kitchener, Ont.
Treasurer --
Bruce H. Raszmann
Box 33
Waterloo, Ont.

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Walter Griggs --
Western Ontario
Rudy Sauro --
Central Ontario
Peter DeGraaf --
Eastern Ontario
Robert C. Willey --
Lakehead, Northern
Ontario

Historian:

William Clarke

Publicity Director:

Bill English
Box 4
Waterloo, Ont.

Speaker's Circuit & Display Case Service:

Frank Uttley
35 Chestnut St.
Kitchener, Ont.

Ontario Numismatist Editor, Librarian & Audio-Visual Service:

Mrs. Claudia Pelkey
440 Pineland Ave.
Oakville, Ont.

CANADA'S COMMEMORATIVE SILVER DOLLARS

by Alex M. Sweeton

One hundred years ago in the northern half of the North American continent, there were emerging two great struggles, one political and the other numismatic. The two struggles are brought together in the 1964 commemorative dollar, so that we shall start with it, and work back through the other four. The Political struggle was, of course, as to whether the colonies should remain separate or should unite. In 1841 a step towards union had been taken in the union of the Parliaments of Upper and Lower Canada (now Ontario and Quebec), but it was not until July 1, 1867 that the final decision to unite became operative. The Numismatic struggle was a four-way affair among the American dollar, British pound, French franc, and the Spanish real. Similarly with this struggle a step toward the final decision in favour of the dollar had been taken in 1858 with the delivery from England of large copper 1¢ pieces, small silver 5¢ pieces, silver 10¢ pieces, and silver 20¢ pieces, but it was not really until 1870 that this decision became official for dollars and cents with the minting of 50¢ and 25¢ pieces as well as 10, 5, and 1¢ pieces.

In the middle of both the Political and Numismatic struggles was 1864, but 1964 is not too much different. Although they were pronounced differently, the two words PROVINCE and CANADA were truly bilingual in that they were spelled exactly the same in either English or French. Some years later when Sir Charles Tupper supposedly made use of the quotation from the Bible in Zachariah, Chapter IX, Verse 10, "And His dominion shall be from sea to sea and from the rivers to the ends of the earth", -- a third word DOMINION was chosen which was also truly bilingual. The 1964 silver dollar was CHARLOTTETOWN spelled in English, but the acute accent over the first 'E' of QUEBEC makes the city French, so that the reverse of the coin is slightly bilingual also.

Dollar is appropriate for commemorating 100 years because the Fathers of Confederation had sense enough to put 100 cents in one dollar. The 1964 silver dollar commemorates the Charlottetown Conference held on September 1, 1864, in what is now called the Confederation Room in the old Province Building of Prince Edward Island, as well as the centennial of the Quebec Conference held

in Quebec City commencing October 10, 1864. At Charlottetown the five Canadian (i. e., from Upper and Lower Canada which were called the Province of Canada) delegates so impressed the Conference that it resolved to hold a larger conference without delay. Thirty-three delegates attended the Quebec Conference which has been called the most important political gathering in the history of Canada, because it worked out the plan of union which is now the basis of Canada's constitution. The Quebec Conference was truly national since every province, even Newfoundland, was represented, and from each province came members of both political parties.

Considerable thought went into the minting of a 1964 commemorative silver dollar. On January 9, 1962, the government opened a competition to secure a new design, offering a prize of \$1,000 for the winning design with four additional prizes of \$250 each for honourable mention. Designs were submitted to N. A. Parker, Master of the Royal Canadian Mint in Ottawa, and he along with a Board of Judges chose the design of Dinko Vodanovic, born in Yugoslavia, and now employed as an architect by the Canadian National Railway in Montreal.

Vodanovic's design of the commemorative reverse embodies in the centre the floral emblem of the four ethnic groups which made up the bulk of Canada's founding population -- the French fleur-de-lis, the Irish shamrock, the Scottish thistle, and the English rose. Mr. N. A. Parker has said that, "Actually the beginning of Confederation was the uniting of the people of various origins, and the approximate population figures for Canada 100 years ago were: French - 1,082,940; Irish - 946,414; English - 76,369; and Scottish - 549,946; others (including other British Isles origins) - 77,773." Small half circles locking the symbols together represent a unified population in Canada, and this complete design is then enclosed in a small concentric circle raised ring. Above and below these symbols and surrounding them closely, appear the names of CHARLOTTETOWN and QUEBEC, cities where the 1864 conferences were held as mentioned previously. Around the coin and closer to the outer edge reads 1864 CANADA 1964 DOLLAR. The small initials D. V. outside the central circle just before the beginning of the word QUEBEC are for the designer Dinko Vodanovic, and the small initials T. S. just after the end of the word QUEBEC are for Thomas Shingles who made the master die.

1864 was truly a year of destiny for British North America. All the forces for union (defence, railways, trade, the problem of the West, Maritime Union, the political deadlock in the Province of Canada) seemed to come together and move in one direction. The decisions at the Charlottetown Conference were especially spectacular because they were achieved by John A. MacDonald, supported by his arch-enemy George Brown. The later Quebec Conference produced a plan of union drawn up into the famous 72 Quebec Resolutions which were signed by all 33 delegates (although in the irony of future events, such provinces as Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland did not join the Dominion). Mr. N. A. Parker has said that, "These meetings at Charlottetown and Quebec were just the preliminaries leading up to the actual signing of the British North America Act, and therefore buildings were not considered as a suitable subject to depict the main idea of confederation; geographical areas were also discarded because it was felt that there were no definite boundaries." It would be impossible for a commemorative coin to summarize any year such as 1864, although it is my opinion that the commemoration has been quite good to leave the field open for an even better design of a commemorative again in 1967.

The ONTARIO NUMISMATIST is published monthly by the Ontario Numismatic Association. The publication may be obtained with memberships of one of the following categories: Adult -- \$2 yearly; junior -- \$1 yearly (up to 18 years of age), husband and wife (one copy) -- \$3 yearly; club -- \$10 yearly. Remittances (plus bank exchange if paid by cheque) payable to the Ontario Numismatic Association, Post Office Box 33, Waterloo, Ontario.

1958 was also commemorating 100 years as the centennial of the formation of the British Crown Colony of British Columbia which was taken as the event for the commemorative silver dollar, although 100 years from the 1858 coins (which were the first decimal coinage in Canada) could have been taken almost as well except that this numismatic struggle for decimal coinage in 1858 was not really resolved until 1870 as mentioned previously. Captain James Cook in 1778, and Captain George Vancouver in 1792 had explored Vancouver Island which was granted to the Hudson's Bay Company for a colony in 1849 when the city of Victoria was founded. 1849 was also the year of the California Gold Rush, so that soon thereafter miners were pushing restlessly north from one river and valley to another, always hoping to "strike it rich" around the next bend, until at last they created the Fraser Gold Rush in 1858 as one of the greatest on record and it was followed by the Cariboo Gold Rush in 1859. Therefore in 1858, an Act of the British Parliament created a new colony on the mainland which was called British Columbia, and within a few months a site was chosen for a capital which was named New Westminster by Queen Victoria. One of the Canadian history books says "Nothing in the Fraser Gold Rush was more remarkable than the establishment of government and the preservation of law and order." It was not until 1866 that the two colonies, on Vancouver Island and the mainland, were united under one Governor with a partly elected Council. British Columbia then came into the Dominion of Canada in 1871 when a transcontinental railway was promised, and the Canadian Pacific Railway was completed to the Pacific in 1885, five years earlier than expected.

Stephen Trenka, Hungarian-born designer of the British Columbia dollar, chose for his commemorative coin reverse design a totem pole over a background of the Canadian Rockies. His initials S. T. appear in the bottom part of the totem pole design just above the letter A in DOLLAR. At the top of the pole is a raven, symbolically related to death by the Indians in their totem poles. The two dates 1858 and 1958 appear in that order alongside the top half of the totem pole and to the left of it. The outer edge reads CANADA BRITISH COLUMBIA DOLLAR, although the letters 'DOLLAR' are straight across the bottom instead of curved. Of all Canadian dollars that have been minted, the Totem Pole coin has created the most history numismatically, and has attracted the most public attention. It enjoys the highest mintage (3,039,564 -- 1958 silver dollars were minted against 18,780 -- 1948 silver dollars for instance) and its unusual design must be given the credit, although it will lose its position of highest mintage at the end of 1964 because of the extremely high mintage of the 1964 silver dollar expected to take place, dropping to third place because there were 4,179,981 silver dollars minted in 1963.

Obverse of the 1958 commemorative dollar as well as the 1964 commemorative dollar is the regular 1953 laureated head of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II facing right which shows classical influence and was beautifully executed by Mrs. Mary Gillick whose initials M. G. appear on the sloping base of the bust back of the Queen's right shoulder near the shoulder strap. The inscription in Latin reads ELIZABETH II DEI GRATIA REGINA which is ELIZABETH THE SECOND, BY THE GRACE OF GOD, QUEEN. With the recent announcement that Queen Elizabeth has approved a new more mature effigy (also wearing a tiara not worn on the older one) for use on Canadian coins, presumably commencing in 1965, the 1964 silver dollar will be the twelfth and last with the 'young head'.

(to be continued)

EDITOR'S NOTE: The remainder of this comprehensive numismatic research will be continued in the October Ontario Numismatist. The author, Alex. M. Sweeton, is a diligent member of the London (Ontario) Numismatic Society; and has written many articles for the society's monthly publication. This article contains a great deal of numismatic background that every collector of Canadian currency should know.

COMING EVENTS

- September 19 ST. LAWRENCE KOMBINATION-KOIN-KLUBS, LaSalle Hotel, Kingston, Ontario. Sponsored by Kingston, Gananoque and Brockville Coin Clubs. Starting time: 1:00 p. m.
Junior auction: 3:30 p. m. to last $\frac{1}{2}$ hour
Main auction: 4:00 p. m. to 7:30 p. m.
Displays: Provision will be made for those wishing to display their collections. Application to be made to the Kingston secretary by the end of August. Bourse tables: \$3.50 for members - all others \$5.00. Public is welcome.
No admission charge.
- September 26 LONDON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY 13th Annual Banquet and Auction, Westown Plaza, Oxford Street West, London, Ont. Guest speaker, Major Sheldon S. Carroll of Ottawa. Banquet ticket reservations are \$3.00 from Mr. Alex M. Sweeton, 172 Regent Street., London. The Bank of Nova Scotia will be selling gold coins and bullion. The Mail and Floor Auction will begin at 9:00 p. m.
- October 3 KITCHENER COIN CLUB First Annual Banquet and Auction, Iona Hall, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Queen and Weber Streets, Kitchener.
- October 3 BAY OF QUINTE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION 2nd Annual Coin-A-Rama. Kiwanis Centre, 118 Dundas St., East, Belleville, Ont.
From 10:00 a. m. to 10:00 p. m. Competitive displays; bourse; auction.
- October 17 TORONTO COIN CLUB Fall Rally. Royal York Hotel, Toronto.
Semi-Annual Meeting of the Ontario Numismatic Association.
Semi-Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society of Medallic Arts.
General Admission: .50 ϕ . Open from 2:00 p. m. to 11:00 p. m.
35 bourse dealers ... auction by J. E. Charlton ... displays.
Room 'B' Programme:
1:00 p. m. Fall Rally open to general public.
1:15 p. m. Audio-Visual (20 mins.) "Waitangi Crown" and "Ye Olde Famous Cartw cel..."
2:00 p. m. Opening Ceremony
2:15 p. m. ONA Semi-annual meeting
4:00 p. m. Audio-Visual (40 mins.) "Coin Grading"
5:15 p. m. Audio-Visual (35 mins.) "Odd and Curious Money".
7:00 p. m. Audio-Visual (30 mins.) "Seafaring: Development of the Ship".
8:00 p. m. Audio-Visual (30 mins.) "Illustrated Coin Quiz".
9:00 p. m. Audio-Visual (35 mins.) "Canadian Voyageur Dollar".
- October 24 ST. CATHARINES Annual Banquet, Queensway. Dr. J. S. Ferguson to be the guest speaker, and there will be the usual 100-lot auction.
- October 24, 25 BLUE WATER International Coin Show, Keswick Terrace, Sarnia. Co-sponsored by the Sarnia Numismatic Society and the Port Huron Coin Club. Theme: Golden Jubilee of the City of Sarnia. Special attraction: Sale of a commemorative medal, specially produced by the Sarnia Numismatic Society, to mark the Golden Jubilee year.

Display awards: Exhibition Chairman, F. Hurley, has indicated competition will be well provided for with First Place Gold Plaques and second place ribbons to be awarded in each category in addition to the Spiers Brothers Best of Show Trophy and the Port Huron Best American Exhibit Trophy. Those wishing display space, contact Mr. Hurley, 305 Talford St., Sarnia ... HURRY, space is limited. Features: 25 reputable dealers; 24 hour security; special "Gold Bourse"; Court of Honour featuring the 1921 silver five-cent piece and fifty-cent piece.

- October 29-31 TOREX. Royal York Hotel, Toronto.
- Oct. 31- Nov. 1 WINDSOR COIN CLUB Exhibition
- November 15 HURON COUNTY NUMISMATIC CLUB Annual Exhibition. Elm Haven Motel, Clinton, Ont. Featuring an informal "eat when you're hungry" dinner.
- April 30 -
May 2 ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION Third Annual Convention in London, Ontario. Host club: London Numismatic Society. Watch for further details.

- 0 -

NEW MEMBERS

Applications published in the August issue of the Ontario Numismatist have now been accepted.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

187. David L. Smith, 70 Herbert Street, Brantford, Ont.

CORRECTION

411. W. E. Middleton, 390 Sunnyside Avenue, Ottawa, Ont.

CLUB NEWS

OAKVILLE COIN CLUB August meeting was highlighted by an "Illustrated Coin Quiz". Pictures of numismatic items were flashed on a screen and the audience had to identify them. Those giving correct answers were awarded prizes ... a sealed envelope containing a minor foreign coin. President, Don Flick, being on vacation, the meeting was chaired by Vice-president, Claudia Felkey. The club was pleased to announce that the last set of the club's 1964 medals was sold during the August meeting. No other medals will be struck, and the die will be defaced and placed in the club's historical collection.

BAY OF QUINTE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION states in its official publication, "Coin Comments", that both of the July meetings were very informal with coins being bought, sold and traded among the members and guests. Cecil Paul is continuing the "Grading of Canadian Decimal Coinage", which when finished will offer a complete coverage, a fine hand-book for the collector.

The HURON COUNTY NUMISMATIC CLUB is featuring "be a dealer for a day" during the summer months. Members are all invited to take part in this activity.

TORONTO COIN CLUB has recently approved a new club crest, designed by Mrs. Hazel Munro. The club is busy with preparations for the forthcoming Fall Rally. A medal is being issued for this occasion which will commemorate the centennial year of Canada and feature the new club crest.

LONDON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY welcomed 70 members and guests to the July meeting. Mr. Don Wheeler related many of the facts in the minting of coinage in England for the past 139 years. His talk was "Modern British Coinage" and was Part 6 of the series "COINS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE AND COMMONWEALTH". The August meeting will continue along this same theme when they will feature "Tokens of Quebec", an ONA Audio-Visual Service feature.

WOODSTOCK COIN CLUB featured an informal August meeting with the members trading and selling duplicate material. Plans are being made for a group to attend the ANA Convention in Cleveland, Ohio.

CHAMPLAIN COIN CLUB now holds its meetings on the first Thursday of the month. Membership has increased and the club is planning bigger and better things for the near future.

HURONIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION is making plans for its fourth birthday celebration, September. Good attendance is reported in this club and the July meeting had an 84-lot auction. In the column, "Lou's Views", Lou suggests that collectors have two collecting interests ... one a serious collection and the other a light or relaxed collection. This could save abandonment of the hobby when one gets to the point of scarce and expensive dates in the serious collection. The light collection, such as medals, copper coins of the world, errors, etc., would keep alive the numismatic interest and the collecting habit.

- 0 -

MEDALS AVAILABLE

ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION 2nd Annual Convention medal featuring the crest of the ONA on the obverse, and the crest of the Capital City Coin Club on the reverse. For information contact Bill English, Box 4, Waterloo, Ontario. But hurry! Medals are going ... going ... GOING ...

GOLDEN JUBILEE medal to mark the incorporation of the City of Sarnia, Ontario. The obverse: Ensigns Armorial of the City as the central theme. The Armorial Bearings were granted by the Lord Lyon King of Arms of Scotland to the Corporation of the City of Sarnia on April 3, 1957. The turreted crown which surmounts the shield signifies an incorporated city. The ship in the upper left quarter of the shield represents the early lumber trade and shipping industry as well as the City's importance as a present day port; the Broom Plant in the upper right quarter is from the arms of the Island of Guernsey, which was earlier known as Sarnia, and from which the city derived its name; the wavy band across the middle of the shield represents the river, and the engrailed line the name St. Clair; the arch at the bottom represents the St. Clair Railway Tunnel.

Design work of the Reverse and background of the Obverse were executed by Sarnia Numismatic Society Founding Charter Member H. F. Bardwell, a resident of the City.

Reverse: Depicts a shield surmounted by an Imperial Crown signifying participation in the Commonwealth; top section of the shield represents a ship plying the St. Clair River signifying Sarnia's location on the St. Lawrence Seaway; lower portions of the shield show a flag over a cluster of three Maple leaves, being the shield of the Province of Ontario. The wording around the circumference reads Sarnia Numismatic Society - Founded 1960, while wording on the Obverse reads Golden Jubilee - Sarnia Ontario - 1914-1964, and the motto 'Sarnia Semper' as a part of the ensigns means 'Sarnia Always'.

General issue of the medals will be in limited quantities in both nickel-silver and couperic-brass. The metals used are products of Ontario Mines. Price of either medal, post paid, is \$2.00 or \$4.00 for a matched pair in an appropriate case. They can be obtained by sending remittance in full with your order, stating type of medal desired, to Golden Jubilee Medal, Box 13, Sarnia, Ontario, Canada.

TORONTO COIN CLUB CENTENNIAL medal - 1967. The Toronto Coin Club on the occasion of its Second Fall Rally, Oct. 17, 1964, has issued a medal to commemorate Canada's Centennial Year - 1967. The Obverse: shows the recently approved club crest, which was designed by Mrs. Hazel Munro, of Scarborough, Ontario. The central figure of the crest is the head of Alexander the Great, which forms a part of this crest because the President's badge, which was donated to the club by its first President Mr. G. M. Robillard, has mounted thereon a tetradrachm of Alexander the Great. The Toronto Coin Club was established in 1936 and is one of the oldest coin clubs in Canada. The medal has been struck in bronze and silver by Wellings Manufacturing Company. Sterling silver medals are numbered, and strikings will be limited to 2000 bronze and 1000 silver. Specimens may be obtained by writing to the Toronto Coin Club, 100 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario. Cost: bronze - \$3.00. Silver - \$10.00.

The "BIG NICKEL" Medal Commemorating the Big Nickel monument and its seven-acre Centennial Numismatic Park. The Big Nickel is a 30 foot diameter stainless steel copy of Canada's 1951 nickel, commemorating the 200th year of the isolation of nickel. The monument is on Hwy. 17, Sudbury. Medals in nickel or copper are selling at \$1.25 each. Order from: Nickel Monument Development Co., Box 122, Sudbury, Ontario.

PEBBLE IN THE POOL

by David Ash

Have you ever thrown a pebble in the pool, and watched the ripples in the water encircle outward?

Even numismatics has a nucleus, and, like the pebble in the pool, its peripheries in numismatics are generally overlooked by the multitudes. There are, as we know, phases in numismatics beyond all apprehension. We may never know, or even begin to ascertain all the questions. Why was the coin issued? Why was the coin debased? --- Why? Many of these questions sound absurd. But we must not forget these questions are the peripheries of numismatics, and they are the same as the ripples made by the pebble in the water.

If we should answer all these questions in the science of numismatics we may discover new horizons and new endeavours. And yet, we all know, it is utterly impossible to discover all the answers of the questionable facts through constant research. Unfortunately we are faced with the handiwork of copyists. These people

still exist today much the same as in the darkest of the dark ages. They're the kind of people who accept the concept of another's work without further research themselves.

Therefore, numismatics is a hobby, full of unanswered questions. And yet, we must be honest with ourselves and say a pebble in the pool is a coin in the pool, telling an individual nothing until certain questions are answered.

Last, but not least, if you have taken the time to read this article, may I suggest you read it once more and ask yourself a very important question. Who cast the pebble in the pool when there were pebbles already there?

- 0 -

LIBRARY DONATIONS

The Ontario Numismatic Association is grateful to the following for donating numismatic literature to our library:

Major Sheldon S. Carroll -- "Billets et Monnaies ayant cours legal au Grand-Douche De Luxembourg"

"Silver Dollar Saga" by T. Leslie Mather

American Numismatic Association -- "Club Representative Program Report"

"Suggestions For Making Numismatic Exhibits".

Both are leaflets by Herbert M. Bergen

James E. Charlton -- "Canadian Numismatic Association Convention Sale Catalogue - 1964".

Librarian's Note: Books may be borrowed from the ONA library free of charge, except that postage both ways must be paid by the borrower. All books may be borrowed on a two-week basis. They may be kept for a further period of two weeks providing no other requests have been received by the librarian.

- 0 -

Equipment in operation at the Ottawa Mint includes 20 coin presses. Two of these are designed and reserved for Proof-like coin production. Six of the remaining 18 are newly-purchased presses, buildt in Birmingham, England, capable of turning out from 2 to 4 coins per second.

- 0 -

Hybred coins have an obverse belonging to one series while the reverse comes from another.

- 0 -

The Royal Canadian Mint in Ottawa is literally bursting at the seams while trying to keep up with the demand for coins. Space has become so precious, they have put offices on the staircase and equipment in the washrooms and showers of the old mint building.

- 0 -

Three hundred employees work in shifts around the clock, six days a week, to keep pace with a production quota of 400,000,000 coins annually at the mint.