



THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

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:

Mrs. Claudia Pelkey

440 Pineland Ave.

Oakville, Ont.

Audio-Visual Services:

David Ashe

1069 Lakeshore Rd. E.

Oakville, Ont.

Vol. 4 -- No. 2

February, 1965

Page 11

LONDON, ONTARIO LOCATION FOR

1965 ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

The London Numismatic Society will host the 1965 O.N.A. Convention on April 30, May 1 and 2, 1965. The location will be the Windjammer Convention Hall, Treasure Island, located at the Wellington Street exit of Highway #301, south of London, Ontario. London, located in the heart of southern Ontario is central to all the major collectors in the eastern part of Canada and the United States.

Direct all inquiries, other than bourse and display, to the General Chairman, William Clarke, 167 Delaware Street, London, Ontario.

Some bourse space is still available at \$60. Send your payment and reservation, or inquiries, to Mr. Percy Elgie, Thamesford, Ontario.

The auction will consist of 700 lots to be disposed of in two sessions of 350 each. The auction will be conducted by Louie Biro.

The O.N.A. has built a reputation on past conventions to provide a well-rounded show that will appeal to all types of collectors and dealers. The hardworking London Numismatic Society have proved their ability to organize and conduct excellent shows. With this combination of experience, everyone who attends the forthcoming show is sure to gain just by presence alone.

ONA President, R. R. Rekofski, reports that the election of officers will take place during the month preceding the convention. The new slate of officers will be installed at the banquet.

Start preparing your delegates for the annual business meeting now; acquaint them with your club's needs in relationship with the O.N.A. This is a very important common meeting-ground and past meetings have been very successful.

Banquet, guest speaker, displays, awards, auction, bourse, Court of Honour, commemorative medal, educational programming and election of officers are some of the things planned to entertain you.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE
1965 ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

NEW MEMBERS

Applications published in the January issue of the Ontario Numismatist were accepted. The following applications were received. If no written objections are received, their acceptance will be acknowledged in the March issue of the Ontario Numismatist:

- 465 Mrs. Paul Bergman, 3600 Dorr St., Toledo, Ohio 43607, U. S. A.
- 466 Alan MacNab, 249 Hall St., Ingersoll, Ont.
- 467 Arthur J. Savage, 86 Mobile Village, R. R. #2, Trenton, Ont.
- 468 Carl Lehrbass, Grove Farm Alvinston, Ontario.
- 469 Fred J. James, P. O. Box 1055, Kirkland Lake, Ont.
- 470 Miss Sherry English, 71 Columbia St., Waterloo, Ont.
- 471 Harold E. Lauber, 134 Louisa St., Kitchener, Ont.
- 472 Bill Morris, 820-6th Ave. West, Owen Sound, Ont.
- C40 KINGSTON KOIN KLUB, c/o E. Howlett, 61 Westmoreland Rd., Kingston, Ont.
- C41 RICHMOND HILL COIN CLUB, c/o Harry Hannah, Box 6, Stancroft Dr., Elgin Mills, Ont.
- C42 TEMISKAMING COIN CLUB, c/o Fred J. James, P. O. Box 1055, Kirkland Lake, Ont.
- C43 GUELPH COIN CLUB, c/o Tony Small, 19 Forest Hill Dr., Guelph, Ont.
- C44 HUMBER WEST COIN CLUB, c/o Wm. (Bill) Attwell, 147 Symons St., Toronto 14, Ont.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- 1 Rod R. Rekofski, 82 Warren Rd., Kitchener, Ont.
- 16 Louie Biro, R. R. #2, Paris, Ont.
- 31 Ralph C. Maltby, 124 Pries Ave., Bufralo 14220, New York, U. S. A.
- 56 Melvin C. Garside, 543 King St. W., Chatham, Ont.
- 184 Louis Biro Jr., R. R. #2, Paris, Ont.
- 281 SGT. Patrick K. Melligan, 4(F) Wing RCAF, CFPO 5056, C. A. F. O.
- 400 William Chiappetta, 401 McNabb St., Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.
- 411 W. E. Middleton, c/o B & M COINS, Box 834, Station B, Ottawa, Ont.
- C13 ST. CATHARINES COIN CLUB, c/o Fred Barley, 162 Lake St., St. Catharines, Ont.
- C16 INGERSOLL COIN CLUB, c/o Jordan Bowcott, 100 Francis St., Ingersoll, Ont.
- C24 KITCHENER COIN CLUB, Att: Elmer Daniel, c/o Budds Stores Ltd., 165 King St. W.
Kitchener, Ont.
- C31 WOODSTOCK COIN CLUB, c/o Vincent Sidebotham, 668 Parkinson St., Woodstock, Ont.
- C32 THUNDER BAY COIN CLUB, P. O. Box 262, Fort William, Ont.

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, P. O. Box 33, Waterloo, Ontario.

O. N. A. CONVENTION MEDALS

Designs for the 1965 O.N.A. Third Annual Convention medal were approved. The obverse will contain the traditional O.N.A. insignia, while the reverse will be the selection of the London Numismatic Society -- host to the convention. The approved design will depict the Middlesex County Court House, a London, Ontario landmark.

These distinctive medals will highlight any medal collection and be a happy reminder of another momentous occasion.

Medals may be purchased individually or in sets from Ontario Numismatic Association, P. O. Box 33, Waterloo, Ont. Payments are to be made to the Ontario Numismatic Association.

10K Gold -- \$40

Sterling Silver -- \$6

Gold-filled -- \$15

Bronze -- \$3.50

Sets encased in plastic:

Set of 4 (10K gold, gold-filled, silver, bronze) -- \$68

Set of 3 (10K gold, silver, bronze) -- \$52

Set of 3 (gold-filled, silver, bronze) -- \$26

Set of 2 (silver and bronze) -- \$11

Silver (in plastic) -- \$7.50

Bronze (in plastic) -- \$4.75

- 0 -

BOURSE SPACE

Bourse space is available at the Third Annual Convention of the Ontario Numismatic Association to be held at the Windjammer Convention Hall, Treasure Island, London, Ontario at \$60.00 per space. Only a few spaces remain! Interested dealers should contact Percy Elgie, Thamesford, Ontario. The time is drawing near very rapidly, so send your request and payment in right away.

COMING EVENTS

Your club's social events are of interest. Please send us full particulars regarding your banquets, shows, exhibitions or what-have-you.

March 13, 14 WATERLOO COIN SOCIETY 6th Annual Banquet, Walper Hotel, Kitchener, Ont.
General Chairman: Bill English, P.O. Box 4, Waterloo, Ont.
Bourse Chairman: Philip Mueller, 239 Lancaster St. W., Kitchener, Ont.

March 20 RICHMOND HILL COIN CLUB 1st Annual Coin Show, 1 Yonge St., Richmond Hill, Ont. Time: 10:00 a. m. to 6:00 p. m.

April 30, May 1 and 2 ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION 3rd Annual Convention, London, Ont. Host club: London Numismatic Society. General Chairman: William Clarke, 167 Delaware St., London, Ont. Bourse Chairman: Percy Elgie, Thamesford, Ont.

August 12, 13, 14 CANADIAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION 12th Annual Convention, Mount Royal Hotel, Montreal, Quebec. Host club; Montreal Coin Club. General Chairman: Louis Goldsmith, 5251 Sherbrooke St. W., Montreal, Que.

Nomination time for candidates to the O.N.A. 1965 election was extended to allow O.N.A. member clubs time to convene and make selections. As clubs only meet once each month, some of the clubs found that they were unable to get in under the deadline date required.

O. N. A. AUCTION

Louie Biro has been the successful bidder for the Ontario Numismatic Association auction to be held in London, April 30, May 1 and 2. There will be two sessions of 350 lots each. Watch for a listing in the Canada Coin News.

CLUB NEWS

The ST. CATHARINES COIN CLUB members held their Annual Meeting, December 20, 1964 at which time the following new executive was elected: President, Robert Cassidy; Vice-president, Stan Aaroe; Treasurer, Fred Barley; Secretary, Mrs. P. Lambert, Membership-secretary, Pat Lambert; Librarian and Registration, Mrs. L. M. Ritchie. A silver tray was presented to Victor Snell for accumulating the most points during the year in the display contest. A short coin quiz was enjoyed, followed by a Do It Yourself Auction where members auctioned off two of their own lots themselves.

INGERSOLL COIN CLUB members have as their new executive for 1965: President, Alan MacNab; Vice-president, Fred M. Smith; Secretary, Jordan Bowcott; Assistant-Secretary, Ralph Atkinson; Treasurer, Leonard Coles. Lloyd T. Smith, London, was the guest speaker of the December meeting. Lloyd had three display cases of coins to illustrate his talk, "Type and Series Collecting".

KITCHENER COIN CLUB is providing Canadian coins and local tokens and medals for the Doon Pioneer Village. This worthy project will take the co-operation of all the club members and civic-minded persons. The Club will undertake to supply display cases and assemble the collection. The committee consists of Chairman Bill English, Ken Coe, Bud Schell of the Kitchener Club and Howard Groh representing the Pioneer Village. All donations will be acknowledged in the Club Bulletin and a permanent record kept of the donors. Please send contributions to Mr. Ken Coe, 6 Springbank Crescent, Kitchener, Ont. This new club, a little over a year old, now boasts 104 members. Tuesday, January 5, was Silver Dollar Night; door-prizes were a silver dollar bookshelf album, Canadian Silver Dollars, by Starr Gilmore; and an UNC 1964 silver dollar. Feature of the evening was the O.N.A. Audio-Visual Service set, "Canadian Voyageur Dollar", produced by Claudia Pelkey.

CHAMPLAIN COIN CLUB had on display at their December meeting, the Honorary Life Membership scroll which was presented to Harry Booth. Nomination committee report: Past President - Howard Johnson; President - Robert Marshall; Vice-president - Fred Carter; Directors: W. Ervine, F. Booth, H. Johnson. Anyone wishing to contact this club, write to Box 145, Orillia, Ontario.

GUELPH COIN CLUB will feature Mr. Ross Irwin as guest speaker. The topic will be "Money. What Is It?"

WOODSTOCK COIN CLUB featured an "Exchange Night" at the December meeting. Coins for exchange were to be Canadian or Commonwealth and not less than 50 cents in value.

SARNIA NUMISMATIC SOCIETY members had as their guest speaker in December, Don McKelvey. The subject was "Transportation Tokens", highlighted by a display. David Price, President of S.N.S. has been re-elected for 1965. Vice-president is Fred Robertson; Secretary, Don Park; Treasurer, Lyn Kelch; Ex.-Sec., James Moore.

WATERLOO COIN SOCIETY held their January meeting on the 19th when Bill English, Editor of Variety Fare Column of Coin News, spoke on Die Varieties. The Society's 1965 medal will bare the Conestogo Covered Wagon. The Society has been striking medals of local historical interest for the past number of years, and the Conestogo Wagon is a familiar symbol in this area.

HURONIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION elected the following as their new officers for 1965: President, Jack Martin; Vice-President, Mac Porter; Treasurer, Bob Scruton; Secretary, Mrs. Mahoney-Chumney; Directors, Cec. Sharp, Syd Woodward and Mrs. Noreen Howcroft (also Editor); Auctioneer, Ken Prophet; Auction Recorder, Steve Wiggins.

ST. THOMAS NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, in December, featured a general trading night and a personal auction. An interesting article on "Mint Marks" appeared in the December bulletin. For the new collectors, often overlooked, it will prove valuable information.

BAY OF QUINTE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION held their election of officers on Dec. 17. Following are the results: President, Charles Miller; Vice-president, Arthur Savage; Secretary, Don Desaulniers; Treasurer, Bill Nickle; Membership Director, Ross Lamb; Editor, "Coin Comments", Cecil Paul.

LONDON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY held a Social Evening in December with President, William Clarke presiding. The L.N.S. collection of numismatic items was placed on view to the public and proved a real credit to the club. Donations toward this collection are still coming in and the total items has now reached 238.

TEMISKAMING COIN CLUB, formed about a year ago in the Kirkland Lake area, has just recently joined the O.N.A. The Board for 1965 is as follows: Honorary President, J. McKay-Clements; President, Bert Provost; Vice-presidents, Ralph Gaston and Jack Fearnley; Secretary, Fred James; Treasurer, George Shanks. Meetings are held every third Monday to accommodate the shift workers in the mines. Recently, Mr. McKay-Clements related his coin-hunting experiences on a trip through Europe and Russia.

OAKVILLE COIN CLUB featured the O.N.A. Audio-Visual, "Ships on Coins", at their January meeting. This set is by Alex Munro of Scarborough, and carried action-packed interest through the entire showing.

- 0 -

All Ontario coin clubs are invited to send copies of their monthly bulletins to the O.N.A. editor. This will give the clubs throughout the province a glimpse of the activities featured at the various meetings.

1965 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Just a last minute reminder. This will be your last issue of the Ontario Numismatist, unless your 1965 membership dues are paid soon. Please send your remittance to the Ontario Numismatic Association, c/o P. O. Box 33, Waterloo, Ontario.

O.N.A. AUDIO-VISUAL SERVICE

A \$1.00 service fee MUST accompany your application for an Audio-Visual set, to make it eligible for consideration. PLEASE reserve the sets well in advance as there are over 40 clubs being serviced.

CANADA'S COAT OF ARMS

by

David Billing Ashe, R. C. E. C.

(Continued from the January issue of the Ontario Numismatist)

King James the First of England was the first English monarch to introduce the Irish emblem into a royal coat of arms, and since that time onward the golden harp of Hibernia, on the ancient blue background, has been shown in one of the divisions of a British standard as the emblem of Ireland.

It may be notable to point out that in the arms of all the sovereigns, since James the First in A. D. 1603, until William the Fourth in the year A. D. 1837, the harp was formed by the female figure of the Goddess Hibernia. In the reign of Queen Victoria, a change was made and altered to that of the ancient Irish harp connected in form and legend with King Boroimhe.

King Boroimhe, having accepted Christianity, died, so it is said, in his hour of victory over the Danes at Clontarf, near Dublin, in A. D. 1014. Of all the traditional patrons of Irish music, King Boroimhe was the most renowned, and thus in poetry and song his name is immediately identified with the golden harp of Ireland.

It is also interesting to note, that Constantius, one of the joint emperors of Rome, also adopted the Hibernia Irish harp as the insignia for his own personal standard.

The first three divisions are: England in the first division, Scotland in the second division, and Ireland in the third.

The fleur-de-lis, or the flower of the lily, is one of the more important emblems; and yet, it is almost, one of the forgotten historic links in history.

The fleur-de-lis appears imperfectly as three flowers of the white lily, joined together, the central one erect, and each of the other two curving outwards. Although this charge is found in armory in many countries, it is particularly associated with France.

In ancient times the fleur-de-lis was a common decoration, notably in India and Egypt, where it was the symbol of life and resurrection, and attributed to the god Horus. In Roman and early Gothic architecture the fleur-de-lis was a frequent sculptured ornament. There were times, whether the conventional fleur-de-lis was originally meant to be the lily or white iris. Historians have acclaimed an arrow-head, a spear-head, or an amulet fasten on a date-palm to 'ward off the evil eye'.

Tradition of the fleur-de-lis has been attributed to King Clovis, who was also the founder of the Frankish monarchy. On Christmas Day in A. D. 496, King Clovis went to Reims where he was baptized. The baptism of King Clovis was an event of great importance, as he claimed that the lily was given to him by an angel as a symbol of purity.

The use of the fleur-de-lis in heraldry dates from the 12th century, and soon after which it became a common charge in France, England and Germany.

In the month of February, A. D. 1376 King Charles the Fifth of France reduced the number of lilies to three in honour of the Trinity, and the kings of France thereafter bore a blue flag, with three golden lilies. The doctrine of Trinity can be best expressed in the following words: "The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Ghost is God, and yet, they are not three Gods but one God". This doctrine is symbolized by the

three golden fleurs-de-lis.

In order to understand the importance of the fleur-de-lis and its connection with Canada, a person must study the Tri-colour flag as it is displayed by France of today.

One story of the Tri-colour's origin is, that it is in fact, three flags which have been carried in succession in the early centuries of the nation. The early kings of France carried the plain blue banner of Saint Martin. To this succeeded, in A. D. 1124 the red flag of Saint Denis, to be afterwards superceded, in the fifteenth century by the white personal banner of the heroic Joan of Arc.

It was under this white banner, upon it the golden lilies of ancient France, that Jacques Cartier, a seaman, in A. D. 1534 sailed up the Saint Lawrence, and Champlain, in A. D. 1608 founded Quebec. Under this flag Canada was colonized; and to it belonged the glories of the Jesuit Fathers.

I mentioned earlier a white background on a flag symbolizes purity and the three golden fleur-de-lis symbolizes the Trinity. Confusion is often added as many people still believe that the flag seen on the sinister and the fleurs-de-lis seen in the fourth division are those of the earlier white banner displayed in Canada. In all official Canadian Coat of Arms the background will be blue. This denotes the earlier France banner introduced by King Charles the Fifth of France in A. D. 1376.

The colour blue is also shown in the Coat of Arms on the Canadian fifty cent coin reverse. On the fleur-de-lis flag and in the third and fourth divisions, horizontal lines appear. These lines, in this position denote the colour blue.

For many years, there were times when colour was required on metal or within black and white etchings. In the year A. D. 1639, an Italian inventor, by the name of Marius Vulson de la Columbia, introduced a line system. Lines engraved or drawn at different angles, either open, or intersecting denoted a colour. This line system is now internationally used either in heraldry or on armorial bearings.

Many of you may have noticed the flag standard shown on the dexter and sinister are not of common use, as the staff appears as a lance. This is an ancient banner to be used mounted on horse-back or carried on foot, the hand-grasp is visible on the lower section of the lance.

The lance on the dexter bears the Union Jack. This flag is familiar to all, and yet, it is interesting to note why this flag is named the 'Union Jack'.

In the earlier part of this writing I mentioned the surcoat, an early garment from which we acquire a coat of arms. The surcoat was also known as a 'jac'. This early word has now been transformed into our present day English language and applied to the garment 'jac-ette' or 'jacket'.

Even today all flags are still known as 'jacs', but it was only after the union was formed under Queen Anne in the year A. D. 1707 that the British flag became known as the 'Union Jac' or Union Jack.

The Union Jack of the present day is comprised of three flags: Saint Patrick's of Ireland; a red cross in saltire on a white ground, Saint Andrew's of Scotland; a white cross in saltire on a blue ground, and Saint George's of England; a red cross on a white ground. These three flags are impaled in union to form the Union Jack. Ireland is on the bottom, Scotland is second and England is placed on the top.

There are five maple leaves on Canada's Coat of Arms. One is held in the lion's paw above the helmet, one on the throat of the helmet, and three in the fifth division in the shield.

Canada is a Christian country, therefore the three maple leaves in the fifth division are joined to form one. This method by joining is again the doctrine of Trinity.

The maple leaf of the sugar maple, as well as being the national emblem, is also the typical emblem. The maple leaf was held in high esteem by the early settlers of Quebec, and was adopted, in the year A. D. 1836, as the French-Canadian emblem for the Festival of St. Jean Baptiste. At the creation of the Union of Confederation it was placed in the arms of Quebec and Ontario, and was thereafter heraldically recognized as the 'Emblem of Canada'.

Today, throughout the world the maple leaf has won recognition as the national emblem of all Canadians. Whether it is worn on the athletic field or in military contests, the maple leaf on the Canadian Coat of Arms depicts her own national heritage.

Canada's Coat of Arms is still incomplete. As it is here we learn why Canada is known as a Dominion.

Sir Leonard Tilly, one of the Fathers of Confederation suggested the word Dominion by quoting the Holy Bible; Psalm 72, Chapter 8, and I quote:- "He shall have Dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth". End of quote. It is obvious, that this suggestion by Sir Leonard Tilly was approved and adopted.

Below the shield is seen the latin inscription, A MARI USQUE AD MARE. Translated it stated "From Sea Unto Sea" or in further clarification 'from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean'. This motto is also found in the quotation by Sir Leonard Tilly. "He shall have Dominion also from sea to sea . . ."

Below the inscription is an open wreath, and it is noted that the charges lean outward toward the east and west, and thus Eastern and Western Canada are united. Immediately below the inscription are the two lilies of France, and the two thistles of Scotland.

The reason for the adoption of the thistle is again a legend.

At the time when the Danish invaders were penetrating the isles of Britain, it was considered a common understanding to fight only during the daylight hours. The legend tells how the Scottish army were encamped for the night. The Danes, however, decided to surprise the Scots by marching by night under darkness. So that their marching feet would not be heard they marched barefoot, but on nearing the Scottish encampment a Danish soldier stepped on a thistle and cried out in pain. The Scots, so it is said, on hearing the warning cry immediately broke camp and went forth and massacred the invaders. Because the unfortunate Dane had stepped on the thistle the Scottish looked upon this incident as a good omen. And thus so the legend tells is why Scotland adopted the thistle as one of their heraldic badges.

Below the inscription is the Tudor Rose of England. Many people often refer to this flower as a double rose. In English history the red rose was the personal badge of the House of Lancaster, and the white rose was the personal badge of the House of York. These two royal houses were continually at war. Henry the Seventh in the year A. D. 1486 came to the throne of England and shortly thereafter married Elizabeth of York. In order to unite the House of Lancaster and the House of York, Henry placed the white rose

over the red rose and thus introduced into heraldry the Tudor Rose of England. It is possible to see the formation of this flower in the official Coat of Arms.

Once again below the inscription is the trefoil, or as they are best known, the shamrock of Ireland. The trefoil is another religious symbol and again the reason for its adoption is a legend.

Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, so the legend tells, had great difficulty in teaching the Trinity. On many occasions Saint Patrick spoke to the heathens on a hillside, and the uneducated masses could not understand why there were three Gods but one God.

On one occasion Saint Patrick stood before a gathering and looking downward near his feet he saw the shamrock. He picked the small plant and held it before himself and said, "You see, there are three leaves, but they are joined as one". And so the people understood the teaching of the Trinity, and the trefoil, so it is said, was adopted as the symbol of Ireland.

While I have been writing this article, many of the readers may have studied Canada's Coat of Arms, and have noticed that there are ten rose leaves at the base. Five on either side. Do I need to explain why there are ten leaves displayed?

In Canada's Coat of Arms in colour you may see all the subjects I have written on. Many of these charges have been in existence for the past centuries and each one of them in its own way tells a complete story. Unfortunately time and space does not permit further study in depth.

A national coat of arms cannot be purchased, they are only obtained by sacrifice and devotion. Many Canadians have given their lives so that we may live in peace. We may never know what the future will hold, but there is one thing certain, Canada has a proud Coat of Arms. This is Canada --- and this is your Coat of Arms.

- 0 -

THE HISTORY OF CANADA'S DECIMAL COINAGE

by

Cecil Paul

(continued)

George VI - 1937-1952

The year 1937 saw another King making his appearance on the face of the Canadian coins, King George VI, who was born Albert Frederick Arthur George, on December 14, 1895. He became King upon the abdication of his brother King Edward VIII in 1936. He reigned for 16 years.

All the reverse designs of the Canadian coins changed in 1937 except for the silver dollar. The reverse designs adopted for the 1937 coinage is the same as appears on our coinage today with one exception, which I will mention later.

The 1937 nickel also took a complete change in design. The obverse now showed King George VI and the reverse showed the new familiar beaver design. The obverse was designed by Hugh Paget and the reverse by George Kruger Gray.

The dot after the date on the 1937 nickel has no special significance as it is on all nickels of that year.

all nickels of that year.

In 1939 the second commemorative silver dollar was struck. This shows the centre block and Peace Tower of the Parliament Buildings on the reverse and King George VI on the obverse. It was struck to celebrate the visit to Canada of His Majesty King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. The reverse was designed by Emmanuel Hahn.

This was the last silver dollar to be minted until after the war in 1945.

Noted at once by coin collectors is the fact that dollars in the first series (1935-1939) had a dull finish quite unlike those of the second series (1945-date). Unpolished dies were used by the Mint for the first series and this accounts for the dull appearance. Chromium plated dies were first used by the Royal Canadian Mint in 1942. Difficulty in obtaining high grade steel, due to war needs, led to experiments with chromium.

Due to nickel being required for war needs, part of the 1942 nickel was made of "Tombac", an alloy of copper and zinc (88% copper and 12% zinc). The 1943 nickel was also made of Tombac, reverse design being a Torch and Sir Winston Churchill's famous "V" for Victory sign. This torch design was done by Thomas Shingles. This was the first die made entirely in Canada. Previous to this all master dies had been engraved at the Royal Mint in London. Noted is the morse code symbols around the edge of the coin. These symbols read "WE WIN WHEN WE WORK WILLINGLY".

Both the 1942 and 1943 Tombacs were made 12-sided to distinguish them from the bronze one-cent pieces. As the tombac coins tarnished and turned dark they caused confusion with the one-cent coin in making change.

The 1942 and 1943 Tombac nickels, as returned to the Mint by banks were melted down and the metal used for one cent coins. It is interesting to note that of the 28 or so million tombac nickels minted, there was a gradual reduction in the number remaining in circulation until 10 years ago. Now they are hardly ever seen in your everyday change.

Bright steel coins in chromium finish were designed and struck for use during the last two years of the war. The 1944 and 1945 nickels also carried the Torch and "V" design as well as the morse code symbols around the border.

In 1946 the familiar design of the beaver was restored on the nickel. This issue was again made of nickel. The issue was also made 12-sided and all 5 cent coins up to and including 1962 have retained this shape.

The 1947 half dollar has 4 distinct varieties in the date. The 1947 with a straight 7 and the 1947 with a shorter curved 7. Then of course, there are the two issues of these different 7's with the "Maple Leaf" after the date. The short curved 7 issue with the maple leaf is very scarce.

The silver dollar of 1947 also has two varieties of the 7 in the date. The one type is a short blunt 7 and the other is a long pointed 7, similar to the 50 cent coin. The "Maple Leaf" only appears after the type with the blunt 7. This makes 3 entirely different variations in the date for that year.

Early in 1948, the new dies with "ET IND IMP" deleted from the inscription, due to India having gained her independence, were not ready and an emergency issue from the previous year's dies, with a tiny "MAPLE LEAF" after the date, had to be made on all 1947 coins until the new dies arrived late in the year. This accounts for the shortage

of coins struck bearing the date 1948. Actually 1947 "Maple Leaf" coins were struck in 1948, and as the dies were late in arriving only a comparative few coins bearing that year were actually minted. Mint figures for the 1948 dime, for example, will prove this. The 1947 Mint Report states that 4,431,926 dimes were struck in 1947. The amount of dimes bearing the date 1947 with a tiny "maple leaf" were 9,638,793 compared to 442,741 dimes minted with the date 1948. Actually there were 10,081,534 10 cent coins struck in 1948 (1947 Maple Leaf plus the 1948 figure).

A variety of "Dot" coinage was also produced in 1947. The 1936 dots were made intentionally whereas the 1947 dots were caused by a flaw in the dies. This variant only appears on the nickel and the quarter. This dot coinage, although reasonably hard to obtain is not nearly as rare as the 1936 dot coinage.

Newfoundland gave occasion to the third commemorative silver dollar when she became a Province of the Dominion in 1949. King George VI's profile appears on the obverse.

Thomas Shingles designed the beautiful reverse, showing the sailing ship "Matthew" in which the explorer John Cabot, sailed to Newfoundland in 1497. The Latin inscription "FLOREAT TERRA NOVA" is translated to read "LET THE NEW WORLD PROSPER".

The designer of this silver dollar reverse, Thomas Shingles, was chief engraver at the Royal Canadian Mint when he did this fine piece of work. Under ordinary circumstances and in practically all cases, a pantograph is used to cut the steel master die. However, Mr. Shingles cut the design by hand directly into the steel on the master die, and he is one of the few men living today who is capable of doing such a feat.

The year 1951 saw another commemorative coin being included in the Canadian decimal series. This time it was the nickel that got special attention. The first 1951 issue shows a refinery building with the dates 1751-1951, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the isolation of the metal nickel, by a Swedish chemist, by the name of Cronstedt.

Later in the year additional 5 cent pieces were required for circulation and due to the shortage of nickel, brought about by the Korean conflict, steel was used for this second issue. The latter, as well as the mintings of the following years have the usual beaver design reverse.

At the time this commemorative nickel was first put into circulation, a rumour got started that the date was wrong and it should have read 1851-1951. It was reputed to be very valuable and the Mint was supposed to have requested that they all be turned back in. This accounts for the fact that there are not very many of these commemoratives in circulation today. People have large hoards of them at home waiting to make a fortune. Of course, we know this story is false and even today they are only worth a few times their face value.

Steel was also used for the mintings of the 1952 to 1954 nickel.

Nickel was used again in 1955 and every year following until the present time. (Queen Elizabeth II coinage will conclude this article on Canadian coinage in next month's issue of the ONTARIO NUMISMATIST).

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.