



THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

WATERLOO, ONTARIO

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Vol. 6--No. 4

April, 1967

Page 26

!!!ITS THAT TIME AGAIN!!!

ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

PRESENTS

F I F T H A N N U A L C O N V E N T I O N

Place: Granite Club, Kitchener, Ontario

Time: May 26, 27, 28, 1967

Host: Waterloo Coin Society

Speaker: Major Sheldon S. Carroll
Curator of the Bank of Canada Numismatic
Collection

Bourse: Forty dealers

Auction: Two-session (J. Dietrich)

Displays: Ten categories

Awards!!!

TROPHIES!!!

Prizes!!!

Don't forget to purchase your
commemorative "medal"
for a lasting souvenir

It's going to be a "Bonanza" Centennial CONVENTION!!!

Tell your friends!!!

Bring the family!!!

See you all May 26, 27, 28, 1967

NEW MEMBERS

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

579. Steve Kiss, 954 Concession Street, Hamilton, Ont.

Cont.

580. Stephen A. Wiggins, Stroud, Ontario.

581. Mrs. Gwen Sager, 97 West Bridge Street, Belleville, Ontario.

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COMING EVENTS

- May 7 STRATFORD COIN CLUB 5th Annual Show and Auction, St. Josephs Parish Hall, Stratford, Ontario.
- May 20 ST. THOMAS NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION 4th Annual Coin Show, Banquet and Auction. 10:00 a. m. to 10:00 p. m. - Grace United Church. General Chairman - D. Farthing. Display Chairman - Les McGregor; Auction - G. Conroy, Banquet - Mrs. Gale, Bourse - C. J. Miedema, Tickets - Les McGregor.
- May 26, 27, 28 ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION 5th Annual Convention, Kitchener, Ontario. Host: Waterloo Coin Society. General Chairman - John Shaw, P. O. Box 41, Waterloo, Ontario. Bourse Chairman - Philip Mueller, 239 Lancaster Street West, Kitchener, Ontario.
- Aug. 31, Sept. 1, and 2 CANADIAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION 14th Annual Convention, Chateau Laurier Hotel, Ottawa, Ontario.
- October 14 QUINPEX SHOW (Bay of Quinte Numismatic Association). Combination of stamps and coins. Belleville Armouries. Displays Auctions Bourse Competitive exhibits. For information contact: Club Secretary, Box 125, Belleville, Ontario.

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CHANGES OF METAL CONTENT IN CANADIAN COINS

by

George Moore-Gough, President, Canadian Numismatic Variety Collectors Association
Reprinted from the Association's monthly ERVAR DIGEST

The long awaited announcement has been made, although it has not as yet been credited as being absolute. Mention has been made in the press that the Royal Canadian Mint are about to change the metal content of Canadian silver coins. Due to the ever

Cont'd.

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The ONTARIO NUMISMATIST is published monthly by the Ontario Numismatic Association. The publication may be obtained with memberships of one of the following categories: Regular members -- \$2 yearly; Juniors -- \$1 yearly (up to 18 years of age); Husband and Wife (One journal -- \$3 yearly; Club -- \$10 yearly. Special O. N. A. Sterling Silver Lapel Pins (screw back or pin back only \$2.50).

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increasing shortage of world silver, talks have been going on to find a means of conserving whatever stocks that are now present and it appears that Canada will follow suit and mint coins of metals other than silver. The press items suggest strongly that the substitute metal will be nickel, a mineral Canada has plenty of.

A CBC broadcast communicated to the listening public that the Royal Canadian Mint would change the metal content of Canadian coinage. It was stated that the Mint would in all probability use pure Nickel. To date enquiries have gained no further information than that issued in December.

It is sincerely hoped that the Mint will not change the metal content of the silver dollar. This coin today is one of the, if not the most beautiful, coin minted in the world and as such it should remain. It is realized that there is a world shortage of silver and that new finds are negligible but it is also realized that the Canadian dollar is not used as a daily media of exchange but rather exists as a collectors item; collecting not solely practiced by the numismatist, but by all and sundry. Since 1935, the first year of issue, more young ladies and gentlemen have received silver dollars for purposes to commemorate their birthdays. This practise has so developed that it is almost an institution not withstanding the fact that it is tradition. Many of our senior citizens have received the silver dollar on the important anniversaries of their full lives and these same silver dollars over the years have found their way into the banks of grandchildren, nephews and nieces. If only for the sake of tradition, it is to be hoped that the Mint will, in the coming years, continue to mint the silver dollar. In truth it is not believed that the minting of silver dollars will seriously deplete the store rooms of the nation.

CLUB NEWS

BRANTFORD COIN CLUB President, Bill Sutor, presided over the regular monthly meeting Sunday evening, February 19th. Walter Griggs headed an interesting discussion on the Brant Centennial Medal. Two other members, Robert S. Comer of Simcoe and Willy F. Mahrt of Delhi, offered to represent the Brantford Coin Club in the promotion and sale of the Brant County Centennial Medal.

CAPITAL CITY COIN CLUB (Ottawa) held their January meeting with 26 members and 3 guests present. President Jack Roberts welcomed Mr. Norval Parker, Master of the Royal Canadian Mint, and presented him with an Honorary Life Membership in the CCCC. The membership was given in recognition of his contributions in the field of Canadian Numismatics. Mr. Parker talked to the club about the 1967 Centennial coins and discussed the Mint's collection, all of which was donated by the public. At the close of his address, Mr. Parker presented to Ed Forrest, a 1967 Centennial Medal for his award-winning exhibit from the club's December meeting. President, Jack Roberts then introduced the Hon. Robert N. Thompson, leader of the Social Credit Party and member of the House of Commons representing Red Deer, Alberta. Mr. Thompson talked to the club about his collection and some of its most outstanding pieces. The most prized of his collection is a bronze coin that he personally dug up from the palace grounds of the famous Queen of Sheba. This coin was struck approximately in 5000 B. C. On his last visit to Canada, the Emperor of Ethiopia, Hallie Selassie, presented Mr. Thompson with a gold coin from the same period as the one he dug up.

CENTRAL COIN CLUB (Toronto) had a very special speaker at one of their recent meetings Major Sheldon S. Carroll, Curator of the Numismatic Collection of the Bank of Canada, Ottawa. Seventy-six persons had the privilege of hearing Major Carroll talk on "The History of Canadian Paper Money" ... from the world's first paper money; early banks; Hudson's Bay paper money; municipal money; prisoner-of-war money; playing card money; shipplasters and the new Centennial notes.

Cont.

HAMILTON COIN CLUB had fifteen members and three guests out to their February meeting. Eugene Culp was unanimously elected to the presidency. Gerald E. Glasser, the club's newest member, will spear-head a project to set up a Centennial display to be shown in appropriate locations around the City of Hamilton.

HURONIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION February meeting, was attended by over 20 persons in spite of severe weather conditions. The film "The Story of Sculpture", was presented for those present.

INGERSOLL COIN CLUB members were very disappointed that their guest speaker, Percy Elgie, was ill and unable to attend. But, Norman Barns brought along his projector and a series of slides he took while on holiday in Scotland. So, the 24 members and guests were highly entertained. Added to the enjoyment of the evening was a Centennial Quiz provided by Norm Barns.

LONDON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY had forty-five members and guests brave the nine below zero temperature in order to attend their February meeting. President, Tom Masters introduced the guest speaker of the evening, Mr. William "Bud" Measor, who gave a very interesting talk on Canada and World Coins. L. N. S. is already making plans for another banquet in September.

NORFOLK COIN CLUB is sponsoring a membership drive for this Centennial year. Every member who brings a guest will receive one point; for each new member, five points. In June (and again in December) the member with the highest points will receive five Silver Dollars ... Very Nice!!! New officers for 1967 are: President - Doc Heatherington; Vice-president - Willy Mahrt; Secretary - Elsie Fick; Treasurer - Edna Smith; Directors - George Smith, Mick Henning, Fred Crabb, Mel Tataraka and Don Beaton.

OAKVILLE COIN CLUB members were entertained at the February meeting with the showing of O. N. A. Audio-Visual, "Canadian Fractional Currency." It provided an opportunity for all present to not only see the changes this currency underwent but also hear the explanations for them. Two displays were presented by members for viewing pleasure.

RICHMOND HILL COIN CLUB ... Welcome!!! ... This is our first bulletin from this club and it looks like a real thriving club. Thirty-three members and guests attended the January meeting and were putting final touches on their banquet to be held on March 25th.

SARNIA NUMISMATIC SOCIETY had 30 members out to their February meeting and presented the O.N.A. Audio-Visual, "Canadian Voyageur Dollar." This is to be followed in March by a quiz program to find out just how much the members profited by the showing of these slides.

ST. CATHARINES COIN CLUB will feature Lloyd T. Smith, President of the Ontario Numismatic Association, as guest speaker in March. Mr. Smith will discuss the judging of displays. Mrs. Ritchie, who is always prominent in the club's social affairs, has been confined to hospital. We join the club in wishing her a speedy recovery.

ST. THOMAS NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION are making great plans for their 4th Coin Show. Eleven categories are available for displays and they will be judged by merit rather than the point system.

THISTLETOWN COIN CLUB January meeting featured an O.N.A. Audio-Visual presentation "Ships on Coins", by Alex Munro. It took the viewers back in history to Biblical times and then down through the ages to our 1949 Canadian Silver Dollar which features Cabot's ship the "Matthew". Election of officers is as follows: Pres. - Bryan Mitchell; Vice-president - John Jefferies; Secretary - George Hands; Treasurer - Dennis Newman; Auctioneer and Past President - Ronald Scovell.

TORONTO COIN CLUB have elected their officers for 1967 as follows: Past-president - A. L. Munro; President - F. C. Jewett; First Vice-president - Winifred Mather; Vice-president - Louise Graham; Secretary - John Galilee; Treasurer - Harvey Farrow; Librarian - Paul Petch; Directors - Dr. J. S. Wilkinson, Cecil Rhodes and Inspector R. J. F. Hather.

Mrs. Ethel Sentes, Hamilton, illustrated her talk on Chinese coinage with two of her award-winning exhibits.

WATERLOO COIN SOCIETY members had an interesting and enjoyable February meeting, but found that there is still a great deal to learn about Canadian numismatics after John Shaw conducted a Coin Quiz.

WOODSTOCK COIN CLUB had 40 members out to their February meeting. President, Albert Cole reported to the members that their medal for 1967 was in the hands of the engravers and would be available about the end of March. Guest speaker, Les Coles, showed some beautiful slides of Oxford County. It is interesting to note that even though there is a decline in coin interest, this club enrolled nine new members at this meeting.

WINDSOR COIN CLUB held their annual meeting recently and new officers were elected. The yearly report shows a steady increase in attendance. The change of meeting place is bringing out a number of members that have not been attending. The show was the club's Centennial Project and it was a very rewarding show in goodwill and dealers satisfaction as well as a financial success for the club. New officers are as follows: President - Carl Querbach; 1st. Vice-president - Guy Jamieson; 2nd. Vice-president - John Yocom; Treasurer - Miss D. Laudie; Secretary - Mrs. G. E. Pomeroy; Auction Convenor - Ken Annett; Registration - Mrs. C. Querbach; Librarian - Mrs. B. Armour; Directors - Mrs. W. Howells; Mrs. B. Armour, A. Yapp, L. Johnston and G. E. Pomeroy.

RESTRIKES

By Ken Hedges

First appearing in "Intercoin"

Continued from last month's bulletin.

Other restrrike activities are in for discussion besides those mentioned. While much criticism often is in order, some certainly is not, and the gold coins issued by Spain are a case in point. A Spanish gold coin is quite obviously struck for purposes other than a circulating medium, but that is no secret --- France struck the 10-Franc silver crown for a similar, non-circulating reason. The method of dating Spanish gold coins has been a subject of great criticism, but in reality there is no problem for collectors familiar with Spanish coinage: ALL Spanish coins bear the true date in microscopic numerals within stars while the large date indicates the date of the law under which the coin is struck. Other countries, such as Austria, may be criticized for restriking coins with early dates, and Spain might even be criticized on other grounds, but the dating of Spanish gold restrikes is neither dishonest nor surreptitious, being done in accord with normal dating practices of the country. Other old types of coins are often restruck, such as those of the Netherlands struck with older dates, but with easily discernible mintmaster symbols, or in older types with new dates. All these are highly collectable in their own right and deserve not the criticism levelled at them.

Art galleries and various other types of stores as a regular practice sell reproductions of paintings, statues, and other types of artwork. Coins and medals are in their own way must as validly considered works of art as these others, and one often wonders just what the difference is. A coin seldom is reproduced as a work of art, but it is often reproduced for other purposes. One of the chief of these reasons is to provide a means of holding metals --- gold in most cases or silver in the case of France's 10-Franc coin issued in imitation of the old 5-Franc piece. This practice is not inherently wrong, and such items are produced in full accordance with the laws of the country in which they are made --- and this must be the final authority concerning the striking of these coins. In most cases it is the use to which such a coin is put that brings the trouble, and here the only feasible answer to the dilemma is education of the collector. We can only be unequivocally opposed to restriking of coins for fraudulent purposes and to use of coins restruck for other purposes in a fraudulent manner. This writer does not

condone such deceptive practices, but he does feel that we must be careful to place the blame where it belongs.

Coins may be reproduced for other reasons as well, a common way, particularly in European countries such as Austria, being to reproduce, usually from new dies, an old coin design with all details as on the original save for an added modern date in an area where no date appears on the original coin. This has been done to commemorate an anniversary in the introduction of a famous old coin type, or to mark other historical events connected with the coin reproduced.

Mentioning Austria brings up another famous restrrike: the Maria Theresa Thaler. This coin was restruck for a purely economic reason --- its continued use in the markets of the Middle East. When Austria undertook to produce proof strikes of this famous coins, they were enthusiastically received by collectors the world over. The coin recently has come in for its share of criticism in that it is an issue produced merely for collectors some going so far as to say it is not even a coin at all, but a medal, token, or some such thing. It is true that the proof Maria Theresa Thaler is not strictly a trade coin, just as proof United States coins are not circulation issues, but to say that a proof Maria Theresa Thaler is not a coin is just patently ridiculous.

Enough for coins. The field of medals has come into the restriking picture as well. Many numismatic groups are on record as opposing restrikes, but it occurs to this writer that they might be more careful before issuing blanket condemnations. The United States mint itself has been issuing restrikes of its medals for many years, and will continue to do so. The Paris mint in France likewise issues restrikes, and in this case, at least, it is apparent that new dies are made when old dies become unserviceable, since this writer has seen older medals with diebreaks and newer issues of the same medal in perfect condition. A case in point here is the beautiful medal issued in 1833 to mark the visit to the mint of the royal family of France. The medal is a beautiful example of the die-cutter's art, and it is available today from the Paris mint. A second case is the medal struck during the reign of Louis XVIII and featuring the Greek statue, Venus de Milo. A restrrike of the medal can be obtained today from the same mint which originally issued it --- Paris. The Brigitte Bardot medal is not yet a restrrike, but given a few years it will be in the same category as the others and will be restruck to fill whatever demand is present for its release.

The venerable English medallic firm of Finches, Ltd., has recently issued a series of restruck historical medals originally issued by their firm or firms which they have since taken over in mergers. These medals are offered as reproductions, from original dies, of famous medals, and are offered in limited quantity to make available examples of medallic art which would be otherwise unrepresented in modern collections. Who is to say whether such a practice is unethical, especially since the company owns the dies and all rights to their use. A further point is involved here, however, and it is that these restrikes are guaranteed to be limited to a certain quantity. If further restrikes of the same medals were later to be made, the protests from the collector would rightly be in order.

There are ways to tell these recently restruck medals from older so-called "originals". The issues from Finches, for example, bear a modern hallmark and guarantee stamp, while the more recently issued Paris mint products bear the mark of the mint (a cornucopia) and the metal of which the medal is composed struck incuse on the edge. For those interested in issue quantities, age, and such things, this knowledge may be of value. But if one is interested in artistic and historical medals for their value as works of art or mementoes offering record of historical interest, then there is no reason why modern examples cannot serve as well as any others.

Before concluding, a resume of my major points may be in order. First of all, this writer, as all of us, I'm sure, is unalterably opposed to restriking or any form of

reproduction undertaken with intent to misrepresent or defraud. As for the plethora of other types of restrikes, such as those of Hungary, we may question the motives or the lack of business sense involved here, but we cannot question the right of these governments to restrike their own coins. Probably no one, or at least very few, would complain if the United States mint were to strike a 1965- or 1966-dated proof set, yet this is exactly what Hungary is doing when she strikes proof condition coins of earlier years: she is producing specimen coins to meet collector demand. As for restriking regular issue silver and base metal coins, it must be realized that this is beneficial to Hungary, in that it brings in the ready cash so willingly offered by the collector and so important to any nation. Since Hungary is in business for Hungary, the whole thing makes a great deal of sense. These countries certainly make no secret of the fact that coins are re-struck, and as long as no guarantee exists, there is no real reason to complain when a mintage is exceeded or increased, regardless whether or not collectors have deluded themselves or been deluded by dealers to the contrary.

Britain's Royal Mint has come in for its share of criticism in this light, as have other mints which produce coins for other nations under contract. Sierra Leone and Greece are the most well known examples, but many other nations have ordered additional quantities of coins when supplies ran low due to collector interest. An announced mintage and a guaranteed mintage are two quite different things, and the former should not be taken for the latter. These mints are commercial producers of a product ordered by other countries, and when a further order is placed, it is filled. To fail to do so would be bad business, and to do so should not earn criticism from anyone.

Second, reproduction of medals and coins at a later time, particularly when there is a distinguishing factor such as proof surface or identifying mark, when done legally and openly, has as many merits as forbidding the same practice. I, for one, have many medals which I would not otherwise be able to own, and which I collect on the basis of their importance as works of medallic art. Others may strongly disagree with me on this point, and that is their right. On the other hand, no one disagrees if you buy a print of an old map, a reproduction of a famous painting, or a cast of a well known piece of sculpture. In fact, coins and medals are themselves works of sculpture.

The Ashanti tribe of West Africa has long been known for its use of gold dust as currency, and for its casting of counterweights (to weigh this gold) in many plant, animal, and human forms. Recently museum reproductions of these little bronze weights have become available through art galleries, where they are sold, rightfully, as works of primitive sculpture. But the Ashanti gold weights are traditionally highly collectable numismatic items, and our little museum reproduction becomes, in its own way, a restrike. I don't know about you, but I would and I will continue to exhibit him for what he is: an accurate reproduction of an otherwise unobtainable example of an area of numismatics in which I have great interest. Let us be careful before we criticize others for doing the same.

DON'T FORGET THE CONVENTION

O. N. A. Convention News ** May Show

The Granite Club, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada * May 26, 27, 28, 1967.

Waterloo Coin Society for the Second time will host an Ontario Numismatic Association Convention. As in 1962 at the Founding Convention this will be an election year.

In a short five years the O. N. A. has grown in stature and responsibility to the hobby. O. N. A. sponsored services are being used at nearly every meeting or coin

show held in Ontario. A few examples of these services are * Audio Visual Service * Judging guide system * Display Cases * Monthly Publication * Club organization assistance * Speakers Circuit * Library.

The O. N. A. has shown recognition to the advancement of numismatics by awarding an inscribed gold medal to "The O. N. A. Medalist of the Year". Major Sheldon S. Carroll gained this honour in 1966. Major Carroll will be the Banquet Speaker at this year's convention.

A well-rounded programme will please all collectors whether a beginner or an advanced numismatist : Special court of honour displays provided by the various banks : 42 cases of displays by the Waterloo Coin Society members : Nine competitive display categories : Fine Auction : Ladies Activities (includes a bingo) : Bourse dealers : delegates meeting : Speakers : and film and slide presentations.

A special commemorative medal has been struck in gold, gold-filled, sterling silver, and bronze. The new heraldic O. N. A. design will be on one side and the City of Waterloo Crest on the other.

With all these numismatic goodies awaiting you at this year's show it is easy to see why the collector will be king. A warm invitation to all is extended by O. N. A. President L. T. Smith, and W. C. S. President Mrs. Shirley English to attend. Plan your reservations by contacting Convention Chairman, Mr. J. Shaw, Box 33, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.

Banquet:	Ticket and Admission	\$4.50
General Admission:		50 cents each day.