



THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

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Page 210

1977-1979
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PRODUCTION

OF UNITED STATES PROOF COINS

Old records indicate that during the early days of the United States Mint, in fact, through 1858, specialized pieces designated as "specimen" or "master coins" were made, but in very limited amounts, and distribution was confined to presentations to foreign governments, visiting dignitaries, and important personages in the United States.

The public sale of proof coins as we know them today apparently commenced around 1858, during the tenure of James Ross Snowden, 9th Director of the Mint, and he is given credit for first using the term "proof". Production was maintained at the United States Mint in Philadelphia on a fairly continuous basis until 1964, when the more important demands made by a nation-wide coin shortage caused a temporary suspension of these activities. When the service was resumed, in 1968, the operations were transferred to the U. S. Assay Office in San Francisco, where they remain today.

Following a long-established custom, only those coins currently being manufactured for general circulation are placed in the proof coin sets. In later years, this has included one coin each of the cent, nickel, dime, quarter and half dollar denominations.

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Authorized second class mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa, and for

(United States Proof Sets, cont'd)

Since the coins are San Francisco mintage, they bear the letter "S".

Production. These sets contain pieces made from carefully selected coin blanks that have been highly polished before being fed to the coining presses. The dies, made solely for this purpose, are also highly polished, and are buffed during use. In order to minimize scratches and abrasions, the coins are hand-fed to a slow-moving press. This slower action assures sharper, more even impressions and makes the designs much more distinct. Each coin is struck twice. For the most part, this finish on modern-day proofs is mirror-like. After heat treating, each coinage die has a frosted appearance and texture throughout its entire surface. The field, or background, is then highly polished to a mirror finish. The portrait, and all other design elements in relief, are still frosted. Once in production the action of successive coining tends to polish the portrait; the two-toned effect gradually disappears.

Proof coin manufacture requires the same careful, painstaking finishing operations as do pieces of expensive jewelry. Each coin is reviewed to detect any defects which may have occurred in the manufacturing operations. All condemned or otherwise imperfect coins are melted. None are placed in circulation or made available in any manner.

After the reviewing procedures, the coins are placed individually into a cardboard insert which eventually is encased in clear plastic, sealed ultrasonically to form the proof coin case. These sealed cases are automatically packaged in cardboard containers, and placed in mailing packages, ready for shipment.

(Information made available by the Office
of the Director of the Mint)

Editor's Notebook



Once again it seems necessary to apologize to members - this time for the late mailing of the November issue of the Ontario Numismatist. The blame must be laid at the door of the postal service which took two weeks to deliver a parcel with the pre-addressed mailing envelopes from the Treasurer in Waterloo to the Editor in Toronto.

Well, that cold season is upon us again, and just think of all we have to look forward to: the muttering of drivers seated behind the wheels of their snowbound automobiles; the children avidly building snowmen on front lawns, or offering to shovel your driveway to earn a little spending money; last-minute Christmas shopping; the start of another year which we always hope will be better than the previous one, and which seldom is; probably at least one or two blizzards; and many of those of us who had too many other things to do during the nice weather will be starting to turn up for coin club meetings once more - at least until the Spring arrives.

Yep, it's the start of another Winter and all that it brings with it. Club executives will be starting to plan their Spring coin shows, and other members will be busily thinking of excuses to avoid serving on the show committees. Doesn't it all sound depressingly familiar?

NEW MEMBERS

The applications that appeared in the September issue of the Ontario Numismatist have now been accepted. The following application has been received and if no written objections are received, acceptance will be acknowledged in the January issue of the Ontario Numismatist.

1103 Roger Zabizewski, 9 Ajax Street, Guelph, Ont., N1H 2A9

THOUGHTS ABOUT PARTICIPATION

(The following article appeared in the October, 1978 newsletter of the Kent Coin Club of Dover, Delaware. It is reprinted here because it is my belief that the same basic situation often occurs in coin clubs this side of the border. How many coin club officers continue to serve on their executives year after year, even though they themselves, having done years of yeoman service for the club, would prefer to step down -- simply because there is no member of the club who is willing to step up and offer his or her services? How many members who could make positive contributions to their clubs are just sitting back, content to let somebody else do all the work, while they reap all the benefits of that work? Inertia among the general membership is one of the biggest problems faced by any coin club. What would happen to a club if all the members of its executive decided they wanted a rest and refused to stand for re-election for another term of office - and nobody stepped forward to fill those offices? Those readers who belong to a coin club - DO YOU CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO THE CLUB? You should. Think about it.)

(Editor)

"It is quite obvious that the vast majority of the members of the Kent Coin Club are not at all pleased with the plans and activities being offered by your officers and Board of Governors, as indicated by the lack of attendance or help and assistance offered. This really became apparent when the President of the club...asked for a volunteer to be chairman of the annual banquet committee. Needless to say, not one volunteer stepped forward!

"At one time, this club had an annual Christmas Banquet, but it was decided by the membership that this was a busy time of the year and it was moved back to October and then called our Anniversary Banquet. However, attendance continually dropped off until last year there were only about 37 people who attended an outstanding dinner at the Non-Commissioned Officers Club at Dover Air Force Base. The few who worked hard to put on this affair were not in any way rewarded by the support of the membership.

"Comments could be made concerning the picnic as well. Many people worked hard in getting this annual affair organized to the degree that fun would be had by all who attended, as well as a lot of good food and fellowship. The attendance? About 45, and generally the same ones who come each year!

"It is apparent to your editor that there is a definite lack of support of your officers and board members, who apparently aren't planning the kinds of things that you as members would like to do and participate in! I think it's high time to speak up and tell these people just what you would like to see this club do and the kinds of programs that they should offer you as a dues paying member!!! Come to think of it, HAVE YOU ever volunteered to help out in any project or undertaking of the club? HAVE YOU EVER voiced your opinion or offered suggestions of things or projects that

(Participation, cont'd)

you would like to see done? WHY NOT? Stand up at the next meeting and tell the officers things you'd like to see done and things that you as an individual would support. Speak your piece and then get involved, because I personally believe that you're missing half of the fun that your hobby offers!

"In an earlier newsletter (Vol. 2, No. 2 - Feb., 1976) I reprinted an article that first appeared in the San Diego Numismatic Society's Bulletin and later Coin World. It should probably appear in our newsletter once again.

"Killing you club in 12 easy steps:

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Stay away from meetings. | (8) Oppose all banquets, parties or shindigs as being a waste of the members' money. |
| (2) If you do come, find fault. | (9) If everything is strictly business, complain that all meetings are dull and officers are a bunch of old sticks. |
| (3) Decline office or appointment to any committee. | (10) Never accept a place at the head table. |
| (4) Get sore if you aren't appointed or nominated. | (11) If you're not asked to sit at the head table, threaten to resign because you're not appreciated. |
| (5) After you are named, attend no board or committee meetings. | (12) DON'T RUSH TO PAY YOUR DUES! Let the Directors sweat -after all, they wrote the budget." |
| (6) If you do get to a committee meeting, clam up until it's over. Then sound off on how things should really be done. | |
| (7) Do no club work if you can help it. When the old reliables pitch in, accuse them of being a clique. | |

"Well, what say you? The Board of Governors already knows that the President has appointed a nominating committee to select new and interested candidates for running the club in 1979! The names of the committee will be given out at the October meeting and you will certainly have an opportunity to talk with any one of them as far as being of some help to your club. I'd say it was time to throw the rascals out and get some new blood and ideas pumped into the veins of this club! WHAT SAY YOU? WILL YOU STEP FORWARD?"

(Thanks to the Editor of the Kent Coin Club's newsletter for allowing this article to be reprinted by the Ontario Numismatist)

THE RUSSIAN GOLD MEDAL OF MERIT

(The following short news item appeared in the November issue of the Illustrated London News)

"His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia has conferred upon Mr. Charles Frodsham of the Strand, London, the Grand Gold Medal of Merit (weighing 32 sovereigns), in testimony of the services which he has rendered to Russia by the supply of many accurate chronometers which facilitated and contributed so much to the success of the great Russian survey. Mr. Frodsham possesses, among other medals of merit, the Grand Gold Medal of Honour, awarded to him by the Emperor of the French for the superiority of his manufactures."

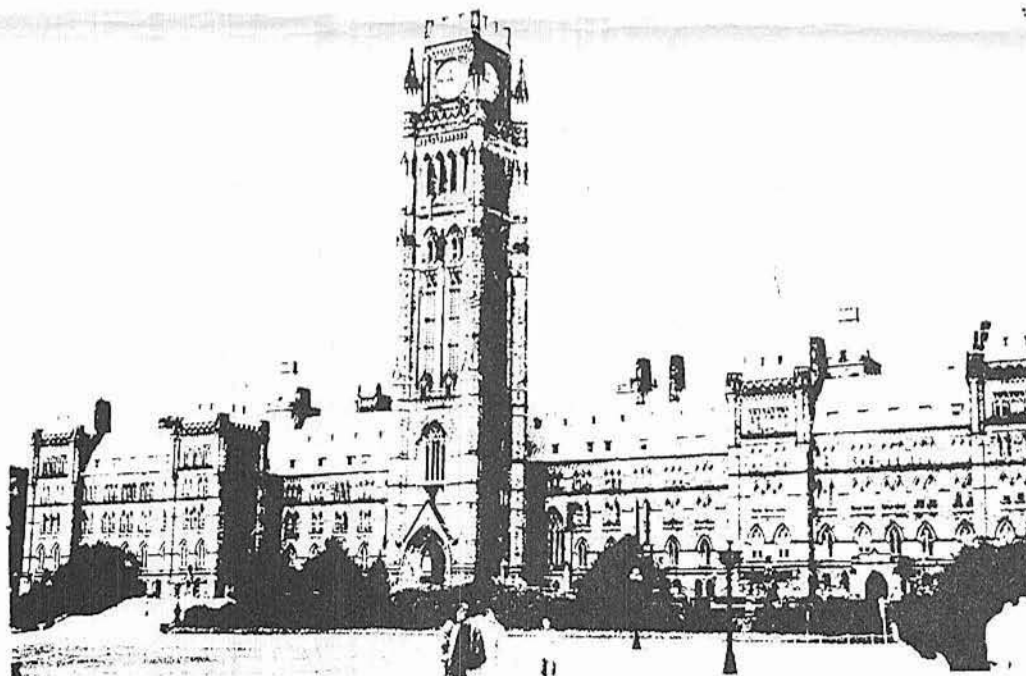


COIN CLUB NEWS

NEWMARKET NUMISMATIC SOCIETY's editor, Gary McKnight, reports that fifteen members and guests turned out for the October meeting. Ray Gregory gave an excellent talk on the 1958 Canadian silver dollar. He also reported on the recent Sarnia coin show. Rod Smith delivered a report on the Pembroke coin show.

The ST. CATHARINES COIN CLUB held their 195th meeting on October 15 at West Park High School, with 47 members and guests in attendance, according to Secretary R. N. Voaden. Past President Gary Oblinsky introduced the speaker, another Past President, Vic Snell. Vic spoke on "The Houses Of Parliament, Ottawa, Depicted On Dominion Of Canada Notes And Coins". He recounted that in 1812 Thomas Fraser bought "The Hill" in Ottawa, along with much other land. In 1823 his son sold it all to Governor General Lord Dalhousie. The Act of Union, in 1840, brought Upper Canada and Lower Canada together in the Province of Canada. The capital originally located at Kingston was moved to Montreal, later alternating every four years between Toronto and Quebec City. In 1857 Queen Victoria decided upon Ottawa as the Capital. The original Houses of Parliament consisting of a central, east, and west block only saw one session of the Province of Canada, Parliament opening on June 6, 1866. The Library was opened May 27, 1876. On February 3, 1916 fire destroyed the centre block, although the Library was saved. The new building, with its beautiful Peace Tower housing the memorial chamber, dedicated to the men and women who

gave their lives in the service of their country, opened in early 1920. From time to time the "Houses of Parliament" have been depicted on Dominion of Canada notes and on coins. Shown at the left is the 'new' central block, with the Peace Tower.



The November meeting was opened by the club President, Hal Siemens, with 63 members and guests in attendance. A letter was received from Ian Dickson, thanking the club for the nice time he had at the recent Coin Show and Banquet. Also, Carl Szick sent a card of appreciation for the club's help of

the Kidney Foundation by selling peanuts. Coin Week Canada certificates were presented to Vic Snell, Pat Lambert, Don Ralph, Doug Andrews and Fred Barley. Guest speaker Vic Potter delivered a very interesting slide presentation of "War Medals".

The club held its annual Coin Show and Banquet on October 28 at Westminster United Church. Members of the show committee were very pleased with the response from the public. There seemed to be a good deal of business being transacted at all the bourse

(Club News, cont'd)

tables. Dealers came from all over Ontario, as well as a dealer from Michigan. Display judges had a hard time judging, as the displays were of a high calibre. Winners of display awards were Ian Dickson, "Selection of Republic and Roman Imperial Coins"; Gordon McComb, "Odd Denominations of Early American Currency"; E.V. Snell, "Centennial \$1.00 Notes of Canada"; E.V. Snell, "The Houses of Parliament"; E.V. Snell, "The Coinage of Greenland"; F. Barley, "Canadian Chartered Bank Notes"; F. Barley, "United States Currency".

Mr. Robert Aaron, noted coin columnist, was the speaker at the banquet. He discussed with the members a most unusual type of mint and the people connected with them. His talk dealt with selected episodes from Canadian criminal cases dealing with counterfeit coins and bills. The discussion started with a clarification of the terms "numismatics", "coin dealers" and "coin collectors" and then centered upon the cases. He noted that many of the cases did not lead to conviction, even though many of the people were possibly guilty, due to a lack of a clear and precise law and lack of court experts who held similar views. One episode Mr. Aaron related was of the conviction of a man who admitted having counterfeit money. The court found him guilty, yet no evidence was produced to substantiate whether the coins were counterfeit or not. The last few minutes of Mr. Aaron's speech highlighted the status of the Hobby Protection Act in Canada.

Secretary R. N. Voaden was presented with a Life Membership in the club by Past President E. V. Snell.

HURONTA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION had a good turnout of members and guests at its October meeting. Cec Sharpe spoke on the good profit made by the club on its Annual Show in September. President Ken Prophet commented on a letter received from Sandford Durst about how the club can make a commission by ordering books for its members. He also asked for volunteers to take over as club Editor at the start of the year. Mario Taurasi was appointed nominations chairman. Wilf Ailles suggested streamlining the club auction. After the business portion of the meeting, Norm Howcroft showed slides of the September show and also some slides from a previous meeting.

INGERSOLL COIN CLUB editor Barbara E. Macnab reports that the club's October 16 meeting saw a number of reports given by those present. Ken Wilmot had on view the new President's Trophy for the Stratford Coin & Stamp Show. Len Coles read a letter from the Ingersoll Recreational Committee informing the club that the meeting room would be renovated in the new year and suggesting that the club give consideration to relocating. He was asked to see if the upstairs room at the Lions Hall was available. Ken Wilmot reported on the Sarnia Coin Club's show. Grant Monck delivered a report on the Empire State Numismatic Association's annual show, held in Binghamton, N. Y.

Grant Monck introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Paul Johnson, the Ontario Director of the Canadian Numismatic Association. Paul's topic for the evening was "Famous Buildings on Medals". The medals he talked about depicted cathedrals, libraries, and legislative buildings in England, France, the Netherlands, and Belgium. He explained how the high relief on each of these medals were protected by a high rim. Some of the medals shown were of St. Paul's Cathedral, York Cathedral, and the Church of St. Martin in Belgium. Each medal had been expertly photographed and was projected on the screen for all present to enjoy. Club President Thomas Masters thanked Paul for coming from Toronto to present such an interesting program.



The club's newsletter also contains much information on "Oddly Shaped Modern Coins", "Animals On Coins", "Thalers", and "Stone Money Of The Pacific".

(Club News, cont'd)

The KENT COIN CLUB of Chatham held its 155th meeting in October at the Chatham Public Library. Twenty members and four guests were present. It was decided that the club would purchase the necessary coins to bring its display up to date. President Lou Wagenaer reported that all members should be aware of a large coin robbery in Sarnia and question anyone trying to sell coins, particularly in large quantities. The slides which were to be shown at this meeting did not arrive on time due to the mail strike. Ted Oulds volunteered to take the post of Coffee Convenor.

THISTLETOWN COIN & STAMP CLUB reports the success of its October 21 show. President Norm Belsten reports that the wooden quarters which did not arrive in time for the show are now available. The price is 25¢ each or five for \$1.00. A stamped self-addressed envelope would be appreciated when ordering. Write to: Norm Belsten, c/o Thistletown Coin & Stamp Club, P. O. Box 1143, Station "B", Weston, Ontario, M9L 2Rg.

RICHMOND HILL COIN CLUB also reports that its new wooden quarters have also arrived and are available from the club at P.O. Box 386, Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4C 4Y6, for 25¢ each or five for \$1.00 and a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

NORTH YORK COIN CLUB reports that its October meeting was chaired by Mr. George Fraser, in the absence of the president. The Richmond Hill Coin Club has invited members of the North York, Thistletown and Scarborough coin clubs to attend a joint Christmas party in the cafeteria of Richmond Hill High School on December 19th. Mr. Edwin Keetch, the President of the Oshawa & District Coin Club invited members to attend the Oshawa coin show on Saturday, November 4th. The club was fortunate in having as its guest speaker Mr. Ray Gregory, the C. N. A. Club Liaison Officer. He explained how local history was made more interesting as he told of his exhibits at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Fort York, Campbell House (at Queen St. & University Ave.), and of his latest exhibit at the museum at Midhurst, Ontario. Mrs. Louise Graham, a Past President of both the North York Coin Club and the C. N. A., gave a short history of the C. N. A. and explained how the duties of the Club Liaison greatly relieved the pressure on the General Secretary of the Association. A slide film on early Canadian tokens was also shown at the meeting. Ken Bunnett gave an excellent narration, with Dan Bowyer operating the projector.

TORONTO COIN CLUB heard a number of short talks at its October 18 meeting at the Royal York Hotel. Stan Clute spoke on ancient coins and early medals that he acquired over the summer at the C. N. A. and A. N. A. conventions, as well as other material, such as a moon-landing medal obtained at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Centre in Houston, Texas. He also displayed a Numismatic Literary Guild medal, stating that it was a valued memento of his acceptance into the Guild. Dan Bowyer displayed a beautiful collection of choice early Canadian medals, also acquired over the summer months during a vacation to London, England where he visited Spink & Son's, Seaby's, and Stanley Gibbons Ltd. They consisted primarily of tokens listed by Breton but since proven never to have circulated in Canada. Ken Bunnett mentioned that during a trip to England he had found that these same firms had virtually no Canadian material. Jack Veffler commented on two Indonesian notes he had brought along to the meeting. One was overprinted by a province in Sumatra and was, he explained, a counterfeit. The other piece was a genuine note for comparison. Club President John Regitko spoke on his acquisition of an original 1878 Industrial Exhibition medal, and commented on his display of C. N. E. medals struck over the years in various metals. He also spoke about his mini-display of Winchester medals, explaining that every Winchester rifle has a medal embedded in its stock, and therefore the number of medals issued coincided with the quantity of rifles manufactured each year. Each year a different design is used on the medals, featuring "old west" themes such as the stagecoach, Wyatt Earp, Wells Fargo, etc.

Keep that CLUB NEWS coming in, folks!!!

speaking of counterfeits...

-- Page 569 of The Gentleman's Magazine for June, 1819 records the following under the heading, "FOREIGN OCCURENCES, France":

"Forged Bank of England notes, to the amount of more than 1500 l. were lately seized in Paris."

-- The Penguin Book of Australian Ballads records the following information about "Frank the Poet", an Australian convict who composed many popular ballads about the life and outlook of "Government men" in that land under the Transportation System:

"Frank is usually held to have been one Francis McNamara, alias Frank Goddard, born in Dublin in 1758 and transported for uttering forged notes in 1819."

A REMINDER:

Applications for membership renewal have been mailed out. The January, 1979 bulletin will be the last you will receive if dues have not been paid.

Show Schedule

- February 17, 1979 - Huronia Numismatic Association's Mini Show, Bayfield Mall, Barrie, Ont. Inquiries to: P. O. Box 243, Barrie, Ont., L4N 4T2.
- March 3, 1979 - North York Coin Club's Annual Show & White Elephant Sale, North York Memorial Community Hall, 5090 Yonge Street, Willowdale, Ont.; information from, P. O. Box 294, Station A, Willowdale, Ont.
- March 9, 10, 11, 1979 - Canadian Association of Numismatic Dealers' Spring convention, Sheraton-Mount Royal Hotel, Montreal, Quebec. Information: A. Bliman, Box 31145, Sta. D, Willowdale, Ont., M2R 3G5
- June 1, 2, 3, 1979 - the 17th Annual ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION convention at the Royal Connaught Hotel, King St. E., Hamilton, Ont. Information: Lou Henderson, 1862 Main St. E., Hamilton, Ont., L8H 1G2.
- July 16 - 21, 1979 - the 26th annual Canadian Numismatic Association convention, Chateau Lacombe, Edmonton, Alta. Information: Box 4111, Edmonton, Alta.

People In The News

PETER FINDLAY, owner of the semi-annual Torex coin and stamp show in Toronto, for having shown considerable thought and initiative in his efforts to improve the show for collector and dealer alike.

ELMER WORKMAN, of Cannington, Ontario, for travelling halfway across Ontario to judge displays at Stratford Coin Club's show in October. That's real dedication.

(People, cont'd)

KEITH SEVERS, also of Cannington, for having won Best Of Show at the Oshawa & District Coin Club's annual show on November 4th. 16-year-old Keith is starting to give us "old stand-bys" some real competition with his display.

NUMISMATICS- EIGHTEENTH CENTURY STYLE!

(The following article appeared in an edition of the Gentleman's Magazine in the eighteenth century. In this reprinted version, certain grammatical differences have been "modernized"; i.e. the tendency to use "F"s in certain places, rather than "S"s as we do nowadays. For example, "instance" would have been written as "inftance". It might also be noted that the address, "Mr. Urban" - the founder and publisher of the magazine was Sylvanus Urban - is roughly equivalent in our terms of saying "Dear Editor".)

"Mr. Urban,

The practice of straining indifferent things into compliments, or occasions of compliment to their king, so remarkable in French writers, and evident even in Voltaire is so very flagrant in the following instance, that I send it for the gratification of your English readers.

T.B.

ON A DUTCH MEDAL

"Upon the Prince of Orange's journey to England, and suddenly marrying the niece of Charles II, his majesty agreed to join the Dutch in order to oblige the French to a peace, and Sir Wm. Temple tells us, that Lord Lucas was sent from London to Paris, to demand an answer in two days.

"The French court seemed surprised both at the thing and manner, but made good mien of it, and said that the King of England knew very well he might be master of the peace; but some of the towns in Flanders (which were all to be restored) were hard to part with, especially Tournay, on the fortification of which such vast treasures had been expended; and Lord Lucas returned with this humble answer: that his most christian king hoped that his brother would not break with him for a town or two."

"In short the peace was concluded at Nimeguen, as it were sword in hand, (the Prince of Orange attacked the French army about the same time with good success) as much to the satisfaction of France, as of other parties. To commemorate this event, the Dutch struck a medal, of which the following account was published in a French Gazette.

"The States General of the United Provinces, thoroughly affected with the joy occasioned by the peace, which our great and invincible monarch hath just given them, to furnish a publick and everlasting monument for him, have caused to be struck a medal, which is put in the king's cabinet among the curiosities there. A sprig of the flower de lis is inclosed in the same chaplet with seven arrows, which are the symbol of the 7 United Provinces; and Quis Separabit (Who Shall Separate?) which is the import of the emblem, is as a defiance to the whole world, or rather a public testimony given by them of the inviolable fidelity with which they will be for the future attached to France, whose alliance and protection have always been advantageous to them."



(18th century, cont'd)

"The Inscription,

"Conjungunt sua tela Leo, sua lilia Gallus,

"(meaning) 'The Lion (or Holland) joins his darts, the Cock (or French man) his lilies' is of a piece with the monkish expression of the date of the year on the reverse, which has the following words incircled with a wreath,

'A DOMI-
NO VENT-
ENS POPV-
LIS PAX
LAETA RE-
FULGET.'

"'Peace coming from the lord, shines joyfully on the people', M, DLL, LXVV, VTTT (1678)."

ANOTHER RARE UNITED STATES COIN

Bowers & Ruddy Galleries, an American coin dealership, has announced the acquisition of another rare United States coin. In fact, if you have a spare \$225,000 U. S. currency in your desk drawer, you might like to own this coin, which is being offered for sale at that price.

The coin is one of just two known specimens of the 1873 Carson City quarter without arrows at the date. This coin, in B.U. condition was once part of the James Stack estate.

Although U. S. Mint records indicate that 4,000 specimens of the 1873 CC quarter without arrows were struck, apparently no specimens ever reached circulation. In early 1873 the authorized weight of the quarter was 6.22 grams. The 4,000 1873 CC quarters were struck in this format. Then the authorized weight was increased slightly to 6.25 grams, and arrows were added at the date of all subsequent pieces to indicate this change. Apparently the 4,000 pieces on hand went to the melting pot to be converted to silver for recoinage to pieces of the new 6.25 gram standard. The two Uncirculated pieces known were probably set aside for inspection or assay.



The rarity of the 1873-CC quarter dollar places it in the forefront of American rarities, alongside such pieces as the 1822 half eagle, of which three specimens are known, two being in the Smithsonian Institution.

If you would like to see what the 1873 quarter with arrows at the date looks like, see the article illustration on the front page of this issue.