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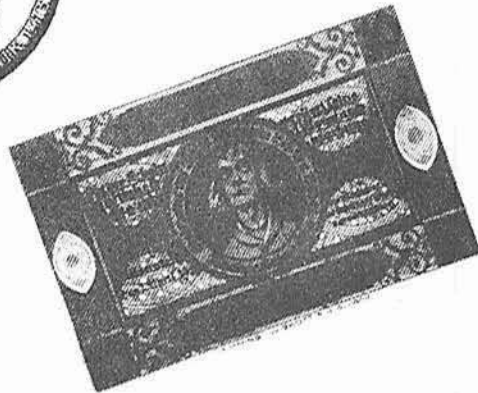
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POLISH NICOLAUS COPERNICUS

by Tom Kostaluk

THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST is published by the Ontario Numismatic Association. The publication can be obtained with membership in one of the following categories: Regular Membership \$5.00 annually, Husband and Wife (one journal) \$7.00 annually, Junior (up to 18) \$3.00 annually, Club Membership \$10.00 annually. Life Memberships available for \$50.00 after 3 years of regular membership.

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Five centuries ago a man was born who defied the evidence of the senses and proved that the earth is not the centre of the universe and that it moves around the sun with all other planets. This was a revolution in thought and a lesson in humility without parallel in the history of mankind, relegating man to a more humble position. Thus the earth was demoted from its central place of importance and the door was opened to the greater universe.

COPERNICUS AND HIS WORLD

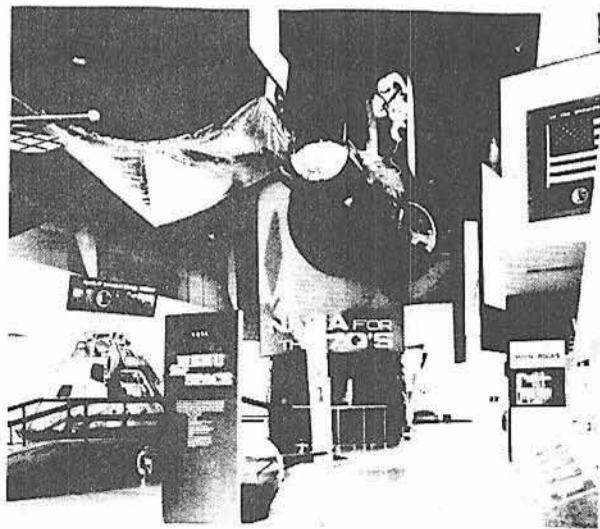
Mikolaj Kopernik, best known by his Latinized name Nicolaus Copernicus, lived at a time when the mediaeval world was beginning to disintegrate and when across Europe could be felt the first breeze of the new currents and ideas of the Renaissance. The son of a merchant, he was born in the city of Torun in Poland in 1473. At the University of Cracow, then famous for its mathematics and astronomy, he discovered several contradictions in the system then used for calculating the movements of celestial bodies. Continuing his studies at the University of Bologna in Italy, he advanced the theory that the moon was a satellite of the earth. He studied law and medicine at Padua and took a doctorate in Canon or Church Law at Ferrara, also in Italy. As an official of the Cathedral of Frombork (Frauenburg) in Northern Poland, he led a busy administrative life which included the organization of armed resistance against provocations by neighbouring Teutonic knights. At the same time he continued his astronomical studies and arrived at the conclusion that the earth was in orbit around the sun, a somewhat frightening idea because it ran counter to the prejudice of the age which held that the earth was the centre of the universe. After countless observations, he proved a theory in a paper which he circulated only among friends.

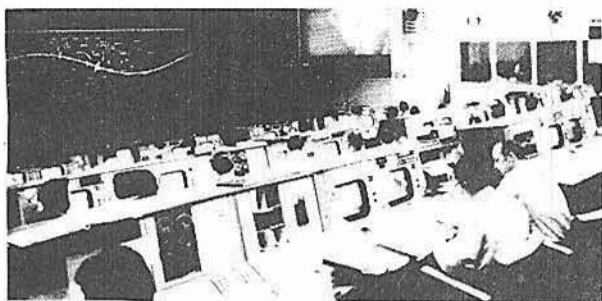


MAN'S CONQUEST OF SPACE

The heliocentric celestial system established by the founder of modern astronomy, Nicolaus Copernicus, led man to the answers of some fundamental questions concerning space, stars and interstellar matter. In the next centuries, astronomers and scientists in different countries developed these basic facts into a complex space science and devised a series of instruments to probe the secrets of space.

This evolution of space technology was culminated by the United States' Apollo project, which fulfilled man's long dream to conquer space, and landed the first man on the moon on Sunday, July 20, 1969 at 4:18 P.M., Cape Kennedy time. On Monday, August 21, 1972, the heaviest and most complex U. S. unmanned space orbiting astronomical observatory was launched from the Kennedy Space Center. After orbit was achieved, the observatory was named "Copernicus" in honour of the 500th Anniversary of his birth. The orbiting astronomical observatory, one of the oldest N.A.S.A. programs, was begun in 1959. The first O.A.O. was launched April 8, 1966. The second O.A.O. was launched December 7, 1968 and has operated continuously since then, far beyond its expected lifetime. The third observatory was launched November 30, 1970 and was





designed to conduct astronomical and astrophysical research of Ultraviolet Emissions. The fourth and final in the series was named by N.A.S.A. - Copernicus, in honour of the Polish astronomer who is recognized as the "Father of Modern Astronomy". In its orbit 460 miles above earth, the huge 4,900 pound automated space craft will view the heavens with a precision and clarity never before possible. It is capable of pointing its

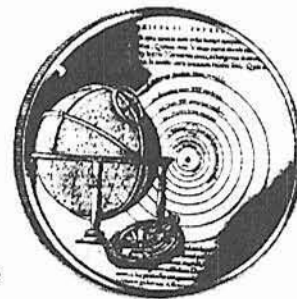
sensitive ultraviolet telescope at an object about the size of a volleyball seen from a distance of 400 miles for periods of up to one hour. Its primary objectives will be to study the interstellar absorption of hydrogen, oxygen, carbon, silicon and other common elements in the interstellar gas, and to investigate ultraviolet radiation emitted from so-called young hot stars in wavelength regions between 930 and 3,000 angstroms. Its principal viewing device is a 32 inch diameter reflecting telescope housed in the central tube of the 10-foot long cylinder-shaped spacecraft. It will provide, via radio signal, data in the form of ultraviolet spectral readings. This region of the electromagnetic spectrum is invisible to ground-based observatories because of the obscuring effect of the earth's atmosphere. The second instrument carried by "Copernicus" was provided by England's University College, London. It consists of three small telescopes and a collimated proportional counter to study X-ray sources in space at various wavelengths up to 70 angstroms.

Further observation and experiment revealed to Copernicus that the mechanism of celestial motions was even more complicated than he had first thought. He discovered, for example, that the orbit of the earth around the sun had a variable eccentricity.

THE COPERNICUS TRAIL

In 1515, he began writing his great work, De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium. He did not dare to publish his findings immediately, being, as he wrote, "afraid of contempt brought about by the novelty and inconceivableness" of his theory. But eventually he did publish the book, dedicating it to Pope Paul III. He died on May 24, 1543, a few hours after the arrival of the first printed copy of De Revolutionibus at his home in Frombork.

He drew up, together with his Cracovian friend, Wapowski, one of the first maps of Poland. When sea voyages became more frequent after the discovery of America, mariners needed more precise astronomical data and more accurate information than that contained in the old, defective Julian calendar. On the invitation of the Lateran Council, extended to astronomers in 1513, Copernicus drew up new astronomical tables based on his heliocentric concept and submitted them before 1516. They were used to a considerable extent for the new Gregorian calendar (of Pope Gregory XIII), which was introduced toward the end of the 16th century and which still regulates our life today.



Copernicus also made an important contribution to Economics and our knowledge of monetary laws. As an administrator of the extensive capitular province of Warmia, he had to deal with the economic affairs of the country. Owing to war and destruction, a disastrous inflation took place in Pomerania. The Prussian towns had the right to mint money and, when in financial difficulties, or sometimes for purposes of speculation, they minted coins with less and less silver, debasing the money and

introducing chaos into the market, which undermined the economy of the country. Copernicus considered this problem of debased currency and noted that when bad money is in circulation with good money, the bad regulates the overall value and drives out the good. This is the Law of Bad Money which Copernicus formulated with clarity thirty-two years before it was devised by Gresham and became known as Gresham's Law. Yet it is so up-to-date that the opening paragraph might as effectively be dealing with social and economic troubles of the mid-twentieth century as with those of the early sixteenth century.

INFLATION

Though Copernicus did not use the word "inflation", he realized its meaning and described the consequences. The monetary situation was a key problem for the Polish State. Copernicus often served as advisor to the Polish court on economic and fiscal problems, as well as on matters of the home market and foreign trade. Taking part in regional assemblies of the Warmian chapter at the request of the ruling bishop, he worked out a plan of reforms for the currency of Warmia and the neighbouring provinces. He wrote, among other works, a Treatise "on money" (Monetae Cudendas Ratio), in which he advanced the principle of uniform currency for the entire Polish commonwealth. In this he saw a means for improving the welfare of the people, which was his constant concern. This was the idea of centralization of state power and closer economic union with Poland. In the Diet of Piotrkow (1526-1528) uniform coinage for all Poland and Lithuania was introduced in conformity with the proposal of Copernicus.



Suggested by Copernicus and adopted by King Sigismund I of Poland was this gold ducat, 21.2 millimeters, 3.5 grams.

Copernicus was not only one of the greatest astronomers of all time, but also a man of highly original mind. A scientist, by God's gift; a churchman, by the wish of his guardian uncle; a physician by training by the predilection; an economist, statesman and soldier, by necessity; and besides, he was a man skilled in the technical sciences, mechanics, surveying, etc.

The significance of his economic works puts Copernicus among the ranks of the prominent socio-political thinkers of the European Renaissance.

NEW MEMBERS

The applications published in the January issue of the Ontario Numismatist have been accepted.

CORRECTION: The membership number assigned to the Canadian Large Cents Club in the January issue should read C-85, not C-82.

The following applications for membership have been received and if no written objections are received, acceptance will be acknowledged in the May issue of the Ontario Numismatist.

J-1105-Rick Roylance, 64 Yonge St. S., Aurora, Ont., L4G 1M2

1106 -W. Roy Johnston, 1395 Metz Cres., Ottawa, Ont., K1K 3Z7

J-1107-Richie Zabiuk, 24 Long Hill Dr., Richmond Hill, Ont., L4C 4X7

CLUB NEWS

- ** The February meeting of the BRANTFORD NUMISMATIC SOCIETY drew 39 members and guests, with three guests signing up for membership. The highlight of the evening was an O.N.A. slide set on Large One Cent Pieces, along with Walter Griggs' Canadiana Quiz. Both presentations were enjoyed by everyone present.

The Brantford Numismatic Society will again take part in the Canada Week - Brantford holiday celebration, June 25 - July 1, with other groups in the City of Brantford. Ted Donald is the Chairman representing the City. The club will hold a coin show on June 24 at the Brantford and District Civic Centre, South Market St. Bourse tables will cost \$20.00 each (tables measure 2'6" x 8'), the same as the club's last show in 1977. Dealers should book their tables early, with payment. For further details interested parties should write the club Secretary, John Barchino, P.O. Box 953, Brantford, Ont., N3T 5S1

- ** The 131st meeting of the CITY OF OTTAWA COIN CLUB was held in the War Museum on February 26, with 32 members and 8 guests in attendance. The President advised that the City of Ottawa had inquired about acquiring 100 uniface Colonel By medallions. Len Fletcher reported on the stock of medallions still held by the club and speculated on the use of them by the city. He advised that the original dies had been rendered useless for further production in accordance with an agreement with the C.N.A. As the club still had an adequate supply of medallions on hand, Len undertook to look into the matter and report at the next meeting on the possibilities of filling the city's request.

The President advised that Johnny Johnston had volunteered to act as Chairman for the O.N.A. Coin Show and Convention in 1980. Ruth McQuade reported on the theme and objectives of Coin Week Canada. Ruth was asked by the President to act as the Club's C.N.A. representative, which office she graciously accepted.

After a short break, Wayne Houghton, Treasurer of the club and an accountant by profession, presented a very informative talk on "Your Coin Collection and the Taxman" which dealt with the effects of 1971 changes in the Tax Act on the professional and amateur numismatist.

- ** The February 15 meeting of the HURONIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION saw a large turnout of members and guests. Lorraine Acker, the club's Bowl For Millions nominee raised \$95.00 for this worthy cause. The club's February Mini-show was reported a success. The competitive display winners were: Junior - 1st Gary McKnight of Newmarket, 2nd Michael Roberts of Barrie, 3rd Judy Horan of Barrie; Canadian - 1st Rick Roylance of Aurora; World Coins - 1st Alma Gage of Guthrie; World Paper - 1st Lorraine Acker of Barrie; Tokens & Medals - 1st Alma Gage of Guthrie; Topical - 1st Norm Howcroft of Barrie, 2nd Ken Prophet of Barrie; Miscellaneous - 1st Noreen Howcroft of Barrie, 2nd Tom Ivison of Angus; Best of Show - Junior Category - Gary McKnight; Best of Show - Senior - Noreen Howcroft.

Plans are now under way for the club's Annual Show in September.

- ** INGERSOLL COIN CLUB met on February 19 in the Lions Hall. Glen Zavitz was appointed the club's delegate to the O.N.A. Convention, while Grant Monck volunteered to represent the club at the C.N.A. Convention in Edmonton in July. The club's Vice-president, Mrs. Stella Hodge, was the speaker for the meeting. Her topic, "The Saga of the U.S. Dollar", brought out many interesting facts about this coin which was first minted in 1794 with 1,758 coins being struck; in 1795, 203,033 pieces rolled off the coin presses.



Club News, cont'd

Club Editor Barbara Macnab, who has been in the hospital, is now back at home. Best Wishes for a speedy recovery, Barbara. It's people like you, who give selflessly of your free time, who are the backbone of this hobby.

**At the February meeting of the KENT COIN CLUB at the Chatham Public Library, the club voted to nominate Paul Johnson for the office of Second Vice-president of the Canadian Numismatic Association. President Lou Wagenaer reported that the club will have a booth again this year at Chatham Place Mall, to promote the upcoming club show and sell raffle tickets, on April 5, 6 & 7.

**The February meeting of the NORTH YORK COIN CLUB heard a report from President Fred Jewett on the first meeting of the Coin Week Canada Toronto Committee held February 22, at the home of Jack Veffer. The club voted to donate \$25.00 to help defray the expenses of the committee. The speaker for the evening was Mr. Paul Johnson, who gave an excellent talk on Icelandic Currency, illustrated with slides. He was highly commended by the President and his talk was enjoyed by all. The club voted to nominate Paul for the Second Vice-presidency of the C.N.A. The club was happy to welcome Mr. Brian Chinn, President of the Pointe Claire Coin Club as a guest. Mr. Chinn has recently moved to the Toronto area.



The club's Annual Coin Show and White Elephant Sale was reported to be very successful. In the exhibits, Terry Campbell took First place with a display of 1953 New Zealand proof sets. George Fraser won Second place with a Canadian paper money exhibit. Mrs. May Bunnett won Third for her display of British Commonwealth Jubilee coins of 1977. The Peoples Choice Award went to George Fraser's paper money exhibit.

**The February meeting of the ORILLIA CHAMPLAIN COIN CLUB heard a very interesting guest speaker, Mr. Stewart Cobbe, the very likeable and pleasant manager of the Municipal Savings in Orillia, who gave a talk on "Irish History Through Coinage". He brought with him a fair-sized collection of Irish coins and sets, both new and old.

**The RICHMOND HILL COIN CLUB taped a "mini-series" of four shows for local cable television during March. All four shows were hosted by C.F.G.M. Radio personality Ron Knight. Paul Johnson and Aubrey Leslie were featured on one show, Richie Zabiuk (the club's Junior Director) and Norm Belsten on another, Tom Bailey, George Fraser, Myer Price and Ted Merner on the third, while Bob Porter and Stan Clute appeared on the last program in the series, along with some footage of the club's meeting. This is part of the club's Coin Week Canada effort. Thanks were extended to Treasurer Frank Gallant for arranging the taping.

Guest speaker at the club's March meeting was Paul Johnson, who delivered a very enjoyable and informative presentation on "Collecting Numismatic Literature".

**The February 18 meeting of the ST. CATHARINES COIN CLUB saw an attendance of sixty people. Past President Vic Snell introduced the guest speaker for the meeting, another Past President, Pat Lambert, who gave an interesting talk on "Specimen Paper Money".

At the March meeting of the club, Vice-president Doug Andrews gave an interesting commentary on the Ontario Numismatic Association slides entitled "Provincial Coins of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island".

(Club News, cont'd)

- ** The March 12 meeting of the STRATFORD COIN CLUB was to see an O.N.A. slide set on grading coins. To augment the program, Frank Smith was expected to bring a number of coins shown on the slides, to give everyone a chance to grade the coins and then discuss the results.
- ** On Tuesday, March 13, the THISTLETOWN COIN & STAMP CLUB celebrated its fifteenth anniversary. A specially ordered birthday cake was on hand for the occasion. The club bulletin reports that three new members have been accepted into the club.
- ** The February meeting of the TORONTO COIN CLUB saw the awarding, by the club, of a certificate and specially engraved medal to Major Sheldon S. Carroll for his article "The Man Who Stole Portugal" in the club's bulletin for 1978. Brian Chinn, President of the Lakeshore Coin Club of Pointe Claire, Quebec, and who has recently moved to Toronto, was introduced. The presentation for the evening was a presentation by May and Ken Bunnett on the works of the famous husband-and-wife team of Emanuel Hahn and Elizabeth Wyn Wood. Their presentation covered background on the pair, slides of their sculptures at various locations around Canada and in museums, slides of the coins and medals designed by them and photographs of some of their works, and slides of Emanuel Hahn's stamp designs. Others in the audience joined in with anecdotes of their remembrances of the pair. Also shown was a twenty-five minute film, "The Story of a Sculptor", which featured Emanuel Hahn and his work, as well as a glimpse of Elizabeth Wyn Wood and her works.



- ** The thirty members and guests in attendance at the February 20th meeting of the WATERLOO COIN SOCIETY were treated to a very informative and interesting presentation on counterfeiting by Jim Metcalfe of the Waterloo Regional Police. The talk was supported by a large number of items which enabled people to see what a counterfeit bill looks like and how it can be identified. The presentation was followed by a lively question period.
- ** The March 6 LONDON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY meeting heard a lively discussion on the \$50 gold bullion coin which the Canadian government plans to introduce as a trade coin to compete with the South African krugerrand on the world gold market. The speaker for the meeting, Graham Esler, spoke on the "Historical Concepts of Roman Coinage". As background for the talk, he outlined the three periods of Roman history as First Period, 753-510 B.C. (the Monarchy); Second Period, 510-31 B.C. (the Republic); Third Period, 31 B.C.-453 A.D. (the Empire). He had chosen a period of some 200 years during which the Roman Republic issued coins. The talk was illustrated by a number of superb slides from the American Numismatic Society series on Roman coins. Graham concluded his talk with a discussion of a number of coins from the period of his talk.

OBITUARY

We are very sorry to have learned of the passing of Mrs. Don Robb of Waterloo. Mrs. Robb will be greatly missed by all her many friends in the numismatic fraternity. The Ontario Numismatic Association extends heartfelt sympathies to Don and the family.

Editor's Notebook



As you read this edition of the Ontario Numismatist, you may notice that it is written with a different type-face than that which has been used for all the previous issues (with the providential exception of the February issue) since I took over the editorship in October. The reason for this is simple and easily explained. About a month ago, my old Smith-Corona portable succumbed to the strain of typing each issue of the Ontario Numismatist and, as the master copy for the March issue was trundled off to the printer, the poor, overworked machine uttered a loud groan, then rolled over and died. The funeral service was brief but sad, as we laid to rest in my basement a dutiful old workhorse which had faithfully tapped out over a hundred columns for Canadian Coin News, dozens of original articles and, of course, the Ontario Numismatist, not to mention copious volumes of personal correspondence. Many were the evenings it unstintingly worked well past midnight, helping me bash out the necessary pages, night after night... Ah, well, Requiescat In Pace.

I would like to take this opportunity to express thanks to Mr. Tom Kostaluk of London, Ontario, for sending in this month's lead article. It is to be hoped that Tom's example will encourage other O.N.A. members to submit papers for publication.

CONVENTION

The 17th Annual Convention of the Ontario Numismatic Association will be held on June 1, 2 & 3 at the Royal Connaught Hotel, in Hamilton. The show will be hosted by the Hamilton Coin Club. The Convention Committee is as follows:

Chairman.....	Lou Henderson
Bourse Chairman.....	Lou Henderson
Treasurer.....	Ken Palmer
Security.....	Ken Lord
Programme.....	Terry MacHugh
Secretary.....	Alan Hunter
Registration.....	W. E. P. Lambert
Publicity.....	R. N. Voaden
Display Chairman.....	John Lawson

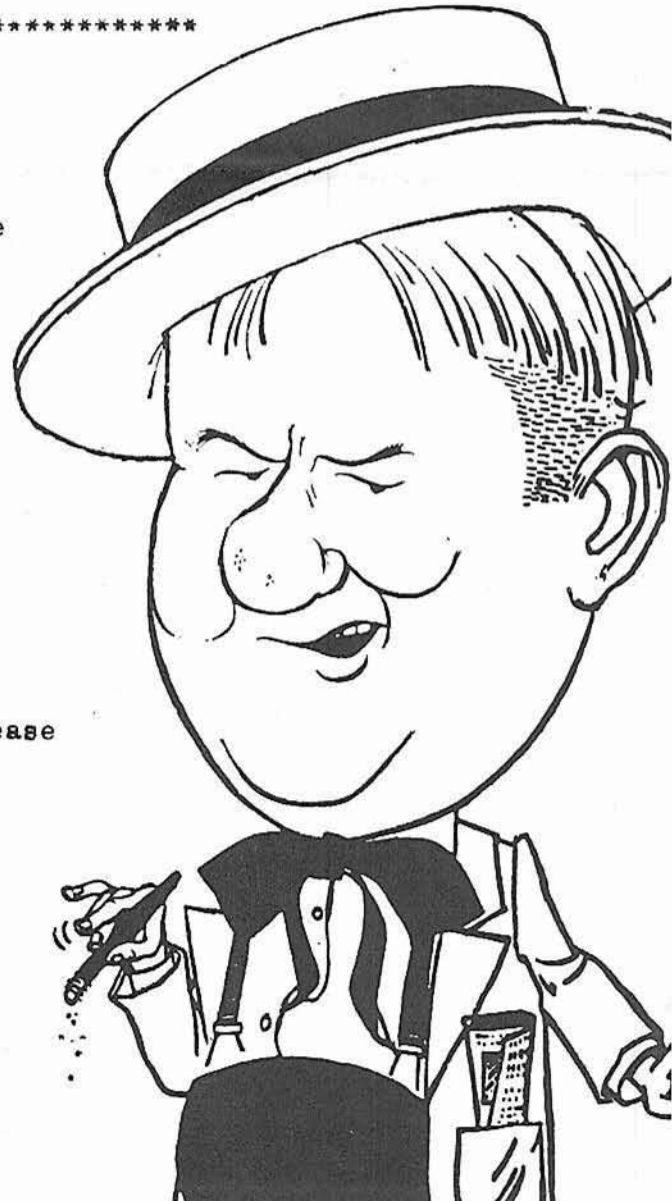
For information in regards to the show, please write to:-

Lou Henderson,
1861 Main St. E.,
Hamilton, Ontario,
L8H 1G2

or phone (416) 549-8065

People wishing to register DISPLAYS or who wish information on displays, please write to:-

John Lawson,
301 Frances St.,
Suite 703,
Stoney Creek, Ontario,
L6P 2W6





Or phone (416) 662-1323.

A wine and cheese party will take place on Friday, June 1 from 9:00 to 11:00 P.M. The price will be \$5.50 per person, which will include 3 free tickets. This is a splendid way in which to start a convention, as it gives collectors and dealers a chance to gather and renew friendships.

On Saturday, June 2 there will be a tour through Andres Wines of Winona, Ontario. Price: \$3.00 per person. The tour will be followed by a wine and cheese party at the winery.

Another feature of the convention is a grading seminar by J. E. Charlton, President of the Canadian Numismatic Association. There will be a free admission to this seminar.

A tour of the Royal Botanical Gardens will take place at 1:00 P.M. on the Friday. The main features of this tour will be the Rose Garden, Rock Gardens, and the Nature Centre. Cost: \$3.00 per person. An alternative trip will be a tour of the City of Hamilton.

The price of the banquet dinner will be \$12.50 per person. The dinner will be a hot and cold buffet. So far no guest speaker has been announced. The banquet is always one of the high points of an O.N.A. Convention and this should be, also,

Bourse dealers interested in using security will be interested to know that security starts at 7:30 P.M. on Thursday, May 31. Exhibitors are also welcome to use the security service.

Mr. Stephen R. Taylor of Dover, Delaware, U.S.A., will conduct a Display Seminar on the 2nd of June at 11:00 A.M.

The price of the Club Delegates Breakfast will be \$4.50 per person.

Here is an update on the appearance of Liberace at Hamilton Place. There will be a show on Thursday, May 31 at 8:00 P.M. On Saturday, June 2, there will be two shows instead of one, at 6:00 P.M. and at 10:30 P.M. NO 8:00 P.M. SHOW. There is also a price change for the Sunday matinee. Tickets will cost \$7.50 instead of \$8.50. Tickets are going fast. If interested, contact Mr. Terry MacHugh, Programme Chairman, at 66 Erie Ave. South, Hamilton, Ontario, L8N 2W6.

Tentative plans are also underway for a Seminar on Ancient Coins by Stanley Clute, a grading seminar on Paper Money, and a meeting of the Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors, so hopefully, there should be something for everyone at the convention.

Anyone interested in the seminars should contact Mr. MacHugh at the address given above. All seminars will be restricted to a maximum of fifty persons.



Show Schedule

April 15 - 21: Coin Week Canada, sponsored by the Canadian Numismatic Association. This is the hobby's one real yearly outward thrust to reach the non-collecting public across Canada. Are you doing your part???

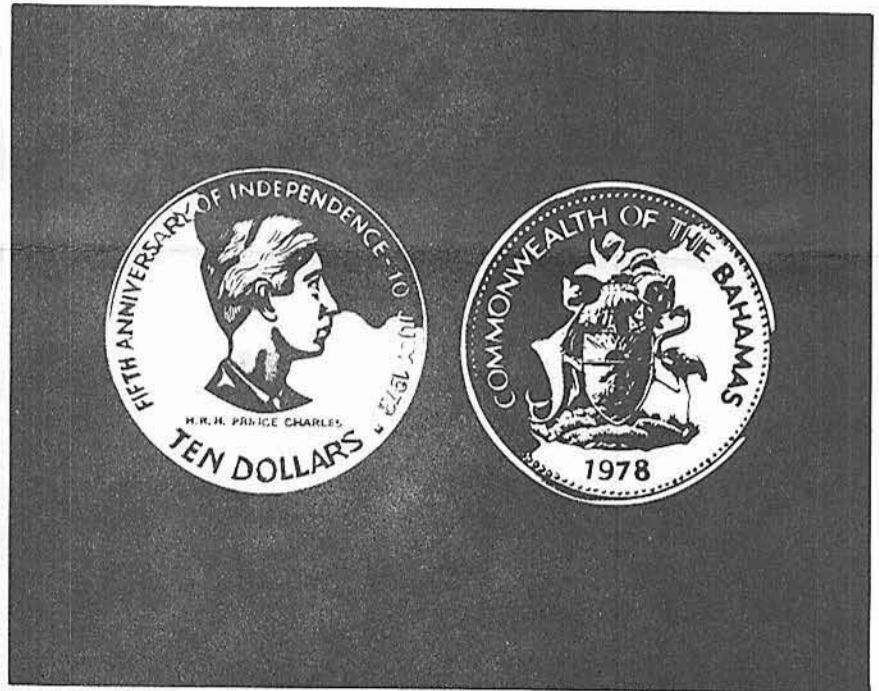
April 22: Kent Coin Club's annual coin show, Wheels Motor Inn, Chatham, Ont. Information from Kent Coin Club, P. O. Box 95, Chatham, Ont., N7M 5K1. This is one of the best local club shows in Ontario, sure to be enjoyed by all.

April 26 -29: Spring Torex '79, Sheraton Centre, 123 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario. Admission \$1.00. Information: Peter Findlay, P.O. Box 28, King City, Ont., or Al Bliman. P. O. Box 3145, Station D, Willowdale.

- June 1 - 3: 17th Annual Ontario Numismatic Association Convention, Royal Connaught Hotel, King Street E., Hamilton, Ont. Information: Lou Henderson, 1861 Main St. E., Hamilton, Ont., L8H 1G2; Display Information: John Lawson, 301 Frances St., Suite 703, Stoney Creek, Ontario, L8E 3W6.
- June 24: Brantford Numismatic Society's "Canada Week - Brantford" Coin Show, at Brantford Civic Centre Auditorium, Market Street South, 9:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. **Displays - Dealers - Draws** Information: Brantford Numismatic Society, P. O. Box 953, Brantford, Ontario. Free Admission.
- July 16 - 21: Canadian Numismatic Association's Annual Convention, Chateau Lacombe, Edmonton, Alta., Information: Box 4111, Edmonton, Alta.

Silver Coin Commemorating Bahamas Fifth Anniversary

The Central Bank of the Bahamas has announced that it has commissioned the Royal Mint of London, England to strike the 1978 Bahamas \$10 "Prince Charles" coin. This silver coin commemorates the fifth anniversary of Bahamian independence. Coins of the same design & denomination have also been struck at Valcambi, S.A. of Switzerland, but the Royal Mint version will be distinguishable by the famous Tower mintmark on the obverse. The minting of this coin marks the first time that a coin bearing the likeness of Prince Charles has been struck by the Royal Mint of London.



The obverse design features a portrait of His Royal Highness Prince Charles. The coin was designed in 1978 for the Bahamas' fifth anniversary of independence. It is the first coin ever to show any hair apparent to the British throne prior to his becoming monarch.

The \$10 silver coin featuring the Prince measures 50 mm in diameter, weighs 700 grains and is composed of .500 fine silver. The coin's obverse bears the legend, "Fifth Anniversary of Independence 10 July 1978", and the denomination. The reverse features the Bahamian coat of arms and the date.

The coin is available in proof condition for \$39, plus \$2 postage & handling. It may also be purchased as part of a special two-coin proof set, which also contains the coin's counterpart struck in Switzerland (see above) for \$75 plus \$2 postage & handling. Collectors are limited to two individual coins or two proof sets. Inquiries (and orders) should be directed to Paramount Numismatics Ltd., 1723 St. Laurent Blvd., Ottawa, Ont., K1G 3V4.
