



THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

ISSN 0048-1815

Volume 19

December, 1980

Page 162

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

We're ringing out how glad we are to have you as our friends and we extend our sincere good wishes for a very merry Christmas to you and your family. It's been a pleasure serving you.

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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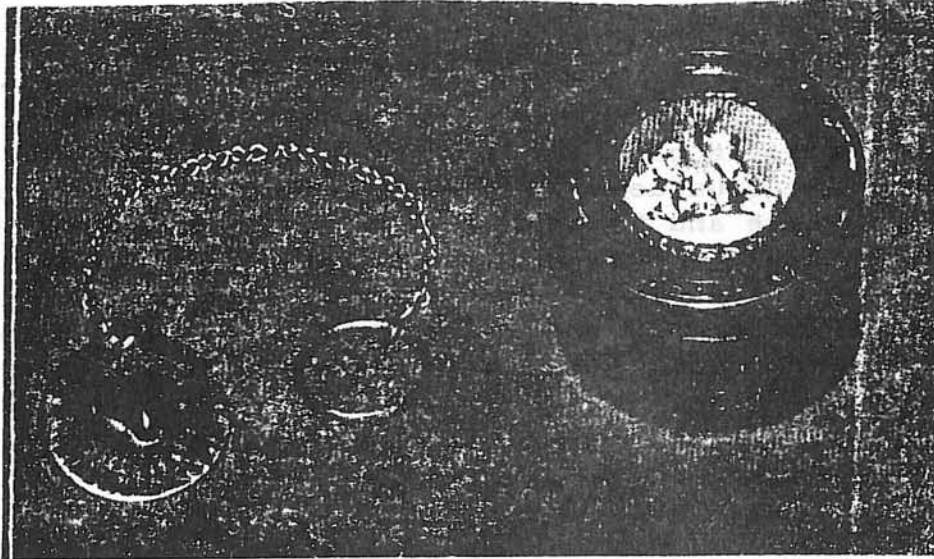
To All O.N.A. Members
and
Friends

*At this holy season,
may your heart be filled
with the blessings
of God's grace
and the fullness of His love.*

Merry Christmas



Bruce R. Watt and Family
President



Tom Scott

The Lee Penny, cherished heirloom of the Lockharts of Lee and the gold snuff box in which it is kept. The box was a present from Marie Therese, Hapsburg Empress of Austria, to General James Lockhart in 1789.

THE LEE PENNY

"Worth more than silver and gold"

CARL MacDOUGALL

The Scots Magazine.

EDITED BY BRUCE R. WATT

For a time, when I was at school, I carried a white pebble I'd found on a beach somewhere. I suppose I used it as a good luck charm, for I remember holding it while being belted, thinking it would soften the blow. Around this time I was entranced by Sir Walter Scott's pseudo-mediaeval novel *THE TALISMAN*. I don't know what happened to my stone, I suppose my mother threw it out, and I didn't remember a thing about it till recently.

Stones are well established in folklore and as such come in all shapes and sizes. Folklorists have filled many pages recording and analysing the whys and wherefores of stone myths, but of the most fascinating I've heard of is the LEE PENNY. For one thing it furnished Scott with the idea for *THE TALISMAN*.

In his introduction to the novel, Scott records the incident which suggested its title. It starts with Robert the Bruce's death in 1329. Since murdering the Red Comyn on consecrated ground, Bruce had been anxious to visit the Holy Land but a troubled reign kept in Scotland. He had asked his friend Lord James of Douglas to take his heart to the Holy Land. Douglas carried the heart in a silver casket and his friend Sir Symon Locard of Lee carried the casket's key.

Though it seems strange now, most Crusading routes to the Holy Land passed through Spain, which seems to have been in permanent battle with the Moors throughout the Middle Ages. The Crusaders offered their services to Alphonso, King of Castile and Leon, at the battle of Tiba, where the Saracens were led by Osmyn, Governor of Granada. Tradition has it that there was a misunderstanding in the orders, hardly surprising in the circumstances, and that the Scots charged prematurely. Douglas soon found himself in a tight corner and when he went to the aid of Sir John St Clair, was surrounded by the enemy without hope of escape. He threw Bruce's heart in its silver casket in front of him, saying, "Now pass on, as ever was thy wont in life, first in the fight, and Douglas will follow thee or die." Douglas did follow and he did die.



He threw Bruce's heart in front of him . . .

The heart was recovered, that much is certain, but there is some confusion about the rest. The leaderless Scots, according to Barbour in *THE Brus*, elected William Kieth of Calston to lead them to the Holy Land, but they didn't go there. Scott says they did, but in fact they came back to Scotland and buried the heart at Melrose Abbey.

Sir Symon Locard does not appear to have changed his name when he returned from Spain. In a deed dated 1339 he still signs his name "Locard." A change was affected some time after this when the family became known as Lockhart, presumably to commemorate the journey. They adopted a new crest, too - a heart in a fettered lock.

Also in THE TALISMAN'S Introduction, Scott repeats the traditional story of how the LEE PENNY came into Sir Symon Locard's possession. During the battle Sir Symon had captured "an Emir of considerable wealth and consequence" and offered him for ransom. The Emir's mother came to redeem her son, and while counting out a large amount of gold from "a large embroidered purse" she accidentally dropped a stone among the money. She was so anxious to recover the stone that Sir Symon refused to release her son unless the stone was added to the ransom money. The stone was exchanged, the Emir was released and Sir Symon Locard "after much experience of the wonders which it wrought, brought it to his own country and left it to his heirs, bywhom, and by Clydesdale in general, it was, and still is, distinguished by the name of the LEE PENNY, from the name of his native seat of Lee."

She accidentally dropped a stone
among the money.



The LEE PENNY is still in the possession of the Lockharts of Lee and when I met the present custodian, Mr Simon Macdonald Lockhart, he told me the Penny's story, adding that the Emir's mother, when she parted with the stone, told his ancestor, "What you take now is of more value than all the gold and silver. Water into which the stone had been dipped would, she told him, cure bleeding, fever, bite of a mad dog and sickness in horses and cattle."

Isobel Young of East Barns was burned at the stake.



Scott asserts that the pebble was inserted in a coin, "some say of the Lower Empire," when Sir Symon saw it fall from the purse. But Mr Macdonald Lockhart was recently giving a talk about the LEE PENNY to a numismatic society and its members confirmed that the stone is set in an Edward IV groat.

The stone is dull, dark-red, heartshaped and semi-transparent. It is about half an inch square, and, according to lapidaries who have examined it, it is different from any known species of stone. It is set in the centre of the silver groat, which is badly defaced. Some letters and what looks like a cross are still traceable and a small silver chain is attached to the coin. When the stone was inserted in the coin, where and by whom is not known, but a geat in Sir Symon's day had a far greater value than any equivalent coin today.

Sir Symon was'nt as well as he might have been. Before going on the Crusade he had to borrow a considerable amount of money from the Prior of Ayr to cover his expenses. The bond between them was so important it was witnessed by some of Scotland's principal nobles. The sum involved an annuity of no more than ten silver pounds: the Prior got his annuity, Sir Symon got his talisman and his descendants have been offered many times more for it. It is still a cherished heirloom of the Lockhart's secret. I can't tell you because I don't know.

Well, I can tell you a little bit. It is kept in a gold snuff box which was presented to General James Lockhart by Marie Therese, Hapsburg Empress of Austria. James Lockhart was a soldier of fortune who enrolled in the Hapsburg army "at the lowest rank." As well as a general he became Lord of Bedchamber and a Count of the Holy Roman Empire. I got almost

as big a thrill handling that snuff box as I did handling the LEE PENNY.

The box is a little over an inch deep and is the same in diameter. It is decorated with pale blue flower baskets and wreaths and inside, the lid is inscribed:

A PRESENT FROM THE EMPRESS QUEEN
TO GEN. LOCKHART AND GIVEN BY HIM
TO MRS. LOCKHART OF LEE 1789 TO
HOLD THE LEE PENNY.

Mrs Lockhart was the general's aunt.

The properties of the stone are medicinal, characteristic of a mediaeval talisman, and the most marvellous cures have been attributed to it. Family tradition has it that the lady told Sir Symon that the stone should be dipped three times and swirled round once in water. No words are used, nor must money be taken for the favour.

Around 1629 "the routting evil" attacked Scos cattle so badly that "ane ox was nevir able to lie doun but roughted continuallie till he died." Haddingtonshire was badly affected and some people travelled to Lee to borrow the PENNY. They returned with a supply of treated water and when their cattle drank it they were cured.

According to the DOMESTIC ANNALS of SCOTLAND Isobel Young of East Barns was put on trail for witchcraft as a result of her visit and the PENNY featured in her indictment. She was burned at the stake and since those who travelled with her to Lee were only censured and made to do penance at Dunbar, we can assume that Isobel Young had done a bit more than they.

John Gilbert Lockhart's book CURSES, LUCKS and TALISMANS has a ten-page section on the PENNY and gives another instance of witchcraft. After the Reformation, Gavin Hamilton of Raploch "possibly with malice, for the Hamiltons did not always love the Lockharts" at a church synod in Glasgow "had preferit ane complaint against Sir Thomas Lockhart of Lee, anent the superstitious using of ane stane, set in silver, for the curing of diseased cattel."

The Synod referred it to the Assembly, who "have inquirit of the manner of using thereof, and particularlie understood, by examination of the said Laird of Lee and otherwise, that the custom is onlie to cast the stone in sum water, and give the diseasit cattel therof to drink, and yet the same is done w'tout using onie words such as charmars used in the unlawful practices;

and considering that in nature there are monie things seein to work strang effects, q'rof no humane witte can give a reason, it having pleasit Gog to give onto stone and herbes a special virtue for the healing of mony infirmities in man and beast, advises the brethern to surcease the process as q'rin theyperceive no ground of offence, and admonishes the Laird of Lee in the using of the said stone to eak heid it be usit heir-afftir witt the least scandal that possibly may be."

Sir Walter Scott called that the most remarkable part of the stone's history; he didn't comment on the spelling either.

During the reign of Charles I, Newcastle was in the grip of a cattle plague and the burghers asked to borrow the PENNY from Sir James Lockhart, who demanded 6000 pounds as security for its safe return. The PENNY worked so well that the Corporation offered to pay the money to Sir James if they could keep the stone. Sir James refused to sell and as the PENNY'S fame spread, requests from all over Scotland and from as far south as Yorkshire, arrived at Lee. John Gilbert Lockhart records that even in the middle of last century old men in Lanarkshire clearly remembered a time when no byre was considered safe unless a bottle of "penny-water" hung from the rafters.

The story I like best concerns the wife of Sir Robert Baird of Saughtonhall, near Edinburgh. It happened around 1750. Lady Baird was bitten by a mad dog and when she contracted hydrophobia her husband sent to Lee for a loan of the PENNY. An unusual favour was granted to the Bairds since the stone wasn't allowed to leave the house. Lady Baird had the stone for some weeks and after drinking and bathing in the treated water made such an astounding recovery, that by way of showing her gratitude, the Lockharts were invited to Saughtonhall and "most sumptuously treated."

When their cattle drank it they were cured.



There are many other recorded instances of the LEE PENNY'S powers, though Scott notes: "Of late, they have been chiefly restricted to the cure of persons bitten by mad dog; and as the illness in such cases frequently arises from imagination, there can be no reason for doubting that the water which has been poured on the LEE PENNY furnishes a congenial cure."

Scott found out about the LEE PENNY because his daughter, Sophie, married John Gilbert Lockhart, reviewer on BLACKWOOD'S EDINBURGH MAGAZINE and the author of a ten volume biography of his father-in-law.

Hector MacLean, who was a factor of the Lockhart estates at Lee and Carnwath in 1853, noted an interesting cure which had taken place "some months ago." The district of Kirkwhelpington and Birtley in Northumberland had been affected by an outbreak of rabies and though seven dogs had been destroyed the disease was still rife among sheep and cattle. Matters came to a head when a horse, believed to be mad, bit a man on the hand. A barrellful of Lee water arrived, the man was treated with it and made an excellent recovery.

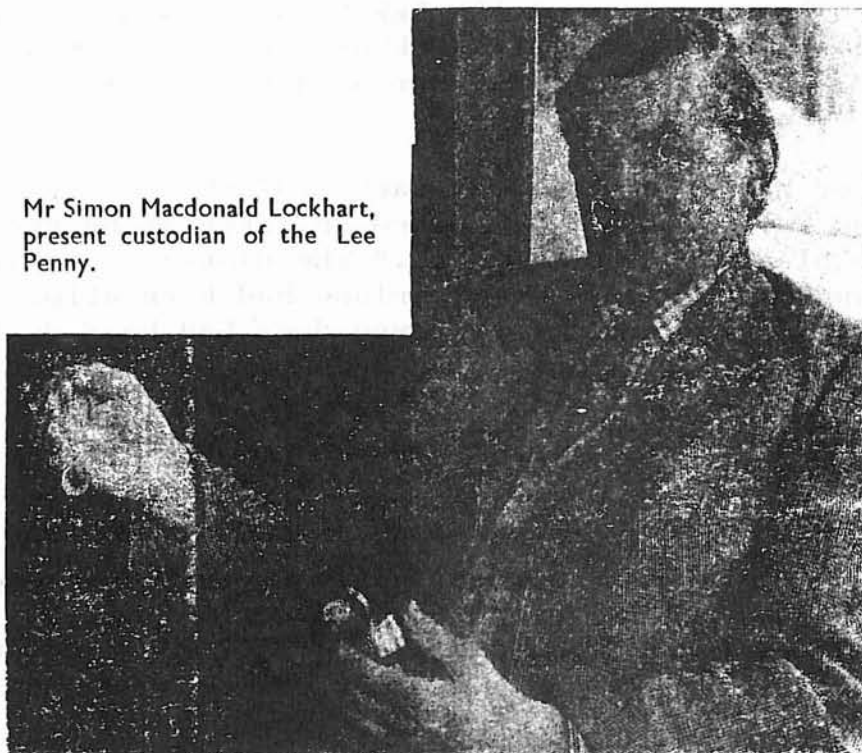
Sceptics who claim that horse was not mad and that the man was suffering from no more than an ordinary bite are given the following story which John Gilbert Lockhart relates without comment and which Simon Gilbert Lockhart told me on a wet, windy day, sitting in his car outside Lanark railway station. Just the place for it.

The Lockhart's baronetcy died with Sir Simon Macdonald Lockhart and in 1912 Sir Simon had a shooting party at Lee and one of his guests was a relative of the then Duke of Hamilton. At lunch on the moors the shooting party had no bottle opener and Sir Simon tried to open a sodabottle with his pe-knife while Lord Hamilton's relative held the bottle. The knife slipped and Sir Simon's friend's hand was badly gashed. The cut was very bad and that evening the man came down to dinner complaining that the wound would not stop bleeding. He and Sir Simon went into the Library ("That's where he kept the PENNY," said Mr Macdonald Lockhart) and dipped the bandage hand in water which had been treated to "three dips and a swiel," holding it there for some time. The bleeding stopped and by the following morning the wound had completely healed, except for a small, dry scar in the centre.

Just before I left him, I asked Mr Macdonald Lockhart if he was superstitious. "I suppose you could say that. Yes," he said.

I'm not surprised. If I possessed such an astonishing beautiful piece of history, I'd be superstitious. Cross my heart.....

Mr Simon Macdonald Lockhart,
present custodian of the Lee
Penny.



MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBER.

The applications for membership to the Ontario Numismatic Association, which appeared in the November issue of the Ontario Numismatist have been accepted.

The following application has been received and if no written objections are received, the acceptance will be acknowledged in the January issue of the Ontario Numismatist..

1161.. D.T. Climenhaga, 5022 Cenaber Crt; Burlington,
Ontario, L7L 5G7

Association News:

LOOK WHAT WE HAVE FOR YOU THIS YEAR
FOR THE O.N.A. CONVENTION RAFFLE
TO BE DRAWED APRIL 26th; 1981

At The Skylon Tower, Niagara Falls.



1st. PRIZE... A TRIP FOR TWO TO THE
GRAND BAHAMA HOTEL, GRAND BAHAMAS.
ALL EXPENSES... MEALS, GOLF, TRANSPORTATION.
FOR ONE WEEK

The winner will be able to choose a departure
date between May 1st - December 15th; 1981

Trip to be arranged with ADVENTURE TOURS -
through HALCYON DAYS TRAVEL, Oshawa & Brantford.

2nd Prize ... $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce of GOLD or \$400.00

3rd Prize ... 1981 CANADIAN MINT PRESENTATION SET.



TAKE NOTICE....

Don't forget to send in the 1981 - 1983
O.N.A. EXECUTIVES NOMINATIONS by DECEMBER 24th; 1981

Make your selection wisely, the choice is yours.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE CLUBS

BRANTFORD NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.. C15

The November meeting of the Brantford Numismatic Society was held Sunday, November 16th; at 8:00 P.M. in the Woodman Community Centre, 491 Grey St; Brantford, Ontario.

The programme for the evening was a slide presentation from the Ontario Agriculture Museum, conducted by Mr. John Carbert. This was a very interesting presentation.

The Auction was a little different at this meeting. Each person who entered any lots in the auction, had to auction off their own lots. Everybody had fun doing this and it gave the regular auctioneer a break.

It was noted that there were two members in the Brantford General Hospital... Treasurer Jack Stewart and Past President, George Wagner. We wish them a speedy recovery.



ST. THOMAS NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION.. C78

The November meeting of the St. Thomas Numismatic Association was held Monday, November 10th; 1980, at the Central United Church, Wellington St; St. Thomas, Ontario, at 8:00 P.M.

The programme for the evening was a film " How people lived many years ago in the time of King Tutankhamen." A 48 lot auction was held. Coffee, Tea and Cookies was served.

December 8th; - CHRISTMAS PARTY / ROAST BEEF DINNER will be served. This will be a very joyfull evening to all who will attend.



THISTLETOWN COIN & STAMP CLUB.. C39

The Thistletown Coin & Stamp Club held the November meeting on Monday November 10th; instead of Tuesday November 11th; as the Library was closed on Remembrance Day. The club meets in the Etobicoke Public Library.

LONDON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY ..C5

The London Numismatic Society showered honors on two of its members at the society's 29th Anniversary Banquet held in October.

William Clarke was presented with the Lloyd T. Smith Literary Award. Clarke is the editor of the London Numismatic Society's monthly bulletin. He has frequently written on various aspects of numismatics.

Grant Monk, a member of the Board of Directors in the L. N.S. for the past seven years and an O.N.A. member, was awarded the William N. Clarke Award of Merit for his contributions to the London club and to numismatics in general.

Monck has been a member of the L.N.S. for the past seven years. In 1978 he was one of eight junior collectors to receive the American Numismatic Association's awards at the Summer Seminar held in Colorado.

Last year Ted Leitch and Mackie Smith were the recipients of the Lloyd T. Smith Literary Award and the William N. Clarke Award of Merit respectively.



WATERLOO COIN SOCIETY .. C1

The September 16th; 1980 meeting of the Waterloo Coin Society was held in the Waterloo Public Library, 35 Albert Street, Waterloo, at 8:00 P.M.

The 8 o'clock Draw was won by C.E. Weicher. Mr Weicher picked up the \$1.00 Prize because neither Wilfred Kneisel, nor Douglas Kneisel, whose names were drawn first, were present.

Feature Draw:

1st Prize	Ken McTavish	1970 P.L. Set
2nd Prize	Richard Beckberger	1981 W.C.S. Membership
3rd Prize	Haig Douglas	1980 Oktoberfest Dollar

There were 30 members and guests on hand to a presentation by Tom Masters of London, Ont. Tom's talk had a title of "The Genius of Ben Franklin" and featured the Franklin U.S.A. 50¢ pieces.

A 35 lot Auction was conducted by Bill English.

SHOW AND BOURSE

FEBRUARY 14th; 1981

BARRIE, ONTARIO.....HURONIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Annual Mini Show
Bayfield Mall
Bayfield Street, Barrie, Ontario.
Displays Welcome - Cash Prizes
Details.. P.O. Box 243, Barrie
Ontario, L4M 4T2

MARCH 7th; 1981

WILLOWDALE, ONTARIO.....NORTH YORK COIN CLUB'S

Annual Coin Show and Exhibition
North York Community Hall
5090 Yonge Street, Willowdale, Ont.

MARCH 20-22, 1981

TORONTO, ONTARIO.....TORONTO INTERNATIONAL
COIN FAIR

The Rodeway Inn
1926-2000 Lakeshore Blvd.
West Toronto, Ontario.
information.. Robert Shillinworth F.R.N.S.
319 Queen St; West;
Toronto, Ontario, M5V 2A4

APRIL 24, 25 & 26th; 1981

NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO.....ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION'S

19th Annual CONVENTION
Skylon Tower,
Niagara Falls, Ontario.
Information.. Mrs Marjorie Smith
5138 Willmott St;
Niagara Falls, Ontario.

JULY 15 - 18th; 1981

TORONTO, ONTARIO.....INTERPAM 81

International Paper Money
Congress and Exhibition

Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Ont.

Information... Interpam

P.O. Box 704

Stn; "B",

Willowdale, Ontario,

M2K 2P9

JULY 22 - 26th; 1981

TORONTO, ONTARIO.....CANADIAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

1981 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Ontario.

Information... Toronto Coin Club

P.O. Box 865

Adelaide St; P.O.

Toronto, Ont.



Kennedy Half Dollars Are Still in Demand



This half dollar is still being kept out of circulation by hoarders — partly because it carries John F. Kennedy's portrait and partly because of its silver content.

The Susan B Anthony dollar has gained wide publicity in the twenty weeks since its introduction, much of it negative and focusing on faults people find with the coin. However, this new dollar does still attract attention.

That's more than can be said for the John F. Kennedy half dollar, which was introduced amid similar hoopla 15 years ago. The Kennedy "half" has become a forgotten coin - seldom seen, almost never used and barely even mentioned anymore. And yet, for all its apparent irrelevance in the marketplace, the half dollar still is being struck - and officials at the United States Mint say they have no present plans to stop producing them.

"We really don't think very many half dollars are being used in commerce," Mint Director Stella B. Hackel conceded in a recent interview. "They do go somewhere, though, so someone must want them. And so we are minting a sufficient supply to meet this demand for the coin - which is, for the most part, numismatic."

"There's no loss, really, to the government," Mrs Hackel added. "We make 46 cents on every half dollar we produce."

That profit results from seigniorage - the difference between the face value of a coin and the actual cost of its production and distribution. Like the Anthony dollar, the Kennedy half dollar currently is made of a copper-nickel alloy bonded to a core of pure copper. The cost of this metal is low, so the Mint can produce and distribute half dollars for a mere four cents apiece. (The somewhat smaller Anthony dollar cost three cents each, so the government's profit on them is 97 cents per coin.)

The Mint produced approximately 28 million circulation-quality half dollars in 1978, and made about 44 million more between January 1st and June 30th of this year. Its seigniorage on this combined production totals about \$33 million.

Kennedy half dollars are far from scarce. Since 1964, when the series came into being, the Mint has turned out some 2.5 billion examples of the coin - a greater number than the combined mintages of all previous half dollars in U.S. history. Yet, just as fast as the coins come out, people seem to put them away.

Hoarding of Kennedy halves was understandable at the start. The coins were highly prized as memorials to the slain president, not only among Americans but also among Kennedy admirers overseas. Foreigners, in fact, paid substantial premiums to get them at the time. Then, too, the first Kennedy halves had a silver content of 90 percent, and this prompted people to save them as bullion prices started to spiral.

In 1965, the coins silver content was cut to 40 percent but in time, as bullion boomed, even these "part silver" pieces came to have premium value as metal.

It's harder to explain why the hoarding has continued. Since 1971, Kennedy halves have had no silver content, with the exception of the 15 million Bicentennial half dollars which were struck in 40 percent silver for sale in special sets at a premium price. Mintage have been relatively high. Yet, people still insist on setting the coins aside, and few see significant circulation.

Part of the explanation may lie with the half dollar's. weaned away from their earlier use of the coin, many Americans now find it bulky and unwieldy. The very fact it isn't widely used also is a factor in perpetuating that disuse, being unaccustomed to handling the coins, people put it aside when it does come into their hands. But the primary factor, now as in 1964, appears to be what historians describes as the appeal of "the Kennedy mystique."

Mint official now concede that the decision to issue a coin honoring John Kennedy - a decision born of emotion, and widely hailed at the time seved, in effect, as a death sentence for the half dollar as a commercially useful denomination.

"I don't think anyone realized the implication at the time," says Dr. George E. Hunter, cheif of assay laboratories for the mint. "Essentially, we were relegating a denomination to less than full-circulation status. In retrospect, even if that had been recognized, it still might have been done," he adds. It's my guess, though, that if we had continued to issue Benjamin Franklin half dollars, and were making clad Franklin halves today, they'd be in general circulation now."

Dr. Hunter notes that the very first Kennedy halves soon became the target of a two pronged attack by hoarders. People who sought them as tributes to Kennedy were joined, in short order, by others who desired them as pieces of precious metal.

"It was this combination which made it so difficult to get the coin into circulation," he observes. "Everybody wanted it if not for one reason, then for the other. And that type of attitude just carried forward."

Granting that the government makes money by striking half dollars, the coins' continued production nonetheless puzzles some observers. Why make a coin, they wonder, if it isn't going to be used?

Then there is the matter of size. Perhaps the most common criticism of the Anthony dollar is the argument that its size is too close to that of the quarter. The coins will be confused, critics say. In this context, some see dubious logic in retaining a half dollar which is larger, in turn, than the dollar. Mrs. Hackel answers this objection by noting that the nickel is larger than the dime. Even so, some skeptics remain unconvinced.

"I keep wondering if Gresham's Law won't go onto effect," says Kenneth E. Bressett, editor of Whiman's Red Book, the most widely used guidebook on U.S. coins. "It strikes me that people will want to hoard two half dollars, rather than one Anthony dollar, just because the half dollar looks like it's more valuable even though neither coin really has much intrinsic value. I feel as though it's human nature to pack away two big ones instead of one little one."

Political considerations undoubtedly are involved in the Mint's determination not to drop the current half dollar. Retirement of a coin paying tribute to John Kennedy surely would encounter resistance on Capitol Hill and in any case it's the sort of move a Democratic administration would be most reluctant to make. It's worth noting that the same officials were less hesitant in shelving the coinage portrait of Republican Dwight D. Eisenhower.

However tenuous the Kennedy half dollar's role may be as a circulating coin, its status as a collector's item is healthy and that health has been improving steadily. Complete sets of Kennedy halves, including proofs plus uncirculated examples of regular issues, now bring upwards of \$150, twice the amount they brought two years ago. And dealers predict that the price will continue to rise, especially if the Mint terminates the series, as many anticipate will happen before too long.

"A lot of people think of a set of Kennedy halves as something common," says Jay Parrino, proprietor of The Mint, a coin dealership in Kansas City, Mo. "Well, they're not as common and easy to get today as they were a year ago. And a year from now, they'll be a lot less common than they are today."



PASSING THE BUCK

The U.S. Government is determined to keep trying to get the public to use the Susan B. Anthony dollar coin because it is cheaper to produce than paper money. To meet objections that it is too similar to the quarter, Treasury officials are considering minting a new version that would raise the numeral "1" and add a gold tinge to make it easier to distinguish.

Gold Medallion Sale

The U.S. Treasury sale of U.S. gold medallions has been extended through the end of the year. Plans had called for cutting off orders Sept. 30th; but as of late September the government had sold only about 335,000 of the 1.5 million medallions it produced. The U.S. Mint struck 500,000 medallions in a one ounce size and a million pieces in a half ounce version.

These are the first in a series of 10 such medallions scheduled for issuance over a five year period. Each is to bear the portrait of a famous American who has won recognition in the arts.



From The Smile File

A policeman stopped a well-dressed man who was singing Christmas Carols loudly and staggering along the street in the wee, small hours of the morning and asked, "What is your explanation for wandering around drunk at this time of night?" "Officer, honest", the reveler replied, "If I had an explanation, I'd be home right now".





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Wishes*