



THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

ISSN 0048-1815

1981-1983

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Volume 20

May, 1981

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English



Sixpence

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.

Remittances payable to the Ontario Numismatic Association, P.O. Box 33, Waterloo, Ontario. N2J 3Z6.

Authorized second class mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa, and for payment of postage in cash.

Sixpence Is a Coin Steeped In English Song and Folklore

By ED ROCHETTE

On a Saturday morning, not too many weeks past, Valerie Louise Augustin was married to my son Philip. The ceremony in Colorado Springs Corpus Christi Church was as traditional as could be planned pre-Cana lessons, published bans, a

not-to-be-seen-beforehand gown imported from New York, rice, flowers and flower girl, nothing was overlooked.

I would describe it as a "something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue, and a lucky sixpence in her shoe," wedding. Of course, the sixpence came from my collection. And with it I had hoped to give my new daughter-in-law the story of the tradition of the sixpence in her shoe.

Other than an old wedding rhyme of anonymous, English authorship, I could find little. There are variants of the verse including one that ends with, "a silver sixpence in each shoe!" Otherwise there is little but conjecture as to the origin of the practice.

The sixpence, or the "tanner" as it is fondly recalled by the English, was part of British history for more than 400 years. The denomination survived 20 reigns and 66 design changes, but it met its demise as a circulation coin of the realm 10 years ago when Britain decimalized its currency in 1971. And for another eight years the sixpence, in a sense, was around as the two and one-half new pence piece. The coin, as such, never caught on and in 1980 the Royal Mint ceased striking it.



THIS DIME-SIZED COIN, the English sixpence, was a denomination that lasted for more than 400 years. It met its demise when Britain went to a decimal currency in 1971.

The first sixpence was introduced in 1551 during the reign of the boy king, Edward VI. The last dated one was issued in 1970, but it appeared only in proof sets produced for and sold to collectors. The last sixpence made for circulation was minted in 1967 and carried the portrait of Queen Elizabeth II on the obverse. On the other side was a garland of floral emblems symbolic of the United Kingdom - the rose (England), the thistle (Scotland) the shamrock (Northern Ireland), and the leek (Wales).

The sixpence is a coin steeped in English song and folklore. Toddlers on their mothers knees went from "patty cake" to the "crooked man walking a crooked mile to find a crooked sixpence." I remember marching to the words of Jolly, Jolly Sixpence - "I got a tuppence to spend, tuppence to lend, and tuppence to send home to my wife, poor wife!"

The sixpence is traditionally associated with love. To find a crooked sixpence today in a dealer's junk box puzzles many collectors. The giver of such a coin gave his heart with it and by sending a crooked sixpence his sweetheart could never confuse it with an ordinary coin and accidentally spend it.

Girls with high hopes and no sweethearts would also bend sixpences. On the day after Halloween it was a tradition in some parts of England for young ladies to place a sprig of rosemary and a crooked sixpence under their pillow in order that they might dream of their future husbands.

But why the sixpence in the shoe? I cannot answer with certainty other than to guess that since the sixpence has been so associated with love and legend, the coin should very much be a part of the ceremony that makes love everlasting - the wedding.

WINNERS IN THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
1981 COIN CONVENTION DRAW

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*****
*
* 1ST PRIZE      1 Week All Expense Trip for Two to the
*                Bahamas Islands.
*
* WINNER        A. Roy
*                8 Caledon Cresc.,
*                Brampton, Ontario.
*
*                Ticket # 1832
*
* *****
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2ND PRIZE      $400.00 Cash
WINNER         Todd Noyes
                153 Kent Street
                Port Colborne
                Ticket # 4492
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3RD PRIZE      1981 Prestige Canadian Coin Set
WINNER         Steven Desjardins
                49 Larkin Drive
                Nepean, Ontario.
                Ticket # 7583
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CONSOLATION    Larry Michels
                Port Huron, Michigan.
                Ticket # 8879
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CONSOLATION    P. De La Cour
                Toronto, Ontario.
                Ticket # 3908
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CONSOLATION    Ken Koch,
                Stratford, Ontario.
                Ticket # 9044
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Results of the Nominations for the O.N.A. Executives
for the term of 1981 - 1983 is.....

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Area..7 .. G. Fraser
Area..8 .. H. Burke
Area..9 .. L.B. Fletcher
Area..10 .. Roland Albert

The MERIT AWARD Recipient for this year is " Kenneth Wilmot "
for his outstanding contribution to the O.N.A. in the past
year. Congraduations Ken,job well done.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CLUBS

NICKEL BELT COIN CLUB..C55
Sudbury, Ontario.

The Sudbury Coin Club held its April Meeting in conjunction with their spring show on April 12th; 1981.

There was a 123 lots Auction held, which some active bidding was conducted by the ones that attended.

The attendance was very good to see the large coin displays that was on exhibit.

TORONTO COIN CLUB..C79
Toronto, Ontario.

The April Meeting of the Toronto Coin Club was held Monday, April 20, in the Algonquin Room of the Royal York Hotel, at 7:00 P.M., Toronto, Ontario.

The guest speaker was Gerald Hart, MD FRNS. His talk was entitled, "The Ancient Significance, and the Modern Ramifications of a Large Bronze of Antonius Pius".

Dr. Hart made headlines in 1964 when he was the Chairman of a committee which performed an autopsy on an Egyptian mummy.

There was a very good attendance at this meeting and everyone had a very enjoyable evening.

The Toronto Coin Club 45th Anniversary, July 21, 1981, Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Ontario.

Champlain Coin Club..C21
Orillia, Ontario.

The April meeting was held at the St. David's Anglican Church, Orillia, with twenty-six members and many guest present. The business was the finalizing of the up coming coin show.



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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDAL COLLECTION OF FORMER MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT PRESENTED AT THE ARCHIVES

Ottawa, April 23, 1981 — On Thursday, April 30, at 5:30 p.m. at the Public Archives of Canada, Dr. W.I. Smith, Dominion Archivist, will officially open an exhibition entitled The Henry Jackman Medal Collection.

The display consists of 70 items selected from the collection of the late Henry R. Jackman (1900-1979), O.C., Q.C., who was a prominent financier from Toronto and some-time Member of Parliament.

The medals come from various countries, and most of them date from the last hundred years, though there are important exceptions. The collection is comprised mainly of the commemorative or artistic types, often referred to as medallions, but also includes awards received by Mr. Jackman. Among the historic Canadian pieces are medals executed for the first Toronto Exhibition in 1879, the tricentenary of Quebec in 1908, and the 60th anniversary of Confederation in 1927. Many other medals commemorate universally important figures, such as Sir Winston Churchill, Albert Schweitzer and Martin Luther King. Also included are works representative of the recent development of medallic art in Canada, the United States and Europe.

"This is the first donation to the Archives of a major medal collection deliberately assembled by a private collector specifically interested in medals," said Dr. Smith. "The collection illustrates both the universal medallic heritage in which Canada shares and the particular life of a distinguished Canadian." Comprising about 350 pieces, the collection was recently donated to the National Medal Collection of the Public Archives by Henry Jackman's widow, Mary Rowell Jackman.

The Henry Jackman Medal Collection will be open to the public until October 30, 1981, daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., at the Public Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa.

Contact: Raymond Lepage
(613) 992-9259



PUBLIC ARCHIVES of CANADA. NATIONAL MEDAL COLLECTION

Cast Bronze Medal 100 mm.

"Autumn," by Francesco Giannone (Italy)



PUBLIC ARCHIVES of CANADA. NATIONAL MEDAL COLLECTION

Struck Bronze Plaquette 59 x 81 mm.

"Prisons de Fresnes-les-Rungis" by Louis Oscar Roty (France)

SHOW AND BOURSE DATES

MAY 21-24, 1981

MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO.....SPRING TOREX COLLECTIBLES
SHOW
International Centre,
6900 Airport Rd;
Mississauga, Ontario.

JUNE 7, 1981

WELLAND, ONTARIO.....WELLAND COIN CLUB'S
Annual Coin Show
Princess Elizabeth School
Lincoln & Scholfield St;
Welland, Ontario.

For information..

George Shave
R.R. #3,
Wainfleet, Ontario.

JUNE 13th; 1981

CANNINGTON, ONTARIO.....VICTORIA SIMCOE NUMISMATIC
SOCIETY'S
Annual Coin Show & Banquet

Cannington Community Centre,
Cannington, Ontario.

For information..

Elmer Workman
R.R.#2,
Cannington, Ont;
LOE 1E0

JULY 15-18, 1981

TORONTO, ONTARIOINTERPAM 81
International Paper Money
Congress and Exhibition,
Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Ont.

For information...

P.O. Box 704,
Stn; B.,
Willowdale, Ont.

JULY 22-26, 1981

TORONTO, ONTARIO.....CANADIAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION'S
1981 International Convention

Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Ontario.
For information...

P.O. Box 865
Adelaide St; P.O.
Toronto, Ont; M5C 2K1

JULY 28-AUGUST 2, 1981

NEW ORLEANS, LA; U.S.A.AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION'S
90th Annual Convention
Rivergate Convention Center

For information...

A.N.A. Headquarters
P.O. Box 2366,
Colorado Springs,
Colorado, USA, 80901.

SEPTEMBER 18th; 1981

BARRIE, ONTARIO.....HURONIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION'S
Annual Coin Show
Bayfield Mall, Barrie, Ont

For information... P.O. Box 243
Barrie, Ontario,
L4M 4T2

SEPTEMBER 27th; 1981

SARNIA, ONTARIO.....SARNIA NUMISMATIC SOCIETY'S
Annual Coin Show
Holiday Inn, at Bluewater Bridge,
Sarnia.

For information... S.N.S.
P.O. Box 62,
Sarnia, Ontario.

OCTOBER 18th;1981

TILLSONBURG, ONTARIO..... TILLSONBURG COIN CLUB'S
Coin Show
Tillsonburg Community Centre

For information...

Doug Mitchener
1 Myrtle Street,
Tillsonburg, Ontario,
N4G 4G4.

OCTOBER 24th;1981.

TORONTO, ONTARIO..... CANADIAN ASSOCIATION of WOODEN
MONEY COLLECTORS,
1st Canadian Wooden Token Show
Holiday Inn, Yorkdale, Toronto.

For information.. N. Belsten

37 Neames Cres;
Downsview, Ontario,
M3L 1K8

NOVEMBER 1st; 1981.

WINDSOR, ONTARIO..... WINDSOR COIN CLUB'S FALL SHOW
Knight of Columbus Hall
1140 Goylau street,
Windsor, Ontario, M8Y 2H6

NOVEMBER 20-222, 1981

TORONTO, ONTARIO..... TORONTO INTERNATIONAL COIN FAIR
The Rodeway Inn
1926-2000 Lakeshore Blvd; West,
Toronto, Ontario.

For information...

Robt. Shillingworth
319 Queen St; w;
Toronto, Ontario,
M5V 2A4

Tips on thwarting thieves



BY.... Bruce R. Watt

Good will toward all men, by all means. At the same time, keep your eye on them, says Jom McGrath, Vice President, Corporate Security for American Express and a former FBI Special Agent. "Criminals know that holidays either in the winter or summer are a good time to get out and make money."

There are more crowds carrying more money, which for pickpockets, makes for easy pickings. What you notice is what the thieves want you to. "One of them will create a diversion," he says. "He'll bump into you, drop cigar ashes or icecream on you or start a screaming match with someone so everyone turns to stare."

The second one will then snatch the wallet from your back pocket, if you're a man who hasn't learned to carry it in the breast pocket of your jacket, or remove pocket and all with a razor blade. The woman who carries her wallet in a bag that snaps instead of zips, that doesn't have straps to secure it over her shoulder and against her side, will also be relieved of it easily.

If you find yourself relieved of your valuables at that picturesque summer resort you decide to spend your holidays at, or at your favourite coin show or convention, that's a shame, and probably your own fault.

"There's usually a large sign at the desk telling the guest not to leave valuables in their rooms because the hotel is not liable," he says, "but most people ignore it. They think they're safe if they tape those valuables underneath drawers, behind mirrors, in back of the toilet or in the other obvious places professional thieves gravitate to immediately.

So bypass them and store your valuables in the hotels safe deposit box, the convention security room, or carry them on your person - securely, he says.

Also, you should always double lock your door and use the chain. A lot of thefts occur in hotels during the holidays and conventions although hotels don't like to admit that. So if someone knocks and says it's room service and you haven't ordered anything, make sure it is before you open the door. Or call the desk and say someone's trying to enter your room.

Don't leave windows open on lower floors and don't advertise what room you're in by "wandering around with your key in full sight. And when you go swimming, leave your key at the desk, not on a towel by the pool. Anyone can spot it and get a duplicate from the desk saying they've lost their key.

And, for heaven's sake, don't put up that sign on your door saying you'll be back at a certain time. It's not bright to tell a thief how much time he's got to do his job.

When you're checking out, or in, or when you're en route, watch your luggage. Carry valuables on board with you, and if you're carrying a lot of luggage, don't leave it standing around unattended. Also, try to put very decorative or distinctive things on your bags so you can spot them coming off a luggage carousel.

Finally, while there's no way to guarantee complete security, try to think in terms of "spreading the wealth" to preserve it.

I always carry my paper money in my front pockets, and I carry my credit cards in one wallet, my drivers licences in another. And, if someone comes up with a gun and demands my wallet, I will give him the one that has the least value to it.

So remember this summer on your travels make sure your valuables are secure.