



# THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

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1987-1989

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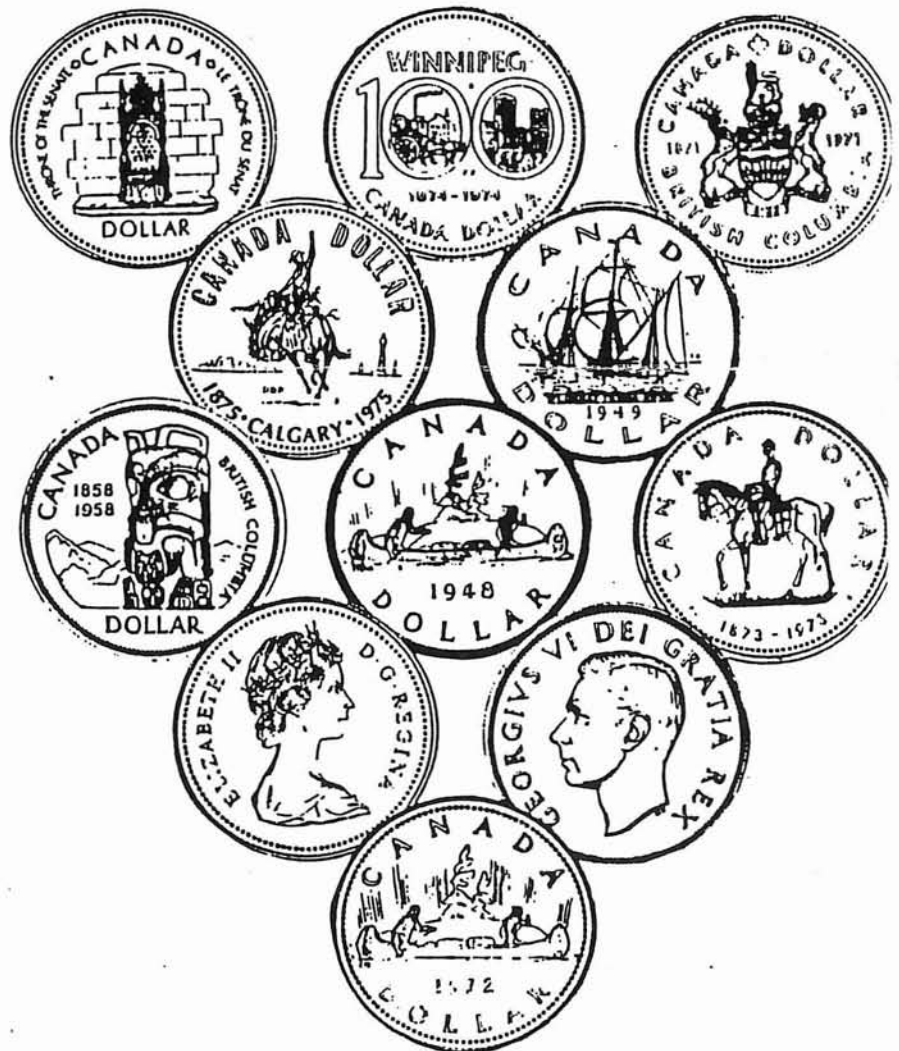
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PAGE 72

## LOOKING FOR A HOBBY?

TRY COIN COLLECTING....



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 \$10.00 annually. Husband and Wife (one journal) \$12.00 annly. Junior (up to 18 \$3.00 annly. Life Memberships available for \$75.00 after 3 years of regular membership. Club Membership \$10.00. Remittances payable to the Ontario Numismatic Assoc., P.O. Box 33, Waterloo, Ont., N2J 3Z6



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Once again "Good News-Bad News" type of column. The Bad News first. It was mentioned at our last executive meeting that there was no change in the Membership - referring to no new members. This is very disappointing to me and I hope, with your support, that this will be the only issue not to contain a list of "New Members". A noticeable change in the O.N.A. policy is that when publishing new members names no address will be shown, only the city or town. In the event you wish to contact a member you can request mail be forwarded through our membership chairman, Bruce Raszmann. We value our membership list and guard it against unauthorized use. Let's make an effort to sign up a new member to keep the Association strong.

Good news to report from our last executive meeting...

SPEAKERS CIRCUIT - Good progress reported with approximately 50 topics already listed. We hope to have for distribution at the Delegates Meeting in March 1988, a listing of 75 to 100 to be presented to the Clubs. Tom Kennedy has been spearheading the reactivating of this service.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS - Henry Burke has been appointed as Chairman to review the existing Constitution and By-Laws in view of updating them. Recommendations will be published in a future Numismatist.

EXHIBIT AND JUDGING - rules are under review with Ron Zelk chairing this group. Initially the 1988 show exhibit rules will be revised with a new set of guidelines being drawn up for Club Exhibits later. This has been an area where many Clubs would appreciate assistance.

AWARD OF MERIT - Roy Hollingshead, Past President, has been appointed Chairman for 1988.

LIBRARY - New additions to the list in the July-August issue appear in Librarian's report.

MORE GOOD NEWS! - The Membership rates for 1988 have been approved as per last year. **NO INCREASE!!** Regular Member \$10.00, Junior \$3.00, Husband and Wife - 1 journal \$12.00, Life Membership (Subject to By-Laws) \$75.00, Club Membership \$10.00. A membership application form is found elsewhere.

DELEGATES BREAKFAST (1987) - Questions and Answers

- (1) Why a higher price for more than one delegate from a Club? This discourages additional attendance.
  - (a) Good point! This year we will be using one price for all delegates. In the past, the O.N.A. felt they could not subsidize more than one delegate per Club, as this is strictly an O.N.A. charge.
- (2) Would it be possible to develop a uniform set of Judging rules for Clubs?
  - (a) No! We can and are currently working on a "suggested" set of rules. This may vary radically from what Clubs currently use. Ron Zelk is chairing this committee and suggestions are welcome. It is the Clubs decision if they wish to use them or not.
- (3) New O.N.A. Audio Visual required.
  - (a) Agreed - any suggestions we could purchase?
- (4) First time Delegate never knows what to expect. Clubs should provide them with written reports which could be duplicated and circulated.
  - (a) I believe your comments are well founded but unless an O.N.A. Director is asked, I don't see how they could discuss this at a Club Meeting. Written reports should be provided to the Delegates, and a very few Clubs send enough to pass out. The O.N.A. (due to financial and time constraints) are not in a position to duplicate the reports.

DELEGATES BREAKFAST (1987) - Questions and Answers (Cont'd)

- (5) Could the Delegates Meeting be considered for Saturday to allow spouse an opportunity to shop or sight see?  
 (a) We have decided to try a Saturday meeting on March 26th next year. Hope to see you there!
- (6) Is the Liability Insurance Plan applicable to individual members of a Club as well as the Club itself?  
 (a) Yes. In addition to O.N.A. members, all Participating Clubs and Participating Club Members are covered under the O.N.A. Liability Insurance Policy to a limit of \$2,000,000. Please note that the Club has to have agreed to become a Participating Club and paid the premium for 1987 of \$35.00. Twenty two of our Member Clubs participated in 1987 and the rate struck for 1988 will remain the same (\$35.00) unless a dramatic increase takes place. Ask your Club Executive if they are participants.

My message has expanded considerably with the answering of the Delegates Questions. It is felt that it is important that all questions submitted be addressed. Next issue should complete the replies and the column will then be reduced in size. Any comments you may have or questions, free to contact me at Box 76, Sebringville, NOK 1XO.

*Ker Walnut*

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## EDITORIAL

The C.N.A. Convention in Calgary is now history. Although because of health problems I was not able to attend, my source of information tells me it was a very successful Convention. Those elected to the executive positions are all capable people who will dedicate tireless hours for the benefit of the hobby and the numismatic family.

For those who don't know who those elected officers are, they are as follows: L. H. (Scoop) Lewry, President; Stanley Clute, Immediate Past President; Al Bliman, 1st Vice President; Earl Salterio, 2nd Vice President; and the Ontario Directors are as follows: Paul Johnson, Toronto Area; Paul Nadin-Davis, Ontario. I offer the O.N.A.'s congratulations and best wishes to these dedicated officers for election success and the two years' work that's ahead of them.

With the exception of the Ontario Director, all these officers were elected by acclamation. In Ontario two very good men contested for that office, consequently only one winner. My biggest concern is not who won or lost, but can the C.N.A. or any organization afford to lose the one who lost. I know the loser has been given a committee chairman's position and has indicated to me he will continue to work hard for the organization, and I'm sure he will.

My concern is that Ontario has the largest concentration of Coin Clubs in Canada, and the second largest area. With their present Director in Ottawa, it will be a rare occasion if Windsor, Sarnia, London, Chatham, etc. will have the opportunity having this Director at one of their functions. The same can be said for those Clubs east of Toronto if the Director lived in Western Ontario. Most people who are elected or accept these positions are in the work force of some capacity and must be at that work place in order to maintain their livelihood. Vacation time is usually in the summer

EDITORIAL (Cont'd)

months when most Clubs recess, and how many Clubs does one want to attend while vacationing? I would suggest that the C.N.A. Executive, with all its wisdom, consider dealing with this problem and create a Director for Western and Eastern Ontario. That still leaves Northern Ontario which could be covered by a Liaison Officer appointed from the C.N.A. and the O.N.A. to represent the two organizations.

Elections are a very important part of any organization, and one that happens too unfrequently. It's always unfortunate when more than one is seeking the same office and there is a loser, but that's democracy. It's also unfortunate that one of those losers could have been used to expand existing services.

Maybe the C.N.A. election of 1989 could find their services expanded in Ontario

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Tom Kennedy has assured me that the list of speakers and their topics will appear in a future issue of the O.N.A. Numismatist. Have you signed up as yet? If not, why not? I have!

Address your willingness to participate to

Chairman Tom Kennedy,  
54 Trinity St., Stratford, Ontario, N5A 4P4  
or Telephone 519- 271 8825.

This service can only be successful with your support, and the Clubs' willingness to avail itself of the service.

T. Masters.

COVER:

This cover is from the Oshawa and District Coin Club report that was given out at the Delegate's Breakfast at our 1987 Convention.

Silver dollars, both regular issues and Commemoratives are featured on the cover. Canada's first circulating silver dollar of 1935 was issued to commemorate the 25th year of the reign of King George V. Dollars of Canada have been issued on a regular basis since except for the years 1940-44. The rarest of the whole series is the 1948 of which only 18,780 were minted.

Since 1971 the Mint has issued special collectors specimen .500 fine silver dollars, and five of those dollars can be seen on the cover. They are, beginning at the upper left, the 1977 Throne of the Senate dollar. This throne is used by Her Majesty or her representative on ceremonial occasions, such as the opening of Parliament, the 1974 Centennial of the City of Winnipeg. Interesting to note the two scenes inside the O's of 190 depicting scenes of 1874 in one O and 1974 in the other. The 1971 Centennial of the entry of British Columbia into the Dominion of Canada. This dollar features the Coat of Arms of British Columbia.

The Centennial of Calgary is the theme for the 1975 dollar, and features a cowboy riding a bucking bronco. In the background the City of Calgary to the left and oil derricks to the right.

The 1973 features the Royal Canadian Mounted Police on horseback. This dollar commemorates the Centennial of the R.C.M.P.



COIN COLLECTING - THE KING OF HOBBIES !

Coin collecting (numismatics) is the study and collecting of coins, paper money, tokens, medals and similar objects.

The Hobby of Kings, as it has been called, has been pursued from the day people stopped bartering grain for cattle or beads for apple. As soon as coins were made, collectors appeared on the scene. Today, it ranks as the King of Hobbies.

Why do we collect coin? For many reasons, the main ones being for fun and profit.

Take some change from your pocket or purse and see the variety of coins. You may find 1¢, 5¢, 10¢, and 25¢ pieces. You may find the odd foreign coin you always kept as a souvenir or good luck piece from that foreign trip, or as a reminder of the country you came from. You may find some American coins among your Canadian. In any case a close look at them will quickly reveal possibilities to the inquisitive mind. What is the oldest coin I have? Could I find one from each year? Why do the designs change? Who were the previous rulers on our coinage? Why do we call our coins dollars and cents, the Germans call their marks? What do the Portuguese call their coins?

Coins can be collected for pure fun, they can be collected for historic value or they may even be collected for profit. Collectors have been known to make a handsome profit from their coins upon retirement.

This wonderful country of ours contains people of many backgrounds and nationalities. Many keep in touch with their heritage through numismatics. Obviously there are many different types of coins to collect. But, how does one find out about them? The best way is to go where the true collectors go, to meetings where they discuss coin collecting and enjoy fellowship. Being in touch with folks of like interest adds a great deal to the fun of collecting.

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YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A MILLIONAIRE !!!

Without spending a great deal of money, you can enjoy collecting, learn about history, and share your collecting fun with family and friends.

Why not collect one coin from each country, put together a numismatic zoo, botanical garden, collect kings and queens or try tropical birds. For the historical inclined, they may prefer explorers, religious figures, historic buildings or country flags. Trains, planes, boats or lighthouses may intrigue others. The whole numismatic world awaits you.

Enjoy your "Collector is King" status by exploring your numismatic kingdom whenever you wish and for only a dollar or two per each country.

Perhaps you will want to start your collection with Canada. Canadian numismatic is a virtual history of events. You will have a hard time making your selection from the many beautiful regular designs or commemoratives.

You may want to select a twelve sided five-cent piece or the Canadian Bluenose ten-cents with the Queen Elizabeth Obverse. You might prefer to travel through your collection to the intriguing Far East or select the famous Saint George and the Dragon design of Great Britain.

Start your collection for fun and enjoyment and turn your fun into an ever growing source of knowledge, widening the world you live in and increasing the things you have in common with some of the most fascinating people in the world.

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Both articles compliments of the Hamilton Coin Club, who meet 2nd Sunday each month (except July & August) at 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Hamilton Public Library, 55 York Street, Hamilton.

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REFLECTIONS OF THE PAST

by the late Frank Rose

I drove into the spacious parking lot of Prudhomme's Hotel, Vineland, about six miles north of St. Catharines, at 10 a.m., April 26th, 1963, to attend the First Annual Convention of the Ontario Numismatic Association.

After a hasty breakfast in the hotel's restaurant, my companion and I hastened to set our bourse table in the spacious Crystal Room. There were approximately 40 bourse dealers in attendance and although at that time of the morning there were not many visitors at the tables, business was brisk between dealers, as usual.

At 1:30 p.m. the convention was open to the general public, and at 4:45 p.m. Mayor Ivan Buchanan of St. Catharines, officially opened the convention after an introduction by the President of the St. Catharines Coin Club. The opening ceremony was followed by an Official Reception and Refreshments.

During the afternoon a tour of the Jordan Museum of the Twenties was organized by the Committee. This tour was free to all visitors. E. Victor Snell led a Coin Identification Panel at 7 p.m. and the first session of the auction followed at approx. 8 p.m.

The second day of the convention, being a Saturday, brought in many visitors from Toronto and adjoining areas. On this day I met scores of friends and acquaintances, persons I have not seen for over a year. Business at the bourse tables was good, although the heat in the Crystal Room made it very uncomfortable for dealers and visitors alike.

A general meeting of the O.N.A. was held in the morning, and while the judging of the competitive displays was taking place at 2 p.m. William Lavell of Toronto was showing films of the O.N.A. Founding Convention which was held last year at the Walper Hotel, Kitchener. Lloyd Smith at 3 p.m. conducted the Audio Visual in the Floral Room.

The Banquet was held on Saturday at 6:30 p.m. There were approximately 250 persons seated for the roast beef dinner. Fred Jewett introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Jerome F. Foreman, who spoke on the operations of the Gold Dept. of the Bank of Nova Scotia. Prizes were awarded to winners in the competitive displays after the banquet, the day being terminated with the second session of the auction.

Sunday morning was taken up with a meeting of dealers interested in the formation of the Canadian P.N.G. (Professional Numismatic Guild). Presiding this meeting was J. E. Charlton and attending were approx. 20 Canadian dealers. At this meeting it was decided to go ahead with the formation of the Guild, application for membership was received from about seventeen dealers. Dues of \$25.00 per year, and an initiation fee of \$100.00 was agreed upon. An insignia of the Guild, to be used by all members in all advertising was a subject discussed. All dealers present were requested to send in their ideas on this insignia. The meeting ended at approx. 1 p.m., at which time I had packed by belongings and was making my way home to Toronto.

\*\*\*\*\*This article appeared in Canadian Coin and Stamp News, May, 1963.\*\*\*\*\*

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

The article "Coin Collecting - The King of Hobbies" was also submitted by the Oshawa & District Coin Club, who meet 1st Sunday each month except July & August - 12:00 noon - 4:30 p.m., Rundle Park Community Centre, Park Road S., Oshawa. Info - 728-1136 or 576-7132.

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YOUR OWN ISSUE OF PERSONALIZED  
CHRISTMAS OR HANUKKAH MEDALS IS NOT EXPENSIVE

by Jerry Remick ONA #1236



Your own issue of personalized 1987 Christmas or Hanukkah medals on 38 mm blanks is available inexpensively.

The Christmas medals are available on extra thick blanks in brilliant gold plated copper or in blanks of normal thickness in nickel-silver with a plain or a reeded edge. The 1987 Christmas die shows a tree with stars on its long branches instead of leaves, sort of a modern outdoor Christmas tree. The stars are in relief on the medal and sparkle under a bright light. "MEILLEURS VOEUX 1987" (Best Wishes 1987) and "MERRY CHRISTMAS" are inscribed below the tree. Fred Zinkann of Montgomery, Illinois designed the die. The die may be used by the public without charge.



The 1987 Hanukkah die shows a Menorah in the center with the Star of David above. "5748 HANUKKAH 1987" is at the base of the Menorah. A scroll work is around the outer part. The die may be rented at \$20.00 US from World Proof Numismatic Association, Box 4094, Pittsburgh, PA 15201. Medals will be made on antiqued blanks of copper, gold plated copper and silver plated copper.

A personal reverse die with your name, municipality, province or territory and other data starts at \$168. A die with a pictorial design is more expensive.

50 to 99 medals cost \$2.75 each; 100 to 249 medals are \$2.24 each. One can use several metals for the same price as one. One can also have Hanukkah and Christmas medals made on the same order at no additional charge for the die change. Medals containing one ounce of pure silver are \$24.40 ea.

Each medal comes in a plastic envelope which can be scotch-taped to a Christmas or Hanukkah card and sent for 55¢ postage in Canada.

Christmas medals and Hanukkah medals are also available with the design on one side and either "BEST WISHES" or "MEILLEURS VOEUX" on the other side for the price of the medals quoted above. A jeweller can inscribe the giver's name on the side with the greeting. Dealers can sell these medals to their clients.

The medals and dies are made by Pressed Metal Products, Attn. Mr. Alan Trammell, 505 Alexander Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6A 1C8, telephone 604 251-2454. Send this firm the data you wish on your personal die and they will make a free sketch and let you know the price for cutting your die. Allow 5 weeks for cutting your personal die and the delivery of your medals. The firm closes December 18th for the Christmas holidays.

Over 50 collectors and coin dealers in Canada and the United States have personal dies made by Pressed Metal Products and a number of them issue Christmas medals yearly. Last year 4 people used the 1986 Hanukkah die.

Samples of Jerry Remick's personalized 1987 Christmas medal in nickel-silver or in gold plated copper and of his 1987 Hanukkah



medal in antiqued finishes of copper, gold plated copper, and silver plated copper are available, postpaid at \$2.50 each or 3 for \$7.00, from Jerry Remick, Box 9183, Ste. Foy, P.Q., G1V 4B1.

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THE TWENTY-CENT PIECE: A COMMON MISTAKE

by Jason Midyette



In 1858, when Canada's first decimal coins were issued, the coinage consisted of pieces of one, five, ten, and twenty cents. The twenty-cent piece was unpopular and never issued again. The coin was struck in 925 fine silver, weighed 4,648 grams, and had a diameter of 23.27 mm. The issue was of 750,000 pieces, and is a scarce coin today.

The twenty-cent piece was unpopular mainly because it could be confused with the American quarter dollar, which circulated in large numbers in Canada at that time. This is interesting in that the quarter dollar also interfered with the circulation of the American twenty-cent piece in the 1870s. The Canadian twenty-cent piece was withdrawn being used to coin twenty-five-cent pieces.

The United States twenty-cent piece was coined from 1875 to 1878, but after 1876 the numbers coined were very small. It was coined in 900 fine silver, weighed 5 grams, and had a diameter of 22 mm. It was so unpopular that a bill was introduced in 1875, the year it was first issued, to withdraw it from circulation. Withdrawal was finally authorized in 1878. The coin was confused with the quarter dollar because of its size. The plain edge, intended to prevent this, only caused it to be confused with the cupro-nickel five-cent piece the odd time. Only in 1875 and 1876 was it coined for general circulation. The issues of 1877 and 1878 exist only in proof. The commonest coin is the 1875S issue, of which 1,155,000 were struck. The smallest is the proof issue of 1877, with a mintage of only 510.

The United States piece was issued for a strange reason. In the western states goods were often priced in "bits", a bit being the eighth of a dollar, or 12½¢. This dates from the days when the Spanish dollar, divided into eight reales, was in common use. If a customer purchased an item priced at one bit and tendered a quarter in payment, he would receive only a dime in change and thus lose 2½¢. In 1874, to try and solve this problem, Congress authorized the issue of the twenty-cent piece. Senator John P. Jones of Nevada, who sponsored the bill, saw it as a means of aiding the silver industry of Nevada. The coin bore the seated Liberty of the other silver coins in circulation, which made matters worse for the public.

The twenty-cent pieces of Canada and the United States were both a horrible mistake on the part of the issuing governments, who thought at the time that they were doing the right thing.

Bibliography

Gee, Todd: "The Effects of Confederation on Currency and related Items of Numismatic Interest, Past and Present". GNJ Vol. 31 No. 4 pp. 149-154



- Rochette, Edward C: "The Other Side of the Coin". 1985. Renaissance House, Frederick, Colorado.
- Yeoman, R.S.: "A Guide Book of United States Coins". 39th edition 1986. Western Publishing Co. Racine, Wisconsin 1985.

Submitted by The Huronia Numismatic Association who meet 3rd Thursday of each month at A.R.C. 175 Bayfield St., Barrie, Ontario. Mailing address- P.O. Box 243, Barrie, Ontario, L4M 4T2.

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CONGRATULATIONS:

to Member Stephen (Steve) R. Taylor, who was elected President of the American Numismatic Association at their recent Convention in July.

Steve has been a long time supporter of the O.N.A. at many of our Conventions. My first encounter with him was when he was conducting an educational workshop on displaying. He has also been our banquet and delegate speaker, and his topics have been educational and inspiring. His displays on U.S. paper have won the O.N.A. Best of Show on more than one occasion. His Court of Honour displays have been viewed and enjoyed by all who have seen them.

On behalf of the O.N.A. I wish Steve and the A.N.A. the very best in his next two years as their President. May all his goals be achieved during that term, for the good of the hobby and the numismatic family.

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EX LIBRIS

Two new books have been donated and added to our library since the published list in the July-August edition. Would you please add these additions to your list....

- 1.- MEDALS OF DESIGNER-ENGRAVER STANLEY HAYMAN, donated by the Author Norman E. Wells of Peterborough.

This soft covered, loose leaf styled book is a revised second edition, expanded from the 62 pages of the first edition to 158 pages. As the title indicates, it tells and shows the medals of the designer. It also shows many copies of letters written by Stanley Hayman to very important people, including W. L. MacKenzie King, then Prime Minister of Canada. Also included are the speeches given at presentation times of various medals designed by the engraver. Also included are letters to and from the author in his research of this book. Photographs of many medals have been enlarged so the detail can be easily studied. This book is now available in the O.N.A. Library - or if you would like a copy for your own library you should contact - Mr. Norman E. Wells, 53 Maria St., Peterborough, K9H 1B5.

- 2.- ALBERTA TRADE TOKENS by Donald M. Stewart.

This 262 page, hard covered book was donated by the J. Douglas Ferguson Historical Research Foundation. This book includes illustrated tokens from General Stores, Cigar Stores, Dairies, Bakeries, Car Washes, just to name a few, and includes the rarity factor for the tokens listed. It also includes a brief history of many of the tokens listed and the location (village, town, city). To make it easy to use this book, the tokens are listed alphabetically by their communities and each token is numbered, using the first letter of the community. This book includes all known Alberta trade tokens, but not the trade dollars that have been issued. Also not included are advertising tokens that carry no trade value. This book is also available from the O.N.A. library or a

personal copy may be obtained in Canada for \$19.50 postpaid, or \$16.00 U.S. from D. M. Stewart, 897 Claremont Ave., Victoria, B.C., V8Y 1K4.

My thanks to both donors for these additions to our Library. Their donations continue to make it possible to expand this service to our members.

T. Masters  
Librarian

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CONVENTION CALENDAR:

- October 24-25 - TOREX COIN SHOW AND AUCTION  
Bond Place Hotel, 65 Dundas St., E., Toronto  
Info - Ingrid K. Smith (416) 920 6461
- October 25 - STRATFORD COIN CLUB 25th ANNUAL SHOW  
Kiwans Community Centre, Lakeside Drive, Stratford,  
Info - P.O. Box 262, Stratford, Ontario, N5A 6T1
- November 20-22 - T.I.C.F. Lakeshore Inn, 2000 Lakeshore Blvd., W. Toronto  
Info - P.O. Box 973, Stn B, Willowdale, M2K 2T6  
(416) 229 COIN
- March 25-27 1988 - O.N.A. 26th ANNUAL CONVENTION  
Hosted by the Toronto International Coin Fair  
Lakeshore Inn, Toronto. Info - same as above.
- July 1988 - CANADIAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION  
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
- April 1989 - O.N.A. 27th ANNUAL CONVENTION  
Quality Inn, Woodstock, Host Clubs - Oxford County Coin  
Clubs. - Info - T. Masters, 823 Van St., London, N5Z 1M8  
(519) 438 2402
- July 1989 - C.N.A. CONVENTION - Quebec City, P.Q.

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ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION INFORMATION "1963-1989"

- O.N.A. Founding Convention, hosted by the Waterloo Coin Society  
March 24-25, 1962, Walper Hotel, Kitchener, Ont. Att. 229
- April 26-28, 1963 - Host Club St. Catharines at Prudhommes Garden Centre,  
250 attended the banquet
- April 16-18, 1964 - Host Club Ottawa (Capital City), at Chateau Laurier  
Hotel, 240 attended the banquet.
- April 30- 1965 - Host Club London at Treasure Island, 125 attended  
May 1, the banquet
- April 29-30, 1966 - Host Club Windsor at Cleary Auditorium, no record of  
how many attended banquet
- May 26-28, 1967 - Host Club Waterloo at Granite Club, 135 attended the  
banquet.
- October 5-6, 1968 - Host Club Ketchener at Granite Club, 80 attended the  
banquet.
- May 10-11, 1969 - Host Club St. Catharines, Prudhommes Garden Centre,  
170 attended banquet.
- May 2-3, 1970 - Host Club Barrie (Huronion) at Curling Club, 150  
attended the banquet.
- April 24-25, 1971 - Host Club Sudbury (Nickel Belt) at Presidents Inn,  
125 attended the banquet.
- April 22-23, 1972 - Host Club Niagara Falls at Sheraton Brock, 100  
attended the banquet.

ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION (Cont'd)

- April 14-15, 1973 - Host Club Waterloo at Waterloo Motor Inn, 85 attended the banquet.
- March 30-31, 1974 - Host Club Niagara Falls at Sheraton Brock, 100 attended the banquet.
- April 26-27, 1975 - Host Club Stratford at Victoria Inn, 80 attended the banquet.
- May 14-16, 1976 - Host Club North York at Westbury Hotel, 73 attended the banquet.
- May 13-15, 1977 - Host Club Oshawa at Holiday Inn, 105 attended the banquet.
- June 2-4, 1978 - Host Club St. Catharines at Prudhommes Garden Centre, 85 attended the banquet.
- June 1-3, 1979 - Host Club Hamilton at Royal Connaught Hotel, 60 attended the banquet.
- May 23-25, 1980 - Host Club Ottawa at Holiday Inn, 110 attended the banquet.
- April 24-26, 1981 - Host Club Niagara Falls at Skylon Tower, 105 attended the banquet.
- March 12-14, 1982 - Host Club O.N.A. at Westbury Hotel, 45 attended the banquet.
- April 8-10, 1983 - Host Club O.N.A. at Rockhaven Inn, 47 attended the banquet.
- April 27-29, 1984 - Host Club Sarnia at Best Western Hotel, 50 attended the banquet.
- April 19-21, 1985 - Host Club Stratford at Victoria Inn, 69 attended the banquet.
- April 18-20, 1986 - Host Club Brantford at Holiday Inn, 52 attended the banquet.
- April 24-26, 1987 - Host Club North York at Westbury Hotel, 42 attended the banquet.

LOOK TO THE FUTURE

- March 25-27, 1988 - Host Club T.I.C.F. at Lakeshore Inn
- April 21-22, 1989 - Host Clubs Oxford County (Ingersoll, Tillsonburg, Woodstock) Quality Inn

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Director Tom Kostaluk has been doing research into the history of the O.N.A. since its inception. This series deals with its Conventions and the dates, locations, and numbers at the banquet. Our thanks to Tom for his efforts.

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## **ASSOCIATION NEWS**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

The applications which appeared in the July-August issue of the Ontario Numismatist have been accepted.

No further applications have been received to date.

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O.N.A. Lapel Pins are still available in a limited number at \$4.00 plus \$1.00 handling and postage. P.O. Box 33, Waterloo, Ontario, N2J 3Z6 - marked - Lapel Pins.

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Generally speaking, the best advice I can give you regarding the cleaning of coins is "when in doubt, don't". Such organic materials as chewing gum, oil, scotch tape residues, etc., can be removed by soaking or rinsing in an organic solvent such as alcohol, acetone, benzene, or carbon tetrachloride. A word of caution is needed here, the use of such solvents should be in a well-ventilated place, away from all flames, and definitely one should not smoke while using them. Carbon tetrachloride and other chlorinated solvents are not flammable, but their vapours are toxic.

It is unwise to use such compounds as silvo, brasso, jewellers' rouge, and other preparations which contain an abrasive. It should be quite unnecessary to say that steel wool and similar pads are most destructive. Some collectors have cleaned coins with various tooth pastes and powders, but all these preparations so alter the lustre of the coin that it becomes obvious that the cleaned coins do not have a natural lustre. A few people in the past have rubbed coins with an eraser to restore their original colour and lustre. The resulting colour may indeed be as it originally was, but the lustre is far from being the original one.

A beginning collector is wise to experiment with pocket change to learn the safest methods of cleaning. In so doing, he will learn that copper or bronze coins are very active chemically, and that such coins should be shown to an expert for advice before attempting to clean them. He will also see first-hand the disastrous consequences of using anything abrasive, and will see that cleaning does not improve the looks of anything thickly toned or in poorer than extremely fine condition.

Gold coins very seldom need cleaning. Occasionally they develop reddish tones, which can be pleasing. Lime deposits can be removed by weak acids such as vinegar or a weak solution of a mineral acid. Do not use aqua regia: it is a mixture of nitric and hydrochloric acids, and gets its name because it will dissolve gold.

Silver coins are susceptible to tarnish, which is silver sulphide produced by atmospheric sulphid contamination. If the tarnish is very thick and dark in colour, the coin should be left alone, for removing the tarnish will leave a coin with an unsightly, pitted surface that will never be the same again. A light tarnish of an unpleasant colour can be removed by dipping the coin in liquid jewellery cleaner, available at most jewellers and department stores. The coin is dipped, rinsed in cold water and allowed to dry. Cold water should always be used to rinse the coins, never hot. Rinsing with hot water causes a reaction which leaves an unnatural white finish quite unlike the natural lustre of a coin.

The old housewives' technique of baking soda and aluminum is another good way to clean silver coins. The coin is placed in a strong solution of baking soda in an aluminum pan or dish and heated. Aluminum displaces the silver from the sulphide, and the tarnish disappears. The solution is poured off and the coins rinsed in cold water and allowed to dry. The treatment need not be prolonged nor carried out at the boiling point.

Nickel coins seldom need cleaning except with soap and water. A coin collector who happened to be a chemist by profession did some testing on various brands of soap for us and true to their ads, ivory soap turned out to be milder than others: 99-44/100 pure like the commercial says.

Copper, bronze, and brass corrode and tarnish readily, and can develop a patina in time. Patina is a beautiful finish which takes years to form, and exists in many colours and lustres. Its removal is unnecessary.

Lime deposits on coins found in the ground can be removed by weak acids such as vinegar.

Verdigris, the green spots which sometimes appear on coins, can be removed by soaking in a hot solution of sodium sesquicarbonate in water. Treatment is continued till the solution turns bluish. The solution is discarded, and the coin is rinsed in water and placed in a fresh solution if required.

A few words about mint lustre: mint lustre is the delicate finish imparted to the coin's surface during striking. It is the result of the immense pressure required to stamp the blank with the design. The dies are polished, as are the blanks, and the contact of these polished surfaces under pressure produces the lustre. It is very easily worn through in circulation, and strong chemicals will destroy it. Once the mint lustre is gone, no known physical nor chemical process can ever restore it.

The above article was taken, in part, from a report on cleaning coins, published by the Royal Canadian Mint.

Use the information contained here carefully and wisely, and when in doubt "DON'T". Always check and seek the advice of an expert when numismatically valuable coins are in question. Keep in mind also that solvents such as benzene, carbon tetrachloride, hydrochloric, and nitric acids are flammable and toxic and should be used with caution in a well-ventilated area only. All the best in your endeavours.

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