



# THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

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1987-1989

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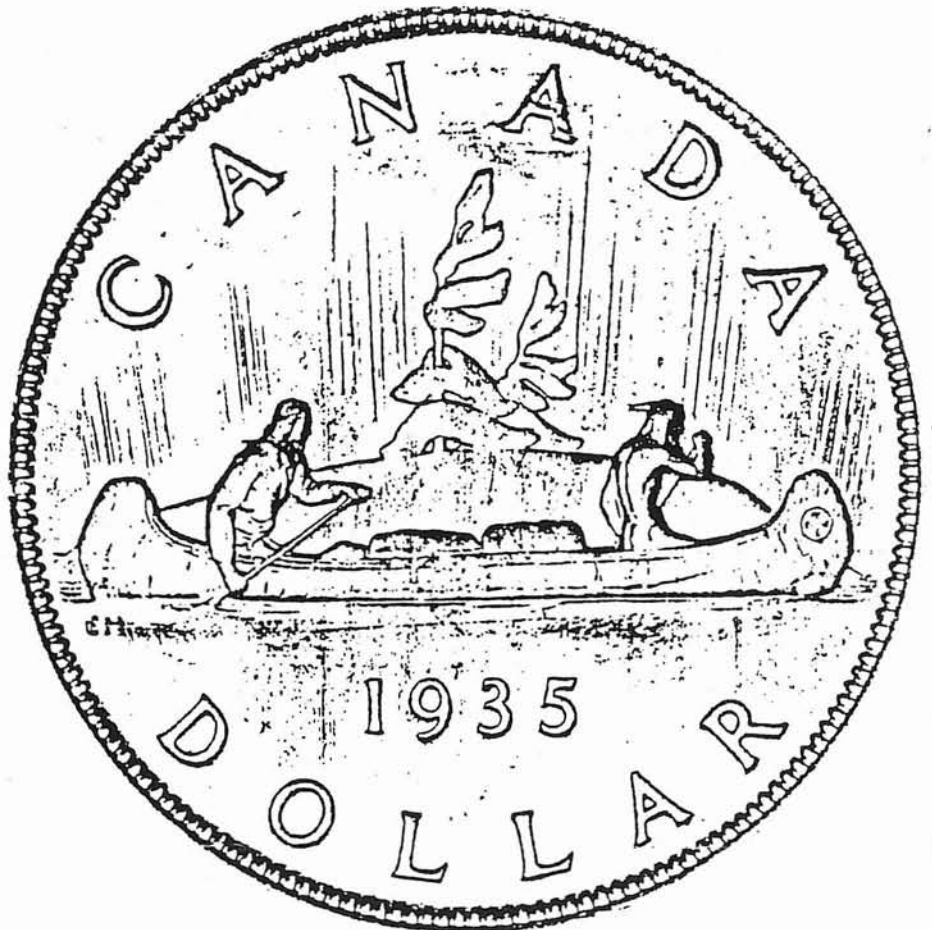
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This message was to be one about the future but first I must speak of the past. Roy Hollingshead, our immediate Past President, passed away on Friday July 8, 1988, after a prolonged illness that curtailed most of his activities.

Roy was a member of many local Coin Clubs and always helped when called upon. His dedication to the hobby was International and he would often return from trips to Florida and tell members at the meetings of visiting the numerous clubs in the St. Petersburg and Tampa area, and how their meetings differed from ours.

Roy's term of office in the Ontario Numismatic Association progressed from a Director through the Vice-President offices to that of President in 1985-1987.

One of the last projects that he was involved with was being Chairman of the Award of Merit Committee for 1988. Roy was always available to me to talk to if there was ever a problem I had to face in the O.N.A., and his advice will be sorely missed. The loss to the O.N.A. is great and I will miss a true friend.

One of the topics I was going to mention this edition took place at a recent Executive Meeting when a motion was adopted to increase the Life Membership dues from \$75.00 to \$100.00. This is a very modest increase when you consider that in the past our Association has been charging 7.5 times our annual rate, while many organizations had Life Membership fees of 15 or 20 times their annual rate. The increase was necessary to bring a closer relation to the actual cost of an individual membership. One point that was included in the motion was the effective date. The increased Life Membership fees will take effect January 1/89. If any Member wishes to take advantage of the old rate and become a Life Member I suggest that they do it now. Life Membership is not only a good thing monetarily but it saves all the hassel at renewal time. I am certain the Ontario Numismatic Association will be around for many years to come, and this will be the last chance at obtaining Life Membership at the old rate.

I hope that all our members had a good summer and were able to withstand the prolonged hot and dry spell. I will no doubt see some of you when the fall activities begin.

Your President,



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Deadline for September-October Edition is September 15, 1988!

# EDITORIAL

Bill Cross, proprietor of one of Canada's oldest Coin Shops - "Charlton Numismatics", and also publisher of "Charltons Standard Catalogue of Canadian Coins", said - "The Royal Canadian Mint has just declared war on the Hobby".

Coin dealer Ingrid Smith, proprietor of the Torex Show, was shocked and said - "I'm horrified, it undermines the confidence of the average collector who is always looking for errors.

Jeffrey Hoare, proprietor of London Coin Exchange and auctioneer called it - "High-Handed - they've gone overboard".

Staff Sergeant Richard Jordon of the R.C.M.P. in Ottawa said - "They've thrown this in our lap and maybe they've made a mistake".

Louis (Scoop) Lewry, President of the C.N.A. said - "They should tell us what's going on".

All were referring to the R.C.M.P. seizure, acting on instructions of the Royal Canadian Mint, of a coin scheduled to be auctioned at the June Torex Auction.

The coin in question is a pure nickel proof 50-Cent piece, struck with the reverse design of the 1981 gold \$100.00 coin instead of the normal Coat of Arms.



This coin is technically known as an off-metal mule. A mule is a coin struck from two dies not intended for each other.

Mint officials have refused to discuss why the coin was seized.

It seems the Mint has had a file on this coin for the past seven years. Why has no action been taken in those years, and especially in the past two years when its location was well known?

Robert Aaron asked several questions. Why didn't the Mint offer to purchase the coin and get it off the market, and with relationship between the Mint and the Hobby at an all time low, this action could avoid a further deterioration of relationship. Aaron also wants to know if security at the Mint is adequate, when it's known that the Mint has a long history of producing back door mule coins, illegally smuggled out of the Mint.

Al Bliman calls these coins counterfeits, and if what he says

EDITORIAL (Cont'd)

is true, the R.C.M.P. doesn't need the Mint's approval to seize these coins. The R.C.M.P. aren't seizing these coins because it would be impossible to charge our Mint with counterfeiting and unless they catch someone at the Mint deliberately making these coins charges are unlikely.

With this seizure by the Mint, what do they plan for the future. Mules and error coins have been released from the Mint in abundance over the years. Error collectors have increased and Clubs and Publications have sprung up. Are these people in jeopardy of losing their collections and business? Ingrid Smith tells error collectors to sell their Royal Canadian Mint coins as soon as possible. I can't see this as a solution to the problem. If all errors were tossed into the market at once, prices would drop, and then there's the other problem - who is going to take the chance of buying these coins and later having the Mint confiscate them.

It's time the Mint cleaned up their act, to reduce or stop the production and release to the public of these error coins. If security is the problem, it's also time to beef up that security and charges laid to those responsible for making illegal coins, so that the money that the public have in their pockets is the official coins of our country.

Your comments on this subject are welcome.....

T. Masters

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# ASSOCIATION NEWS

## MEMBERSHIP

The applications which appeared in the May-June Issue of the Ontario Numismatist have been accepted.

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### Obituary

This past few weeks the Numismatic Family has lost through death three numismatic giants. Those of us who follow can only benefit from their years of dedication to the hobby. It was a privilege for this editor to know all three of these gentlemen, and I will truly miss them.

NORMAN E. WELLS - Peterborough. He was involved in Numismatics for many years, was Past President and Life Member of the Peterborough Coin Club. He participated in many of their Coin Shows and Special Projects.

Two of Norm's prize collections were Wooden Money and Canadian Tire Money, both of which has been viewed by many while being displayed at many shows in the Court of Honour Category. Both of these collections were one of the most complete in Canada.

Another of his interests was research, and he wrote many articles and books on Numismatic subjects. Some of the books he wrote were Canadian Wooden Money, Tokens and Souvenirs. This book was followed up by several supplements. Another book was the Medals and Tokens of Industrial Exhibition Association of Toronto. Medals of Designer-Engraver Stanley Hoyman plus a Second Edition Revised Up-date was another of Wells books. These books received wide acclaim and are available from many Numismatic lending libraries.

Norm was a Charter member of the Canadian Association of Wooden

ASSOCIATION NEWSOBITUARY (Cont'd)

Money Collectors, member of the Canadian Numismatic Association, Ontario Numismatic Association, Canadian Numismatic Research Society, and several other Associations and Coin Clubs.

His exhibits will be missed at many Conventions and Coin Club Shows.

In 1979, Norm was the winner of the prestigious O.N.A. Award of Merit in recognition of his contribution toward the advancement of Numismatics.

To the members of his family we offer our sincere sympathy.

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W. L. ROY HOLLINGSHEAD - Guelph. After a brief illness passed away recently. Roy had been involved in the Numismatic Hobby for many years and was always willing to share his knowledge with those he came in contact. He was a frequent speaker at many Coin Clubs and members anxiously awaited his annual return from Florida each spring for him to bring us news of what was happening at their meetings and shows.

Roy was the immediate Past President of the O.N.A. (1985-1987), Past President of the Cambridge Coin Club and served on several other Executive positions of this Club.

He was a member of most Clubs in Central and Western Ontario, and until his illness attended all on a regular basis.

During his term of office as President of the O.N.A., the popular Club Liability Insurance Program was introduced and he served for several years as a member of the Award of Merit Committee.

Roy will be greatly missed at upcoming Conventions, Numismatic events, and Coin Club meetings, and missed by all his friends and fellow collectors.

To the Hollingshead family we offer our sympathy during their time of grief.

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E. VICTOR SNELL - St. Catharines - suddenly on his way to the C.N.A. Convention. Victor had a long and outstanding career in Numismatics. He was one of the founding members, and a Life Member, of the St. Catharines Coin Club, and served as their President on at least one occasion. He also served in many other capacities with the Club and helped to promote the Club's growth, both in membership and Club Shows. Member of all or most Clubs in the Niagara Area.

During Canada's Centennial Year, Victor was elected President of the Canadian Numismatic Association (1967-1969). He also served in other Executive positions of the C.N.A. during his rise to the President's Chair.

In 1969, Victor was the winner of the Ontario Numismatic Association's "Award of Merit" for his untiring service of promoting Numismatics.

Victor will truly be missed by his many friends and fellow collectors and the St. Catharines Coin Club. Victor's passing has left a large void in the Numismatic family which I feel will be hard to fill.

To the Snell family we offer our condolences on their great loss.

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AUCTION TENDER: O.N.A. CONVENTION APRIL 22, 1989

The Ontario Numismatic Association invites all those interested in conducting a one (1) session auction on Saturday, April 22, 1989, at 2:00 p.m. in the City of Woodstock, at the Quality Inn.

Those interested should reply in writing with terms and conditions before the deadline - Friday, September 2, 1988, to:-

AUCTION 1989 - O.N.A. -- P.O. BOX 33 -- WATERLOO, ONTARIO, N2J 3Z6

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- August 28 (M.T.C.E. - Metro Toronto Coin Exhibition at Bond Place Hotel  
 September 25 (65 Dundas Street East, Toronto, - 10:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.,  
 December 4 (Admission \$2.00 - 30 Bourse dealers. Info: Ingrid K. Smith,  
 (416) 920 6461.
- September 10 Huronia Numismatic Association Coin, Stamp & Antique Show  
 Bayfield Mall, Bayfield St., N. Barrie, Ont. Info: H.N.A.  
 P.O. Box 243, Barrie Ontario, L4M 4Y2.
- September 30 Nuphilex - Montreal Coin and Stamp Show at Palais des Congres,  
 201 West Viger Ave., More than 65 dealers expected. Admission  
 \$3.00. Hours: Friday 10 a.m.- 9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.- 6 p.m.,  
 Sunday 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Coin and stamp auctions. Write  
 S. Laramee, P.O. Box 131, Boucherville, Que. (514) 655 9134.
- October 2 Sarnia Coin Club Annual Coin Show - Guildwood Best Western  
 Hotel, Foot of Bluewater Bridge, Sarnia. Info: Carl  
 Williamson, 931 Greendale St., Sarnia, N7V 3P4, (519) 337 9191.
- October 8-9 Ste. Foy - La Societe Numismatique de Quebec's Annual Show and  
 Bourse will be held at the Chateau Bonne Fntente, 3400 Chemin  
 Ste. Foy, Que. Mail bids accepted for auction. For more  
 information, contact the society at Box 281, Sillery, Que.  
 GLT 2R1.
- October 15 Hamilton Coin Club Coin Show - Royal Canadian Legion, Br. 58,  
 1180 Barton St., E. (upstairs) Hamilton, Ontario, (across  
 from Centre Mall). Info: T. McHugh, P.O. Box 9271, Stoney  
 Creek, Ontario, L8G 3X9.
- October 16 Tillsonburg Coin Show - Memorial Centre (Fair Grounds). Info:  
 W. Baxter, 46 Queens Street, Tillsonburg, N4G 3G9.
- October 16 St. Jerome - L'Association des Collectionneurs de Monnaies  
 des Laurentides Inc. presents a show, bourse and auction,  
 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Centre d'Art du Vieux Palais  
 St. Jerome, Que. For more information, contact Claude Proulx,  
 Box 700, Val David, Que. JOT 2N0.
- October 22 St. Catharines Coin Club Annual Coin Show & Banquet. Info:  
 Later date.
- October 29-30 (Torex - Ramada Hotel, 111 Carlton St., Toronto. Info: Ingrid  
 (K. Smith (416) 920 6461, or P.O. Box 865, Adelaide St., P.O.,  
 (Toronto, Ontario, M5C 2K1.
- October 30 Stratford 26th Annual Show and Bourse - Kiwanis Centre -  
 Lakeshore Drive, Stratford. Free Admission - Hours 9:00 a.m.  
 - 5:00 p.m. Info: Stratford Coin Club, P.O. Box 262, Strat-  
 ford, Ontario, N5S 6T1.
- November 18-20 Toronto International Coin Fair at the Lakeshore Inn, 2000  
 Lakeshore Blvd. Wst. Hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Sunday to  
 4 p.m.) Admission \$2 adults, \$1 students. Door prizes,  
 educational programs. For information call (416) 229-COIN.
- Every Second (The Ottawa Coin and Stamp Dealers Association presents a show  
 Sunday (on the second Sunday of each month at the Nepean Sportsplex,  
 (on Woodroffe Ave., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission free. For  
 info: write Allan Davis, Box 307, Carp, Ontario, KOA 1L0.

Cont'd.....

CONVENTION CALENDAR (Cont'd)

- April 22-23, 1989 O.N.A. 27th Annual Convention - Quality Inn, Woodstock, Ontario, Junction 59 Hwy and 401. Host Clubs - Ingersoll, Tillsonburg, and Woodstock. Info: Chairman T. Masters, 823 Van Street, London, Ontario, N5Z 1M8. (519) 438 2402.
- July 27-30, 1989 C.N.A. Annual Convention - Quebec City, P.Q.

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Does your Coin Show appear in our listing? If not, it's because the Editor has not received that information. In order for your Show to be listed, get that information to the Editor at least three months prior to your Show date.

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EX-LIBRIS:

The following books are to be added to your Library List which was published in your July-August 1987 issue of the O.N.A. Numismatist.

- |  |            |                                       |
|--|------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Coins of Canada - 1986 & 1988                             | donated by | T. Masters                            |
| 2. Guide Book of U.S. Coins 1988 - 41 Edition                | " "        | Charles Springborn                    |
| 3. Krause Standard Cat. World Coins 1988 "                   | " "        | " "                                   |
| 4. Medals of Designer-Engraver Stanley Hayman<br>2nd Edition | " "        | Late Norm Wells                       |
| 5. Alberta Trade Tokens                                      | donated by | J. Ferguson Foundation                |
| 6. Let's Collect Paper Money                                 | " "        | T.I.C.F. John Regitko                 |
| 7. Medals of Dora De Pedery Hunt                             | " "        | T.I.C.F. John Regitko                 |
| 8. O.N.A. Speakers Circuit Booklet                           | " "        | O.N.A.                                |
| 9. Royal Canadian Mint Report 1987 Ed.                       | " "        | R.C.M.                                |
| 10. Can. Numis. Vol. 1- Number 1 - 1988                      | " "        | Paul Nadin Davis                      |
| 11. The Interpam Book - 1981                                 | " "        | F.C. Jewett                           |
| 12. Interpam - 81 Auction                                    | " "        | F.C. Jewett                           |
| 13. 1987 Auction Canada July 3                               | " "        | Tom Kostaluk                          |
| 14. 1986-87 Torex Auctions (bound)                           | " "        | Jeffrey Hoare<br>London Coin Exchange |
| 15. 1988 Lloyd M. Higgins Collection Auct                    | " "        | T. Masters                            |
| 16. 1988 Guia Collection Auction                             | " "        | T. Masters                            |
| 17. 1988 Norweb Collection Auction                           | " "        | T. Masters                            |
| 18. 1988 T.I.C.F. O.N.A. Auction                             | " "        | O.N.A.                                |
| 19. 1988Torex Winter Auction                                 | " "        | T. Masters                            |
| 20. 1988 Torex Summer Auction                                | " "        | T. Masters                            |
| 21. 1973 Matt Roth Collection Auction                        | " "        | Charles Springborn                    |
| 22. 1986 Princeton & Charles W. Ingle<br>Collection Auction  | " "        | Charles Springborn                    |
| 23. 1986 Stuart C. Levine Collection Auct                    | " "        | Charles Springborn                    |

My thanks to all who donated to the O.N.A. Library. I hope that your generous donation will encourage others to contribute so that others may take advantage of a viable service.

T. Masters  
O.N.A. Librarian

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PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

The O.N.A. invites every Club in Ontario to submit a request to hold a future Convention. We are in urgent need for someone to host the 1990 Convention.

Write for particulars to the O.N.A. address found on the cover.

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JERRY REMICK'S

PERSONAL MEDALS



JERRY REMICK  
Die No. 1--



JERRY REMICK  
Die No. 2



JERRY REMICK  
Die No. 3



REMICK CREST  
Die No. 4

Four different reverse dies were used with my obverse portrait die to make medals on 38 mm (1½ inch) blanks. Each of the 4 types of medals is available in antiqued finishes of copper, gold plate, and silver plate at \$2.75 postpaid each or 3 for \$7.50 postpaid. Medals are also available on double thick blanks (pieforts) with reverse die 3 only at \$4.75 postpaid each. Registration if desired is \$2.00 extra. Jerry Remick Box 9183, Ste Foy, Quebec, Canada, G1V 4B1.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

For those who don't know Jerry, you can get to know him better through his regular column in Canada Coin News under the by-line of Trade Dollars, or a regular contributor to the C.N.A. Journal. Also, if your Club or organization is producing a medal, get a photo or medal to Jerry with a write-up what that medal represents. He will do his best to have that write-up printed in Canada Coin News or the C.N.A. Journal.

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O.N.A. CONVENTION '89

The O.N.A. are happy to announce that the 1989 27th Annual Convention has been awarded to the Oxford County Coin Clubs. This group is comprised of the three Clubs of Oxford County.- Ingersoll, Tillsonburg, and Woodstock. This 2-day Convention will take place on Saturday and Sunday of April 22-23, 1989, at the Quality Inn at the junction of Highways 59 and the 401.

The Quality Inn is an 80-room complex with full Convention facilities and a Wine & Cheese reception is planned for those pre-registered guests and dealers who arrive on Friday. Security room has been reserved for those who want to use it on Friday night. Banquet will be on Saturday night and competitive and non-competitive displays are invited for those who wish to display.

Tenders are out for an auction and as soon as an auctioneer is

O.N.A. CONVENTION '89 (Cont'd)

is selected it will be announced.

A walking tour of the historic downtown - Museum, Court House, Market Building and Jail, is planned for Saturday morning.

The Convention Hall will accommodate at least 40 bourse dealers plus as many displays as we can get.

Cost of bourse tables - \$165.00 single, or if more than 1 table \$150.00 each. Several dealers have already reserved space and tables will be allotted on receipt of a down payment.

Bourse application should be addressed to Wayne MacFarlane, 25 Fourth Street, Tillsonburg, N4G 1H1, or Bill Baxter, 46 Queens Street, Tillsonburg, N4G 3G9.

Convention Booklet is in the capable hands of Tom Kostaluk, and information re ads can be obtained from him at his address - 52 Frobisher, London, Ontario, N5V 1G9.

A medal will be struck featuring on its reverse the historic Oxford County Court House. If we abide by past years only 27 silver will be struck to coincide with the 27 Conventions. Those who want a silver medal should write to the O.N.A., P.O. Box 33, Waterloo, Ont., N2J 3Z6.

Prices of all medals will be announced at a later date.

Other committee members have been appointed and General Chairman T. Masters, 823 Van Street, London, N5Z 1M8, hopes that every member and Club in Ontario give us their whole-hearted support.

The O.N.A. will be running their annual draw, and hope you will give it the same support as in the past.

Elsewhere in this publication you will find our first early flyer. Take it to your Coin Club and give us some early advertisement. From now to next April you will be reading about the 27th O.N.A. Convention. This year's Theme is "Back to Reality". Don't you miss this one!

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## FROM THE PRESS: Mint plans two new leaf coins

The Royal Canadian Mint will produce and market two new precious-metal investment coins, one made of platinum and one of silver, the government said Monday.

The mint now produces the commercially successful Gold Maple Leaf, which in terms of sales is the No 1. gold bullion investment coin. The new coins will be called the Platinum Maple Leaf and the Silver Maple Leaf.

A date for introduction of the coins will depend in part on market conditions.

Plans call for four different platinum coins: one troy ounce, half, quarter and one-tenth of an ounce, bearing face values of \$50, \$20, \$10, and \$5 respectively, the same face values on corresponding sizes of the Gold Maple Leaf.

The basic design, the queen's head on one side and a maple leaf on the reverse, as well as the diameters of the platinum coins will be the same as the gold coin.

The silver coins will come in the one-ounce size and carry a face value of \$5. The basic design will be the same as the other coins but the silver coins will have a greater diameter.

The new coins will be the mint's first entry into the platinum and silver bullion coin investment market. In terms of value, platinum is worth roughly \$600 (U.S.) an ounce, gold \$430 (U.S.) an ounce and silver \$5.

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FROM THE PRESS: (Cont'd)

# Looney will soon take over

## Dollar bill issue to cease after next June 30

The dollar bill will be phased out starting next June 30 to make way for the looney, Finance Minister Michael Wilson announced recently.

"Consistent with the government's original commitment to begin withdrawing the bill in 1989, \$1 bills will cease being issued after June 30, 1989," Wilson said in a letter tabled in the Commons.

The bills will remain legal tender even after the Bank of Canada has ceased to issue them.

Royal Canadian Mint officials and a Commons Committee have urged a quick phaseout of the dollar bill, saying the coin -- which got its nickname from the picture of a loon on one side -- will fail unless the bill is eliminated.

About 130 million looneys and 300 million dollar bills are now in circulation.

Bank of Canada spokesman Gerrit Bilkes said it will take about a year for the dollar bill to be largely replaced by the eleven-sided, gold-colored coin.

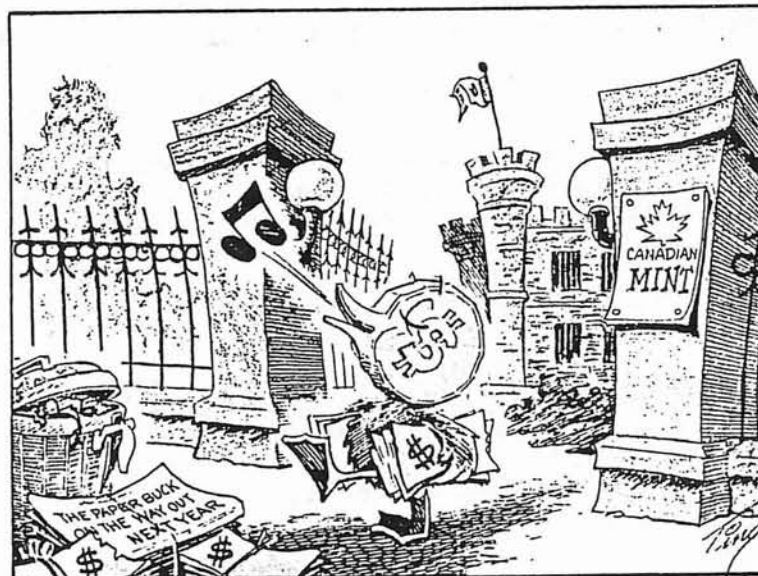
Although coins are more expensive to produce than bills, the switch is expected to save Ottawa about \$175 million over 20 years because the coins are more durable.

Mint spokesman Murray Church said the mint is pleased with the long-awaited news.

"It gives us the opportunity now to plan ahead and plan our production so that the completion of the changeover occurs as smoothly as possible," he said.

The mint already has produced about 250 million coins and doesn't anticipate problems in supplying more.

The government has told its offices to use the coin and wants the mint to launch an advertising program to explain the phaseout of the bill to the public.



COVER STORY

# Canada's Commemorative Dollars

1 9 3 5 - 1 9 6 4

The crown or dollar-sized coin is a fairly recent arrival on the scene of world coinage. And the Canadian dollar is one of the last to appear.

During the 1850's, while Britain was seriously considering the adoption of the decimal system for her coinage, Canada was seriously considering the adoption of the dollar into her family of coins.

The government went far enough to include the dollar among the legal possibilities for Canadian coinage at the time, but there was no necessity for the coin and it remained just a possibility for the next 60 years.

In 1910 the discussion of a dollar again came to life, this time seriously enough to occasion the actual designing and striking of a few pattern pieces dated 1911.

The obverse of this dollar was designed by an Australian, Sir Bertram Mackennal, the reverse by the Royal Mint's Chief Engraver Leonard Wyon. Wyon's Maple leaves were to appear on Canadian coins for nearly three decades.

But again, there was no call for the piece to be made for circulation and the silver dollar issue remained dormant until 1927, when a revision in the law made its coinage possible again.

And, although there was still no dollar made in 1927, the law's revision opened the way for the first Canadian silver dollar minted for circulation in 1935.

Although the 1911 dollar cannot seriously be called a commemorative, the 1935 coin can. It commemorated the 25th anniversary of the reign of King George V. In this case, however, the reverse design had no bearing on the commemoration.

The reverse, designed by Canadian artist Emanuel Hahn, represented the strength, beauty, and romance of Canada's historic progress throughout the years since its pioneer beginnings.

A voyageur, probably of French extraction, shares a canoe and a heavy work load with his Indian partner. Between them, arranged carefully on the floor of the canoe rest large bundles of furs, marked even on the dollar with the monogram HB - Hudson's Bay Company, the first name in fur trading.

Birch bark for the canoe came from the vast forests represented on the coin by the trees growing on the island. Silhouetting the scene are the brilliant varicolored Northern Lights so common and so striking in the northern reaches of the continent.

Mint records establish that only 428,120 pieces of this first issue were struck. And, as might be expected of a new baby, the coins were handled with kid gloves - they were counted by hand and hand-packed 20 to a carton to prevent chafing and marking while being shipped.

Although the first canoe dollar was truly a commemorative, it is also true that this reverse is the standard for Canadian dollars - those minted between issues of recognized commemoratives.

It wasn't until 1939 that there occurred another event worthy of commemorating with a dollar. This was the visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth to Canada....

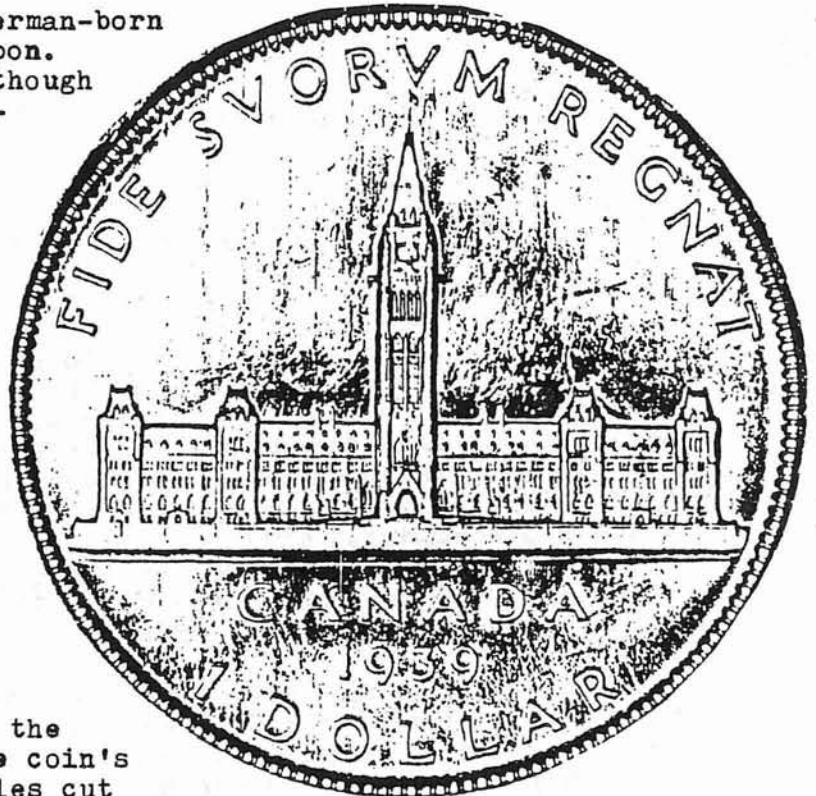
CANADA'S COMMEMORATIVE DOLLARS (Cont'd)

Once again Emanuel Hahn, German-born Canadian designer, was called upon.

His Parliament reverse, although not the most popular of the commemorative dollar designs, has the honor of being on the first Canadian coin listed in the Mint report as a presentation piece to the Queen and King. Dollars, in their own hand-worked cases, were also given to Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret.

Newfoundland joined the Dominion of Canada as a province in 1949 and occasioned the appearance of what many collectors believe to be the loveliest piece of work ever to appear on a Canadian coin, perhaps on any modern coin.

Thomas Shingles, English-born designer of the piece, was the Mint Engraver at the time of the coin's design. A master artist, Shingles cut the die by hand, a job reserved nowadays for precision machines. A close look at the delicacy of the ship's rigging



tells better than words that his was no ordinary piece of work.

The event this coin commemorates began long ago.

Four years after the birth of Cristobal Colon, whom we remember as Christopher Columbus, another Genoese family was blessed with a little explorer. They named him Giovanni Caboto -- John Cabot.

Cabot grew up with the same fierce drive to search the sea as Columbus and, being four years younger, he was just about four years behind in his search.

An easy route to the Indies was the goal of governments and merchants at that time so Cabot joined the parade and tried to find that route.

Not getting the kind of backing he needed at home, Cabot in 1484 moved to London to seek patronage for his voyage. Henry VII gave him his blessing and permitted Cabot and his two



sons "...full and free authority, leave and power upon their own proper costs and charges, to seek out, discover and find whatsoever isles, countries, regions or provinces of the heathen and infidels, which before this time have been unknown to all Christians".

Leaving Bristol on May 2, 1497, aboard the "Matthew", Cabot, his two sons and the crew sailed westward for 52 days. On the morning of June 24, they landed on the northern tip of Cape Breton Island and Cabot took possession of the land in the king's name. From Cape Breton, Cabot sailed back under Newfoundland, stopping to name St. Pierre and Miquelon and, leaving Cape Race, he returned to England.

The gracious king was so overjoyed with Cabot's discovery that he gave him a reward of 10 whole pounds!

It was Cabot's ship, the "Matthew", which Shingles used on the reverse of the dollar. And, of course, the ship on the Newfoundland dollar is fitting from the standpoint of the subsequent history of the land too. A good share of the populace of Newfoundland have gained their livelihood from the sea.

Canada was to wait nine years for another commemorative dollar. And when it came, it was probably the most striking, though certainly not the most beautiful, of all Canadian dollars.

British Columbia, the western-most of Canada's provinces, became a British colony in 1858, the year of the gold rush into the Cariboo district. And it was this event the coin was to commemorate.

Stephen Trenka, Hungarian-born designer of the British Columbia dollar, chose for his coin design a totem pole over a background of the Canadian Rockies. At the top of the pole is a raven, symbolically related to death.

This symbol aroused a great distaste among the Indians and many other residents of British Columbia. One story has it that many of the older Indians refused to touch this "death dollar".

But the death dollar has become one of the most popular of all Canadian commemoratives. In fact, it enjoys the highest mintage of them all and its unusual design must be given the credit.

January 9, 1962 was the release date on the opening of the competition to secure a new design.

Artists and sculptors in Canada were invited to submit their ideas for a coin to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 1864 Conferences of the Fathers of Confederation which led to the establishment of the Confederation in 1867.



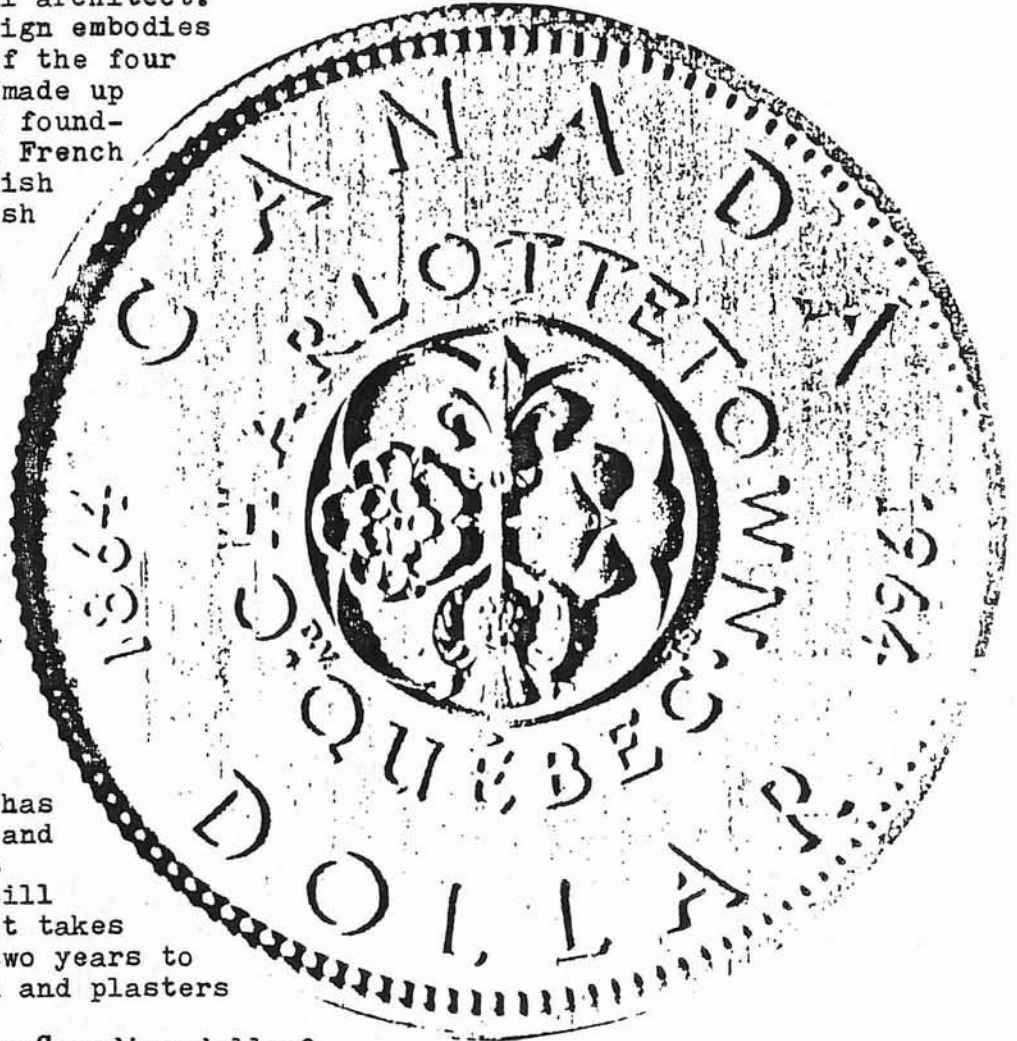
CANADA'S COMMEMORATIVE DOLLARS (Cont'd)

The government offered a prize of \$1,000 for the winning design with four additional prizes of \$250 each for honorable mention.

Designs were submitted to N. A. Parker, Master of the Royal Canadian Mint in Ottawa, and he and a board of judges chose the design of Dinko Vodanovic, a Montreal architect.

Vodanovic's design embodies the floral emblems of the four ethnic groups which made up the bulk of Canada's founding population - the French Fleur-de-Lis, the Irish Shamrock, the Scottish Thistle and the English Rose. Above and below these emblems appear the names of Charlottetown (P.E.I.) and Quebec, cities where the first conferences were held.

According to Mint Master Parker, when 1967 - the 100th anniversary of the Confederation - comes along, there will be another Canadian commemorative dollar. The design has not been chosen yet and even the subject, at latest report, is still under discussion. It takes the better part of two years to get designs approved and plasters made.



What good is the Canadian dollar?

Its usefulness is limited almost entirely to collectors. Millions are bought each year for presentation items at birthdays, anniversaries and other such occasions. There is no record that the dollar ever was meant to be used in commerce and, with few exceptions, never has been widely used as a medium of exchange.

But if there was no real reason for having a dollar in 1935, there is even less reason to stop minting the coin today. And, from all indications, nobody wants to stop.

And, although the Canadian dollar is one of the most recent arrivals on the dollar scene, it appears to have a permanence that will make its collectors happy for years to come.

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**Ontario Numismatic  
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**27th Annual**

**Convention &  
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