



# ONTARIO NUMISMATIST

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION ISSN 0048-1815

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## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

We basically have three types of members: collectors, clubs and the professional numismatist. Although we have catered to the collector and clubs through the pages of the ONA Numismatist, I wonder if we have done enough for those members that are trying to earn a living through the hobby, either on a full-time or part-time basis.

So here is what we are prepared to do: If any ONA member issues a price list and sends me a copy, we will publish information about it in the next available issue. Please tell us under what conditions you are willing to send it to ONA members, for example, free for the asking or at a specified amount refundable on the member's first order. We would publish the general contents of the price list as well as contact information. If you have an annual subscription fee for your price list, let us know how much and how many issues/pages that includes.

In the last issue, we did not include any original articles or any reprints of articles that have appeared in local club bulletins. We did not publish any club news, or new Ontario issues (i.e. trade dollars). The post-convention write-ups, Club services reports and other "business" such as the treasurer's report for 2001 took up all available space. This issue, we are back to including a good supply of articles dealing with numismatics of Ontario. One of the items included is a bit of background on coin designer John Jaciw, an article that was published in the National Post and a response from Jaciw that the National Post decided to ignore. It is unfortunate that when one writer for a national newspaper has a negative opinion, they do not give anyone the opportunity to

*continued on next page...*

**Mark your calendar now!**

## **ONA 2003 CONVENTION**

**April 12 - 13, 2003**

**Ramada Inn, 716 Stone Rd., Guelph, Ontario**

**(formerly College Inn where many great ONA Conventions have been held)**

**Dealers will be contacted shortly. Watch for details in future issues.**

## APPOINTED COMMITTEE

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## MEMBERSHIP FEES

Regular Membership - \$15 per year  
Husband & Wife (1 Journal) - \$17 year  
Junior (up to age 18) - \$5 year  
Club Membership - \$20 year  
Life Membership - \$450  
(Life Memberships are accepted only  
after one year of regular membership)

Send Membership Applications (with cheque  
payable to the ONA) to the ONA Treasurer.

*(continued from previous page)*

express a contrary opinion. We are pleased to give John Jaciw a forum for his thoughts, although on a considerably smaller scale than the National Post. What we are not including again is news lifted from club bulletins. Please allow me to explain:

We found out at the ONA Convention in April that Ken Prophet, Executive Secretary of the CNA, was seriously ill. Our 1st V.P., Paul Petch, who is also the Chairman of the CNA Administration Committee, traveled to Barrie frequently to assist Ken in assuring that all routine matters were handled in the usual prompt and efficient manner. Having worked with Ken over the years and feeling I knew most of the CNA's office routines, I volunteered to assist whenever necessary. What made things even more urgent was the pending annual CNA Convention that would be held in Vancouver on July 11 to 15. Ken passed away on Wednesday, June 26. Because I believe in the necessity of a strong national numismatic umbrella organization, I readily accepted the appointment to replace Ken and have been spending a lot of time keeping things on track. Arranging for new phone numbers, e-mail addresses and bank accounts, moving files, keeping up on daily matters of processing renewals, answering new membership inquiries and hundreds of other details, did not allow sufficient time to review the many bulletins for me to include a "Club News" section in this bulletin. Under the circumstances, I know that ONA members will accept the reason for not taking as much time for this bulletin as other times. Anyway, it allowed me to catch up on the publication of the backlog of articles from local coin club bulletins and other submissions.

On a personal note, I appreciate the complimentary comments we have received on the Ontario Numismatist. We can include so much since, thanks to a few of our commercial members, we have been able to run 34 pages per issue. I don't know what I would have left out if I had less to work with. I am continuing to solicit donations of \$300 to be able to continue to publish 34-page bulletins. If you wish details of what the \$300 gets you (for example, a full year's of advertising plus a lot more), contact me for details.

Incidentally, when you joined for 2002 or renewed your membership, you did not count on a seventh bulletin this year. Watch for the special 40th Anniversary Celebration issue in your mail soon. It will be a whopping 76 pages detailing the rich and varied history of the ONA, its founders, the people that kept it alive and strong, the members who believed it the Association's future by transferring to life membership. It will list names of the executives, others who volunteered their time and talent, and those that contributed articles over the 400-odd issues that have been published. What made the printing and mailing of this special issue possible was that your executive passed a motion made by Paul Petch, our 1st V.P., to allocate a portion of the profits made on the ONA 2000 Convention to this undertaking. This project gave me the opportunity to review 40 years' worth of bulletins, a major time-consuming undertaking, but lots of fun.

*John Regitko*  
*ONA Editor*

# C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S



To David Bergerson, on his appointment as Curator for the Bank of Canada's National Currency Museum. Rather than including him in an "on the move" column, we thought we would give him the honor of a full "People in the News" write-up (see page 113).

To coin designer Tony Bianco, who had 75 original paintings depicting Canada's National Parks on display in the Algonquin Gallery in Algonquin Park. Tony could be seen signing autographs over the Victoria Day weekend. Also present was his wife, Linda, and their children, Sierra and Elias.

To John Regitko, on his appointment as Executive Secretary of the CNA.

# B E S T W I S H E S



To Joyce Prophet, who is in the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie because of hip problems caused by a fall. We wish her a speedy recovery.

# C O N D O L E N C E S



To the family of Ken Prophet, on his passing on June 26, peacefully in the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie. He served as Executive Secretary of the CNA for 30 years. Ken was an area director of the ONA as well as long-serving President of the Huronia Numismatic Association. He received numerous awards from the CNA and the ONA for his service and dedication to the hobby over a 30-year period.

# M E M B E R S H I P R E P O R T



## W E L C O M E

The applications for membership which appeared in the last issue of the ONA Numismatist have been accepted.

We welcome Art Baker, Barbara Nelson, Dick Bowman, Ted Schmidt, Steve Vale, Brenda Vale, Emile Dumouchel, Frank Lai, Randy Calhoun, Charles Stansfield, Randall Underhill, Carly Dorion, Lorne Hall, Jason Ljepava, Bryan Hare, Edward Phelps, Keith Hinton, Werner Paetzold, Thomas Hurst, Larry Smith, Del Newbigging and Paul Crawford.

## N E W A P P L I C A T I O N S

The following applications for membership have been received. If there are no objections by August 15, they will be accepted into ONA membership and their acceptance published in the next bulletin.

#1768 John Kantymir (Port Colborne, Ontario)

#1769 Steve Markwick (Brampton, Ontario)

*Bruce Raszmann  
Membership Chairman*



Please note the new contact information for the  
**Canadian Numismatic Association**

John Regitko, Executive Secretary

4936 Yonge St., Suite 601, North York, ON M2N 6S3

Tel: 416-223-5980 Fax: 416-223-6782 E-mail: cnaexec@look.ca

# SHOW TIME - UPCOMING

*A column intended to entice ONA members to attend each other's coin shows*



## AUGUST 11 PARIS

S.W.O.N.

South Western Ontario Numismatics  
The Convention Centre  
Paris Fair Grounds  
139 Silver St., Paris  
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Over 50 Bourse Tables  
\$2.00 Admission Includes  
Draw for Gold Coin  
Info: Ted (519) 442-3474  
e-mail: teds.S.W.O.N.22@Sympatico.ca



## AUGUST 17 COLLINGWOOD

Collingwood Coin & Stamp  
Club 28th Annual Show  
Leisure Time Centre  
100 Minnesota Street  
Collingwood  
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
22 Dealers - Free Draws  
Free Admission - Free Parking  
Info: Steve coin\_prez@hotmail.com  
or Horst brho\_hobo@hotmail.com



## SEPTEMBER 8 WOODSTOCK

Woodstock Coin Club's  
13th Annual Coin Show  
South Gate Centre  
191 Old Wellington St. South  
Woodstock  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
19 Bourse Dealers - Exhibits  
Admission \$1 - YNs Free  
Free Parking - Free Draws  
Info: Tom (519) - 451-2316



## SEPTEMBER 21 GUELPH

Hosted by the Waterloo Coin  
Society and the South  
Wellington Coin Society  
Colonel John McCrae Legion  
919 York Rd. (Hwy. 7), Guelph  
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Large Bourse - Displays - Draws  
Free Admission - Free Parking  
Info: Don (519) 888-9655  
e-mail: drr@golden.net



## SEPT. 22 LONDON

London Numismatic Society  
10th Annual Coin Show  
The Ramada Inn  
817 Exeter Road (off Hwy.401)  
London  
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Bourse Dealers - Displays  
Admission Only \$1  
Info: Ted (519) 472-9679



## SEPT. 28 - 29 HAMILTON

TNS Numismatic Show  
Ramada Plaza Hotel  
150 King St. East, Level P3  
Hamilton  
Fri. Dealer Set-up, Auction  
Early Bird Admission \$15  
Sat. 10-5; Sunday 10-3  
Admission \$3; \$2 Seniors/YNs  
Huge Bourse  
Info: Terry (905) 318-1638



## OCTOBER 6 TILLSONBURG

Tillsonburg Coin Club  
Annual Show  
Tillsonburg Community Centre  
45 Hardy Ave.  
Tillsonburg  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Free Parking - Hourly Draws  
Admission \$1  
Info: Wayne (519) 842-6666



## OCTOBER 19 SCARBOROUGH

Scarborough Coin Club  
6th Annual Coin Show  
Mid Scarborough  
Community Centre  
Scarborough  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Free Parking - Hourly Draws  
Admission \$1  
Info: Rick (416) 977-0663



## OCTOBER 20 STRATFORD

Stratford Coin Club  
40th Annual Coin Show  
NEW LOCATION:  
Festival Inn  
144 Ontario Street, Stratford  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Free Parking - Penny Sale  
Free Admission  
Info: Dorothy (519) 565-5354

# SHOW TIME - UPCOMING

*A column intended to entice ONA members to attend each other's coin shows*



**OCTOBER 26 & 27  
TORONTO - Torex**  
NEW LOCATION: Novotel  
45 The Esplanade, Toronto  
Sat. 10-5; Sunday 10-3  
Huge Bourse - Meetings  
Friday Eve. & Sat. Auctions  
Info: Brian (416) 861-9523  
e-mail: [brian@torex.net](mailto:brian@torex.net)  
[www.torex.net](http://www.torex.net)  
Auction Info: (604) 737-2044  
e-mail: [mail@coinoisseur.com](mailto:mail@coinoisseur.com)



**NOVEMBER 24  
NIAGARA FALLS**  
N.I.C.F. COIN-A-RAMA  
Your Host:  
Niagara International Coin Fest  
Our Lady of Peace Hall  
6944 Stanley Avenue  
Niagara Falls  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
40 Dealers - \$2 Admission  
Free Parking - Free Gold Draw  
Info: Barbara (905) 356-5006



**APRIL 12 - 13, 2003  
GUELPH**  
**ONA CONVENTION**  
Ramada Inn  
716 Stone Road, Guelph  
Bourse - Banquet - Free Parking  
Specialty Collector Meetings  
Annual ONA General Meeting  
Club Delegates Meeting  
Complete Details in Future Issues  
Dealers will be contacted shortly  
e-mail: [onainfo@look.ca](mailto:onainfo@look.ca)

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# FROM THE CLUB SERVICES CHAIRMAN

We are pleased to list a summary of 11 additional VCR tape programs on pages 108 and 109) that will be available by the end of August from our Audio Visual Lending Librarian either to clubs for showing at meetings or to individual ONA members. Watch for more new programs in the next issue.

At last year's Club Delegates Meeting at the ONA Convention, Gord Parker, representing the South Wellington Numismatic Society, brought up the subject of the exchange of bulletins between clubs. He stated that most editors could not afford to join over 30 other clubs. Len Trakalo, representing the Brantford Coin Club, suggested that this could also be accomplished by e-mailing the bulletins to other clubs.

We know of a few clubs that mail their bulletin to some other clubs, free of charge, and we encourage for more clubs to do the same. It has a number of obvious advantages. For example, a club in an area knows exactly what other clubs in their area are doing and can organize a car pool to attend each other's meetings. Bulletins list show details, annual dinner meetings, programs, auction lists, etc., that, if passed on to members of other clubs, might cause some of them to attend other club meetings.

To facilitate the exchange of bulletins between clubs, we are pleased to include a questionnaire below. Any club that is willing to exchange their bulletin with some or all other clubs that are also interested in exchanging theirs is asked to fill in the form and return it to me.

*John Regitko*  
*Club Services Chairman*

## REQUEST FOR CLUB BULLETINS

**IF YOUR CLUB IS WILLING TO EXCHANGE BULLETINS WITH OTHER ONTARIO CLUBS,  
PLEASE PHOTOCOPY THE FORM BELOW, FILL IT IN AND RETURN TO ONA CLUB SERVICES**

NAME OF COIN CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

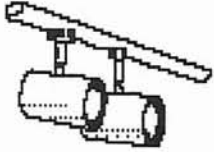
Yes, our club agrees to the exchange of club bulletins. We agree to mail out, at our expense, our club bulletins to clubs that, in turn, are willing to add us to their mailing list. Because it is costly to print and mail extra bulletins each month, here are our restrictions:

- Have us included with all clubs that are willing to send us their bulletin
- Have us included only with clubs whose bulletins publish educational articles
- Limit us to a quantity of \_\_\_\_ clubs
- We give permission for other clubs to copy all articles published in our club bulletin, providing our club and the author receive credit and the club gives us permission, in turn, to copy their articles on the same basis.

SUBMITTED BY (PRINT NAME): \_\_\_\_\_

# S P O T L I G H T   O N   P E O P L E

*A column in praise of active Ontario collectors*



## **MONINA REGITKO A FIXTURE AT ONA CONVENTIONS**

Sometimes we overlook the people that are closest to us! For example, a number of people attend ONA Conventions along with their collecting spouses and wind up doing a lot of work that definitely benefits the success of the convention and the ONA.

One such person is Monina Regitko who got her start exactly that way: attending ONA Conventions and other numismatic shows with her husband and becoming a member of numerous show committees.

Monina received her initial exposure in the hobby at the Toronto International Coin Fair (TICF), owned and operated by John Regitko, who she met while they were both employed at Remington Rand. She was seen manning the reception table, greeting convention-goers and giving them hourly door draw tickets, people's choice exhibit ballots, free show woods and other give-aways. On Friday and Saturday evenings, she was seen assisting John's late sister preparing hot hors d'oeuvres and snacks in the hospitality suite.

Her memories of TICF extend beyond reception and hospitality. It was at one of the TICF shows that John proposed to her. The announcement was made public by Geoff Bell, then President of the CNA, at the TICF Banquet who introduced John as "a very engaging fellow."

Since 1998, she has worked diligently behind the scenes proofreading each and every word of each and every ONA Numismatist to assure that the content of the ONA Numismatist is perfect. This involves making corrections in spelling, grammar and tense. She also makes suggestions for columns and articles. It also falls on her to read the corrected copy to assure that all corrections are indeed made by husband, John.

Monina has served as Hospitality Chair at numerous conventions, including those hosted by the ONA (in Guelph) and the CNA (in Hamilton) as well as those hosted by TICF (when TICF hosted the ONA at the Lakeshore Inn in 1986 and the CNA at the Westbury Hotel in 1991). She has been asked to serve in the same capacity at the 2003 ONA Convention in Guelph. Because of her friendly disposition (although the sandwiches, cheese & crackers, other snacks or the noodles she serves also help), she is always highly thought of by both dealers and collectors. With nine months still to go, she has already approached others to serve on her committee and has planned what to serve at the Friday evening reception and in the hospitality suite at next year's convention.

At the Banquet at the 2002 ONA Convention, John Regitko presented a special Editor's Award to her. In addition to the Certificate of Appreciation which was reproduced in the last issue, she received a covering letter which reads as follows:

"It gives us great pleasure to re-cognize your contributions to the Ontario Numismatic Association via the enclosed special Certificate of Appreciation.

"Whenever you were called upon to proof-read the Ontario Numismatist, official publication of the Ontario Numismatic Association, you we're always willing and able to assist the Ona Editor to assure that the spelling and grammar were korrekct.

"You have also ably made suggestions to the Editor on lay-out and contends, assuring that the ONA publishes a professional-looking bulletin, so far as budget considerations allow.

"You have profided this to the ONA Editor in a verry timly and effitient manor since Novembre of 1998.

"For your surface to the ONA, we are pleased to presend you with a special Certificate of appreciation."

Following the convention, she corrected the above letter and had John redo it!



*John Regitko, ONA Editor, asks Monina to proof-read the Letter of Congratulations at the 2002 ONA Banquet that she had not seen before. She found numerous errors and John had to correct both the covering letter and the Certificate of Appreciation.*

# CLUB SERVICES REPORT



We are pleased to announce the availability of the following new VCR tape programs from the ONA Audio Visual Lending Library by the end of August.

**“TREASURE: THE MONEY PIT OF OAK ISLAND”** Produced by A & E - 45 minutes

It is one of the most famous and sought after treasures on earth. Everyone knows exactly where it is, but for 200 years, no one has defeated the forces that seem to guard the “Money Pit of Oak Island.” For many years, it was rumored that the notorious pirate William Kidd hid a treasure worth millions on Nova Scotia's Oak Island. In 1795, three boys went looking for it. Amazingly, they found an ancient chest. Before they could recover it, the sea flooded the pit they had dug. But word of the discovery spread, and for 200 years adventurers have come to this remote island, but no one has ever come as close as the three boys who once saw the chest. Travel to Nova Scotia to visit the fabled site, and meet two men who have devoted their lives to finding the treasure. See remarkable footage of previous efforts, and discover why Oak Island has been able to defeat so many for so long. It's a gripping look at a unique tale of a treasure that does not want to be found, and the people who are determined to unearth it.

**“INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS: COUNTERFEITS”** - Produced by A & E - 45 minutes

With American-supplied printing presses, expert engravers and a steely determination to create the wealth that will allow them to purchase a nuclear arsenal, the Iranian government is producing counterfeit \$100 bills so perfect they cannot be told from the real thing. Advances in counterfeiting are creating a massive problem for the Treasury Department and the Secret Service, whose job is to detect counterfeit bills and bring their producers to justice. The Iranian "Superbills" are just one example though the most important and disturbing of this growing trend. “Investigative Reports” takes a probing look at the state of counterfeiting today. See how the explosion of color copiers has led to a boom in small scale counterfeiting, and learn the shocking reason behind the redesign of the U.S. currency. Travel from Germany to Russia and Iran on the trail of some of the most dangerous terrorists in the world, who have made counterfeiting the biggest criminal enterprise of the post-Cold War era. And meet the agents who risk their lives trying to bring them to justice.

**“U.S. MINTS: MONEY MACHINE”** - Produced by A & E - 45 minutes

They are the physical engines of America's money machine, secretive agencies that design and manufacture the greenbacks that keep the nation's and the world's economy moving. This video ventures inside these vital fortresses for a privileged glimpse of the work of making money. From engraving to circulation, watch as fortunes are created in an instant, and see how new bills are put into circulation. Hear from Philip N. Diehl, Director of the United States Mint, and Robert Chandler, a historian for Wells Fargo, as they trace the fascinating history of the government's money business. And discover what the future may hold for American currency. It's a remarkable look at one of the most important and secretive undertakings in the world regarding the manufacture of money.

**“SHIP OF GOLD: THE S. S. AMERICA”** - Produced by A & E - 45 minutes

While returning from California in 1857, the steamship SS Central America vanished in a devastating storm off the North Carolina coast. 400 lives and nearly 21 tons of gold bullion were lost. 130 years later, a daring team of high-tech treasure hunters found much of the precious cargo. “Ship of Gold” tells the dramatic story with the help of extensive footage filmed during the recovery and fascinating interviews with the engineers, historians and salvage experts who brought the treasures to the surface. We'll also explore the tragic story of the Central America's sinking, the worst peacetime sea disaster in American history. It charts the course of the doomed ship from her harbor in Gold Rush California to her final resting place beneath the Atlantic waves. Nature's fury, man's ingenuity and a saga spread over two centuries make the “Ship of Gold” a captivating high seas drama.

**“THE QUEST FOR THE MARAVILLA”** - Produced by A & E - 45 minutes

More than 300 years ago, the Spanish galleon Maravilla sank off the coast of the Bahamas. Since she went down, treasure hunters have searched for the ill-fated vessel, their appetites whetted by copies of her manifesto that spoke of a priceless cargo. This video is a detailed account of the 12-year odyssey of world-renowned treasure hunter Robert Marx, who finally found the remains of the vessel. When the Maravilla began to give up her treasures, it was clear that it was all worthwhile. Millions of dollars worth of gold and silver, coins and fabulous antiquities have been recovered so far. And Marx thinks that the greatest treasure has yet to surface: a solid gold statue of the Madonna!

**“THE SALVAGE SHIPS”** - Produced by A & E - 45 minutes

Since man first took to the sea in ships, there have been shipwrecks. And since ships have gone down, people have slipped beneath the waves to salvage their cargo and sometimes the boats themselves. This video looks at the men and vessels that wrest the spoils of the deep from the waters. Legendary treasure hunter Mel Fisher talks about how finding some of the world's most famous shipwrecks and shows off the equipment that helps him bring their booty to the surface. But not all salvage efforts revolve around lost treasure. The video details how ships and divers worked together to recover the wreckage of TWA flight 800, the people who were involved in the top secret, 1974 CIA mission that recovered an entire sunken Russian submarine, yielding a wealth of military secrets. From placid coastal waters to the deep oceans, “The Salvage Ships” is a compelling look at the way we recover the victims of the sea.

**“HUNT FOR THE SUNKEN EDINBURGH”** - Produced by A & E - 45 minutes

The story of the HMS Edinburgh and the gold she held is one of the most incredible ever told. This video begins in the icy waters of the Barents Sea, where a freighter with a precious cargo was sunk by a German torpedo. Beneath 800 feet of icy water, the Edinburgh became the focus of the frenzied efforts of teams from Russia, the U.S., Norway and England to recover her priceless cargo of more than five tons of gold! From North Sea oil rigs to Moscow, from the speculation of investors to the remarkable plan of a dreamer named Keith Jessop, this is the story of an incredible treasure hunt. Details of the different schemes to raise the treasure are revealed, and members of various teams tell of their time trying to bring the gold to the surface. It's a gripping look at a high stakes game played out against the backdrop of the Cold War, and the lure of riches beyond compare.

**“KEY WEST: PIRATES IN PARADISE”** - Produced by A & E - 45 minutes

Mel Fisher was, for a time, the most famous treasure hunter in the world. Discovering the 17th century Spanish Galleon Atocha made him a millionaire and a folk hero in Key West, where he had moved when he took up the treasure hunt full time. But 13 years after his great discovery, a police raid made the island question the age-old dream of riches and treasure. This video reveals how the popular Fisher was undone by an unscrupulous friend who gave him counterfeit coins to sell. Police detail how they first found out about the ruse, and islanders remember the effect the arrest had on the community. Defeated, Fisher pled no contest to the charges and agreed to reimburse any dissatisfied customers, but he died of cancer just weeks later. In this classic tale of gold, galleons and greed, this video exposes the soul of one of America's most distinctive communities, where the pursuit of treasure and the riches of the sea are woven into the very fabric of existence.

**“BURIED TREASURE”** Produced by A & E - 45 minutes

The allure of buried treasure has long tempted adventurers and explorers. But for every tale of triumph, far more return to their homes empty-handed. Of course, there is always more treasure to be found, and that truth is what drives people on epic quests that can last years. “Buried Treasure” follows some modern-day Indiana Joneses as they attempt to find riches lost for centuries. One works the New Hampshire coast looking for loot left by the pirate Blackbeard. Others have attempted to decipher the complex, coded map made by Thomas Beale, which promises to lead the way to a cache hidden in the Blue Ridge Mountains. And others work the coast of Florida searching for the remains of Spanish galleons. There's nothing quite like the thrill of discovery. But, for many, the search offers enough rewards of its own to keep them looking for buried treasure.

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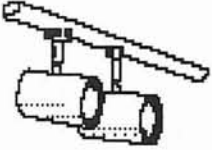
In addition to the above, we will also be making available the following videos that are intended for home viewing:

**“THE STORY OF MONEY: All About Money”** - Produced by A & E - 100 minutes

**“THE STORY OF MONEY: Secret Life of Money”** - Produced by A & E - 100 minutes

Pretty much everything has served as money at some point - rocks, wood, shells, paper, metal and more. “The Story of Money” is a fascinating exploration, in 200 minutes total on 2 VCR tapes, of the one thing everybody wants to get their hands on. See how the Renaissance bankers of Florence introduced the traveler's cheques and double-entry bookkeeping, and go inside the Royal Mint in London, where many of the world's coins are created. Experts like Mary Ellen Withrow, Treasurer of the United States, offers insight into the way money will work in the digital age, while engravers demonstrate their age-old techniques for making money - literally. Travelling from the inner sanctums of the world's most esteemed financial institutions to African bazaars and the cloistered worlds of monasteries, “The Story of Money” is a vibrant tapestry of the world's riches.

*John Regitko*  
*Club Services Chairman*



# SPOTLIGHT ON COMPUTER VIRUSES

## ONA MEMBERS PLAGUED WITH COMPUTER VIRUSES

by John Regitko, ONA member #LM083

*Because most ONA members have a computer that is connected to the Internet and because we think it is safe to say that each and everyone has received a virus on more than one occasion, we are pleased to publish the following as a service to our members...and explain why I may have sent you a virus without my knowledge.*

Sometime earlier this year, I purchased a McAfee virus program since the previous one I had was outdated. After installation, it detected a few viruses hidden in attachments I had received from a number of other coin collectors. Knowing the way viruses work, I knew the senders had no idea that I had even received an e-mail...and a virus...from them.

A few weeks ago, I finally took advantage of the free updates that are available from McAfee. When it finished downloading the updates over 2 hours later and scanned my hard drive, guess what? I had 21 infected files, all with either the worm called W32.Magistr.39921@mm that was sent with an attachment called "since.pif" or a similar file name with other .pif attachments.

If you receive something strange, either from me or someone else, remember the sender may not really have sent it to you, nor is he/she aware that it was sent. So if I sent you some viruses, I'm sorry. I didn't knowingly do it!

The following e-mail has been forwarded to me by ONA members Allan Davies and Serge Pelletier as well as my former employer, Dr. Flea, and might save some ONA members that have Internet capability a lot of grief:

"Here's a computer trick that's ingenious in its simplicity.

"As you may know, when a worm virus gets into your computer it heads straight for your email address book and sends itself too everyone in there, thus infecting all your friends and associates. This trick won't keep the virus from getting into your computer, but it will stop it from using your address book to spread further, and it will alert you to the fact that the worm attacked your system.

"Here's what you do: first, open your address book and click on "new contact" just as you would do if you were adding a new entry to your list of email addresses. In the window where you would type your friend's first name, type in !000 (that's an exclamation mark followed by 3 zeros).

"In the window where it prompts you to enter the new email address, type in "WormAlert," which of course, isn't a real email address. Then complete everything by clicking add, enter, ok, etc.

"Now, here's what you've done and why it works: the "name" !000 will be placed at the top of your address book as entry #1. This will be where the worm will start in an effort to send itself to all your friends. But when it tries to send itself to !000, it will be undeliverable because of the phony email address you entered (WormAlert). If the first attempt fails (which it will because of the phony address), the worm goes no further and your contacts will not be infected. The advantage of this method: if an email cannot be delivered, you will be notified of this in your In Box almost immediately.

"Hence, if you ever get an email telling you that an email addressed to "WormAlert" could not be delivered, you know right away that you have the worm virus in your system. You can then take steps to get rid of it!"

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## 2002 ONA CONVENTION KEYNOTE SPEECH

*We are pleased to reprint the speech given by J. Graham Esler, keynote speaker at the banquet of the 2002 ONA Convention. When Tom Rogers invited Esler, what with the other activities taking place at the banquet and with non-collecting spouses present, he was asked to keep his presentation to no more than 15 minutes and not too numismatic. Esler succeeded beautifully on both counts, with his very interesting presentation giving credit to people that have been involved with the ONA during its 40-year history.*

*by J. Graham Esler, former Curator, Bank of Canada Currency Collection and long-time friend of the ONA*

2002 marks the 40th anniversary of the ONA. There are not many of us here tonight who were present on an extremely warm October 7th Saturday afternoon in 1961, when the motion to form the ONA was passed.

The impetus for forming the organization came from the Waterloo Coin Club. At its 2nd annual banquet in March 1961, under the chairmanship of Rod Rekofski, president of the Waterloo Coin Society, a committee was struck to investigate the feasibility of forming a provincial numismatic organization. The committee was to report its findings at the London Numismatic Society's 10th annual banquet on October 7th, 1961.

Representatives from 12 of the 25 clubs operating in Ontario were present at this meeting. The committee reported:

- That there was a need for an association of Ontario numismatic societies which could act as a clearing house to avoid conflicts of annual banquets and other activities;
- That the CNA was not adverse to the formation of an Ontario association;
- That an association in Ontario would increase the interest in numismatics which would, in turn, benefit the CNA;
- That interest in numismatics in Ontario was keen enough to hold annual conventions and that, in addition to the usual bourse and auctions, information could be exchanged through special lectures or symposia;
- That the association would assist in the formation of new societies in Ontario and stimulate the older ones.

The report was accepted and the ONA came into existence officially on the motion of Walter Holmes.

From its very inception, the ONA introduced 5 important concepts:

- The Speakers' Circuit, the brainchild of Rod Rekofski of Waterloo, whereby experienced numismatic speakers would be available for programs in other clubs;
- A systematically developed audio-visual program, prepared and produced by Lloyd Smith of London, whereby slide sets on various topics from the decimal series to tokens would be made available to all the Ontario clubs. Lloyd's work remained the basis for the audio-visual program from 1964 to the late 1980s;
- A Court of Honour for invitational non-competitive exhibits, the idea of Frank Uttley of Waterloo;
- An Award of Merit, under the auspices of Walter Griggs of Brantford, to be awarded annually to an outstanding Ontario numismatist.

The founding convention of the ONA, held in Kitchener on March 24 & 25, 1962, was a resounding success. More than 700 people attended the convention, and 229 sat down at the banquet. Both Seaby and Spinks donated books to help start a library. Jack Griffin exhibited his collection of British and Colonial Proofs and Patterns in the first Court of Honour non-competitive display.

This convention provided one of my favorite numismatic memories. You know, people make this hobby so much fun.

Byron Swayze, the founder and first president of the London Numismatic Society, was there. I suppose that the 2 words most applicable to Byron might be "lovable rogue." If you knew Byron, you knew how to deal with him, but if you didn't the results could be somewhat unsettling.

Byron was a travel agent by profession and he strode into the Walper Hotel and announced that he was Byron Swayze, the well-known travel agent. The gentleman behind the desk said, "Good morning, Mr. Swayze; we have a complimentary room for you." Whereupon Byron turned, caught sight of Alex Sweeton, another London member, and said, "Alex, do you want to split the cost of a room with me? Your share is \$7.50."

If 2002 marks the 40th anniversary of the ONA, it also marks the 140th anniversary of the Antiquarian and Numismatic Society, Canada's first numismatic society, which was founded in Montreal in 1862. The Ottawa Numismatic Society appears to have operated from 1891 to 1983. The members of whom we know were all French-Canadian, and the Society may have been more a cultural organization than a numismatic one. However, its members struck tokens which were sought after even then, and even more so today. The Toronto Coin Club followed in 1936, and the Canadian Medallic Arts Society soon appeared. This was the first attempt to establish a national organization, but the 2nd World War contributed to its demise. The Ottawa Coin Club was formed in 1946, the CNA in 1950 and a host of local clubs just about the same time.

In late 19th century Montreal, competition for material was fierce and, among certain collectors, almost cut-throat. For these collectors, one-upmanship was the rule of the day. And oh, the shenanigans which took place! Some tokens were re-engraved to create a new variety which only a select few possessed. Some collectors created and issued tokens which were out and out scams: Paquet's Cameron token, dated 1867 but issued in 1892, or his token resembling a pool-hall token come to mind. Just consider the Cameron piece (B834) for the moment; it was dated 1867 but struck in 1892; domiciled in Bytown but Bytown changed its name to Ottawa in 1854; the denomination was 3d but the Province of Canada adopted the decimal system in 1858. An out and out scam! There is a numismatic term for such pieces; they are called fantasies.

Breton's 1001, which is an outright concoction, is another example of numismatic chicanery. It doesn't exist as a legitimate piece.

And all those off-metal post-Confederation tokens so beloved by modern collectors? The issuing firms never knew they existed. There was simply no need for most firms to issue a token exact in every way in more than one metal. Indeed, we know that the off-metal tokens were struck in limited quantities, and our old friend F.X. Paquet was responsible for more than a few of them.

In the Paquet correspondence in the National Currency Collection, there is a letter to Paquet from Pritchard and Andrews, dated 30 June 1893:

"Dear Sir,

It is necessary to protect ourselves, that you should get permission from our customers in writing to strike six of each check (token) [B855] in copper, brass and aluminum; there in the future we will give you any names and addresses we do business with in order that we may have a letter to the above in our possession."

But nevertheless these pieces were brought out, looked at, gloated over (if you were the possessor), or denounced (if you didn't have one yet).

When was the last time at your club meetings, someone rushed in, bursting with pride to show fellow collectors his latest acquisition and share his joy with you? Have we, perhaps, gone a little too far in the other direction with our numismatic education, talking about coins, tokens and bank notes rather than sharing them? I don't know.

But I do know that there is one thing that never changes: the collectors themselves, the individuals that you meet in the hobby, the friendships you make, and the memories you have.

Harry Eisenhauer was the 2nd active paper money collector I ever met. Gord Gray was the first. I had yet to meet Bill McDonald, Jack Veffler, Walter Allan, Bert Peddie, and Fred Jewett. Walter Holmes and Howard Whitfield had collections of paper money, but Harry actively sought it out.

But Harry made a bad mistake, one that now he would be the first to admit, but one which was good news for the rest of us. If a note was not crisp uncirculated, Harry wasn't interested.

Thanks, Harry!

Allan McNabb, I met Allan in 1961 and traded milk tokens with him. I traded Listowel Dairies tokens but I can't remember what I received in return. My favorite recollection of Allan takes place at the Halifax CNA Convention in 1970. Lillian and I were the only ones in an elevator going up. It stopped on the 2nd floor and on got Allan. He put his hands behind his back, rocked back and forth on his heels, stared at a spot about 6 inches above our heads and intoned in a loud voice, "Is there anyone here who can tell me where John Pittman's room is?"

The individuals you meet, the friendships you make, the memories you have, these are the things you treasure long after the numismatic material has gone.

---

## BANK OF CANADA NEWS

*Featuring news about the National Currency Collection*



### **BERGERON JOINS CURATORIAL STAFF OF NATIONAL CURRENCY COLLECTION**

David Bergeron is the latest appointment to the curatorial staff of the National Currency Collection of the Bank of Canada located in Ottawa. In his capacity, he will be developing, maintaining, researching and interpreting the National Currency Collection and producing exhibits for the Currency Museum.

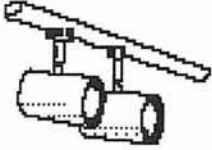
Born and raised in Toronto, David completed a degree in History at the University of Ottawa in 1994 and went on to earn a diploma in Museum Studies at Algonquin College in Ottawa. He also earned a Bachelor of Arts Honors in History and French Literature from the University of Ottawa. As Assistant Professor of Conservation at Algonquin College (Ottawa) 1998 to 1999, he assisted and supervised students in conducting artifact treatments, gave lectures on conservation practices and techniques and evaluated students' progress through tests and exams.

David expressed a keen interest in numismatics throughout his education and began working on contract at the Currency Museum after graduation as a Guide-Interpreter, from 1997 to 1999, where he gave guided tours of the permanent exhibit and animated educational programs, contributed to the development of interpretation programs related to Museum themes and researched and answered public inquiries on the Museum and the Bank



To progress further in the field, David left the Museum in 1998 to work for Accu-Rate Rare Coins (formerly Arctic Coins) in Ottawa where he worked his way up to heading the coin department with the title Vice-President of Numismatics. During his stay at Accu-Rate, David built an important inventory of rare and precious numismatic items, managing all aspects of the coin division including the purchase, attribution, appraisal and resale of all types of numismatic items. He also designed and maintained their Rare Coins and Cubacoins websites. He established a clientele of prominent collectors. David traveled the world attending numerous auctions and coin shows to acquire key material for his clients. He has made several important contributions to various coin publications including expanding the section on Cuban coins in the Krause publications. David looks to bring his knowledge and experience to the position of curator of the National Currency Collection, to continue building the collection and to further expand the depth of knowledge and information on numismatics and the history of money in Canada and around the world.

*(We are pleased to break the story about David Bergeron's career change and wish him well! With some modesty, we give permission to Canadian Coin News to reprint the above.)*



# SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION

## CNA SCHEDULES SEMINAR AT HUMBER COLLEGE

*Because a number of well-known ONA members are active participants in the upcoming CNA/NESA Educational Seminar, it is being held in Ontario and we feel everyone should consider signing up for the course, we are pleased to give it the publicity it deserves.*

The Canadian Numismatic Association has scheduled another one of their successful Educational Seminars for Saturday, November 2, 2002 at Humber College, Etobicoke, Ontario. This one-day course is only the fourth of its kind in the long history of the Canadian Numismatic Association and is being co-sponsored by the Numismatic Educational Services Association (NESA). The course is an ambitious event with the goal of educating collectors about the beauty, historical and economic importance of Canadian coins, tokens, medals and paper money. The seven qualified instructors will supplement their discussions with slides, videos, overheads, demonstrations, hand-outs and displays of actual numismatic material.

The day-long course will include one hour for lunch where participants can dine in the college cafeteria (the cost for lunch is the responsibility of each individual). Morning and afternoon coffee breaks are also scheduled with complimentary donuts, coffee and tea being available.

Each participant will also receive a special CNA / NESA "Certificate of Participation" at the conclusion of the course.

ONA member Paul Johnson is currently Chairman of the CNA Education and Library Committee. As the driving force behind the organizing of this Educational Seminar, it is only fitting that he should act as moderator for this Seminar.

There are a total of 6 instructors scheduled during the day, each speaking on a collecting specialty.

ONA 1st V.P., Paul Petch, will cover "Canadian Coins and Commemoratives," discussing decimal coins of Canada which spans pre-Confederation coins to the most recent strikings from the Royal Canadian Mint. Included will be an examination of how Canadian money has changed in design, appearance and metal content through the years, commemorative pieces and current Royal Canadian Mint collector pieces.

The presentation by ONA Editor & Club Services Chairman, John Regitko, will center around the process of minting coins at the Royal Canadian Mint. Students will be taken through each of the six major stages of manufacture (making the strips, cutting blanks, processing blanks, feeding, striking and ejection) with a series of slides explaining how error coins occur during each stage.

ONA member Chris Boyer will discuss the Bank of Canada series of notes, including the issues of 1937, 1954, 1967, the multi-colored issues of 1969-1975, the issue of 1979, and the present day "Bird" series. Also covered are the Dominion of Canada notes, the chartered banknotes of Canadian banks prior to 1935 and the popular 25 cent fractional notes, known as "shinplasters." Topics for discussion will include the storage and display of Canadian banknotes, the collection of special serial numbers and other collecting strategies, from the simplest to the most challenging.

ONA member Brian Cornwell, president of ICCS and a regular columnist for CCN, will focus on the three fundamentals of accurate and consistent grading. These are knowledge, technique and objectivity. This is followed by a photograde review of the Victorian half dollar series with a detailed discussion of the fine points that distinguish one grade from another. Throughout the presentation, there will be liberal use made of visuals. The role of and proper use of third party grading companies will also be covered. The presentation concludes with a hands-on look at 'coin problems,' specifically those that are cleaned, altered or counterfeited. Many physical examples will be available for students to examine directly along with pointers on how best to identify and avoid them at a future date.

Dr. Marvin Kay, a Past-President of the CNA, will suggest over 50 new and different collecting topics to stimulate your interest in numismatics. For example, in addition to collecting by date, denomination or by specific monarchs, he will discuss the advantages of collecting by specialized subjects, also known as topical collecting. Some of these topics include women on coins, unusual denominations, animals and methods of travel such as trains and automobiles. Another area of numismatics which has almost endless collecting possibilities is the field of medals. Various types of medals to collect, such as those issued by numismatic associations such as the Canadian Numismatic Association, will be discussed. Canadian military medals is a fascinating field for the history buff. Artistic medals, like those sculpted by Dora de-Pedery Hunt, will also be examined.

Scott Douglas' presentation will cover the tokens of the pre-confederation and post-confederation eras. He will address Pre-Confederation Tokens (tokens from 1812 to the 1830s; an introduction of bank tokens and semi-regal tokens; an introduction to early collectors including Breton and Courteau and their impact on the hobby; communion tokens; etc.). Post-Confederation Tokens (after 1867) will include milk and bread tokens; hotel and advertising tokens; transportation tokens and more. Merchant tokens and transportation tokens will also be reviewed with reference to why they were issued, their impact and pertinence to the economic system.

Susan Maltby, a conservation consultant and a regular columnist for "Coin World," will cover the most important aspect for the preservation of coins, tokens and paper money, namely providing proper storage. In this presentation, coin and paper money conservation will be discussed, including components of a good coin/bill holder, how to choose a good holder, materials and holders to avoid, environmental requirements for different kinds of collections (i.e. paper, metal, wood, "exotic" materials) and general tips on good care and handling. One of the demonstrations include the Beilstein Test which is a chemical test used to determine whether a plastic contains PVC or polyvinylidene chloride.

Registration cost is \$35.00 for CNA members (45.00 for non-CNA members), \$25.00 for Juniors (under the age of 18). All students will receive a Certificate of Participation at the conclusion of the course, handouts, complimentary coffee and free parking.

If you apply, you will be receiving a written confirmation of your acceptance in the course, along with detailed directions and a map of the Humber College location.

If you wish further information, including information on joining the CNA to receive the reduced registration rate, contact John Regitko, CNA Executive Secretary, at 4936 Yonge St., Suite 601, North York, ON M2N 6S3, via e-mail at [cnainfo@look.ca](mailto:cnainfo@look.ca) or on the CNA telephone hotline at (416) 223-5980.

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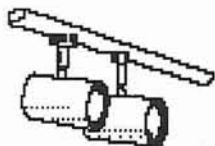
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# SPOTLIGHT ON CLUBS

*A column in praise of active Ontario coin clubs*



## THE HISTORY OF THE SWCS

*by Gord Parker, Editor, South Wellington Coin Society*

The South Wellington Coin Society held its first meeting on March 20, 1997, in the Eramosa Community Library in Rockwood, Ontario. The first newsletter defines the origin in the following manner: "The beginning of the South Wellington Coin Society can be traced to an enterprising group of individuals. This group saw a gap that was left when the Guelph club disbanded and were further encouraged by the wealth of interest coming from fellow numismatists residing in the area."

Tony Zmija was instrumental in finding the home for the new club at the Eramosa Library in Rockwood. The Library was very keen on having tenants from the area make use of the library's facilities.

The first president was Scott Douglas. Tony Zmija may have been the first president but it is my understanding that he felt uncomfortable in the president position so he accepted a lesser position. Scott, in taking the position, stated he would take the position of president for a period of two years.

The vice-president and auctioneer was Tony Zmija. Robert Zmija became treasurer. Mike Hollingshead became spokesperson. Vince Zmija accepted the task of auction runner and meeting set-up. An editorial team was established, consisting of Mike Hollingshead, Mathew Fleet (minute taker) and Bruno Kerkhof (editor of the club newsletter).

The new SWCS had a great deal of help from other than the executive group. Ross Irwin, a charter member of SWCS, gave one of the first presentations with a talk on "Road Building Scrip of Wellington County." Richard McClean, a dealer from the Niagara Falls area, was one of the first to set-up a bourse table at the SWCS meetings. Don Quant set up displays at the first meetings.

South Wellington Coin Society was in good hands with the new executive and Bob Zmija was able to concentrate on the development of a club logo (illustrated at right). The pursuit of an insignia took him to the Wellington County Museum. The logo was taken from the District of Wellington 5 Shilling note of 1868, depicting the Duke of Wellington on horseback along with "SWCS" and the script "Founded in 1997." An outer circle incorporating the words "South Wellington Coin Society."



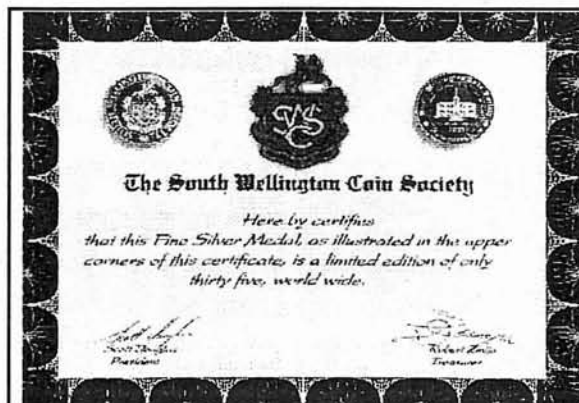
With the logo completed, Bob Zmija turned his efforts to the creation of a medal that would be created by and for the club. It

was not a hard decision to determine that the obverse side would be the club logo. What to place on the reverse may have been a question to most, but not for Bob: the Wellington County Museum. The medals, in three varieties, along with

a certificate of authenticity, were presented to the membership in September of 1998.

Mathew Fleet, who had been recording the minutes of meetings, left in June, 1998 due to work commitment and furthering of his education.

In January of 1999, the SWCS decided to hold two meetings a month. One would be held in Rockwood at the Eramosa Community Library, the second in Guelph at the Royal Canadian Legion.



*The black-and-white reproduction of the certificate shown above hardly does it justice, but until we can find a wealthy benefactor to cover the cost of printing in color, you will just have to use your imagination.*

The meetings, however, proved to be a greater undertaking than first thought, so in October of 1999, SWCS went back to monthly meetings at the original meeting place in Rockwood.

Through all of the growing pains of a new club, Bob Zmija seemed to be the pillar of strength. He rarely missed a meeting, always had the coffee and meeting room set up ready for whoever would show up. There were times when only a few members would make it to the meetings, but you could be assured that one of them would be Bob.

In February of 1999, Scott Douglas stepped down as president, having served his two years in that position. At this time, no one was willing to take over as president. Bob Zmija stepped in to become the new President. Scott took over as treasurer. Scott's position of treasurer was mostly in name only because Bob still performed all the duties. In October of 1999, the editorial team was disbanded. You guessed it, Bob took over with the help of Renata Macpherson.



Through all of this turmoil, Bob created another medal for the club. The reverse this time was St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church in Rockwood. It was unveiled to SWCS members in May of 1999.

Entering 2000, Bob had the terrific idea of creating a club medal to celebrate the millennium year, a crossing over from one age into another, of a united nation. Unfortunately, the weight of duties and perhaps a lack of support for another medal left his idea on the drawing board, but I would bet not forgotten.

In June of 2000, Bob convinced the present day editor, Gord Parker, to take up the challenge. Over many front porch training sessions and the guarantee of a free hand, I agreed to take on the task of editor for two years. It was sometime later that I found out that the job also included a coffee urn and cookie tray.

In November 2000, Bob spearheaded the effort to get the SWCS together with the Waterloo Coin Society and the Paisley Road School Coin Club into our first ever coin show. The show was held at the Royal Canadian Legion in Guelph and was a big success. Since then, we have had a show in 2001 and are preparing to have another one in September of 2002.

In April of 2001, Bob, in his search for a trusting treasurer, was able to convince Garry George (a police officer) to handle the club's financial affairs.

Through all the years, Bob has held the position of President, Treasurer, editor and coffee maker. I really don't think there are any positions he never held. The amazing thing is that there were times when he held more than one of them simultaneously. He was much greater than any of these positions. He was the club founder! You might call him the man behind the scene, the toolmaker at work making sure every aspect was as if it were a finely tuned clock.

Did Bob win a prize for designing the club medals? Not that I'm aware of, but if there was one, he would be deserving of first place.

I would like to give some credit to Bob's wife. If it were not for her, I definitely would not have taken on the job of SWCS editor. Her kindness and baking assured a good supply the cookies and baked goods at some of the early meetings. She also pulled Bob off me at some of our porch get-togethers.



COME VISIT US AT ONE OF OUR MEETINGS!

## SOUTH WELLINGTON COIN SOCIETY

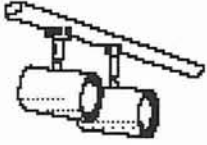
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month (doors open at 7:00 p.m.; 8:00 p.m. start)

Eramosa Community Library, Rockwood, Ontario

SWCS Spokesperson Mike Hollingshead will be happy to answer any questions about the club and their meetings. He can be reached at (519) 823-COIN (823-2646) or e-mail at [cholling@uoguelph.ca](mailto:cholling@uoguelph.ca)

# S P O T L I G H T O N P E O P L E

*A column in praise of active Ontario collectors*



## LOCAL PAPER PUBLISHES ARTICLE ABOUT ROBERT ZMIJA, THE SWCS AND THEIR MEDAL

*The following article appeared in The Rockwood Miller, a member of The New Tanner newspapers, at the end of 1997. We have taken the liberty of deleting some sentences that no longer apply to fit the page.*

A rendering of St. John's Anglican Church is the picture on the back of the 1998 commemorative medal struck for the South Wellington Coin Society. At a glance, the medals look like coins. But since they are not currency they are termed medals, says Society treasurer Robert Zmija.



Formed in 1997 with 35 charter members, the Society aims to educate members about the value of coins and medals as well as paper currency. Memberships cost \$10 for singles and \$12 for families. Meetings are held monthly, in the Rockwood Library on the first Wednesday of each month. Members of the public are always welcome to attend a meeting, Zmija says.



Zmija says only 35 sets of the medals were struck and Society members receive first option on purchasing them. They come in silver, goldplated and copper sets and bear the club logo on one side. The alternate side will carry a different picture each year. The 1997 medal depicted the Wellington County Museum on the back. The next medal is in preparation but the design is not finalized yet, Zmija says.

Coin collecting is a popular hobby around the world and collectors keep in touch in various ways including club newsletters and publications. "A lot of people have coins in their families," Zmija says. "They get passed down from generation to generation and no one really knows their value any more. That's where clubs like ours are useful. You can bring in a coin and find out its real value."

Sometimes, these keepsake items are very valuable. Other times they are worthless. At least with collectors you know their valuation will be accurate. Anyone wishing to sell coins is advised to approach a collector since a market can probably be found to sell the item at its true value, Zmija says.

"If the collector doesn't want the item himself, he is likely to know someone who would want it," he said. "At least he will know how to get in touch with people to help the coin owner find a potential buyer."

Zmija began collecting more than 60 years ago in England. He sees history when he looks at coins. He also sees how technology has progressed. Even in Roman times, there was a specific method for striking coins. How that method changed as materials and machinery advanced can be traced as you look at coins from different eras.

Zmija was a pattern maker by profession and as a result, has been the guiding force in preparing the designs for the club's medals. In addition to the 1997 and 1998 medals, he worked on a design for a millenium medal for the club.

Millenium coins were issued around the world, he says, so would-be collectors have an overwhelming choice available. He suggests none of them will be worth having from the investment viewpoint since so many are being created. Oversupply makes them worthless.

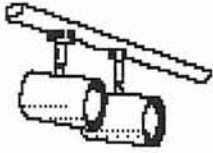
From an aesthetics point, of course, things might be different. "Collectors never look at coins for profit," he says. "They look at them as art. It is just the dealers who look at their monetary value."

Clubs encourage all their members to keep their collections in safety deposit boxes, he says.

Coins can be forged, Zmija says, but, unlike paper currency, striking coins required such huge presses and expensive equipment that it is too costly an undertaking. He also says coin club members would be able to pick up on any forgery. This is an additional reason for neophyte collectors to get involved with coin clubs. Clubs and their extensive resources can teach collectors what they need to follow their hobby and avoid frauds.

# SPOTLIGHT ON PEOPLE

*A column in praise of active Ontario collectors*



## ROBERT ZMIJA DRIVING FORCE BEHIND COLLECTING FAMILY

When one reads the name tags at a meeting of the South Wellington Coin Society, three things are obvious: there are a number of Zmijas in the room; they bridge 3 generations; and they are very, very active within the club executive.

### SOUTH WELLINGTON COIN SOCIETY

**ROBERT ZMIJA**

IS HEREBY PRESENTED WITH A

#### HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

A Founding Father of the club, you have guided us by example, hard work and mentor. You have given us a strong foundation to build on. You are also the designer of our club medals and have left us a legacy for all time.

Dated this 6th day of March 2002

*Gord Parker*

GORD PARKER  
President - S.W.C.S.



*Mike Hollingshead*

MIKE HOLLINGSHEAD  
Vice President - S.W.C.S.

To recognize Robert Zmija's work for the club, he was recently presented with an Honorary Life Membership. Serving on the South Wellington Coin Society executive since its founding, including as its President, he has guided the direction of the club since the very beginning. He has also served as the club's editor.

A tool and die maker for most of his life, he takes art and designing very seriously as you can tell by the club's logo that he designed.

The club was so impressed with Robert's design, that they used it not only as the logo for their letterhead,

envelopes, club bulletin masthead and other official forms, but they also agreed to have it incorporated as the central design on the obverse of the club medals.

He took his skills one step further, making up a certificate that was presented to all purchasers of the silver medals attesting to the fact that only 35 of these limited edition medals exist. The certificate is printed in beautiful color. The scroll work of the border (not exactly as shown in the illustration on page 116) is in various shades of green, the club logo in full color: brown, red, grey, yellow, green and shades thereof. The obverse and reverse of the 1997 medal on the certificate looks like the silver medal that it represents (it is hard to tell if it was printed in just shades of black, but it looks like silver...a beautiful effect). Full marks for eye appeal. Full marks for layout.

Other than Bob Zmija, the following family members are also involved with the club:

Tony Zmija is one of Bob's sons. He is a founding member of the club as well as its vice president. He was the club's first auctioneer.

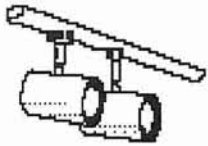
Adrian Zmija, another son, can also be seen at meetings, along with his son, Ryan.

Robert Zmija Jr., a third son, is also a member and attends meetings with his son, Vince. Vince is the club's auction runner.

Renata Macpherson, also a member, is Bob's daughter-in-law. She would type the club's newsletters for Bob when he was editor.

Finally, Mathew Fleet, another club member, is Bob's grandson. Mathew is a past editor.

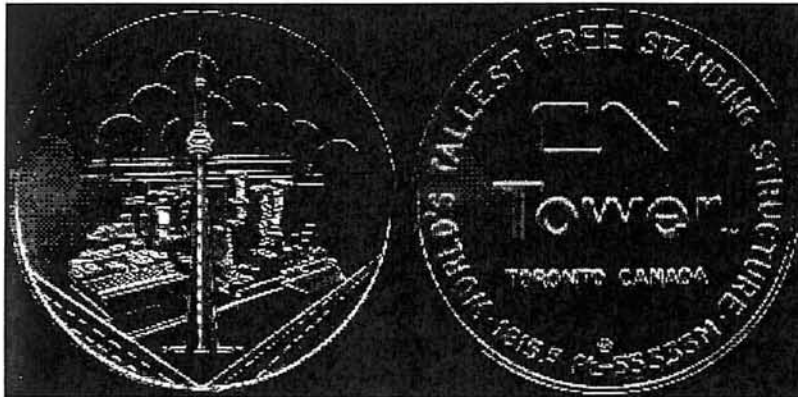
Can any other club beat this extensive family association at a meeting?



SPOTLIGHT ON  
MEDALS OF TORONTO

## TORONTO'S CN TOWER TURNS TWENTY-FIVE

*by John Regitko, ONA member #LM-083*



If you were to select one structure in Toronto that leaves the greatest impact on the skyline, it would have to be the CN Tower. No matter where you are in the "905" region (the municipalities surrounding Metro Toronto), you will see the CN Tower. You can drive along the 401 in the North, the QEW/Gardner in the West, the DVP and beyond to the East, or from the Toronto Islands or a boat on Lake Ontario to the South, the one structure that will stand out in the skyline and come into

your view time and time again is the CN Tower. Because it is the world's tallest free-standing structure!

The CN Tower just completed its 25th anniversary. I thought that it would be an appropriate time to illustrate some of the medals from my collection of Numismatics of Toronto. The medals were acquired by me when I purchased the remainders of in-house issues, overruns, salesman samples and display copies of the medals of Interbranch International Mint that Johnson Matthey inherited when they purchased the assets of Interbranch after their owners, a home electronics company, was forced into bankruptcy.

The records as to the quantities struck, years of issue or metallic content have long been destroyed. Therefore, background information on most of the Interbranch medals is lost to us forever.

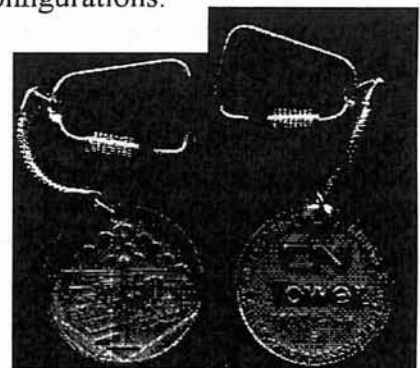
The above illustrated medal was struck by Interbranch in a number of variations and sold to the CN Tower Ltd. for sale in their souvenir outlet located on the main level of this tourist attraction.

The greatest majority of the 3,000-plus medals of this design that I acquired were immediately resold to Paul Nadin-Davies of Ottawa, with whom I was involved in a business venture (he had acquired the rights to the official auctions held in conjunction with the Toronto International Coin Fair, at the time Canada's largest coin show, which I owned and operated). The medals came in the following nine configurations:

- 51mm in gold plate, nickel and bronze
- 34mm in gold plate, nickel and bronze
- 34mm in gold plate, nickel and bronze holed for either keychain or necklace

I also obtained a quantity of necklaces and loops for attaching the necklaces to the holed medals.

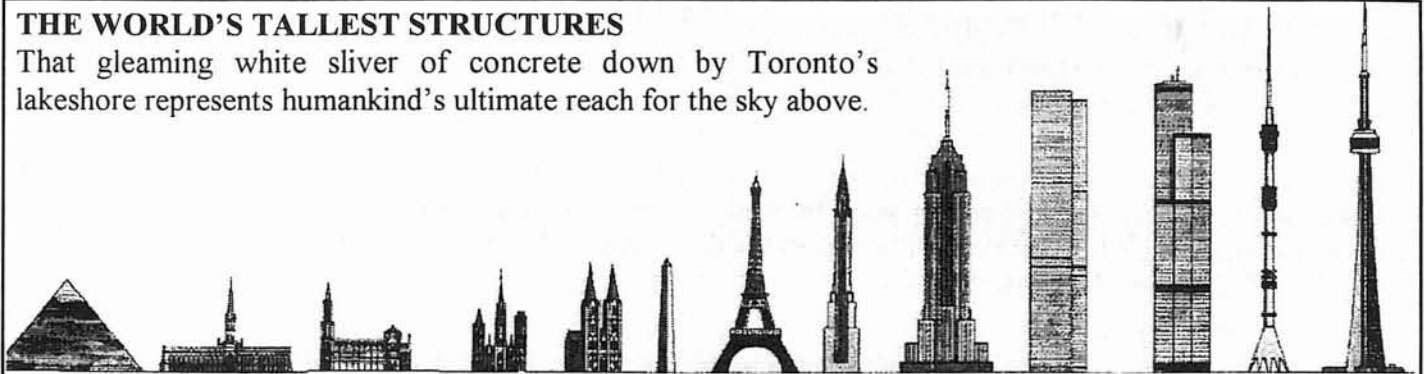
Although I no longer have an exact count, I recall the most common were 34mm bronze holed, followed by 34mm bronze without holes, 51mm bronze, then 51mm gold plate. Out of the 9 different medals I acquired, the scarcest was the 51mm medal in nickel. Both the gold plate and nickel medals were brilliant, while all the bronze ones were "antiqued" finish. None of the 51mm medals were holed, on the assumption that they were too large for keychains or hanging around ones neck.



The reason so many CN Tower medals were on hand when the Trustee in Receivership closed down Interbranch, according to their former sales manager, is that when they received previous orders for these medals from the CN Tower, they intentionally over ran the order during a slow period, same as they had done for in-house productions such as the set of 12 Chagall "Windows" medals, the "Tall Ships Kingston/Toronto Visitation" medals and the annual Canadian National Exhibition medals.

## THE WORLD'S TALLEST STRUCTURES

That gleaming white sliver of concrete down by Toronto's lakeshore represents humankind's ultimate reach for the sky above.



Great Pyramid at Cheops c2580BC. 2,300,000 blocks of stone. 481' (Egypt)	Notre Dame 1439 40 years to build. 465' (Paris, France)	Cologne Cathedral 1880. 531' (Germany)	Eiffel Tower 1889. 1,051'	Empire State Building 1930. 102 stories. 1,250' (N.Y.)	Sears Tower 1974. 110 stories tall. 1454' (Chicago)	CN Tower 1.815' Toronto
Old St. Paul's Cathedral 1221. Lightning destroyed its 489' steeple in 1561 (London, Eng.)	Rouen Cathedral 1876. 485' Original tower destroyed by lightning (France)	Washington Monument 1884. 555' 37 years to complete.	Chrysler Building 1930. 1,046' 77 stories. (Chicago, Ill.)	World Trade Centre 1970. 110 stories. 1,350' (New York, N.Y.)	Ostankino Tower 1971. 1,762' (Moscow, U.S.S.R.)	

Source: CN Tower

## THE WORLD'S TALLEST STRUCTURES

The reason for them dates back to what was probably emerging man's first intelligent perception - that the sun gives life. Through the entire span of known and unknown history, man has been driven by a primal urge to reach ever higher for the sky above. We build upward, reaching for the heavens when erecting a place to worship or building monuments to our prophets or, more recently, celebrating our mastery over the environment.

Man's upward reach has been limited by the materials he has available and the techniques he uses to manipulate them. Thus, the oldest surviving tall structures in the world are the pyramids of the Pharaohs of Egypt, who were revered as gods, or at least prophets on speaking terms with the gods. How these edifices were built remains a mystery locked forever in the past, but one thing seems clear: the Pharaohs played a stupendous status game, each one trying to build higher than the other as proof of his greater importance. (Much the same game, in fact, as several Canadian banks have played in downtown Toronto; each one is trying to top the other with a taller skyscraper.) At the time of its completion, each of the buildings and structures illustrated above was the tallest in the world.

## THE BUILDING OF A LANDMARK

Building the tallest tower in the world produced unique construction and engineering problems, revolutionary solutions and a seemingly inexhaustible list of "the most...the biggest...the highest...the first..." But perhaps the most significant "first" was the technique devised to actually put up the concrete section of the tower. A 400-ton mould of the structure was built of wood and steel and in a round-the-clock operation, concrete mixed on the site was poured inside the mould as it moved, slowly but continuously, skyward. The tapering shape of the tower was created by reducing the size of the mould as it moved upwards.

Tower construction began in the fall of 1972 when a drill rig trundled onto the John Street site and bored 300 feet down into the gray Dundas shale that supports most of Toronto. In February 1973, the earth moving behemoths of the modern construction industry arrived. More than 62,000 tons of earth and rock were removed in digging the main, 50-foot deep hole. Then, 18,000 tons of concrete and 500 tons of reinforcing steel were used to build the 22-foot thick foundation.

## SKY POD

The seven-story building 1,100 feet above ground houses the microwave equipment on the lower floor, while the next three floors are open to the public, including an enclosed observation deck, a partially opened one, and the revolving restaurant. The top three floors are devoted to television transmitters, FM transmitters and, on the seventh floor, the monstrous pieces of mechanical equipment needed to power everything.

## **THE REVOLVING RESTAURANT**

The 420-seat revolving restaurant is the world's tallest, with a diameter of 150 feet (the one at Australia square in Sydney, which is in second place, has a diameter of 122 feet) and that part of the floor that rotates has a top speed of eight feet a minute. That's so fast you might get indigestion, so it is slowed to five feet a minute for dinner, which means you can orbit the 450-foot circumference in 90 minutes. The 16-foot-wide moving platform runs on bearings so precisely designed that it is driven by one 2 hp electric motor, with a second as a spare. And if both break down, two strong men can push it. My wife and I have eaten there on special occasions, both lunches and dinners. The view is fantastic both during the day and after dusk.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Originally, there were supposed to be a cluster of three separate antennas on top of the concrete tower. Had this plan been adopted, it is possible that the total height of the structure would not have topped that of the 1,761.89-foot-high Ostankino Tower in Moscow. Ultimately, however, communications engineers decided the most efficient design was one which stacked one kind of antenna atop another to make a single antenna 350 feet high. That slender five-sided needle atop the concrete shaft has finally rid the Toronto area of the worst television and FM-radio reception of any North American city. One part of the problem was that the fairly flat countryside is dotted with high-rise apartments and offices, so TV sets usually received two signals: a strong one from the transmitters and a weaker one "bounced" from those high-rise buildings. It was this "bounce" that caused TV-screen ghosting.

## **ELEVATORS**

Four elevators zip up the sides of the tower at 1,200 feet per minute, which means you go higher quicker than when taking off in a jet plane. Each elevator has a glass wall. Each elevator could hold 22 people, but the elevators are never quite full, partly because not everyone could see and partly because passengers might feel too confined. The speed was determined by an elaborate formula for "acceleration realization threshold" (the speed at which you know you're moving), so that it's fast enough to be fun and not too fast to be frightening or to cause heart attacks, nausea or fainting fits. However, it gives just about everyone an attack of Otitis-media, or ear popping, because of pressure changes. To alleviate this, swallow at least five times in the 70-second trip.

The tower also has a stairway, used in an emergency. A physically fit person would take 20 minutes to get down the 2,570 stairs in the hexagonal core, and at least 40 minutes to climb up. When the stairway - the world's tallest made of concrete - was finished, one construction worker shucked his clothes and "streaked" the tower from top to bottom. Yet another tower record.

## **LIGHTNING**

Lightning strikes the tower between 150 and 200 times a year, which means it is also the world's tallest free-standing lightning rod. Lightning conductors atop the tower are linked to three copper strips that run down the tower and are grounded to forty-two rods, each 20 feet long and buried 20 feet below ground. The stairs, elevator rails, window frames, sewage, water pipes and anything else that could attract lightning are linked to the copper strips.

## **ICING**

Anywhere ice is likely to form - at any change in the tower contour line, or places like the roof edges of the Sky Pod - has been ice-proofed, either with heated de-icing cables or sheathed in shiny plastic to which ice cannot cling. The fiberglass surface and the shape of the transmission mast means that ice will never build up to a dangerous thickness and fall to the ground in chunks but will, instead, slide off and break itself into power-like snow almost as soon as it's formed.

## **FIREPROOFING**

Don't expect to get a steak flambéed at table side at the revolving restaurant. The fire department has forbidden open-flame cooking up in the tower. In fact, the planners and the fire marshal have gone to extraordinary lengths to make the tower fireproof. Each steel floor has a coating of a fire-resistant mineral fibre, and all furnishings are as fireproof as any furniture can be. The main kitchens, where open-flame cooking is permitted, are in the basement. Also located there are the emergency fire pumps that can each squirt water to the top of the tower at the rate of 500 gallons a minute. A sprinkler system is located everywhere. Since electrical transformers have been known to explode into flames, the seven installed in the tower are immersed in a non-flammable fluid instead of the customary oil.

## STABILITY

Unlike a jumbo jet that moves mostly through the upper "smooth" layers of air and is grounded in bad weather, the CN Tower must survive turbulent, treacherous winds and was built to withstand twice as strong a wind as Toronto will ever see. Weather records show 114 mph as the top wind speed in this century. The tower was built to withstand a wind of 160 mph. At 110 mph, a wind exerts 60 pounds of pressure where it hits windows in the accommodation pod. At the sides, it exerts a 60-pound negative pressure. So experts designed windows that can withstand 120 pounds of either kind of stress. The outside pane is three-eighths of an inch thick tempered glass, the inside pane is half an inch thick.

The main concrete tower - 53,000 cubic yards of concrete "tied" together with 80 miles of steel cable - would only wobble 10 inches from side to side, and the movement would be so slow you wouldn't even notice a change in the level of the champagne in your glass (that is, presuming you'd been stupid enough to go out to dinner in such weather in the first place).

## TOWER ATTRACTIONS

CN Tower Limited decided it was vital that the \$52 million tower be an ultimate tourist attraction in order to ensure it was self-supporting financially, as well as structurally. The tower has become a North American landmark and a tourist attraction unrivaled in Ontario, perhaps even Canada.

At the base of the tower, past the gardens and the fountains and pools, is a unique shop specializing in CN Tower souvenirs and Canadiana, including the souvenir medals and medals used for keychains and necklaces struck by Interbranch International Mint. The elevator ride is in itself super-spectacular. Short of piloting a jet fighter, there's nowhere else in the world you can climb so high so fast, and the main observation decks in the Sky Pod are so high you have the uncanny feeling you're looking down on the world from a plane. On those decks are six telescopes with 20.1 zoom lenses, which means that by operating the controls you can magnify what you see with the naked eye from 10 to 200 times.

But for many, the greatest attraction is the view from The Space Deck observation platform. There's nothing further up but the antenna and the sky. The observation deck has floor-to-ceiling windows that lean outwards so that you feel as though you are perched on the edge of...well, nothing. The immensity of the view, the lack of any real sense of enclosure, make you feel drawn outward into space.

## IF ANYONE ASKS

The tower weighs 130,000 tons, which is twice as heavy as the world's biggest luxury liner and about the same weight as 23,214 large elephants. Fifty-three thousand cubic yards of concrete were poured to build the tower - and that's enough to build a concrete curb along the 401 from Toronto to Kingston, 150 miles away.

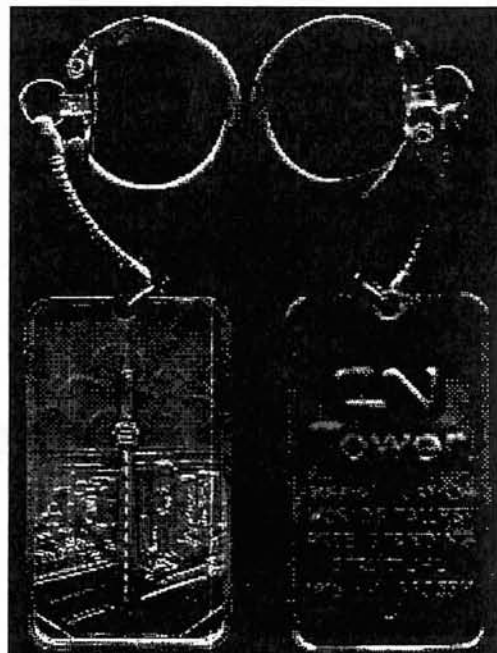
The tower has the longest concrete staircase in the world. It has 2,570 steps. Even the lower observation platforms are so high that you can see south to Rochester, New York and the far shore of Lake Simcoe to the north. You can also see the eternal cloud of spray that looms over Niagara Falls.

The elevators up to the Sky Pod are capable of carrying 30,000 people a day, or 10,950,000 a year, counting Sundays and Christmas Day. At that rate, however, the place gets a bit crowded.

Between the Sky Pod and the uppermost observation platform - the Space Deck - there is a special shuttle elevator. It takes you up to the 1,450 foot level, which makes it the highest elevator ride in the world.

Anyone wishing to take the elevator to the observation decks is charged a fee. The only exception is when you are going up to the revolving restaurant for dinner and you have made an advance reservation.

The CN Tower's souvenir shop ran out of the souvenir medals ordered from Interbranch International Mint at least 10 years ago.



*In addition to the 3,000+ round medals mentioned on the first page of this article, 500 octagonal medals 27mm wide x 48mm high, all holed, in both nickel and bronze were also acquired by the author.*

# BUYING AND SELLING

## *COINS, BANKNOTES and POSTCARDS*

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#### 1) COINS:

**Canadian and Maritime** - key date and semi-key date decimal coins (undamaged and uncleaned)

**Great Britain** - hammered and milled coins from 1066 A.D. to modern

**World Crowns** - and thalers plus better world minors

**American coins** - from the 19th century

#### 2) BANKNOTES:

**Dominion of Canada banknotes** - from 1870 to 1935 and some from 1937 to 1954

**Provincial banknotes** - all

**Canadian Banks** - all notes issued by Canadian banks

**USA Currency** - including fractional and confederate (genuine).

#### 3) TOKENS:

**Canadian** - pre-Confederation and merchant tokens

**American** - hard time, merchant, trade, and civil war tokens

**British** - trade tokens from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries

**Other** - "interesting" tokens from Canada and the world.

#### 4) MEDALS:

**Commemorative medals** - from Canada and the World.

#### 5) GOLD and SILVER:

Bars and bullion coins.

#### 6) VINTAGE POSTCARDS:

Especially wanted are real photo cards from 1900 to 1920, signed artist cards, and better greeting cards.

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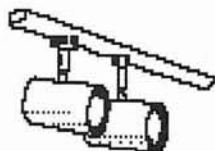


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# S P O T L I G H T   O N   D E S I G N E R S

*A column in praise of Canadian coin designers*



## 75 ORIGINAL PAINTINGS BY COIN DESIGNER TONY BIANCO FEATURED AT ALGONQUIN GALLERY

*by John Regitko, ONA member #LM083*



May 18 to June 9 was a special time for coin designer Tony Bianco, an Ontario resident, whose \$2 coin design of a polar bear with her 2 cubs, dubbed the Path of Knowledge 2000 Millennium Coin (left), graced the circulating 2000 \$2 coin. His design was also used for the 2000 \$2 coin in the PL sets struck at the Ottawa Mint and on a special collector coin in 22-karat gold inner core with a 4.1 karat gold outer ring, in proof finish.

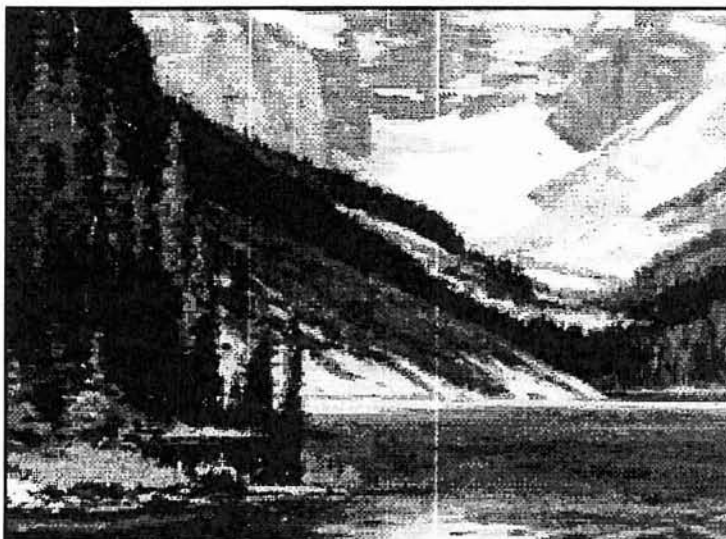
Bianco had 75 original paintings on display at the Algonquin Gallery (the original Algonquin Park Museum), located beside Found Lake on Highway 60 in Algonquin Park.

The paintings depicted Canada's National Parks coast to coast and were painted during a tour that he, his wife Linda and daughter, Sierra, then 5 years old, took in 2000. Consequently, the exhibit is entitled "Canada 2000 - The Tony Bianco Tour."

In all, 75 paintings were completed, as well as over 1400 slides. The family traveled over 35,000 kilometers and visited 20 parks, stopping between 5 and 10 days painting, photographing and writing in each park. Not only did I view the 75 paintings during my visit to Algonquin Park, but I also obtained a copy of a CD showing the paintings. Also included on the CD are 15 pages of Bianco's thoughts about his tour, the bond he formed with his family while confined to his Recreational Vehicle and about a family's relationship to each other and to the people they encountered along the way.

Over the Victoria Day weekend this past May, Tony could be seen signing autographs for Gallery visitors. Also on hand was his family, including the newest addition to their family, Elias, who was born 6 months after the completion of the tour.

If any ONA member would like a copy of the CD featuring his 75 paintings and the write-ups on 15 pages in Adobe Acrobat, send \$12 (cheques made payable to Tony Bianco) to John Regitko, 4936 Yonge St., Suite 172, North York, ON M2N 6S3. Incidentally, Adobe's Acrobat program is included on the CD so if your computer does not currently have it loaded, it can be downloaded for free with a few clicks of the mouse.



*The above is one of 75 paintings depicting Canada's National Parks on display at the Algonquin Gallery from May 18 to June 9 that coin designer Tony Bianco painted during his "Canada 2000: The Tony Bianco Tour." The tour took him to many Canadian Provincial Parks, including some located in Ontario.*

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# T H E R O Y A L C A N A D I A N M I N T

*Featuring news about the Royal Canadian Mint or its critics and fans*



*With an unusual headline to catch reader's attention, the National Post published the following article on December 23, 2000. We thank Tom Clarke, ONA Area director, for bringing the article to our attention. Since it was written very one-sided, we are also including a letter on page ??? written by a professional artist and coin designer that the National Post chose not to publish.*

## **ROYAL CANADIAN MINT TURNS TO SPAGHETTI PART 1 - KIDS WITH CRAYONS**

*by Murray Whyte*

Fumbling through your pockets for change to plug the meter or drop into the coin box on the bus, you may have paused for a moment, perhaps even unconsciously, to notice amid your fistful of metal a series of images as familiar as the nose on your face: the Queen on the obverse. On the reverse, the noble beaver, the majestic caribou, the stalwart Bluenose, slicing through the waters of the North Atlantic, The...? Yes, the stick man.

The Royal Canadian Mint, internationally renowned for production quality and design excellence, has been slowly introducing the next generation of coins, diluting esthetics in order to gain a street cred.

Traditionally, the mint has done special issues, such as the proud V for Victory coins of the Second World War, or the gorgeous Centennial coins designed by Canadian artist Alex Colville in 1967, or the 1973 quarter to commemorate the founding of the Northwest Mounted Police, precursors of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The coins' symbolism - and their simple elegance - made their appearance in our pocket change a rare surprise and delight. But new coin designs are no longer a rarity, reserved for momentous occasions in the life of the nation. This year, the Royal Canadian Mint brought out a \$2 coin on the reverse of which two cuddly polar bear cubs joined Mama. This was intended to commemorate knowledge.

The mint has been issuing new quarters, at the rate of one a month, for the past two years. They are the varied fruits of a program called "Centsation," after it issued an open call to all Canadians - entry forms were dropped in mailboxes across the country - soliciting designs for two series of quarters. The first series, in 1999, was meant to offer a glimpse of the country's past, while the 2000 series - to mark the millennium - was arranged by theme (health, knowledge, ingenuity) and intended to represent the country's values for the future.

Culling through the 66,000 submissions, the mint arrived at 24 final selections, some by artists, some the crayon scratchings of children.

It was not, say some numismatists, the mint's finest hour.

"Some of them are not considered particularly outstanding," says Bret Evans, editor of Canadian Coin News, choosing his words carefully. Then, he allows a sigh to escape: "All right, I happen to think that some of the designs are horrible, personally. Some of the coins, I'd be a little embarrassed to have someone in Europe say, 'Oh look what I have, a Canadian coin'."

The Centsation series was a huge departure for the mint, which has made a name for exacting quality. Typically, when it issues a new coin, it contacts one of a stable of artists. This time, it had tens of thousands of submissions to consider, leading to a level of eclecticism generally reserved for a rummage sale: snakes, owls, stick figures, a steam engine, a satellite dish, a crumpled globe...

Needless to say, the wide-open competition is worlds apart from the most significant series in the mint's history, Mr. Colville's 1967 Centennial series.

So, has he seen any of the new quarters?

"Yes, I have," says the artist gravely from his home in Wolfville, N.S.

And?

“Well, I just don’t think they’re very good at all. I suppose this sounds like a very conservative, old-time point of view, but a nation’s currency is something that has all kinds of symbolic meaning. This casual treatment of it I simply deplore.

“And anyway, most of the designs I’ve seen are terribly bad, inept sort of things. Many of them are just drawn by kids, or something.”



He is right. Five of the 24 coins were designed by teens or younger. September, 1999, stands out: A trio of stick figures grinning dully from the coin’s face.

“Some of them look like kids’ designs because that’s exactly what they were,” Mr. Evans says. “The ‘99 coin with stick figures was done by a kid - that was how she drew.”

Then there’s the July, 1999, offering, which mint staff dubbed “the spaghetti coin” - because it looked like a piece of spaghetti had been thrown on the coin. It’s just a big squiggle.”



Still, it could have been much worse had the judges - and this was design by committee, with the committee consisting of art students from across the country - had a stronger sense of the absurd.

I mean, there were Ninja turtles on coins,” Mr. Evans says. “It was, to some extent, a free-for-all.”

Coinage has always occupied a symbolic place in societies stretching as far back as the ancient Greeks and Romans, who would issue special coins to commemorate military victories and important political shifts.

“There’s a tradition of coins being a way for the state to communicate to the people,” says Mr. Evans.

What the recent series communicate, Mr. Colville says, is not encouraging. “They say something pretty bad, I’m afraid. It’s just a very sort of backwoods thing.”

Or perhaps beauty is simply in the eye of the beholder.

Tom Kennedy, (*then*) president of the Canadian Numismatic Association, says the mint expected to sell about 500,000 of the series; to date, it has sold three times as many to eager collectors looking to complete their sets.

Perhaps this is testament only to the fact Canadians are a nation of collectors. If the coins were of unsurpassed beauty, the mint would have sold even more.

Mr. Kennedy also finds some merit in the idea of the mass call for designs, “an opportunity for Joe Public,” as he puts it.

“I think it gives you a different perspective. You have a professional, he’s going to be geared to what he thinks the public wants to see. When you get more input, you get more chance for the unlikely.”

Mr. Evans concedes the coins have a strength, although he sees it as the energy of chaos.

“I don’t like all of the designs at all, and I know of a lot of collectors who don’t like some or all of the designs,” he says.

“But the strength of the coins - if you want to call it that - is the vitality that comes from people just picking up a pen and not knowing if they were going to win. This was a bold program, and when you take risks, you’re always risking the fact that it’s not going to work.”

Whether or not it did is a matter of opinion. “The problem with art is that it’s always subjective,” Mr. Evans says. “I can show a Picasso to seven people, and I’ll get seven different opinions on the man’s talent.”

What can’t be seen as subjective, though, is the unqualified popularity of the two series. What that means, says mint spokesperson Eileen Melnick McCarthy, is there is a lot of openness to similar open-submission programs.

“People really got behind it,” she says.

“Based on the success of this program, I’d be hard pressed to say we’d never consider doing it again. It was so successful.”

# THE ROYAL CANADIAN MINT

Featuring news about the Royal Canadian Mint



Since the preceding article presents a rather negative point of view about Canada's coin designs, a professional artist and coin designer wrote a letter which the National Post chose not to publish. Since his letter gives an opposing point of view, we are pleased to publish it in the Numismatist. We thank Tom Clarke, ONA Area director, for sending us a copy of Mr. Jaciw's unpublished letter.

## ROYAL CANADIAN MINT TURNS TO SPAGHETTI PART 2 - AN ARTIST/COIN DESIGNER'S RESPONSE

by John Jaciw, Artist/Coin Designer and Member, Windsor Coin Club

Reading Mr. Whyte's article, "Royal Canadian Mint turns to Spaghetti," one would get the impression that the Royal Canadian Mint is in the stage of abandoning the production of new coins with the finesse of numismatic art.

The Royal Canadian "Centsation" coin design competition was a once in a life-time act of generosity to give all Canadians a chance to express themselves. The invitation worked, as thousands upon thousands of entries came in to be judged by art students. The final result was that twenty-four new coins were minted for the years 1999-2000. Some of them were designed by professionals and some, as was stated in Mr. Whyte's article, were adolescents and children.

I for one, as a professional competitor and the winner of the Centsation coin design competition, do judge the twenty-four coins on their symbolic merit. The 9 coins are like diamonds in the rough, so to speak, but the message and the symbols are there on the glittering little disk.

Was Canada's past and future told? Yes, they were! One has only to study the coins, and if possible talk to the designers to get their interpretations and then only pass the final judgment. I am sure that the Mint's staff by dubbing Maria H. Sarkany's creative submission, "the spaghetti coin," didn't think that the offensive term could be utilized on the headings of the weeklies as it was in the National Post.

I find Maria H. Sarkany's coin design, "A Nation of People," creative and imaginative. A continuous silver line without stop travels on the surface of the coin, transforming itself into human faces and ends with our national emblem. Isn't this what Canada is about? If Picasso were a Canadian and the creator of the said coin, he would be lauded as the numismatic creator of the millennium.

In conclusion, let me say that the Royal Canadian Mint is a profit making Crown Corporation. As such, it looks for profits as it did with the Centsation project making an unsurpassed profit in the history of the Royal Canadian Mint.

*(Editor's comment: John Jaciw is not just another letter writer. He is an active member and strong supporter of the Windsor Coin Club as well as an award-winning designer of Canadian coins [see the following article in which we are pleased to summarize the numerous accomplishments of Mr. Jaciw and provide some of his background]. If any ONA member wishes to comment about the National Post article which is rather critical of the 1999 and 2000 Centsation quarter coin program, the selection process and the designs, or Mr. Jaciw's response, send the ONA Editor a letter or e-mail and we will publish selections in the next ONA Numismatist.)*



You are invited!

### Windsor Coin Club

2nd Monday of Month (except July & August)

Caboto Club, Tecumseh Rd. at Parent St., Windsor, Ontario

7:00 p.m. start - Everyone Welcome - Free Parking

# THE ROYAL CANADIAN MINT

*Featuring news about the Royal Canadian Mint and Coin Designers*



*We are pleased to present John Jaciw's credentials. We again thank Tom Clarke, ONA Area director, for sending us Mr. Jaciw's curriculum vitae.*

## JOHN JACIW: AWARD-WINNING COIN DESIGNER

*by Tom Clarke, ONA Area Director*



John Jaciw, a resident of Windsor, Ontario, since 1954 and a resident of Canada since 1949, he was born in Ukraine in 1932. He married in 1963 and is the father of 2 and grandfather of another 2.

He completed his primary school education in the Ukraine, secondary in Germany. His art studies consist of courses given by the Creative School of Art in Edmonton, Alberta (1950) and the Meizinger Art School in Detroit, Michigan (1952-54). He also took art courses involving life drawing, print making, wood, marble and clay sculpturing, theories of color and serigraphy, illustrations, etc. at the Windsor Board of Education facilities, the University of Windsor and St. Clair College.

Since 1975, Jaciw has been a member of the Society of Graphic Designers of Canada. He has also been a member of the American Institute of Graphic Arts since 1980.

John Jaciw received the Award of Excellence from the American Professional graphic artists in 1984, and was recognized for voluntary graphic contributions to many charitable organizations in Canada and the USA by the Ukrainian Canadian Business and Professional Association of Windsor in 1977. He was appointed to the editorial board of the magazine of humor and satire VSESMIKH from 1993 to 1999, the only person outside the Ukraine to serve on the board.

He displayed his etchings at the Windsor Printers Forum, acrylic paintings at the Scarab Club of Detroit, and wood sculptures at the Chaika Art Gallery in Detroit, the Cleary International Centre and at the Windsor Wood Carving Museum. He also exhibited coins and banknotes at the International Numismatic Expo of Coin Designs in Lviv, Ukraine. He received Best of Show for his wood sculpture in the International Wood Sculpture Competition at the Cleary International Centre in 1987. He also received First Place in the International competition for Ukrainian Coinage, sponsored by KZVIN Magazine of Lviv, Ukraine, in 1992.

He was been very successful in other art competitions, receiving acceptance by the City of Windsor of their official crest design in 1970, as well as the city's medallion design, also in 1970. Further, he was one of three winners of the Windsor Star's Centsation coin design, 1999.

Six of his submissions to the Royal Canadian Mint have received recognition. He placed 2nd in the Mint's City of Toronto Anniversary design competition in 1984, 3rd in the Olympic coin design competition in 1987 for his barrel jumping entry, as well as 2nd for the Cree Cyllabic writing coin design competition in 1988. He also placed first in the competition for the 1991 Discovery of Baffin Island coin.

His first successful coin design came in 1983 when he had his St. John's 400th Anniversary design accepted by the Royal Canadian Mint for that year's \$100 gold coin design (illustrated above).

His second success with the Royal Canadian Mint came in 2000, when his submission of Ingenuity was accepted for the February Millennium coin. Jaciw was inspired by the hope of the future prosperity of Canada. The coin celebrates Canadian ingenuity, representing a model society - prosperous farms; innovative cities; rapid, safe transportation; and an eye toward space.





# FROM THE CLUB SERVICES CHAIRMAN

## **SURVEY OF AUCTION FEES CHARGED BY LOCAL COIN CLUBS**

I am conducting a survey on what the terms and conditions are at local coin club meetings with respect to the material placed in club auctions. I would like to hear from anyone that knows what their local coin club is doing, or from anyone that has consigned material or has suggestions to make.

We will publish a summary of what other clubs are doing in the next issue, as a guide for those clubs who might want to reconsider their policies in view of what others are doing.

Some of the questions that I would like feedback on are listed below.

1. What commission does your club charge.
2. Do you accept lots at a meeting for that same evening's auction, or do you insist on receiving material in advance so that details can be published in your bulletin prior to the meeting?
3. Do you accept auction material from members only, or will you also accept lots from non-members? If so, is the commission different?
4. Is your club successful in obtaining all the material that you want for each meeting, or are you forever scrounging around for additional material?
5. On the assumption that more material than you can place in an auction is on hand, what is your limit on the number of lots per person? What is the maximum number of total lots you permit per meeting?
6. Is the owner of the material or the auction coordinator responsible for grading the material? If the owner is responsible, does the auction co-ordinator have the authority to override the owner? Can the auctioneer withdraw a lot if it is not graded correctly or otherwise incorrectly identified? Can the auctioneer "correct" the information even if it means reduced bids or no one meeting the opening bid?

Any other comments you care to make are also solicited.

## **ARE AUCTIONS AT CLUB MEETINGS TAKING UP TOO MUCH TIME?**

In reviewing club bulletins, I notice that a lot of clubs are publishing a listing of material that will be auctioned off at the next meeting. The Waterloo, Stratford, Ingersoll and Timmins clubs publish always between 25 and 50 lots. North York varies anywhere from zero to maybe a dozen. Other clubs also pre-publish auction lots. And club bulletins do this month after month after month.

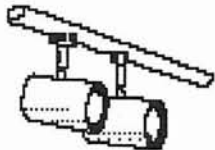
Now that sounds like a lot of lots for a local coin club meeting, taking up a lot of time as part of the program. I have been asking myself if this is too much? Auctions can take up to half an hour or more, more time than any other item on the agenda, including the main speaker, slide presentation or a VCR tape program.

From personal experience, I have found that there is a lot of participation in the auction. A lot of people bid on the lots, and those that don't seem to be enjoying the action, especially if a club is fortunate of having a lively, funny auctioneer. Mike Hollingshead, who does the auctions at both Waterloo and South Wellington, comes to mind.

A program generally covers a very specific collecting interest. Although most collectors are still interested in the program for its educational value, the auction tends to have something of interest for everybody. Although most clubs only have a couple of dealers present to sell material, I note that some of the best variety of "collector" material is found at club meetings at the auctions.

I suggest if your club has not added an auction to its program, that you start one. The best selling material tends to be the lower priced material that dealers do not necessarily carry. A well-rounded auction should contain some Canadian decimal coins and paper money, medals, tokens, foreign minor coins, transportation, ancient, Canadian Tire coupons, odd & curious and the many other areas of collectibles we call numismatics. And don't discount the appeal of unusual items such as coin replica coasters, coin jewellery and the like.

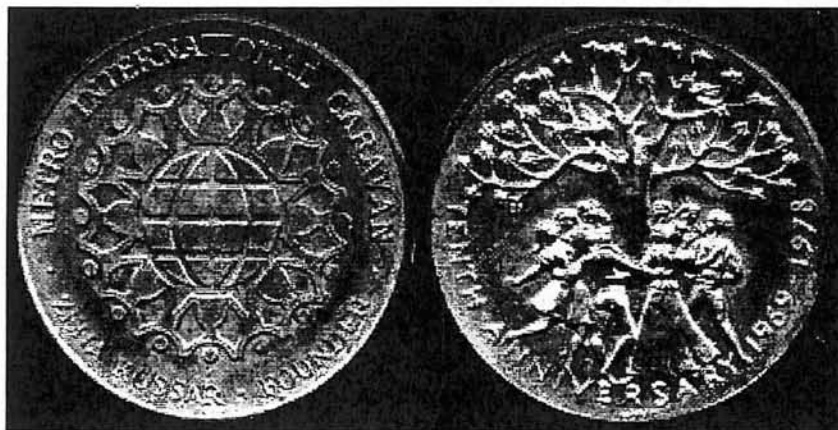
*John Regitko  
Club Services Chairman*



S P O T L I G H T O N  
M E D A L S O F T O R O N T O

**CO-FOUNDER OF TORONTO FESTIVAL HONORED ON MEDAL**

*by John Regitko, ONA member #LM083*



My collection boasts a medal designed by Dora de Pedery-Hunt (“HUNT” appears below the word “ANNIVERSARY” on the obverse - see close-up at the bottom) commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the Metro International Caravan in 1978. It gives credit to Zena Kossar as “Founder” of this annual multicultural festival.

It is now acknowledged that Zena was co-founder along with her husband, Leon Kossar, a pioneer in his own right in celebrating Canadian cultural diversity.

The Kossars were ahead of their time in 1968 when they dreamed up the idea of a festival of the city’s different cultures, naming it Metro International Caravan. Rather than consolidating their festival under one roof, they decided to locate it at different sites in the various ethnic neighborhoods and made it one of the most successful multicultural festivals in the country.

Its pavilions, each named after a famous city and presided over by a “mayor,” were spread around in church basements and community halls. A reasonably priced passport would admit visitors to diversified arts, crafts, folk music and food.

Renamed Festival Caravan and held in June, it grew to become financially self-sustaining. It attracted more than 50 pavilions and 2 million visits over a nine or ten day span at its height. More recently, it featured a more modest 18 pavilions due to the fierce competition it faced from other festivals that have become popular in Toronto, such as Caribana, Gay Pride Parade and others.

Leon Kossar was born in Saskatoon in 1929. A graduate from the University of Manitoba, he became a reporter for the Winnipeg Tribune before moving to Toronto where he joined the staff of the Toronto Telegram, first as a reporter and later a columnist.

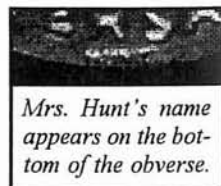
He later served on the board of the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, and was a founder of the Canadian Folk Arts Councils. In the early 1960s, he co-produced National Builders at the Canadian National Exhibition and was instrumental in many centennial celebrations across Canada in 1967. He was also co-producer of the arts and cultural program of the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games. More recently, he made Festival Caravan a partner with the Toronto 2008 Olympic bid.

The reason it is timely for me to publish some background on the Kossars and the Festival Caravan at this time is the fact that Mr. Kossar passed away recently at the St. Joseph’s Health Centre at the age of 72.

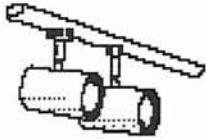
“He was instrumental in changing the way we saw and see ourselves and redesigning the sense of national identity and community,” said family friend and Caravan vice-chair Yuri Kovar in an interview with the Toronto Star. “His death means Caravan will likely change, but its board has pledged to keep it going.”

He was married to wife, Zena, for 44 years. According to Caravan public relations consultant Brian Kilgore, the devoted couple were known for their boundless energy and dedication. They cajoled and charmed politicians, community leaders, corporate sponsors and the media to support their festival.

Mr. Kossar was once described as never taking no for an answer and having great logistical skill. He had the ability to bring consensus to more than 30 different cultural communities and “to get them all singing from the same song sheet,” Kilgore said.



*Mrs. Hunt’s name appears on the bottom of the obverse.*



**S P O T L I G H T O N**  
**T H I R D P A R T Y G R A D I N G**

**ICCS VOLUME DISCOUNTS TO ONA MEMBERS AND CLUBS**

Quite some time ago, we printed the Service Request form for Canada's premier grading service, the International Coin Certification Service, operated by ONA member Brian Cornwell and his son, Scott. We know that a number of clubs have accumulated material and submitted it to ICCS on behalf of their members to obtain the same discounted pricing as ICCS's largest customers.

We are pleased to again print the form (see following sheet) so that ONA members can deal directly with ICCS if their club does not get involved in gathering up the material, although we suggest that the local club be contacted first to see if they will undertake it as a club project so that the best possible price can be obtained by pooling the material. For example, if someone wishes a professional opinion on certified grading and authentication of a coin, the cost is \$15 each for 1 to 5 coins, or \$10.00 per coin for 6 or more. By pooling material, the price drops to \$8.00 each for 50 to 99 coins or \$6.00 for 100 & up. Registered postage and insurance charges are extra.

Note that the ONA is not involved in any way and that any agreement entered into is strictly between ICCS and their customers.

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- This form supersedes all previous ICCS forms (NF2002).

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