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President's Message

We are very fortunate to-day for the amount of literature available in every field of collecting. We have the choice of reading about coins we do collect or reading first and then collecting. We can also find help through coin clubs, dealers, libraries and major associations, along with the internet. A program for adding to one's knowledge and becoming a numismatist might include the following.

1. Decide on a field of collecting that really interests you.
2. Don't get into a field you can't afford
3. Try to learn the history of the coins you collect
4. Join a coin club, exhibit, write or talk about your particular field of collecting.
5. Take an active part in club meetings and the executive leadership.
6. Have fun making new friends, sharing knowledge and enjoying the hobby to the fullest. That is what being a numismatist is all about.

The Hobby, the Coin Club and You

Coin Clubs that are doing well in Ontario offer a steady stream of worthwhile programs. These programs are on a variety of subjects that cover many phases of the numismatic hobby; they also tend to get members involved. I'm sure most clubs have many members who can provide some segment of the program.

Where is the hobby heading in the next few years?

Not far if the members don't put forward various ideas to retain members and junior collectors. We need to all get involved, have workshops, speakers, videos, exhibits, auctions, and slides along with attending coin shows and conventions. This will promote your coin club, to be more informative to everyone.

Having some involvement in all aspects of your organization is important. To simply collect, to take from the hobby, is not as satisfying as giving back to the hobby. You can't do everything, but if everyone does something, the results can be dramatic.

President Tom

F.Y.I

There is a fine line between "Hobby" & "Mental Illness"

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Regular Membership - \$15.00 per year
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Junior (up to age 18) - \$5.00 year
Club Membership - \$20.00 year
Life Membership - \$450.00

(life memberships are accepted only after
one year of regular membership)

Send money order or cheque (payable to the
ONA) for membership to:

Bruce Raszmann, ONA Treasurer
P.O. Box 40033, Waterloo Square P.O.
75 King St. S., Waterloo, Ont. N2J 4V1

Please note the Membership Report that appeared on Page 62 of the May - June 2007 issue of the Ontario Numismatist was not correct. Members #1921 -1929 should have been accepted. Members #1930 - 1934 were the New Members for the May - June issue of the Ontario Numismatist.

We welcome the new members

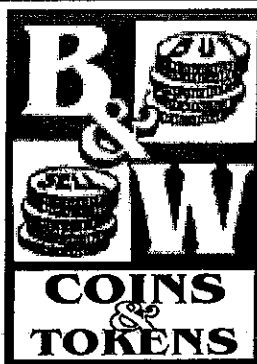
1930 Dorthy Hoskins, Port Dover, Ontario
1931 Fred Simmons, Minden, Ontario
1932 Carol Simmons, Minden, Ontario
1933 Lorne Barnes, London, Ontario
1934 Randy Ash, Wainwright, Alta

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

J1935 Joshua DeSouza, Brampton, Ontario
J1936 Andre Bertram, Toronto, Ontario
1937 J.P. Gadoury, Unionville, Ontario
J1938 Luke Mc Fadden, Denfield, Ontario

Bruce H. Raszmann

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From the Editor

I have a couple of milestones to report:

The Kent Coin Club held their 440th meeting in April and the Nickel Belt Coin Club held their 600th meeting in June. The Woodstock Coin Club is celebrating their 50th anniversary. Congratulations to all.

I have a letter from the Kent Coin Club advising that next year will be their 45th anniversary and the 40th Annual Coin Show. They are contemplating issuing a medal to mark the occasions which will be available to collectors. Advance orders might help the planning process. Also the club has a number of pieces available from previous events: 1983 20th anniversary bronze (Mintage 200) \$2.00 each plus \$1.00 Postage, 2003 40th anniversary antique silver (Mintage 40) \$20.00 each plus \$1.00 Postage (only 10 left). They also have a number of wooden dollars & toonies of various years at \$1.00 plus \$1.00 Postage. If you have any interest in any of these items please contact Lucien Wagenaar at 27 Peter St., Chatham, ON N7M 5B2.

I have also been asked to mention that the Albert Kaszman fund was established to enable young people to enjoy their first year of membership in the O.N.A. at no charge. Simply forward your request for membership to the O.N.A., P.O. Box 40033, Waterloo Sq. P.O., 75 King St. S. Waterloo, ON N2J 4V1. Include your name, address, phone number and age and you will be added to the membership which includes a subscription to this bulletin.

Coin kids 101 is an educational activity sponsored by the Canadian Numismatic Association and the Ontario Numismatic Association. It is designed to provide young people with a preliminary knowledge of the numismatic hobby. Please contact Mr. Fred Freeman, 88 Northland Cres., Woodstock, ON N4S 6T5 (519-539-2665) bfreeman@oxford.net for more information.

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SHOW & Bourse

July 11 - 15 Niagara Falls, ON - Canadian Numismatic Association Annual Convention, Sheraton Fallsview Hotel. Hours: Fri. 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Educational symposium, CNA general meeting, hospitality suite, awards banquet, Royal Canadian Mint reception, tours, bourse, auction by C & P Numismatic Auctions, junior collectors' forum and auction, meetings of Coin Error Enthusiasts, Newfoundland Enthusiasts, Canadian Association of Token Collectors, Medallist Art Society of Canada, Canadian Tire Corporation Coupon Collectors Club, Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors, Canadian Paper Money Society of Canada and more. Sponsor/Affiliate: Canadian Numismatic Association Website: <http://www.canadian-numismatic.org>.

Aug. 26 Woodstock, ON - Woodstock Coin Club Annual Show, South Gate Centre, 191 Old Wellington St. S. Hours 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. free parking. \$1 admission includes draws for hourly door prizes, kids are free. Buy, sell, evaluate coins and paper money. Celebrating our 50th anniversary. Sponsor/Affiliate: Woodstock Coin Club. For more information, contact Tom Rogers, 41 Masefield Cres., London, ON N5V 1M9, or 519-451-2316.

Sept. 16, London, ON - 15th Annual Coin Show, The Ramada Inn, 817 Exeter Rd. hours 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission \$1; children free. Door prizes, displays. Sponsor/Affiliate: London Numismatic Society. For more information, contact Len Buth, 519-641-4353, lbuth@webmanager.on.ca

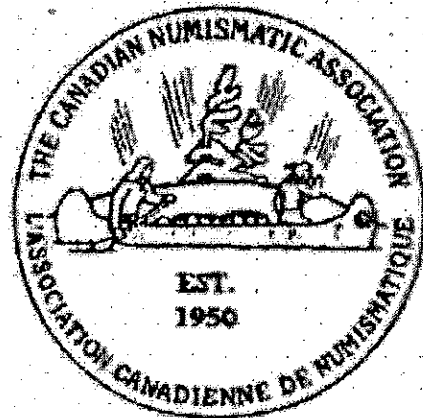
Oct. 13, Oshawa, ON - Durham Coin-A-Rama, Five Points Mall, 285 Taunton Road East. Hours 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Free dealer, public and membership draws. Free admission. Celebrating 45 years in numismatics. Sponsor/Affiliate: Oshawa and District Coin Club. For more information, contact Sharon Maclean at 905-728-1352 or papman@idirect.com

Oct. 20, Guelph, ON - South Wellington and Waterloo Coin Societies Show, Colonel John McCrae Legion, 919 York Rd. Hours 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Displays, free parking, accessible, buy-sell-trade, over 50 tables. For more information, contact Lowell Weirstra 519-824-6534.

Oct. 21, Stratford, ON - Stratford Coin Club Annual Show, Festival Inn, 1144 Ontario Street. Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults \$2, admission includes draw on gold coin, 16 and under free. Buy, sell coins, paper money, tokens. Sponsor/Affiliate: Stratford Coin Club. For more information, contact Larry Walker, 519-271-3352, walker@wightman.ca

Nov. 11, Windsor, ON - Annual Fall Show, Caboto Club, 2175 Parent Ave. Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lots of free parking. \$1 admission includes draws for hourly door prizes and a grand prize. Juniors admitted free. Sponsor/Affiliate: Windsor Coin Club. For mor information, contact Marg Clarke, 519-735-0727 or e-mail mclarke@wincom.net.

CANADIAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION



54th Annual Convention

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Sunday, July 15 - 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



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Daily Admission \$5

Registration Packages also available.

Contact us for complete details or go to our website

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www.canadian-numismatic.org/Events/Conventions

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**For Complete Convention Information,
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Member Clubs in Ontario

First Tuesday	London Numismatic Society Kingston Coin Club Georgian Bay Coin & Stamp Club (Midland) Mississauga - Etobicoke Coin Stamp & Collectibles Club
First Wednesday	South Wellington Coin Society Scarborough Coin Club Sarnia Coin Club
First Thursday	Champlain Coin Club (Orillia) Nipissing Coin Club (North Bay)
Second Sunday	Oshawa & District Coin Club Timmins Coin Club
Second Monday	St Thomas Numismatic Society Windsor Coin Club
Second Tuesday	Waterloo Coin Society Georgian Bay Coin & Stamp Club (Wasaga Beach)
Second Wednesday	Peterborough Numismatic Society Leamington & District Coin Club
Second Thursday	Woodstock Coin Club Lake Superior Coin Club (Thunder Bay)
Third Sunday	Watford Coin Club Brantford Numismatic Society Nickel Belt Coin Club (Sudbury)
Third Monday	Ingersoll Coin Club Toronto Coin Club
Third Tuesday	Tillsonburg Coin Club
Third Wednesday	Stratford Coin Club Kent Coin Club (Chatham) Niagara Falls Coin Club
Fourth Monday	Cambridge Coin Club City Of Ottawa Coin Club
Fourth Tuesday	North York Coin Club
Fourth Sunday	Polish-Canadian Coin Stamp Club Mississauga (Proyak)



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MRS. GENTRY

A short story by James J. Antonio

Patricia Gentry had called and she was going to bring them in for him to look at. It has all sounded so exciting, unbelievable almost, which was why he loved the business. He never knew what lay around the corner, so to speak. Raphael strolled over to the front window and lit his pipe. Soon, little clouds of fragrant smoke were hovering over his curly hair. He gazed across the street at the lovely chestnut tree that had come out for its May show. The blossoms reminded him of white pompoms. He liked springtime. He could feel the promise of something inside him, a new hope for the future -- a renaissance. Though in his early sixties, on good days he felt like twenty or thirty. He eased one hand into the pocket of his chinos, holding his pipe with the other. Sprouting only a few gray hairs, he hardly looked his age and, save for a few furrows across his forehead, his rosy face was smooth and blemish-free. There always seemed to be a smile waiting in the wings. It was in his large blue eyes and the turn of his mouth.

He was startled when Ernie Wilson came barging in.

"Gonna be a depression, Ralphy!" he announced. "Just you wait 'n see!"

Ernie Wilson, better know as Whiz, loitered about all the time. Raphael didn't mind him in the least. He was a wiry little fellow with a crooked nose and a ruddy complexion.

"Oui? Do you think so, Whiz? There will be a depression?"

Whiz cam right up and stared Raphael in the face, his jewel blue eyes glinting. "Why sure! Lookit how the stocks've crashed. It's all in the papers. A big one's commin'! And what then, eh? What then?"

Raphael turned away and gazed back out the window. It was just such a beautiful tree he couldn't keep his eyes off it. The sun was bright, the sky blue, and it was warm too. There was nothing like May. He puffed on his pipe and then he spoke up.

"We are going to have to wait and see, Whiz. About this depression. You never know. Perhaps it will not turn out how you think. What will happen will happen. I would not worry so much."

It was just Whiz's way and Raphael wasn't surprised at all. The tight little spring of a fellow pivoted on his heels and skedaddled on out the door, uttering not another word.

Raphael glanced at the grandfather clock and saw that it was getting on to ten. He'd go outside and sweep up a bit and then work on the next ad until the lady showed up.

As it turned out, Patricia Gentry didn't get to Fleur de Lis Coins until after two that afternoon. Sliding her long legs out of the green Jaguar, she ignored the clock in the dash. So what if I'm late? She thought. She flipped the car door closed and strode leisurely to the trunk. She was a statuesque blond with stark red lips, high cheekbones, and brown eyes plump as plums. She checked her fingernails to make sure all were perfectly painted, hitched the spaghetti strap of her little red purse over her shoulder, and opened the trunk. She lifted out an attaché case, closed the trunk and, in her high heels and red miniskirt, swaggered across the asphalt to the curb, where she waited ostentatiously for the traffic to pass. Then she crossed the street and went into the coin store.

She was amused by the little fellow inside who was holding a newspaper up over his head like a wayward kite and chirping like a frustrated sparrow. She could tell the man behind the counter was getting a kick out of it.

"There's gonna be a depression, Ralphy! It's in here! See? Right here! On the front page! Just like I tole you. Yes, sir!"

"Okay, Whiz, I agree, and you are right," said Raphael. "Now I must look after the young lady.... Excusez-moi, s'il vous

plait."

Ernie Wilson took his cue, pivoted on his heels and, still hoisting the paper over his head, slipped out of the store in a big hurry.

"Is he a friend of yours, Mr. Amical?" Patricia laughed. "He seems pretty sure of himself."

"I am used to it," Raphael said. "He comes in all the time to tell me things. He tells everyone things. They are what he reads in the newspapers. He is harmless...May I say that you have a very nice car?"

"It was my husband's," Patricia declared with a hint of grief. She heaved the attaché case on top of the counter and folded her arms beneath the low cut neckline of her sweater. "He died not long ago. The car's sharp alright. I get plenty of looks driving it, let me tell you."

"Oui, I can imagine." Raphael set his eyes on the attaché, thinking how attractive she was. "So you brought here what we discussed over the phone, oui?"

"Oh, oui!" she giggled. "You must speak French, I'd love to learn French. I could never pick up languages."

"Le français, it is very romantic," Raphael said. "Of course, I was born in Québec and to speak it, it is second nature to me."

Patricia slid her hand across the attaché. "Everything's inside. I want to sell them. If you give me the right price, and pay me in cash--no checks or anything like that--they're all yours, right now, today."

Raphael sensed the woman was anxious to sell. He clicked that attaché case open and, with his heart thumping like a drum took out the first box of coins.

"My husband was very organized," Patricia said. "Everything had to be in order." She began plopping it on like whipped cream. "That's one reason I miss him so much. I'm just the opposite myself. I'm so disorganized. He used to pick up after me and all and I just don't know what I'm going to do without him. Everything is in such a mess. Oh, I wish he were back!"

As if to blot a tear, she touched the corner of her eye. Raphael was ill at ease. He never knew what to say in awkward situations. He offered a Kleenex but she shook her head.

"I'll be fine," she told him. "I'm sorry. It's just very difficult for me. We were very much in love."

"So, let us see what you have here," Raphael said. He opened the first box of coins and set the lid on the counter. "Gold! Ah, oui. I love gold! Gold coins are so beautiful, particularly when they are as this!"

"Everything in that attaché is new," Patricia declared. "Lauren never bought anything but uncirculated or proof coins. He had to have the best or nothing at all."

Raphael brought the ashtray closer. He took out his pipe and a package of tobacco. "Would you mind if I smoked, Madame?"

"Not at all"

He indicated the heavy oak banker's chairs set along the wall. "If you do not wish to stand, you may sit in one of those."

"You can call me Patricia."

"As you wish."

Patricia Gentry turned her back on the counter, delighted she hadn't seen a wedding ring on his finger. She sat down in the big chair and crossed her legs and watched him light his pipe. She could see he was taking notice, stealing glances at her. They all did. She gazed outside, wondering what kind of man he was. It was never very difficult sizing them up. If naiveté and innocence were what turned the curly haired Frenchman's crank, so be it! Or if he liked to be led around like a dog on a leash, that was okay too. After all,

money was money.

The smoke from the pipe soon floated in the air like a pale blue scarf. Raphael was finding it hard to concentrate on the coins in front of him. He was in a quandary. He had not had a date in quite some time but he wanted to keep this thing strictly business. Nothing else, he told himself. Look at the coins and forget about her!

Patricia had noticed the safe in the back corner and it was a large one. And just because it was closed, it did not mean it was locked. She knew from experience that during the day coin dealers often kept their safes closed but accessible.

"What do you think?" she wanted to know after a while.

Raphael was so absorbed in the business at hand that he didn't answer right away. He was flicking through what he presumed would be a complete set of United States three-dollar gold pieces, all of them sealed in plastic slabs and certified by a third-party grading company. The coins, at least the ones he'd glanced at so far, were in mintstate 63 or higher.

"Il est incroyable!" he exclaimed, without raising his head. "You have here a lot of money."

"Sweetie, you're just beginning," Patricia told him. "The only thing that concerns me is whether or not you're going to offer me enough."

If the rest of the coins in the attaché were anything like the ones he'd already seen, Raphael knew he would never be able to afford them all. Why, even if he mortgaged the building he wouldn't have enough. Perhaps, he thought, he could just buy part of the collection.

Early in the evening, Raphael found himself out in the country, rolling slowly along a quiet ribbon of road that meandered across a brown and tan patchwork quilt of newly plowed fields. The sun was low but still bright and he found he had to squint to see where he was going. He was looking forward to the evening, his mind caught up in the beautiful young woman with the valuable coin collection. For once, in such a long time, he wasn't going to be eating by himself like a lone pea in a pod.

Her house was just a cozy white bungalow off the main road at the end of a lane lined with spruce trees. The cosmetic red shutter alongside the windows and the bright red door were à-propos, and tall trees, mostly oak and maple, loomed over the grounds like giants. Raphael parked in the driveway and got out of the car. He was jittery as a goaltender and conscious of his heartbeat. He spent a moment taking in the idyllic backyard. The lawn was green and healthy, cut just right, and rolled like a fluffy carpet down to the stream between vast oval beds of colorful tulips. There, at the water's edge, beside a ballooning, bright yellow forsythia, he watched a small flock of ducks quacking over something along the shore. He was actually thinking that his wife might be looking down from heaven, watching him, and feeling terrible about the whole thing.

They dined on New Orleans Shrimp, chilled jumbo shrimp on a bed of crispy lettuce. There was plenty of jambalaya rice and slices of fried green and yellow zucchini too. Raphael ate with real gusto, enjoying the meal immensely. He loved the spicy tang that lingered in his mouth and the cool red wine that took it away. This was quite a treat compared to his own bland menu of basics.

"I am sure," he said in praise, "that you have worked hard to prepare this for us."

"Patricia waved it off. "Oh heavens, no. I got the shrimp at a deli. The rest was nothing at all."

"I love shrimp and this is all so good. For me to eat this I would have to go to a fancy place."

As the minutes passed, Raphael found himself wondering

more and more why the little house seemed so bare. He'd been through the living-room on the way in; there were two armchairs but no sofa, with only one picture on the wall. There were no curtains on the dining-room window either and just two chairs at the table, and now that he thought about it, he hadn't seen a clock anywhere.

After dinner, over coffee, they pretty well talked about everything. He sat back, relaxed, and smoked his pipe and she told him how Lauren, her husband, had put together such a fabulous collection of coins.

"He made a lot of money," she said. "He was one of the best thoroughbred trainers around. He led in he standing at Belmont that year before her died. I didn't like New York much. But his profession took us there. I was always glad to get back to Kentucky when the Saratoga meet was over. There's nothing like the Kentucky countryside in autumn. One of Lauren's biggest thrills was winning the Bluegrass Stakes and then taking the horse through the Triple Crown races. We actually got a fourth in the Kentucky Derby. I can still see the jubilation on his face.... I wish it could have gone on forever, it was such a wonderful life."

Raphael sensed deep down that Patricia really loved her husband. He felt bad for her, and he began to feel bad for himself, having lost his own wife too at such a young age. There really was more to Patricia Gentry than her sensational looks. He told her about his wife Margerie and she listened with lowered eyes, shaking her head now and again at the tragedy of it all.

"Awful," she said dolefully, "just awful."

And he told her about how he'd been a teacher in Québec and retired at 56 to become a full-time coin dealer. Buying and selling coins wasn't work, he explained, because he loved every minute of it.

There was more coffee and then a cocktail in the living-room, where he sat in one chair and she in the other. He stayed with the cool red wine, asked for an ashtray, and set both on the glossy hardwood floor. He smoked his pipe and watched her sip her Coffee Grasshopper and when she set the drink down on the floor the third time, he just had to ask the question that had been taunting him like a schoolyard bully.

"I do not like to be so personal," he began, "but your house seems empty."

Patricia jumped on it. "I've only been here a little while," she parried. "Everything's in storage. I'll get it arranged the way I want sooner or later.... Lauren got a job with a Canadian stable--a big outfit--and he was going to work out of Woodbine. That's why we moved to Canada."

Raphael took note of how quiet it was when neither of them was talking. The contrast between this setting and where he lived, behind a store on a busy street, was striking. He appreciated the tranquility after all the hustle and bustle. Even the tinkling of the ice cubes in Patricia's glass seemed loud in the relative emptiness of so large a room.

Raphael mentioned the coins now and by this time there was full darkness outside. He wanted to bring the subject up before he left to find out just where he stood. "I cannot buy them all," he explained apologetically. "I would like to but I can only buy some--if this would help."

Patricia said that'd be fine and they could do it tomorrow or the day after. She could see his glass was empty and she wanted him to stay. Her goal was to make him feel comfortable around her. She got up, strutted over and picked up his glass, and was about to dippydoodle off into the kitchen, when the doorbell rang.

It startled Raphael. He felt a rush, as if from a bolt of electricity, and he sat up straight, temporarily jolted out of his mild, wine-induced stupor. Patricia went directly to the door with no hesitation, and he was a bit surprised at her eagerness to respond

given the darkness and remoteness of the place.

Raphael listened in but the brief exchange of words at the door was hushed and over with in no time. And very soon Patricia was on her way to the kitchen, offering no insight as to what the call had been about. When she returned with his glass of wine, he wanted to ask her, but he thought better of it, not wanting to seem too inquisitive. After all, he was a guest, and not feeling too bad at all, and he didn't want to spoil things.

Patricia showed up for lunch the following day and the one after that, and soon there was a romantic connection between the two--or at least Raphael thought there was. She's so kind to me and treats me so well, he told himself; she really seems to care.

One day, a couple of weeks later, Patricia showed up at the coin store just before lunch and asked Raphael if he wouldn't mind getting a little something to take out from the small café just up the way. She knew she had to get things moving, they'd been around this neck of the woods too long.

Raphael agreed it was a good idea and they could eat in the store and use the glass counter display case as a table. He kissed her exuberantly on the cheek and dashed out the door like a kid on the way to an ice-cream shop.

The café was just starting to get busy and Raphael waited at the cash while they made up his order. He was especially friendly and wore a smile and spoke to everyone who came by. An older woman, whom he'd seen around before, remarked, as she paid for her late breakfast, that she loved his cologne. Lately, he'd become quite finicky about his clothes and his appearance. Everything had to be right, not a spot or stain anywhere, with hardly a wrinkle, the crease in his pants conspicuous and straight. As for the cologne, why, he'd sampled no less than seven before picking out the one he thought would most appeal to her.

When Raphael got back to the store, he was surprised to see that Patricia was nowhere to be found. He figured she had just gone into the apartment to use the washroom. But when he noticed the display cases were empty, it quickly registered. His heart fluttered. A horrible feeling came over him. He sat the lunch box on the counter and glanced at the safe; one good thing he hadn't unlocked it. A misty sweat broke out on his face and his breath came and went in gasps. He went and plopped into one of the chairs, berating himself for being such a fool. No wonder it had all seemed too good to be true.

Late in the afternoon, the young detective came back with the bad news:

"Well, the fancy car's still there, Mr. Amical. It's a stolen vehicle. There's not much in the house either. No trace of anything. These two are real pros. It's too bad.... Do you have any insurance?"

"Not really," Raphael said, trying to soothe himself by

smoking his pipe. He gestured indifferently at the display cases. "There was not much of any value in those, just a few dollars worth or so. I keep my good coins in the safe and I was lucky that I had not unlocked it. She took some prints off the walls in my house too; they cost about fifteen-hundred dollars."

"I hate to tell you this, Mr. Amical, but you're going to have to give me those gold pieces you bought from her. They're stolen property and I have to confiscate them."

"The thing that is most difficult for me," Raphael lamented, "is to get over her. She was very beautiful. I think that I was falling in love with her. I live alone and it was quite a change for me to have a companion--one that looked like her. I suppose that I was losing my mind over her.... but I have my business and my coins again."

"It could happen to anyone, Mr. Amical," the detective said. "You're not the first and you won't be the last."

The green sign above the highway said 'Miami via Golden Glades'. It was a windy day and the branches of the areca and cherry palms off across the gullies and the little canals alongside the busy road seemed to be waving at the traffic going by.

"This is our cutoff," said Alec with a smirk. He was young and blond, and had a sharp face with narrow, delinquent eyes. "This guy'll buy the rest of the 3's. He's got the dough, I've checked 'im out.... I don't know what we're gonna do with that cheap bit o' Canadian and foreign you got from that... what was his name?"

"Raphael," said the young woman in the passenger seat of the small white rental car.

She had raven black hair and the moist, hot wind blowing in the windows kept lashing it into her eyes. She seemed a bit ruffled by the mention of Raphael's name. She'd liked him a lot, more than any of the others and she supposed, if it hadn't been for his age, she might have pursued the relationship. And who could tell where it would have gone? As the little car leaned hard into the bend, she stole a glance at her boyfriend who had suddenly become just a business partner. How long would it be, she wondered, before they got caught? And what then? Jail? And for who knew how long? And what would happen to her plans of settling down eventually and having a family? It would all come to naught. She realized now how fast time passed. It seemed that just yesterday she'd been twenty-five and there'd been lots of time. And now she was thirty-four, and where had the years gone? She was just a common criminal, with nothing to show except a few unearned dollars. She was good-looking enough, sure, she had that and knew it. But she knew too that her beauty would fade. This would be it, she decided. This was going to be the last time.

End

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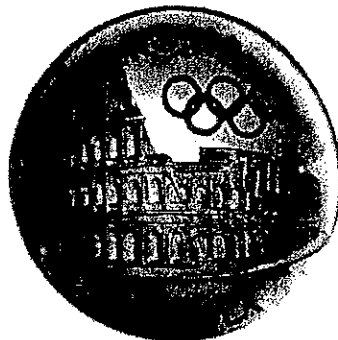
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How to Sell or Trade your Canadian or Newfoundland Coins

by Alexander W. Driega



As an Olympic coin collector this is my favorite - a beautifully toned proof silver commemorative of the MCMLX Rome Olympic Games.

Most people who have old Canadian coins are naturally interested in knowing how much they can get for them, or how they can trade them for coins that may interest them for completing a collection. What are they worth to a coin dealer? How do you know what he/she will offer? To whom should they be sold or traded? There are many factors that determine the price of a good coin. The first, of course, is demand, lower denomination coins are in greater demand than higher denomination because of the cost. The second is rarity. The third is the condition or appearance of the coin.

The demand for a coin is vitally important, even though a coin may be a beautiful example, may be old, and possibly even rare. Yet, if coin collectors, dealers, traders, are not interested in buying it, it will not command a high price. Whereas, certain types of vintage coins, like Canadian large and small pennies, Canadian silver dollars, U.S. Indian head pennies, and Canadian silver five cent pieces are very popular and increasing in demand all the time and naturally command higher prices.

Condition is very important, every collector and dealer likes to get coins in the best possible condition: proof or uncirculated. You will very often find there is a large increase in price from coins in very good condition to coins in uncirculated or brilliant uncirculated condition. Rarity plays a great part in effect on prices once a coin is part of a series that is in strong demand.

The most famous hoards and finds have become outstanding precisely because they were discovered amongst coins of unusual rarity.

When selling coins the following are the points to bear in mind. Firstly, you should deal with reputable coin dealers, or individual. Most coin dealers have been in business for a lengthy period of time, and have developed a reputation, because it is only by having a good reputation can dealers maintain reliable sources of supply and also keep business on the part of collectors. It is interesting to note that there is an increasing trend for department stores and malls to get into the coin business and is a good indicator of the popularity of the hobby. You can easily send coins to any reputable dealer in Canada, merely by enclosing them in a strong envelope and sending them by first class registered mail. Another method of shipping coins to dealers is by insured parcel post or courier. Be sure to enclose return postage with your letter and coins, in this way the dealer is not put to the expense of paying for the postage on coins that might be returned to you as the result of you not accepting his offer, or the dealer not being interested at that particular time in the coins you sent in. Coins can safely be sent to most dealers for appraisal with full confidence that they will judge your coins fairly, give you courteous treatment, and prompt attention.

In most cases dealers and coin departments will pay prices reasonably close to

those listed in reputable catalogues, provided the coin is in the condition as listed. It is understood, if your coin is in better than the condition listed that the dealer will pay more. If, the condition is poorer than that listed, then, of course, he/she must pay less.

Do not clean or polish coins. That is a field for an expert. Coins that have been cleaned or polished can be readily noted by a dealer or an

experienced coin collector, and under normal circumstances a dealer and collector, will not purchase a polished coin. It is also worth noting that many collectors prefer their silver coins with a slight tarnish or bluish tinge. This is an indication of the tremendous variety of tastes in coin collecting. What is attractive to one coin collector may appear to be a blemish to another.

A History of Wooden Coins in Canada*

Wood You Believe Canada Once Used Wooden Coins? The world often makes fun of Canadian money, and why not, the colourful currency is reminiscent of the silly paper tender associated with a popular board game. But Canada's funny money wasn't always such. Interestingly enough, before Canada established a negotiable printed tender, they used wooden money to assist trade in their fledgling Northern nation.

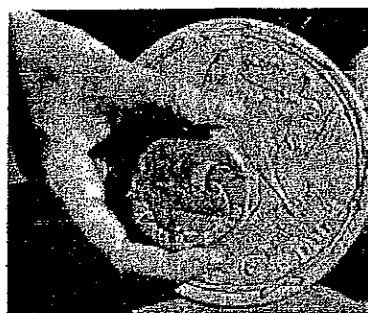
Early Canadian traders, burdened with cumbersome animal pelts, horns, and ivories, were unable to trade efficiently because their sleds, canoes, and portage carts were always weighed down with their heavy trade items. They needed a monetary solution that would make their trekking slightly less harsh.

The first wooden coins were bulky and awkward, up to 12-inches thick and seven feet in diameter, made from the sawed cross-sections of maple trees, and etched with rough caricatures of the King of England on one side and a beaver on the other. These crude national symbols of money were bulky, but still much lighter than a rack of damp bearskins.

Unfortunately, the first generation of wooden coins was easy to counterfeit. Bandits, thieves, and crooked lumberjacks could reproduce the money using common saws, crude wood burning irons, and simple chiseling tools. In fact, several counterfeit rings were broken up when several illicit moneymaking sawmills were discovered outside Fort Langley in 1849. The term "counterfeit ring" referred to the altering of rings in the layers of the wood.

Next came the hand-carved tokens, which were used until the mid 1800's. These were often

made of cedar, lighter than the maple slabs, and more manageable for busy fur traders on the go. Denominations were made in five and ten cent



amounts, which In early Canada, wooden coins like these were quite common, and much lighter for heavily-burdened fur traders.

These coins were discontinued as they had a tendency to wear out, or they would be used inappropriately in salmon smoking processes. For two years, Members of The First Nations Bank refused to accept the cedar money, and tried to persuade government that strands of beads would be a more efficient form of legal tender.

Later on came the "hard" currency, wooden coins made of ash, oak, and petrified fir. These were the first coins to be embossed, using iron presses and coated with a basic lacquer, the same finish French Canadians often used as a maple syrup substitute. When traders purchased items at dry goods stores, the clerk would always ask "ash or check?" (The word "cash" actually comes from the Algonquin term "ka'ash" meaning chips of wood.)

Canada didn't introduce metal coins until 1867, after the Canadian Coin Treasury burned down to the ground. The story goes that a Canadian treasury employee accidentally started the blaze by rubbing two nickels together, destroying the entire wooden reserve. The

treasury was later nicknamed "The Mint" because of the sweet menthol smoke that permeated the air during the fire. After that incident, government officials decided it would be more prudent to develop metal coins, and chose copper, nickel, and silver, because they feared if the coins were made of aluminum, they could

still melt in catastrophic Mint fires. Nowadays, the Canadian Mint will still produce commemorative wooden coins, but more often than not, they are mistaken for drink coasters and carpet protectors.

Source: *The Toque* magazine <<www.thetoque.com>>

IN THE NEWS...

Construction workers find \$17K, mostly in coins, under old Atlantic City, N.J. slot machines

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. - It's the casino equivalent of reaching under your couch cushions and finding a buck or so in loose change. Only the take at the former Sands Casino Hotel topped \$17,000 worth of coins that fell under or around slot machines over the past three decades. The casino was closed last November and will be torn down later this year to make way for a new gambling hall. The 2,350 machines had not been moved in the 26 years the Sands operated in Atlantic City, so workers removing them expected to find some stray cash. Just how much, however, was a surprise. It was \$17,193.34, to be exact. "We never expected this much," said Carmen Gonzalez, a spokeswoman for Pinnacle Atlantic City. "It was just shocking." The money belongs to Pinnacle Entertainment Inc., the Las Vegas company that purchased the Sands last year. New Jersey gets 8 percent of the money in

taxes - the same as it would had the money been won from gamblers.

The money was coins, casino tokens and even a \$100 bill. Some had rolled into small spaces between machines, but most of it was found underneath them. The older-style machines contained buckets inside to hold coins that were deposited, and when they overflowed, sometimes coins rolled underneath the machines. Workers even found money under the carpet. "Some of the coins we had to pry up," Gonzalez said. "They were stuck to the floor, they had been there so long. They were real gunky and dirty, and had become like part of the cement. We had to dig them out of the floor with a knife." The Sands is to be demolished, probably with a huge controlled implosion, in the fall.

Source: *Associated Press*, Wednesday, April 4, 2007.



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MARCUS JUNIUS BRUTUS

Marcus Junius Brutus (85-42 B.C.) was a person of dark actions, a conspirator and an assassin. He sided with Pompey against Caesar, then became Caesar's friend, ally and protege'. He was made "pontifex" (high priest), and in 47 B.C. he was sent to govern Cisalpine Gaul (in North Italy), but when Caesar became "dictator perpetuo" (dictator for life) in February of 44 B.C., Brutus joined the group of conspirators against Caesar and participated in Caesar's assassination. Not finding a friendly acceptance in Rome, he left for the East and for Greece. Defeated in a battle with Octavian, he committed suicide in 42 B.C.

Brutus had changed his name from Marcus Junius Brutus to Q. Caepio Brutus when adopted by an uncle in his (Brutus') younger years.

Brutus issued coins in 54 B.C. and in 43/42 B.C.. His issues showed his aversion to any regal power. His coins depicted broken sceptres and the figure of Liberty. His ideal was the Consul L. Junius Brutus, who killed the last Roman King, Tarquinius Superbus, and became the first Consul of Rome in 509 B.C.



Reverse: The Consul L. Junius Brutus walking between two lictors (official attendants), carrying a fasces (bundle of rods; insignia of consulship), preceded by accensus. This coin refers to the opposition of Brutus, as leader of the republican party, to the first triumvirate formed by Caesar with Pompey and Crassus. L. Junius Brutus, who helped remove the last Roman king and then became the first Consul of the Roman Republic in 509 B.C., was Brutus' ancestor and ideal.

Obverse: Diademed head of goddess Libertas right.

Silver denarius struck by Q. Servilius Caepio Brutus, a name Marcus Junius Brutus had taken when adopted by an uncle in his (Marcus') younger years; coin struck in Rome, 54 B.C.

Syd. 906

Crawf. 433-1

Accensus. 'Added to the number', meaning a person who is brought in to make up a number. In the Roman army, the word was used to describe soldiers who waited to take the places and the weapons of those who had fallen. In civic life, it was applied to officials who accompanied senior magistrates in addition to the lictors. They normally walked behind, but we are told that Julius Caesar revived an earlier custom according to which the consuls, in the months of the year when it was not the custom for the lictors to walk in front of them, were preceded by an accensus while the lictors with their fasces walked behind them. This seems to be illustrated by the reverse type of a coin of Brutus, struck when he was a mint magistrate in 54 BC.



Denarius of Brutus, 54 BC. The reverse type shows his ancestor the first consul L. Junius Brutus, walking between lictors and preceded by an accensus. This, and the obverse type of Libertas, show that the younger Brutus opposed the ambitions of Pompey, as he later did those of Caesar.



397



398

- 397 Denarius. Q. Servilius Caepio Brutus (= M. Junius Brutus), 54 BC. Hd. of Libertas r., LIBERTAS behind. Rev. L. Junius Brutus (consul 509 BC) walking in procession l. between two victors, preceded by an accensus, BRVTVS in ex. RRC 433/1. CRR 906. RSC *Junia* 31. RRM 20.1-2. VF £100 (\$165) / EF £275 (\$440)
The most famous of Caesar's assassins in 44 BC M. Junius Brutus lost his father while still a young boy and was adopted by his uncle, Q. Servilius Caepio, thus changing his name to Q. Caepio Brutus. His coin types refer to his illustrious ancestry and his patriotic devotion to the freedom of the Republic. For his later coinage as proconsul and imperator, including several portrait types, see nos. 1428-41.
- 398 ——— Bare hd. of L. Junius Brutus (consul 509 BC), bearded, r., BRVTVS behind. Rev. Bare hd. of C. Servilius Ahala (master of horse 439 BC), bearded, r., AHALA behind. RRC 433/2. CRR 907. RSC *Junia* 30. RRM 20.3-4. VF £165 (\$264) / EF £450 (\$720)

Chapter 20

Q. SERVILIUS CAEPIO BRUTUS 54 BC

Quintus Servilius Caepio Brutus, better known to us as Marcus Junius Brutus, an assassin of Caesar, issued coinage honouring two of his most famous ancestors, Lucius Junius Brutus and Gaius Servilius Ahala. The portrait head identified as BRVTVS was familiar to most Romans who honoured him as the founder of the Republic, and his story was frequently retold. L. Junius Brutus was the son of Tarquinia, the sister of Tarquin the Proud, the seventh king of Rome, whose reign of terror began around 530, when he usurped the throne by force upon the death of Servius Tullius. Those he knew to have supported Servius were eliminated by execution, exile, and confiscation of property. Brutus, whose brother was among the victims, concluded that the only way to escape was to appear as a person of no account, so he pretended to be a half-wit and thus earned the name Brutus (dullard).

For another, soon to be the catalyst for momentous change, beauty and proven chastity brought unwanted royal attention. Sextus, a son of Tarquin, was inflamed with lust for Lucretia, the young wife of Tarquinius Collatinus, one of his kinsmen and fellow officer in the army then besieging Ardea. Leaving the army at Ardea, he rode to the house of Collatinus and was graciously received as befit a king's son. But once the house was asleep he forced himself on the helpless girl. Pleased with his success he returned to the army at Ardea. But Lucretia summoned her father and husband to come and for each to bring a trusted friend. Brutus accompanied Collatinus, Valerius came with her father. Lucretia, deeply distressed, tearfully revealed her violation, and beyond herself with shame, drew a knife from beneath her robe and plunged it into her heart. Her father and husband were overcome with horror and grief, but Brutus was transformed. Snatching up the knife, he swore an oath to pursue Tarquin and his family and to end the reign of kings. Passing the bloody knife into the hands of Collatinus and Valerius, he made them also swear.

Lucretia's body was carried to the public square and crowds gathered. Angered by the deeds of the king's son they armed and followed Brutus to Rome. Lucretia's fate stirred similar sentiment at Rome and before a packed Forum Brutus, recounting all the crimes of the Tarquins, stirred the

people to revolt. The people demanded the exile of the king and his family. Tarquin returned to Rome to deal with the revolt and found the gates closed against him. Brutus, meanwhile, had gone to Ardea where he was welcomed by the army which expelled Tarquin's sons. Rome was now free of its king and under the new form of government; power was to be shared by two chief magistrates called consuls, elected for a term of one year. Under a system of checks and balances, no one man was to hold unlimited power. By popular vote Brutus and L. Tarquinius Collatinus were elected the first two consuls of the new Republic. The traditional date is 509. Brutus, our moneyer, depicted his ancestor in his role of first consul. With an attendant leading the way, Brutus walks between two lictors carrying *fasces*, axeheads held by a bundle of reeds which symbolized the highest office. The head of Libertas on the obverse represents the liberty Brutus won for the Roman people.



20.1 BRUTUS, THE FIRST CONSUL,
ESCORTED BY LICTORS



20.2 HEAD OF LIBERTAS

Brutus' first act as consul was to make the people swear a solemn oath never to allow any man to be king in Rome. Not long afterwards a conspiracy arose to secretly admit the Tarquins and the two young sons of Brutus, on the verge of manhood, were persuaded by their maternal uncle to participate in the conspiracy. Unluckily, a slave overheard the plot and revealed it. The conspirators were arrested. It fell to Brutus as the consul to exact the supreme penalty. The conspirators were tied to the stake, stripped, flogged, and beheaded.

Tarquin, disappointed in his plans, won new Etruscan allies and crossed the frontier. The consuls marched to meet them. Brutus led the cavalry and went ahead. Arruns, a son of Tarquin, was in the van with the Etruscan troops and spotted Brutus. He charged immediately and Brutus met the assault. Riding hard for each other they drove their spears through the shields and into each other's body. Now, within the same year he had won liberty for Rome, her liberator lay dead. They honoured him with a fine funeral and Plutarch said that the ancient Romans set up a bronze statue of Brutus in the midst of their kings, representing him with a drawn sword, in memory of his courage and resolution in dethroning the Tarquins.

Such was the man from whom our moneyer claimed descent and whose portrait bust held the prominent position in his house.¹ Yet if we accept Livy's account we see that Brutus executed his sons for their part in the conspiracy to return Tarquin only a short time before he himself fell in battle and, therefore, left no progeny. This point was not lost on antiquity. Plutarch said that because of ill will on account of Caesar's murder some authors said that he could not be descended from Brutus, but rather from a plebeian family only recently risen to office.² In response Posidonius maintained that a third infant son survived. Whatever is true, it was not unique for members of the *gens* Junia to look to L. Junius Brutus, the first consul, the liberator of Rome, and the first of his line to bear the name Brutus, as their greatest ancestor. Indeed, Decimus Junius Brutus, a fellow conspirator in Caesar's murder had his own portrait bust of Brutus.

FROM THE VAULTS OF THE NATIONAL CURRENCY COLLECTION

Universala Ligo, 1959, 5 and 10 steloj (Esperanto coinage)

by David Bergeron, Curator



The coins pictured above are a recent addition to the National Currency Collection.

Do you speak Esperanto? Esperanto is an “international auxiliary language” developed by *Doktor Esperanto*, a pseudonym used by the language’s creator, Dr. Ludovic Lazarus Zamenhof, an ophthalmologist from Poland (under Western Russia at the time). Dr. Zamenhof began developing the Esperanto language in the 1870s in an effort to create a universal language. He spent years writing and translating texts into the new language. The first congress of Esperanto speakers was held in France in 1905. Throughout the years, attempts were made to establish an Esperantist state, yet the ambitious endeavour never came to fruition. For a brief period in 1968, the micronation of Rose

Island adopted Esperanto as its official language. China considered adopting Esperanto as a way of bringing the country into the twentieth century and addressing the country’s expanding relations with foreign nations, but the project failed. Despite its moderate growth in popularity, no country ever really embraced Esperanto..

During the 1930s, Esperanto came under severe attack. Adolf Hitler, in *Mein Kampf*, attributed the language to the Jewish Diaspora. Apparently, individuals who spoke Esperanto were put to death because of their anti-nationalistic tendencies. Despite these setbacks, Andrew Cseh, a Dutch-born Esperantist, attempted to revive the

movement in 1942 by forming the *Universala Ligo* ("Universal League"), based in The Hague. The foundation was conceived in secrecy. The Ligo, whose mission statement was to unite mankind in harmony through the use of a common language, gained a substantial Dutch and international following in the years after World War 2, with more than 15,000 members in the early 1950s. During the first international assembly of the League on the 16th of March 1946 in The Hague, a decision was made to re-introduce a common world currency with an internationally stable value. There would be an experiment in achieving peace via international economics; in proving to the world that the global conflicts caused by international economic pressures could be resolved by the use of this revolutionary currency. The noble task would fall upon the *Stelo* (star, one of the symbols of the Esperanto movement), and its value was to be fixed at 1 *Stelo* = 1 standard loaf of bread, which at the time cost 0.25 Dutch Guilders. That same year, the Ligo started printing coupons (*Premio-Kupono*) with the value in *Steloj*, for internal use (payment of activities, leaflets, prize-money, etc...). These were widely used within the movement up until the 1980s.

The minting of the League's first coinage, dated 1959, commenced on June 28, 1960. They were proudly minted in an optimistically large amount by the Royal Dutch Mint (*Rijksmunt*) in Utrecht. The slogan on the 1 *Stelo* is "One world, one language, one money"; the 5 *Steloj* had "The world is one nation, mankind one people"; the 10 *Steloj* featured the "kreinto" (creator) of Esperanto. Exceeding expectations, the sale of the coins rapidly covered the cost of production. A 25 *Steloj* was minted in 1965. These coins actually circulated, though not

under any governmental aegis. They were utilized as a unit of account for sales of books and other merchandise within the Netherlands Chapter of the League, and perhaps were even valid for purchasing items at other associated outlets anywhere in the world. These coins remained in use for quite a long time, certainly for more than 30 years, until the Ligo declined in popularity and importance. In 1974, the price of the *Stelo* was revalued at 0.50 Dutch Guilders and its previous connection to the price of bread was terminated. In 1977, the *Stelo* was fixed at a new constant, the consumer price-index, which is based on a percentage of the theoretical monthly purchases of an "average" family (the same system used nowadays to calculate minimum wages). The idea behind this was that this index would not be as heavily influenced by inflation as the European currencies were at the time. But because of theoretical differences regarding the key to calculating the value of the *Stelo*, fierce internal dispute arose between the members of the League's board of directors, finally leading to the departure of its Cashier and financial expert, Mr. Laurence Mee. From the 1980s onwards, the activities of the League stagnated due to lack of new members, until finally in 1993 the Ligo was disbanded and their assets, including the entire remaining stock of coins, were bequeathed to the U.E.A. (Universal Esperanto Association, which had been founded on April 28, 1908), in Rotterdam. The dream of a common world currency leading to international concord had sadly enough not materialized.

Sources: "History of Esperanto," Wikipedia website, << <http://en.wikipedia.org>>> [June 7, 2007]; Erik Victor McCrea, *Universala Ligo* in "Links to Micro-National and Fantasy Coins." << http://www.geocities.com/erik_mccrea/>> [June 7, 2007].

The Two Cent Piece

by Jack White



If at first you don't succeed, try for fifty-eight more years. That's how it was when a two-cent coin was first proposed in the U.S.

In 1806 a Mr. Tracey proposed a two-cent coin in a bill before the U.S. Senate. His proposal was allegedly defeated due to strong opposition from Robert Patterson, Director of the Mint. Mr. Tracy accepted defeat and the idea of a two-cent piece was abandoned for thirty years.

On December 12, 1836, the idea of a double cent coin was resurrected and presented before a congressional committee. Ironically, the bill was proposed by the newly appointed Mint Director, Robert M. Patterson, son of Robert Patterson, senior, who had opposed a two-cent coin thirty years prior. His bill was passed and became the Act of January 18, 1837. In accordance with this Act, the two-cent piece was to have an alloy composed of nine parts by weight of copper to one of silver, and weight sixty grains. It would be legal tender up to a dime.

The earliest known pattern was struck in the Fall of 1836. Franklin Peale and Christian Gobrecht united to design it. Being about dime size, it displayed a spread eagle above the date 1836 and the words, "United States of America," which bordered the obverse. The reverse bore its value, "TWO CENTS," inside a laurel wreath.

Despite legal sanction and a handsome pattern, this coin was still denied production for twenty-seven more years, reasons unknown.

When the Civil War unleashed itself, the demand for small change intensified. Merchants attempted to combat this hinderance to trade by privately issuing tokens to substitute for our inadequate one-cent coinage. Millions of these substitutes were struck and the different designs numbered into the thousands. It was under these conditions that the two-cent piece was now to debut and hopefully end a coin shortage and token fiasco.

On December 8, 1863, James Pollock, Director of the Mint, sent coinage recommendations to Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury, under Lincoln. In addition to other suggestions, Pollock proposed coin- ing a two-cent piece bronze which would weight 96 grains. Along with his letter, the Mint Director sent two-cent patterns he had prepared for Mr. Chase's inspection.

The patterns sent to him from Pollock were of two major types.. One obverse displayed an ornate shield and arrows while the other possessed the bust of Washington on the obverse. Chase was able to choose from three mottos, "God and Our Country," "God Our Trust," and "In God We Trust," Pollock's proposal was later passed as the Mint Act of April 22, 1864.

Courtesy of Ingersoll Coin Club
The Two Cent Piece (Continued)

The religious mottos utilized on the two-cent piece are credited to Reverend M. R. Watkinson of Ridleyville, Pennsylvania. The Reverend wrote to Chase in 1861 urging him to construct a theme of "God, Liberty and Law." Chase liked the suggestion and advised the Mint to compose suitable mottos in 1861. Although mottos pertaining to God were struck on pattern coins since 1861, the two-cent piece was the first circulating coin to carry this motto.

The two-cent piece designed by James Longacre entered circulation in 1864. It introduced the motto, "In God We Trust," which was to become our national motto and helped end a coin shortage. Despite these favorable accomplishments, the two-cent piece was to last a mere ten years. Authorized in 1864, the coin was discontinued by the Act of February 12, 1873.

After fifty-eight years in the planning stage, the two-cent piece was a short-lived reality. With the interesting history of its origin, design and motto, ten years was not an adequate life to tell its story. In fact, it hardly got its "two-cents" in.

Courtesy of The London Numismatic Society
The Canadian Five Cent Piece - 1943

L. T. Smith



The "V" Victory reverse design on the reverse of the 1943 five cent piece was introduced with the aim of furthering the war effort. They were made of Tombac (88% copper, 12% zinc) and were twelve-sided as were the 1942 tombac five cent coins.

The obverse is the same as the 1942 issue except that the rim denticles were added. The torch and "V" on the reverse symbolize sacrifice and victory. Instead of rim denticles like the obverse, a dot-dash pattern forms the inner rim. The dot-dash pattern forms the International Code message "WE WIN WHEN WE WORK WILLINGLY", starting below the "N" in CENTS. The designed was the Royal Canadian Mint's chief engraver, Thomas Shingles (TS at right of the torch) who cut the master matrix entirely by hand -- a feat few present-day engravers can accomplish.

This issue may be considered a tribute to Samuel B. Morse, the inventor of the Morse Code and the telegraph system (1843). The tombac five cent of 1943 was issued just 100 years after Mr. Samuel B. Morse was granted a patent on his invention. The message on the coins is the International or Continental Code though and not the Morse Code.

This is also the first die made entirely at the Royal Canadian Mint in Ottawa. It is interesting that the twelve-sided position differs from the English 12-sided threepence coin by a 15 degree turn (see illustration B above).

The tombac alloy was replaced with chromium-plated steel in 1944-45 because the copper and zinc were needed for the war effort.

Shipwreck mystery

\$500M treasure 'hits a nerve'

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Deep-sea explorers who found what could be the richest-ever shipwreck treasure said yesterday that the reaction to their discovery has overwhelmed them. Meanwhile, claims on the loot flowed in even as they were exploring new waters — TV and movie deals.

Odyssey Marine Exploration on Friday announced the recovery of more than 500,000 Colonial-era silver and gold coins possibly worth \$500 million. The exploration company has withheld details about the wreck, where it was found or even what kind of coins were hauled back.

"We are overwhelmed by the worldwide interest in this project, and it reinforces our belief that shipwreck exploration hits a nerve with the public," Odyssey co-founder Greg Stemm said.

Movie project

Stemm was in Los Angeles, where he was meeting with Disney representatives about possible TV and movie projects. A Dis-

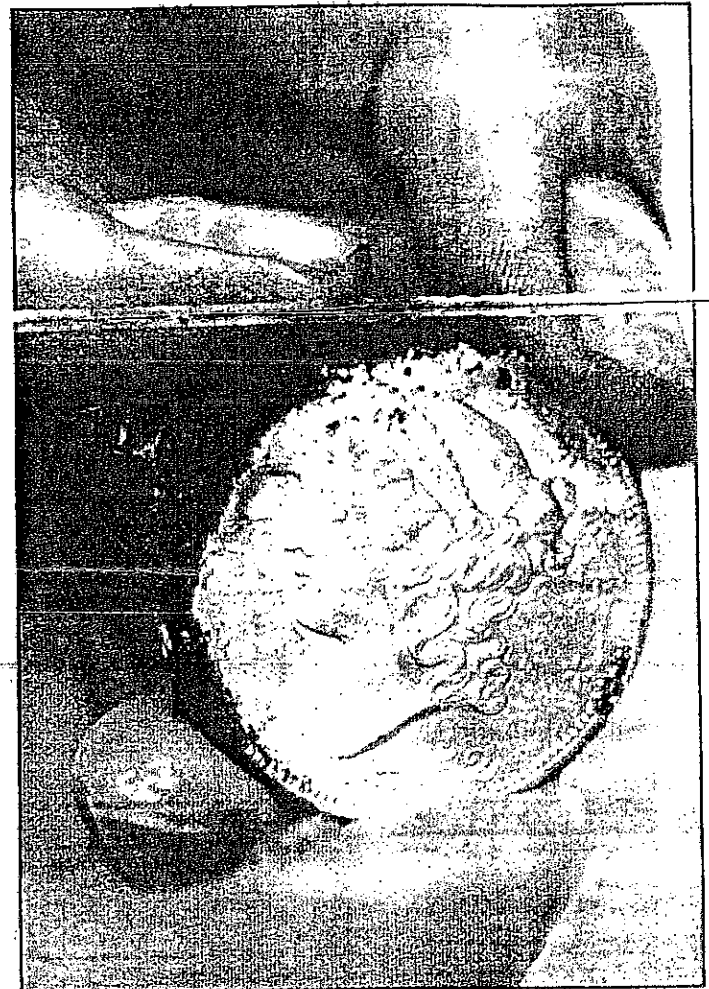
ney spokesman said the company began film discussions with about a year ago, long before the company knew about the treasure.

In England, the find generated press reports that Odyssey had salvaged the wreck of the long-sought British vessel *Merchant Royal*, which sank in bad weather off England in 1641.

'Black Swan' project

In Spain, the government said it was "suspicious" of Odyssey's find, given that it recently gave permission to the company to hunt for the wreck of the *HMS Sussex* in the Mediterranean Sea.

Odyssey said yesterday its "Black Swan" project was not the *Sussex* but did not confirm or deny anything about the *Merchant Royal*. "The 'Black Swan' bears characteristics of one shipwreck in particular, but some of the evidence gathered to date is inconsistent with our research, so we want to be sure of the identity before we announce it," a company statement said.



REUTERS FILE PHOTO

This gold coin was found by Odyssey Marine Exploration in 2003. Now the company says its has found the world's richest shipwreck.

Coins of the Mexican Revolution, 1910-1917: Confessions of a Numismatic Vulture

by Kim Zbitnew



This turbulent period of Mexican history was numismatically very interesting. That phrase bothers me a bit, as it makes me feel like a numismatic vulture, interested only in the numismatic result of civil chaos, and insensitive to its tremendous human cost. Therefore I apologize in advance for my numismatic interest, reminding myself that the coins did not cause the revolution, and also observing that following the revolution, long-term stability was finally gained by the Mexican Republic.

Prior to the revolution, Mexican coinage was of the same standard as that of the United States of America: a silver peso being the same weight and purity as the United States dollar, with silver and base metal minor coins. Coinage of the central government pre-revolution type did not cease to be minted during the revolution. However, the main numismatic result of the revolution was that many of the individual states or controlling armies issued coins under their own authority, either for general circulation or to pay the soldiers.

As can be imagined, control of a state or region does not automatically give one the ability to coin money; equipment and supplies are needed. Different regions had access to different mints or metals. Those that had access to the mints, and that had a supply of silver and gold could produce a relatively good, valuable product. Those that did not had to make do. Thus we see a great variety of coins, many of them

being crudely struck. Undoubtedly, quality control was not the best. There are machine struck, hand struck and cast coins. There are coins of gold, silver, copper, brass, aluminum, lead and even some of cardboard. Thus we have a reason for the "numismatically interesting" nature of the times. Where facilities existed, the coins tended to be of similar design to the Mexican central government issues: an eagle with a snake in its mouth on one side, and the denomination, wreath and liberty cap on the other. Virtually all the issues were made in 1914 and 1915.

The coin illustrated is a one peso from the state of Oaxaca, which had access to silver and gold, and issued a large number of coins. The portrait is that of Benito Juarez (1806-1872), past president and a national hero of Mexico. This coin is actually one of the better made issues, and almost uncirculated, although cleaned. Even so, the crudeness is evident. Although the coin is made of silver, it weighs only 7.3 grams, less than 25% of what a peso should have weighed. Still, I am sure that a soldier would have preferred even a low weight-silver peso over a copper one.

Mexican revolution coins, in general, are not common, although hordes of virtually uncirculated coins sometimes appear in the market. However, whether scarce or not, they are still good pickings for a numismatic vulture.

U.S. feared poppy quarter

May 07, 2007 08:56 AM TED BRIDIS Associated Press

WASHINGTON – An odd-looking Canadian coin with a bright red flower was the culprit behind the U.S. Defence Department's false espionage warning earlier this year, the Associated Press has learned. The odd-looking – but harmless – "poppy coin" was so unfamiliar to suspicious U.S. Army contractors traveling in Canada that they filed confidential espionage accounts about them. The worried contractors described the coins as "anomalous" and "filled with something man-made that looked like nano-technology," according to once-classified U.S. government reports and e-mails obtained by the AP.

The silver-coloured 25-cent piece features the red image of a poppy – Canada's flower of remembrance – inlaid over a maple leaf. The unorthodox quarter is identical to the coins pictured and described as suspicious in the contractors' accounts. The supposed nano-technology actually was a conventional protective coating the Royal Canadian Mint applied to prevent the poppy's red color from rubbing off. The mint produced nearly 30 million such quarters in 2004 commemorating Canada's 117,000 war dead. "It did not appear to be electronic (analog) in nature or have a power source," wrote one U.S. contractor, who discovered the coin in the cup holder of a rental car. "Under high power microscope, it appeared to be complex consisting of several layers of clear, but different material, with a wire like mesh suspended on top." The confidential accounts led to a sensational warning from the Defence Security Service, an agency of the Defence Department, that mysterious coins with radio frequency transmitters were found planted on U.S. contractors with classified security clearances on at least three separate occasions between October 2005 and January 2006 as the contractors traveled through Canada.

One contractor believed someone had placed two of the quarters in an outer coat pocket after the contractor had emptied the pocket hours earlier. "Coat pockets were empty that morning and I was keeping all of my coins in a plastic bag in my inner coat pocket," the contractor wrote. But the Defence Department subsequently acknowledged that it could never substantiate the espionage alarm that it had put out and launched the internal review that turned up the true nature of the mysterious coin. Meanwhile, in Canada, senior intelligence officials expressed annoyance with the American spy-coin warnings as they tried to learn more about the oddball claims. "That story about Canadians planting coins in the pockets of defence contractors will not go away," Luc Portelance, now deputy director for the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, wrote in a January e-mail to a subordinate. "Could someone tell me more? Where do we stand and what's the story on this?" Others in Canada's spy service also were searching for answers. "We would be very interested in any more detail you may have on the validity of the comment related to the use of Canadian coins in this manner," another intelligence official wrote in an e-mail. "If it is accurate, are they talking industrial or state espionage? If the latter, who?" The identity of the e-mail's recipient was censored.

Intelligence and technology experts were flabbergasted over the warning when it was first publicized earlier this year. The warning suggested that such transmitters could be used surreptitiously to track the movements of people carrying the coins. "I thought the whole thing was preposterous, to think you could tag an individual with a coin and think they wouldn't give it away or spend it," said H. Keith Melton, a leading intelligence historian.

But Melton said the Army contractors properly reported their suspicions. "You want contractors or any government personnel to report anything suspicious," he said. "You can't have the potential target evaluating whether this was an organized attack or a fluke."

The Defence Security Service disavowed its warning about spy coins after an international furor, but until now it has never disclosed the details behind the embarrassing episode. The U.S. said it never substantiated the contractors' claims and performed an internal review to determine how the false information was included in a 29-page published report about espionage concerns.

The Defence Security Service never examined the suspicious coins, spokeswoman Cindy McGovern said. "We know where we made the mistake," she said. "The information wasn't properly vetted. While these coins aroused suspicion, there ultimately was nothing there." A numismatist consulted by the AP, Dennis Pike of Canadian Coin & Currency near Toronto, quickly matched a grainy image and physical descriptions of the suspect coins in the contractors' confidential accounts to the 25-cent poppy piece. "It's not uncommon at all," Pike said. He added that the coin's protective coating glows peculiarly under ultraviolet light. "That may have been a little bit suspicious," he said. Some of the U.S. documents the AP obtained were classified "Secret/NoFORN," meaning they were never supposed to be viewed by foreigners, even America's closest allies. The government censored parts of the files, citing national security reasons, before turning over copies under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act. Nothing in the documents – except the reference to nanotechnology – explained how the contractors' accounts evolved into a full-blown warning about spy coins with radio frequency transmitters. Many passages were censored, including the names of contractors and details about where they worked and their projects.

But there were indications the accounts should have been taken lightly. Next to one blacked-out sentence was this warning: "This has not been confirmed as of yet." The Canadian intelligence documents, which also were censored, were turned over to the AP for \$5 under that country's Access to Information Act. Canada cited rules for protecting against subversive or hostile activities to explain why it censored the papers.

Associated Press writer Beth Duff-Brown contributed to this story from Toronto.

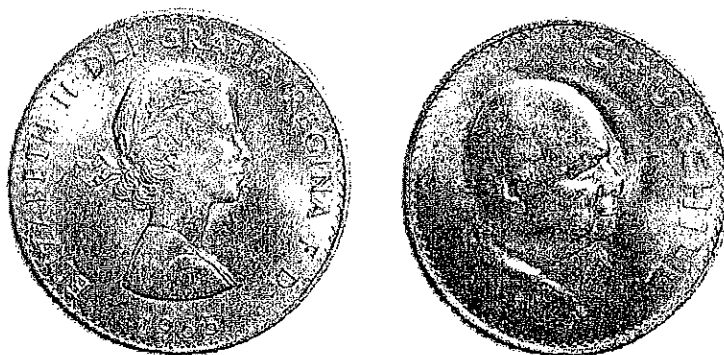
STEVE WHITE/CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTO



The poppy quarter, billed as the world's first coloured coin, was introduced in 2004

The Churchill Commemorative Crown

Jeff Wenn



Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill was born on November 30, 1874 and died on January 24, 1965. Throughout his long life he demonstrated an amazing array of talents, and was seemingly indefatigable in putting them to use. Graduating from the Royal Military College at Sandhurst, England, he went on to become a cavalry officer with distinguished service in three colonial wars, a war correspondent, a front-line battalion commander during World War I, a prolific Nobel prize winning historian and author, a brilliant orator, an accomplished painter and a bricklayer.

For all that, he is best known, of course, for his legendary career as a British politician and statesman. He held a number of political offices during the first part of this century, only to fall out of favour and power following an Allied defeat in 1915, for which Churchill was blamed, mostly unfairly. This led to his resumption of military service. He made a successful return to politics, and, after more ups and downs, was nearing the peak of political power before once again falling out of favour. He spent much of the 1930's out of power in the back benches, a lonely voice warning against the rise of Nazi Germany. As is well known, this was all but a prelude to his two terms as British Prime Minister, most notably his crucial and justly celebrated role during the Second World War.

On March 16, 1965, it was announced that Britain would issue a Churchill commemorative crown. It was to be the first British coin with the head of a subject on the same coin as that of the monarch. The obverse design is Mary Gillick's portrait of Queen Elizabeth II first issue of 1953. The controversial low-relief reverse was designed by Oscar Nemon. Nemon was a friend of Churchill and his depiction is based on a portrait bust he prepared for The Queen.

The obverse legend reads, "ELIZABETH II DEI GRATIA REGINA F.D.", "Elizabeth II by the Grace of God, Queen, Defender of the Faith", with the year 1965. The reverse inscription is simply "CHURCHILL".

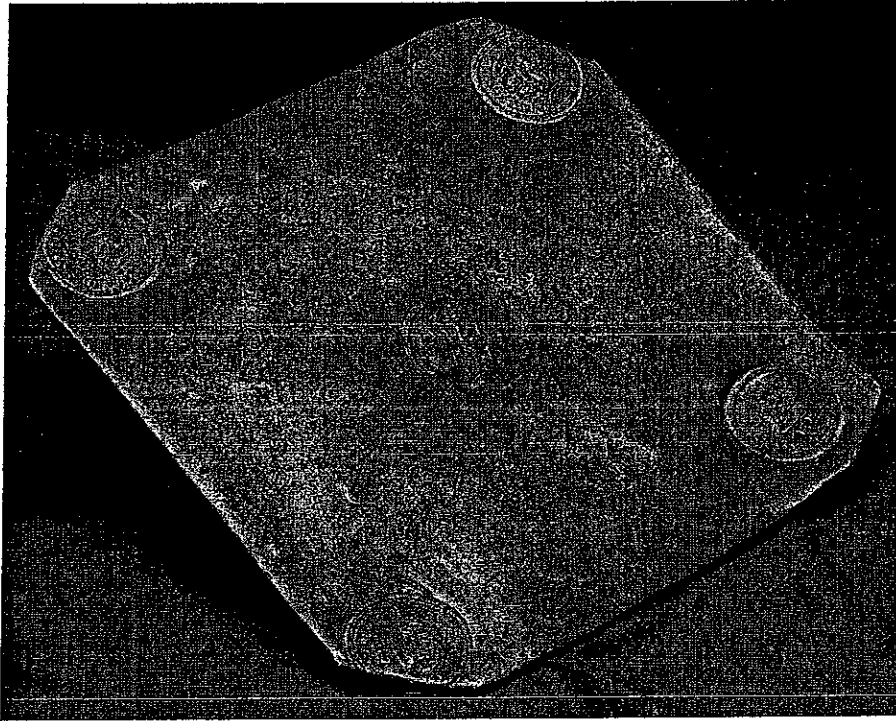
Lady Churchill started the coining press in September and received the first crown struck. Distribution to the public began on October 11, 1965. The particular piece in my collection comes in a pouch marked "Clydesdale Bank".

The Clydesdale Bank was founded in Glasgow in 1838. It expanded rapidly partly by absorbing a number of other banks. The twentieth century saw an ownership change, a merger and some name changes but by 1960, the company was operating under the name, "Clydesdale Bank Limited". In 1965, it was one of the distributors of the Churchill Crown. The coin proved popular and in order to meet demand production continued until the summer of 1966 by which time over 19 1/2 million coins had been struck.

FROM THE VAULTS OF THE NATIONAL CURRENCY COLLECTION

Swedish Plate Money from the Frank Fesco collection.

by David Bergeron, Curator



Between 1644 and 1776, Swedish kings issued coins known as *plate money* because of their unusual size. With silver in short supply, the country exploited its rich copper reserves to produce non-token coins for circulation. The advantage of using copper to mint coins was to retain the metal within the country, and thereby maintain its international value. The one notable shortcoming to producing copper coins of higher value was their sheer enormity. With copper being worth less than silver, to maintain the intrinsic value of the coin based on its denomination, larger amounts of the base metal was required. Plate money was struck in a variety of denominations from a half-daler, measuring about 12 * 8cm, to the enormous 10 daler coin, which measured 65 * 32cm and weighed 20kg. The plate was struck with a stamp in the middle indicating the denomination, and a stamp, bearing the royal seal and the date, at

each corner. The corner stamps ascertained the dimensions of the copper plate.

Because of its large size, Swedish plate money was cumbersome and not very popular. An early account of a bank robbery in Stockholm claims that the thieves took all money except that which was in plate money, because of the effort involved in hauling it away. The inconvenience of using plate money manifested into the proliferation of paper as currency. Plate money would be deposited at the Riksbank, and notes would be issued in its place. This was the first important use of paper money in Europe as a circulating medium.

The Swedish copper plate pictured here is from the Frank Fesco collection and was acquired by the National Currency Collection of the Bank of Canada. The coin is valued at 2 dalers and is dated 1712.

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