



North York Coin Club

Founded 1960

MONTHLY MEETINGS 4TH Tuesday 8 P.M. AT
Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive, North York

MAIL ADDRESS: NORTH YORK COIN CLUB, P.O.BOX 58508 Corner Plaza P.O.
197 Sheppard Avenue East, North York, Ontario, M2N 6R7

Member
Canadian Numismatic Association
Ontario Numismatic Association

President..... Ron Zelk
1st Vice President... Paul Petch
2nd Vice President.. Bob Porter
Secretary..... Lucille Colson
Treasurer..... Harvey Farrow

Executive Committee

Director..... Ted Boxall
Director..... Paul Johnson
Director..... Basil Latham
Junior Director.. open
Auctioneer..... Bob Porter
Editor..... Paul Petch

Receptionist..... Basil Latham
Social Convenor.. Ted Boxall
Librarian..... Jim Heifetz
Program Director.. open
Past President..... Harvey Farrow

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on Thursday, December 14, 1995 at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive.

This meeting will be our annual Christmas Party featuring good food and the fine fellowship you expect at our numismatic gatherings. Dinner reservations were on sale for \$5 at the last meeting to pay for the Chicken Chalet dinner. To supplement the purchased food, we also appreciate whatever family specialties (salad, cookies, cakes) you may be able to donate to the "pot luck" buffet table. As with previous years, you may also bring along a numismatic or non-numismatic gift with a minimum value of \$6-\$7 if you want to participate in the gift exchange. Harvey Farrow will accept telephone reservations and cancellations up until Tuesday, December 12. His number is (416) 923-5545.

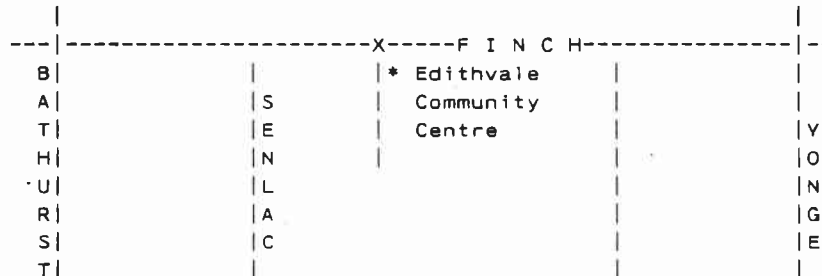
There will also be an election at this meeting. Read the news from the November meeting for more details.

President's Message

My annual good wishes for a joyous Holiday Season go out to all the members of the North York Coin Club and the readers of this Bulletin. I hope that you will be able to take the time to join us at the annual Christmas Party for our traditional numismatic fellowship and fun.



X -- Cross Walk



Next Meeting: Thursday, December 14

News from the November 28, 1995 Meeting

The 401st meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, November 28, 1995. The President, Ron Zelk, opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m. and welcomed 25 members and 2 guests. Rick Craig introduced Peter Coles from Tennessee.

Ron began by delivering some very sad news. He announcing the passing of Randy Barbe at 37 years of age. A minute of silence was observed. Paul Johnson added that Randy was the first club member to complete the CNA/NESA Numismatic Correspondence course.

The on time attendance draw of \$6 was won by junior member Pamela Heifetz so the prize returns to \$2 for the December meeting. The mint box was passed to two juniors.

Norm Belsten, Nominations Chairman, announced a slate of officers for 1996/97. Following his report, there was a call for nominations from the floor. There are two nominations for the position of President, Harvey Farrow and Paul Petch. This is the only contested position and there will be an election at the December meeting. Only Club members in attendance will be able to cast a vote. The other individuals who have agreed to stand and those positions which are filled by acclamation are: 1st Vice President Al Bliman, 2nd Vice President Albert Kasman, Secretary Lucille Colson, Treasurer Harvey Farrow, Directors Rick Craig, Basil Latham and Bob Porter and Junior Director Pamela Heifetz. All appointed positions continue except for Social Convenor, which is now open. In declining Social Convenor, Ted Boxall offered to continue making the facilities arrangements with Edithvale. This was accepted.

We extend our thanks to Ted Boxall for organizing and proving refreshments at the break.

Nine people participated in the "Share a story" theme and spoke on topics of interest.

Al Bliman began by making two corrections to his presentation last month and showed a casino chip from the first riverboat casino allowed to operate in the U.S. The enterprise is owned by entertainer Merv Griffin.

John Regitko reported a fortunate business deal he was able to strike at a recent coin show in Michigan. Three unknown tokens he was able to purchase for \$1 turned out to be

current TTC tokens. He did say where he was specifically planning to travel.

Marvin Kay was not able to be at the 400th meeting but wanted to highlight two other significant 400's. The first is his membership number which is 400 and the second is a 400 Reis piece from Brazil commemorating physician Oswaldo Cruz.

Jim Heifetz asked for information regarding a bank note that has a decimal point as a part of its denomination.

Del Murchison brought along copies of items which passed as money in China. There is debate among scholars on whether the pieces really did pass as money or if they were burial devices, intended for the use of the deceased in the afterlife.

Roger Fox presented three items. First, he had great fun with the really cheap cardboard packaging used by the Royal Canadian Mint for its \$2 test token product. Then he passed around nails, dated on the top, which are used to date railway ties. Finally, he passed around a Canadian Tire Coupon from the first series with the lowest serial number he has encountered: E00005. He wonders if it may be the oldest still in existence.

Rick Craig gave a commentary on an aluminum 1892 piece commemorating the 400th anniversary of the voyage of Columbus.

Peter Coles presented a very important 1991 Russian Catalogue for perusal.

Paul Petch discussed a copy of the Chronological History of Canadian Numismatics which he retrieved from the Internet. He said that it was the inspiration for the Question of the Month. The document was presented to be used in the evening's lucky draw.

Thank you to everyone who made a contribution.

The lucky draw winners were Roger Fox, Marc Murchison(2), Basil Latham(2), Lucille Colson, Paul Johnson, Norman G. Gordon, Ron Zelk, Ted Boxal and Bob Porter. Our thanks to Rick Craig, Norman G. Gordon and Paul Petch for their donations. There was a single lot in the auction run by Bob Porter with assistance from Basil Latham.

The meeting closed at 9:55 p.m.

Question of the Month

The November question asked you to name four significant events in Canadian numismatics from the year 1911. Depending how you want to count them, there is the opening of the Royal Canadian Mint gold refinery in January, 1911, the elimination of "Dei Gra" from the coins by a proclamation dated June 30, the striking of pattern dollar, \$5 and a \$10 pieces and the restoration of "Dei Gra" by proclamation on December 29.

The December question of the month is a word teaser from the Toronto Star of July 2, 1995. Here is a copy for you to start your search. Do your best and come to the meeting ready to fill in your answers on the big poster.

CANADIAN BLACKSMITH TOKENS by Robert Leonard

Suppose you could make your own coins, take one to your favorite watering-hole, plunk it down, and have the bartender pour you a drink... just as if your coins were put out by the government? Well, you might not be able to do it now... but you could, if you lived in Montreal in the early 1830s.

Through the first half of the 19th century, Great Britain refused to supply Canada with coins. Coins were brought to Canada privately, and most were old British copper

half-pennies, which were almost the size of our half-dollar. By the 1830s, small change in Montreal consisted mainly of these half-pennies, which were worn almost slick from a half century of circulation. Added to these were a mass of private tokens... many of them little better than counterfeits themselves.

An enterprising blacksmith looked at his change and decided that he could make his own pieces, at least as good as what he held in his hands. He copied the coins of Britain's King George II, copper coins minted 80 years earlier. But he didn't bother to engrave any inscription on his dies, and left the designs unfinished and in low relief... so that when they were artificially darkened, they resembled the worn-out legal tender coins. He used his homemade half-pennies to buy liquor. Not only did no one complain, but he was soon imitated. Other tokens were copied. Someone even copied a well-known counterfeit.

Why were they so readily accepted? Because there was such a shortage of small coins that it was difficult to make change or purchases. But in 1835, the Montreal banks refused to accept any more fakes, except by weight. The banks began issuing full-weight tokens of their own... and in a short time, they drove the "blacksmith tokens" out of circulation.

From ANA's Money Talks, Transcript No. 812, November 14, 1995

We hope to see you at the December meeting

COIN COLLECTORS' CONVERSATION!

PAULINE PHILP

60 hidden "Numismatic" terms, to be found in any straight direction . . .

- ancient * atlas * bars * bet *
- bilingual * billon * brass *
- brokage * bronze * cap * cent
- copper * date * device * die *
- dollar * ducat * eagle * edge *
- electrum * end * ever * face *
- fair * fare * field * fine * flan *
- game * graining * gap * guinea
- * issue * jeton * kran laureated
- * left * legend * mar * mint
- mark * motto * mule * obverse
- * page * patina * planchet *
- pole * rare * rated * repeat *
- reverse * roam * silver * symbol
- * tell * time * type *
- uncirculated * vary * zinc *

D	N	E	G	E	L	A	U	R	E	A	T	E	D
O	E	S	R	E	V	E	R	T	N	E	C	M	T
B	N	V	A	R	Y	D	J	A	H	N	D	A	Y
V	A	S	I	L	V	E	R	C	M	I	O	G	P
E	L	A	N	C	T	T	N	U	E	U	L	O	E
R	F	K	I	O	E	A	F	D	K	G	L	R	Z
S	O	R	N	O	L	L	I	B	R	E	A	E	N
E	T	A	G	P	L	U	E	C	A	F	R	P	O
G	T	N	M	D	E	C	L	C	M	R	I	P	R
A	O	I	E	L	Z	R	D	A	T	E	S	O	B
K	M	T	G	I	T	I	M	E	N	R	S	C	R
O	A	A	P	F	C	C	N	I	I	A	U	T	A
R	E	P	E	A	T	N	F	C	M	R	E	M	S
B	I	L	I	N	G	U	A	L	O	B	M	Y	S