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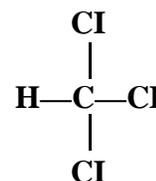
## C.N.A. SLIDE SET SNEAK PREVIEW

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on Tuesday, March 25, 1997, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive.

Our feature at this meeting will be the showing of a newly-released slide set from the CNA Audio/Visual Library. Entitled "Canada's Changing Currency", it is a general summary of Canadian numismatics. Ted Leitch photographed and produced this excellent overview which, we understand, features some very fine pieces from a number of collections. Our thanks to Paul Johnson for making the arrangements to have the slide set available for the meeting.

## "The Bulletin" March, 1997

### Question of the Month



**CHLOROFORM** —  $\text{CHCl}_3$  — trichloromethane; a colourless, volatile liquid; a strong anesthetic, anodyne and antispasmodic.

Our March question of the month: what is the connection with numismatics? We will have Marvin Kay provide the answer and display a historically significant specimen at the March meeting. (With all these clues, how can you miss the answer?)

For February, our question was: "What recent issue on the world coin scene is centred on the theme of the triangle?"

The answer leads us to Bermuda.

The Bermuda Monetary Authority, exploiting the mystique of the Bermuda Triangle, issued three sided coins in 1996 in the denominations of \$60 (.999

### President's Message

Please remember to sell your ONA Annual Dream Vacation Draw tickets and to turn in your money and stubs at the March meeting.

The Executive Committee members are reminded of the Executive Meeting on March 19 at Edithvale in the upstairs meeting room at 7:00 p.m.

Need to contact the President? Phone calls are welcome at **416-745-3067** (leave a voice mail message if you can't get through in person) and e-mail may be sent to [petchp@ican.net](mailto:petchp@ican.net).

Coming  
Events  
from



**CAMBRIDGE COIN CLUB 6th ANNUAL COIN SHOW** March 22 at the Cambridge Newfoundland Club, 1500 Dunbar Road. Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free Admission. Info: Verne Shaull, (519) 624-2086 or (519) 621-3810.

**HAMILTON COIN CLUB SPRING SHOW** April 12, at the Royal Canadian Legion, Barton St. E. across from Center Mall. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$1 includes draw ticket. Free Parking, Lunch Bar. For more information contact Nancy Kanerva at (905) 319-3817 or George Butt at (905) 335-9444.

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*Next Meeting:  
March 25*

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## Meeting News from the February 25 Meeting

The 414th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, February 25, 1997, at the Edithvale Community Centre. The President, Paul Petch, opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m. and welcomed 22 members and 3 guests to this our 37th Anniversary meeting..

The President welcomed Mr. Mike Hakem of Willowdale as member #499. And what a wonderful surprise it was as he reached into the draw bag, felt around and pulled out his own name as the winner of the \$10. on time attendance draw. The pot returns to \$2 for the March meeting.

As is our custom at our anniversary meeting, members who have completed 15 years of continuous membership are recognized. Certificates were presented to Al Bliman, Dick Dunn, Dr. Marvin Kay, Jim Heifetz, Terry O'Brien and Frank Zahra. Congratulations and thanks to these long-time members.

The programme for the evening featured three very fine videos from the ONA. These were the Royal Canadian Mint's "Striking for Success" and "Canada from Every Quarter", the story of the 1992 commemorative coins marking the 125th anniversary of Confederation. The video "The Bank of Canada (Not Your Average Bank)" rounded out the set.

Our break featured Anniversary cake, coffee and juice. Many thanks to Ted Boxall for bringing the cake, Italo Vilella for organizing refreshments and Lucille Colson for serving.

The draw was held alternately with the auction. Thanks to Al Bliman and congratulations to lucky winners Paul Petch(2) (no win on the lottery ticket again), Ron Zelk(2), Basil Latham, Mike Hakem(2), Harvey Farrow(2), Dick Dunn, Leon Saraga, Norman G. Gordon, Ted Boxall and Lucille Colson. Thanks also to auctioneer Bob Porter, runner Basil Latham and many thanks to Brian and Lyan See and Norman G. Gordon for their donations.

The Chair advised that he had forwarded a letter to CNA Secretary Ken Prophet establishing our bid to host the 1999 CNA Convention. The meeting closed at 9:55 p.m.

## Question of the Month

(Continued from page 1)

fine gold) and \$3 (sterling silver). This is the first set from a three-year series commissioned from the British Royal Mint. The area around Bermuda has become famous as a place for more than its fair share of lost ships and planes. Stories with supernatural and science fiction themes offered as explanation only serve to deepen the real world mystery and disaster of the many documented incidents.

The reverse of the 1996 Triangular coins depicts a map of the Bermuda archipelago with a compass rose above and a 16th century caravel in full sail below, all bordered by a single rope with an overhand knot at each corner and the word BERMUDA below. The obverse shows Raphael Maklouf's portrait of Queen Elizabeth II in a rope border without knots. At left is the denomination, at right ELIZABETH II and 1996 appears below.

This is a non-circulating coin series and is available from the British Royal Mint, P.O. Box 772570, Woodside, NY 11377-2570 for \$1,395 for the \$60 and \$50 for the \$3, U.S. funds.

**Please...**  
**Contribute an article**  
**to *The Bulletin***

## Coming Events (from Page 1)

**KENT COIN CLUB ANNUAL COIN & CARD SHOW** April 13, 10am-4pm  
Wheels Inn and Conference Centre, 561 Richmond St., Chatham, FREE ADMISSION Info: Lou Wagenaar (519) 352-4150

**O.N.A. CONVENTION** April 18-20, at the Ramada Inn, Windsor, ON. Hours: Sat. 10a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsored by the WINDSOR COIN CLUB. For more information contact S. J. Coblenz at 500 Elinor, Windsor, Ontario N8P 1E4, or Ron Binder at (519) 254-6855.

## Did you know... that there is a *Worldwide Bi-metallic Collectors Club*?

The "WBCC" recently published its 30th Newsmail bulletin on the Internet. Among other news, it is reported members are still looking for the following 1996 bi-metallic issues:

Notice that they didn't have any difficulty obtaining a specimen of the Canadian 1996

Argentina, 1 Peso 1996	Kenia, 5 Shilling 1996	Peru 2 Sol 1996
Columbia, 500 peso 1996	Kenia 10 Shilling 1996	Peru 5 Sol 1996
Ecuador, 100 Sucres 1996	Mexico, 2 Peso 1996	Poland 2 Zlotych 1996
Ecuador, 500 Sucres 1996	Mexico, 5 Peso 1996	Poland 5 Zlotych 1996
Finland, 10 Marrkaa 1996	Mexico, 10 Peso 1996	Syria 25 Pound 1996
Hong Kong, 10 Dollar 1996	Mexico, 20 Peso 1996	Thailand 10 Bath 1996
	Mexico, 50 Peso 1996	

\$2 coin!

## AN "HONEST" COUNTERFEITER by L.J.P. Brunet

(Editor's Note: This article is reprinted from the March, 1955, issue of the C.N.A. Bulletin. Some long-time collectors and members may remember that the late Mrs. Louise Graham used to carry a copy of this article to all club meetings. I can remember two occasions when something went wrong with the scheduled speaker, and this article was read as a filler.)

At the C.N.A. Convention dinner in Toronto, last August, I had occasion to acquaint the guests with part of the correspondence exchanged between a New York Counterfeiter and a Canadian of French descent living in Nicolet County, on the south shore of the St. Lawrence, opposite Three Rivers. Since then, at the request of many fellow members, I promised to make public these letters now in the Public Archives of Canada, in Ottawa, which clearly indicate that some makers of spurious bills may be, in their own minds at least, honest dealers who could even be styled "benefactors of humanity".

Let us go back to 1885. The "philanthropist" in this case, has been in touch with his Canadian client for some time, but his earlier letters are missing. They must have been fairly convincing, because the prospective buyer writes to the American forger a jewel of a note, dated March 19, which we quote here with all original and amusing mistakes in grammar and spelling:

3/19/5

Dear Sir

*I ask you pardon not to have answer to your dear letter (that you will find inclosed) being sick at that time to a few days ago is the rison while I did not write you before*

*I find you offer me a good chance to put my business in good order, and I accept your offer*

*I have seen in your letter that you are a wright man, & your business is plainly Justified. The fire make me lost over \$12,000 d. & I remain now with nearly nothing I think I can do business whithout to go to, N.Y.*

*Please sand me a simple of your - Green paper good Say price etc*

*& I think I can do business which will be verry profitable for me & you  
On my solemn Oath*

*Yours fathfully and true Frinship*

The letter is unsigned. Although we know the identity of the sender we do not think that his name would add anything to this story. The note, in some way or another, must have been intercepted, but how we do not know. We are in the dark also as to the text of the "dear letter" which is supposed to have been "inclosed". Fortunately, we are in possession of two letters from the counterfeiter to his gullible client. The first of these two letters which, by the way, were hectographed by the gelatine process, is not dated, but carries, at the top of the page, a simple and honest heading: "The truth and common sense". It reads as follows:

*"Now my friend, I am anxious to learn of my proposition to you and above all if you intend harming me or not. Listen to a few plain words. This business will hurt no one person in particular as the goods will circulate from one to another and in the end no person will ever be the wiser or know such an article has been in their hand's. The loss falls on the Government and they can well afford to stand it. God never made one man to own millions and his fellow being barely enough to live on. how do people get their Thousand's of dollars. Not by hard work or by being honest. do they not take advantage of every poor man, woman, or child that come in their way and they call it business. I here state from my Heart and Soul. that I do not think I am committing a crime or any sin in asking you to engage in this business. as I before God and man never passed a poor person in my life without helping them. and many a poor mans home have I saved from being sold over his head when some unfeeling person had a mortgage or debt against it. and on my Solemn Oath. these goods I am dealing in have saved many from being turned out of door's. Now where is the crime in*

*dealing in these good's. I have saved men in all kind of business and trades. hundreds of times when their homes have been mortgaged others when their Stores have been attached or about being sold out by the Sheriff. and when they could not get time to pay their debts or mortgages. also men who have been burnt out and had no Insurance on their places of business. and plenty of people here I saved when they were about to fail or to be sold out by some hard hearted creditor. all these words I write here is the honest square truth and I will say if you need my help and can raise a little money, enough to pay for my good's I can and will help you safely through all your business troubles and no living person need ever be the wiser for it. I can prepare these goods in such a manner so as they will look like old notes that have been in use a long time and as if they had passed from hand to hand and as true as there is a God not one in ten thousand can ever tell the difference as I work Sure, Safe, and careful for all of my customers. and I ask you as a man and a true friend of honor and principle not to harm or expose me and you have my best wishes for you and yours while life lasts, and when you come here if all my goods fail to please you in any manner then I will promise to refund to you all of your expenses of trip both ways and loss of time in coming here. No my friend once for all have confidence in me. We are strangers and of course when you arrive here you will feel timid and uneasy and will think I am trying to harm you. No before the great and Almighty God. above never will I by word look or action in any manner shape or form harm you for if you wait until I harm a man who has placed confidence enough in me to come here then you will wait all your life. one thing bear in mind and that is trade or no trade we are friends, and I promise you this on my Solemn Oath. before God, Heaven and man for my principal rule in this business with one and all is honor and true principle with my customers and this rule I will carry out at all hazard's and I ask you to do the same by me. and if you do. on my sacred oath you will have perfect and sure success with the good's enclosed find samples of*

*my sacred oath you will have perfect and sure success with the good's enclosed find samples of the goods*

*Yours Faithfully and in True Friendship hereafter direct all letters as follows*

*B.G. WISE  
134 East 13th Street  
New York  
Care C.L. Pike*

*Enclosed find a newspaper article cut from the Washington paper it will prove the goods are safe to handle."*

The clipping referred to deals at length with the activities of counterfeiters in the United States. It also states that the gang is "in possession of duplicates of the original plates of the Dominion of Canada notes, Ones and Twos and of a Five". The writer of the article admits that these fraudulent notes are wonderfully done, so much so that they "cannot be distinguished from the genuine, even by the best experts of the oldest Dominion Banks".

And the newspaper is right, judging from the "samples of the goods" which Mr. Wise sent to his Canadian friend. As forgeries, they are Masterpieces, and must be some of the most deceptive and dangerous ever made.

The second letter is entitled "Instructions, bear them in mind". It contains some sound advice to those engaged in counterfeiting, and a price-list, very tantalizing indeed. The large economy-size bundle of \$36,000 for only \$1000 must have appealed to all professional crooks. Here is the unabridged text of this amazing offer:

*"Now my friend from the time you leave your home until you meet me at the Hotel make no strange friends under any consideration either on the Cars, Boat or at the Depot. These rules must be borne in mind until you are sure you are speaking to me. This is a large City and you may meet with people who will pretend that they know you or have met you, beware of such people, go straight to the Hotel I name in this letter and you will meet me there. You need not recognize*

*me until I give the propper password known only to you and myself. When you arrive it New York stop at the Hoffman House on Broadway & 24th Street New York Take a room and remain in until I call. it will be shortly after you arrive and when we meet I will give you the password which is square & true Now bear in mind no living person knows the above password but you and myself. So for God's sake make no mistakes and we will meet and part as true, faithful and lasting friends, for on my Solemn Oath I will never deceive you by look word or action. Answer this letter name the exact day you will start and be sure to telegraph me from two or three different points while on your way. Here are a few more instructions and if you will follow them you will be sure to meet me. When you arrive at the Hotel be sure to remain in your room until I call or you hear from me if you are not in your room it will be hard for me to find you as we are strangers to each other and I do not want to create suspicion by looking over the Hotel for you. What we do must be done in sure safety or not at all and you can depend what business you transact with me will be with perfect success, and I promise you this as true as there is a God in Heaven. One thing bear in mind you can place full trust in me, I am square to square friends. These are all the hours you must remain in your room 10 to 12 A.M. 1 to 4 P.M. and 7 to 10 P.M. should you arrive after 10 P.M. I will not call until the next morning as you will be tired and will want some rest. Now let me know four days before you start and be sure and telegraph me from two or three different points while on your way here. There is no one knows of your coming but myself, so there is no need to fear for no man, woman or child shall ever hear from my lips the least thing that ever passed between us, and before God I shall never break this promise, trade or no trade, You will find the stock fine and safe and sure to handle either in large or small parcels. There is one point remember, make no strange friend while in this business, faithful friends are hard to find. Tell no one your business, I am your friend so help me God, and I trust I may be able to prove my words true*

*some day. Yours in True Friendship.*

*Now if you will visit me by the 15th or 20th of april I will allow you the following terms*

*\$15000 for \$50000  
25000 " 750  
36000 " 1000*

*these terms to hold good untill the 20th of april & be sure & direct all telegrams as follows: B.G. Wise, care C.L. Pike 134 East 13th Street, New York, when you write to me always sign square and true to your letters do not sign your name."*

How the Canadian Government became aware of its paper currency being offered at such a great bargain, across the border, is a matter of two coincidences. First, the Nicolet county customer, who lived in St. Célestin, did not trust the local postmaster, and with a view to avoiding suspicion he had ordered his mail addressed to St. Grégoire in the next parish. What he did not know is that there lived, at St. Grégoire, a man with exactly the same name as his. This innocent namesake received the -- let us call it "literature" -- and, since he could not read English, went right back to the postmaster for a translation. Luckily it was easy for him to prove that he was the wrong man and that he had nothing to do with the New York 'benefactor'. The other coincidence was that when the two letters were brought to the postmaster by the St. Célestin man, who wanted to know what they were all about, a post-office inspector from Three Rivers happened to be right there, on a routine tour. He immediately sent a detailed report to Ottawa.

What the outcome of this revealing report was, we have not had time to find out. It is hoped that someone will be able to take on from here and let us know if Mr. Wise, his accomplices, and their clients, were brought to justice. The police certainly had there a marvelous opportunity!