

“The Bulletin” June, 1999

President’s Message

The Club is now into its summer schedule, so our next meeting is moved to the third Tuesday, **June 15**, with meetings then switching to the third Wednesday for July and August.

As introduced in the May Bulletin, we are trying for 10 to 20 lots in a listed auction sale. Rick Craig has agreed to receive auction material. The items for consideration are to be submitted in person in an ordinary envelope showing your name, phone number and your estimated value. Rick will assure consistent descriptions of quality and peg fair prices. He will assemble the material, determine if there is enough available to run an auction and, if there is, forward the list to the Editor for inclusion in the next month’s bulletin.



CLUB BULLETIN

Bob Porter provided me with some back issues of the *ANA Club Bulletin* at the last meeting. I’ve found a few timely articles and they appear in this issue of *The Bulletin*. Thanks, Bob, for thinking of us!

At a recent meeting with John Regitko it was learned that he has joined the organization which runs Canada’s largest indoor/outdoor flea market located at the

“High Tech” Hunting

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on **Tuesday, June 15, 1999**, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive.

For this meeting, Vince Chiappino and Del Murchison will be telling us about their experiences owning and operating metal detectors. This is a repeat of their presentation at the Toronto Coin Club a few months ago. With these devices they are able to search areas to detect discarded or lost items made of metal. This includes rings and other jewelry... and of course, coins! Depending upon the way the user sets the unit up, it can be made sensitive to all metal or only specific metal types. A background article on the subject, somewhat dated from an *ANA Club Bulletin* of the early 1970’s, appears on Page 4. Read it over and then come and experience this interesting sideline of our hobby.

You are invited to bring along material to present to Rick Craig for our more formal, listed auction format and we will be having our usual floor auction and where we also need your items. We hope to see you at our June meeting.

corner of Highway 27 and Albion Road in northwest Toronto. In his new position, John is responsible for satisfying existing vendors and signing up new ones... especially hobby dealers. Living in the neighbourhood, I can tell you that a weekend visit makes for an entertaining and worthwhile outing, but you should get there early because it is a very busy place. Best of luck in your new career, John.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find an article on the new Nunavut millennium \$2 coin. A recent business trip took me to Ottawa. I was able to get a bit of time to visit the Mint where I purchased a few. I’ll have a limited number available at our next meeting to trade for your old,

beat up “toonie”... \$2 notes are still accepted in trade also, by the way!

The President is in the process of collecting the e-mail address of all members. If you are now on the Internet, send an e-mail and let him know at petchp@ican.net. Phone calls are also welcome at **416-745-3067** (leave a voice mail message if you can’t get through.)

***Next Meeting:
June 15***

Meeting News from the May 25 Meeting

The 441st meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, May 25, 1999 at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Dr., Willowdale.

The President, Paul Petch opened the meeting at 8:08 p.m. and welcomed 24 members.

Fred Jewett's was pulled for the \$4 pot in the On Time Attendance Draw. Alas, this long-time member is not able to attend meetings, but it gave his many friends present the opportunity to voice their very best wishes to him.

Minutes of the April 24, 1999 meeting were read by the Secretary and approved by the Chair following clarification of the question of the month and discussion which followed.

The Chair listed the coming events. Harvey briefly reviewed the Peterborough Show and Dick Dunn noted the Burlington Show. The Chair also advised the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 15 and that July 21 and August 18, the third Wednesdays, have been set as meeting dates but have not confirmed as yet.

During the recent Executive meeting it was decided to upgrade the auction. Members are asked to forward material to Rick Craig, in advance and, when a sufficient number have been received a

list will be published in the bulletin. Rick took to the floor and explained the criterion and procedures he will be following in setting the value and reserve prices.

Norm Belsten graciously introduced our guest speaker for the evening, fellow member Norman G. Gordon. Norman, a man of few words, quickly skipped over a list of previous varied and amazing interest such as his former interest in Blue Grass music which led to a vast collection of instruments and LP's, 250 Cochrane photocards, first day covers, casino chips and Tim Horton hockey cards. These were before he joined the Masonic Order in the mid 80's.

Rather than explain the workings of the Order, Norman generously distributed printouts and brochures for our perusal and information. Topics covered included background on what Freemasonry is, what it does, organization and historical background. Its traditions can be traced directly to the associations of operative masons who built the cathedrals, abbeys and castles of the middle ages. With the decline of this activity in the 17th century, many guilds of stonemasons, called "Operative" masons, started to accept members outside the masons' craft with the designation of "Speculative" or "Accepted" masons. Right from the time he started he has collected as many items relating to Ma-

sonry, including numismatic, as he was able to find. His research included mail contact with all of the 650 lodges in Ontario. His presentation was well-received and brought considerable interaction from the floor. The President presented Norman with a Certificate of Appreciation and then suggested a longer than usual coffee break in order to fully appreciate Norman's vast display.

Further to Norman's presentation, Marvin Kay was able to make a connection to the Masonic with a American medical penny.

Thanks again to Roger Fox for being well prepared with the refreshments.

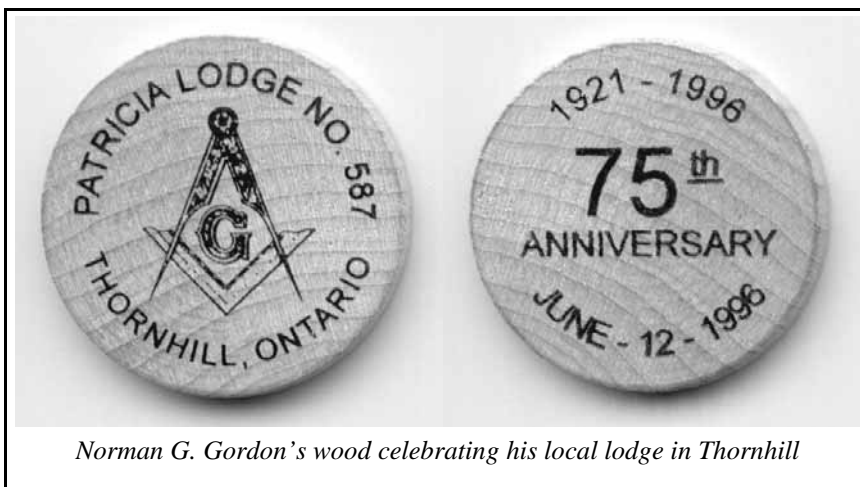
Dick Dunn announced that genealogy research is now available on the Internet through the Web. The Chair advised that Dick has sold 39 bourse tables for the ONA 2000 Convention and that 3 more have been made available. Any dealer interest beyond these 3 tables will go on a waiting list.

An auction of 4 lots was ably run by Bob Porter with the assistance of Basil Latham and brought a commission amounting to \$2.25. Many thanks to Rick Craig and Ted Boxall for their donations.

The Luck Draw winners were: Lucille Colson, Len Kuenzig(2), George Fraser, Vince Chiappino, Dick Dunn, Paul Johnson, Norm Belsten, Leon Saraga, Russ Brown, Bob Velensky, Norman G. Gordon and Basil Latham. The draw was called by Roger Fox and brought in proceeds of \$22.00

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:45 p.m.

See Page 4 for the Question of the Month and Coming Events!



Norman G. Gordon's wood celebrating his local lodge in Thornhill

The House with Wall-to-Wall Coins By Anton Corson

He shunned all of Florida's coin stores. Instead, he bought via the mails; anything and everything, from all over the world. "In this way," he said, "I avoided the state sales tax."

In this age of instant communication, we give you the story of a numismatic hermit, a tragedy of \$10,000 shrunk to \$4,000—of fun that turned to gall—of the man with the wall-to-wall coin vault (his home)—and the years of fun he had in ignorant bliss. Briefly, this is the story of the man who did *everything* wrong but who had ten years of personal enjoyment before he was hit with the facts of life.

First, his coin vault. You enter the modest duplex via a front screen door which had been specially built. The locks are security-constructed, and a shot of tear gas could be produced on demand. A revolver hangs by an inner bolt. Atop the roof are four hidden sirens, plus an automatic switch to notify police headquarters should someone cut the telephone lines. Panels of thick plywood stand behind each window. The air conditioner is bolted and strapped. The rear door is sealed off. "I could hold out for three hours" emphasized Jim (not his real name).

Inside the house was a bed, a pair of work benches, stacks of books and magazines, and... wall-to-wall coins, from floor to ceiling, wherever you looked... coins and medals. Sad to state, but Jim was heavy on medals. Still is, for that matter, because they've been hard to move despite more than ninety sales, the least of which totaled only 60 cents, the largest a bit over \$1,000.

Jim had one box of U.S. items, most of it junk, consisting of bulk silver and loads of medals. One large cent was polished to door-knocker brilliance—worth maybe 25 cents instead of \$1.50. In fact, every piece that Jim owned had been cleaned. Kinda tragic too: like the pair of Andorran crowns, or the 80 sets of Austrian proof-likes, some 400 sets of junk

Formosan coins, eight Franklin sets, etc., etc., etc.

Now Jim wasn't dumb... far from it... it was just that he had a complete and staggering lack of communication with the outside world. How strange it is that he missed even a touch of guidance during his decade of numismatic sampling.

Jim had a big, big numismatic library, and he used it! He could give you little things about piece after piece, mentioning the names of rulers, the size of the country, items like that. I believe he loved each and every piece he owned... and he was proud, too, of what he had accomplished.

Often, he had a pair of pieces together, in envelopes, one piece with original mint bloom, the other illustrating the manner in which he had "improved the breed." "Now isn't this better?" Jim would ask, with quiet pride, noting the shine he had scrubbed into his coins and medals. Over ninety-nine per cent of his collection had been cleaned, almost always disastrously. Although his collection included expensive material, it surely embraced Jim's specialty: the junk of the world, the Yeoman and Craig 10 cent to 50 cent stuff.

Jim had bought *Simichrome* by the case, along with *Jewel Lustre*. If you can name a coin cleaner, Jim owned some. Picture him, thus equipped, bent over his bench, polishing 2 cent junk box stuff, item by item, until it shone to some ungodly hue. Next came a little plastic case, an application of Foam Guard to the coin, then heat-sealing the edges. Altogether, Jim owned well over 100,000 pieces; and they had all been given "the treatment."

Jim was an avid reader. Yet he skipped those revealing "Wanted to Buy" columns in *Coin World* or *World Coins*. And nowhere along the line did he ever enter a Miami coin shop, attend any meeting of the five area coin clubs, or,

with the best of luck, stumble across a knowledgeable collector.

The handling of estates is a hobby of ours, and it was through a recommendation that Jim came our way in March, 1969. Jim was close to blind then, and is worse now. He has three pairs of glasses: one to see traffic lights, a second pair for the clothes closet and to watch television, and a third pair for coins. "But I can't use the coin glasses for over five minutes at a time now" said Jim, in his pleasant, mild, self-effacing, myopic, entirely childish, and quite unworldly manner as always.

Well, to wind up a glad-and-sad tale, we spent three weeks in cataloguing and preparing Jim's collection of coins and medals for disposal. That was our original job. But Jim, poor helpless Jim, he kind of grabs you... and his feelings must not be hurt... so we took on the sales job too.

After appropriate samples had been shown to dealers for purposes of estimate, his inventory was bid at \$2,200 tops. By our various sales, with more than 30 buyers, it has already topped \$4,000; and the medals are untouched as are a number of religious items bought direct from Rome. Had Jim's material been bought "right," his outlay would have been less than \$5,000. And his sales could have easily topped \$12,000, for he had picked up many fine items; e.g., a Barbados penny, XF, at \$25, which sold for \$2.50 cleaned.

Since March, Jim has been in the hospital twice: once to come awake as his in-laws were dividing his estate following a stomach operation. His new glasses don't work; and he has waste baskets filled with empty Roll-Aid jars; and a skin man is working on his rash, another doctor on a nerve condition, and a third on his circulation. Through it all, Jim just smiles... he's a little man, but he's all man!

(Continued on page 4)

Treasure Tips: Hunting With a Metal Detector

The guest speaker at the November, 1970 meeting of the *Washington Numismatic Society* in Washington, D.C. was Roger Cohen, well-known numismatist and relic collector. He discussed the use of the metal detector.

Among the many interesting points made by Mr. Cohen were the following:

- 1) In spite of the publicity given such devices, the chances of finding any valuable numismatic item is very remote.
- 2) Any coins that have been buried unprotected for any length of time would have suffered damage.
- 3) To find anything at all requires many hours of searching, and no search of any kind should be started before adequate research is done to pinpoint possible locations of relics.
- 4) Of great importance is to avoid a heavy detector, since weight will sap the operator's energy very quickly and aching muscles will discourage further exploration.
- 5) It is illegal to search and dig in any area under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Park Service and violation will draw a fine.
- 6) One should always get permission from the landowner before starting to search.
- 7) Most owners will permit it if you fill up any holes and do not make a nuisance of yourself.
- 8) In searching for relics, avoid plowed fields where most everything was

turned up long ago. Instead, look for wooded areas or other undisturbed areas.

- 9) Searching and digging for Civil War items can be dangerous since the black powder is unstable and may explode if struck.

One point made by Mr. Cohen that was especially interesting to prospective purchasers of a detector was that the diameter of the search head (the disc that is held close to the ground while searching) is not the effective area being covered. In other words, the disc might be twelve inches in diameter but the effective area could be about four inches that is actually being searched.

Mr. Cohen also pointed out that there is often a variation in quality within a certain brand—one detector working well and another being ineffective for some reason.

The general idea of searching should be fun and exercise in the wide open spaces, not monetary profit, Mr. Cohen emphasized. He had on display many items that he had recovered from Civil War battlefields privately owned in Virginia and Maryland, including sabers, bayonets, bullets, canteens, buckles, curry combs, an encased postage stamp and a few coins.

(Continued from page 3)

What has been our gift? To date, it has not been necessary to explain to Jim what he has cost himself by lousing up, with every cleaner known to man, that wall-to-wall hoard he had accumulated. Jim's still on top of the world, because like he always said, "I avoided the state's sales tax."

This article originally appeared in Penny-Wise, the publication of Early American Coppers, sometime in late 1969. It had been picked up and

reprinted in the January, 1970, issue of the ANA Club Bulletin which is where your Editor found it. As I read it, I was reminded of the late Al Bliman's series on Numismatic Horror Stories and it is offered here as a worthy addition to that series.

Question of the Month

I'm a big fan of James Burke and his Connections television programs and his column in Scientific American. Recently it took on a numismatic flavour when he reported how James Watt's work made Benedetto Pistrucci's most famous design possible. Who are these men, and what are the connections between the two?

In May we noted that the mint had released its mintage figures for 1998 and asked what denominations were not struck for general circulation during the year. Basil Latham was first to correctly identify the \$1 and 25¢ as the denominations in question. These denominations do exist, but only as Mint products. A table of 1998 and comparative 1997 mintage figures appear on Page 5. Harvey Farrow advised that a new \$2 circulation coin would be unveiled later in the week and information on this piece appears there as well.

Coming Events

TOREX Show and Auctions Sat. June 26, 10am-5pm; Sun. June 27, 10am-3pm at the Primrose Hotel, 111 Carlton St. (Pearson Ballroom). Daily admission \$5. Contact Ingrid K. Smith, (416) 260-9070. Website: www.torex.net

Hamilton Coin and Collectable Show July 3, 10am-4pm at the Royal Canadian Legion, 1180 Barton St. E. (opposite Centre Mall). Free parking. Admission \$2 family, \$1 seniors. Contact George Smith (905) 385-6945.

Canadian Tire Swap and Meet July 10-11, at Hurbert Grimmink's Place, 1806 Sunningdale Rd., London, call (519) 472-2956.

1999 CNA Convention July 22-25, at Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Kitchener. Host: Waterloo Coin Society Convention Chairman: Chris Boyer, (519) 884-4788.

\$2 Millennium Coin Celebrates Nunavut

A special ceremony on Parliament Hill on Thursday, May 27 saw the latest unveiling in the 1999 Millennium coin series. It is a \$2 circulation coin which marks the birth of the new Nunavut territory, home to the Inuit people of Canada's North.



The new coin was designed by the talented Inuit artist, Germaine Arnaktauyok. The historic coin features the drum dance, an age-old Aboriginal ritual that remains central to Inuit culture in Nunavut today.

"It is most appropriate that we mark the arrival of the millennium by celebrating the birth of Canada's newest territory," remarked Minister of Public Works and Government Services Alfonso Gagliano. "At the same time, however, the long and proud traditions of the Inuit people are an important reminder of this country's rich heritage." "The new \$2 coin is a beautiful complement to our series of Millennium coins," added Danielle Wetherup, President and Master of the Royal Canadian Mint.

A mail drop to all Canadian households, following today's launch, will highlight the significance of a new millennium, a new territory and a new \$2 coin, and encourage Canadians to share in this momentous event by carrying a little piece of history in their hands.

The mint announced that the design for the new \$2 bi-metallic coin will temporarily

replace the polar bear design. This could indicate that there is no set mintage limit for the piece and that sufficient coins will be struck to fill orders. The 1999 Millennium \$2 coin design will, in turn, be replaced by a design specially produced to celebrate the arrival of year 2000. The polar bear coin will return to circulation in 2001.

In addition to the new \$2 circulation coin, the Royal Canadian Mint will also produce collector quality Millennium \$2 coins for Canadian and foreign markets. The Nunavut - 1999 Millennium \$2 coin will be available in 22-karat gold, sterling silver and as part of a complete coin sets.

Recent media reports indicate some friction exists between Canadian banks and the Royal Canadian Mint. The popular-

ity of the 25-cent millennium coin series has caused over 70 million dollars worth of one dollar coins to sit unused in bank vaults. The banks would like to return the one dollar coins to the Mint, but the Mint refuses. In retaliation, according to the report, the bank refuse to continue to distribute the millennium coin. The report specifically mentioned the 25-cent June release and it is unknown at this time if the disagreement will extend to the two dollar denomination as well.

Royal Canadian Mint

Production Figures

	1998	1997
Circulation coins		
\$2	4,926,000	16,942,000
\$1	0	0
50 cents	308,000	387,000
25 cents	0	0
10 cents	201,073,000	43,126,000
5 cents	146,530,000	27,354,000
1 cent	900,436,000	509,868,000

Selected Commemorative coins

\$200 gold	6,395	11,610
\$100 gold	9,885	14,775
90th anniversary Proof	9,935	
90th anniversary Antique	24,819	
Bethune silver	61,315	
Silver Lunar	68,888	
Proof silver \$1	120,172	184,965
BU silver \$1	79,777	155,252
Proof set	88,741	113,647
Specimen set	63,374	97,595
Uncirculated (PL) set	132,356	174,692
Tiny Treasures set	58,764	55,199
Oh Canada! set	67,502	84,124
50-cent silver Sports	45,177	
50-cent silver Nature	102,595	184,536
10-cent silver Proof	49,848	

A "Good Advice" Page

Cultivating Self-Improvement

It is spring, and here is a garden you can plant without much space:

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF PEAS:

- Preparation
- Perseverance
- Promptness
- Personality

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF SQUASH:

- Squash gossip
- Squash criticism
- Squash indifference
- Squash negative thinking

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE:

- Let us be faithful to duty
- Let us be true to our obligations
- Let us obey rules and regulations
- Let us love one another

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF TURNIPS:

- Turn up for coin club each month
- Turn up with a smile
- Turn up with new ideas
- Turn up with determination

Submitted by *San Fernando Valley Coin Club, California, in the ANA Club Bulletin for June, 1971.*



A Timely Tip...

Numismatics is a science which strongly appeals to those having the collector's instinct.

- The art lover can find examples of the greatest skill.
- The antiquarian here finds specimens of the earliest works of man that can be collected by a private person.
- The historian has mementos of the various nations that have ruled the world.
- The psychognomist can study the features of the rulers of the world.
- The geographer can obtain specimens from every quarter of the globe and all the principal places thereof.

The great beauty of the science is that all these manifold advantages can be obtained at so small a cost. One dollar a week will secure a constant supply of new specimens to fill out any line which may be decided on by the novice. If the coins of our own country should be selected, pleasant hunts may be conducted in remote villages and frequently coins of great value secured at nominal prices.

There is only one thing that the new collector must be warned against, and that is, forming a miscellaneous collection. Decide upon some particular line and stick to it. Coin collecting can be divided into thousands of branches, nearly any one of which, followed to the end, would fill a cabinet which would be competed for by the museums of the world.

Metropolitan Philatelist, March 1940
The Numismatist