

## “The Bulletin” October, 1999

### President's Message

First, I must extend a thank you to the people who have supplied auction material. We have a listed auction for the October meeting. You may continue to offer items to Rick for our next listing.

Our discussion regarding a format for the December meeting took place at the last meeting. There was some, but not a lot, of objection to repeating the chicken dinner. One interesting idea was to attend a reasonably-priced buffet at a local restaurant. Perhaps some members who live in the area would care to make a suggestion to the President. Failing that, Swiss Chalet chicken it will be.

The members of the Club Executive are reminded we have a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 10 at 7:00pm in the usual location.

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](mailto: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:  
October 26***

## Fall Re-runs?

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on **Tuesday, October 26** 1999, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive.

Featured *again* this month will be Dr. Marvin Kay, the King of Topical Collecting, who has promised to share some stories and background on items from his vast collection of medical-related holdings. A family emergency kept him away from the September meeting, so this isn't a re-run, it's the September talk, aged for a month, so you can enjoy it even more.

This is Coin Month Canada and we're all going to "Buy the book before the Coin". You are invited to bring an example of a time you bought a book before, or maybe instead of, the coin.

We will also be holding our a listed auction this month. See page 2 for the listing.

### Coming Events

**Peterborough Coin Club Show** October 23, 9am-5pm at Portage Place Mall, Chemong Rd. Contact Bob Algreire (705) 292-9862

**TOREX** October 23-24, Sat. 10 a.m. to 5pm; Sun. 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](http://www.torex.net) e-mail [ingrid@torex.net](mailto:ingrid@torex.net)

**The Hobby Show** November 5-7, Fri. 12pm-9pm, Sat. 10am-7pm, Sun. 10am-6pm at the International Centre (two minutes north of the air-port). Contact: The Hobby Show (905) 428-6466 website: [www.thehobbyshow.com](http://www.thehobbyshow.com)

**Niagara Frontier Coin Club** November 13-14, 10am-4pm Niagara Falls, NY at BPO Elks Lodge No. 346, 1805 Factory Outlet Blvd. (3rd Ave.). Contact Glenn W. Fails (716) 284-9116.

**The Windsor Coin Club 48th Annual Fall Coin Show** November 14, 10am-4pm in the Galileo Hall of the Caboto Club, 2175 Parent Ave. Admission \$1 juniors, 12 and under free. Hourly door prizes, free parking. Contact Margaret Clarke (519) 735-0727.

**Waterloo Coin Society Show** November 20, 9:30am-4:30pm at Wing 404, RCAF Association, 510 Dutton Dr. Over 25 dealer tables. Free admission and parking. Lunch counter. Contact: Don Robb (519) 888-9655.

## Meeting News from the September 28 Meeting

The 445th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, September 28, 1999 at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Dr., Willowdale, Ont.

The President, Paul Petch, opened the meeting at 8:00pm and welcomed 21 members and 2 guests.

Although encouraged to attend, Bill McDonald was unable to make the meeting so he missed receiving the \$12.00 pot in the on time attendance draw. We're up to \$14 for October!

Minutes of the August 18, 1999 meeting were read by the Secretary and, after minor corrections, were accepted by the Chair.

Dick Dunn and Bob Wilson reported on the Hamilton, London and Woodstock Coin Shows and the Chair listed the coming events.

From the recent Executive meeting the Chair reported:

1. The club is still promoting the listed auction with Rick Craig receiving member's material.
2. Members were asked to make a preference of food for the Xmas Party. 14 opted for Chicken Chalet while 4 opposed.
3. This is an election year so the Chair will seek a Nomination Chairman by next month.
4. Rick Craig has submitted our convention medal design to Pressed Metal. They expressed great interest in our design.

Marvin Kay was to have been our speaker for the evening. However, family illness prevented him from attending. Members were asked to fill in on the spur of the moment and the following members responded with some very interesting items:

**Dick Dunn** reported that he and George

Fraser dropped in for a visit with Fred Jewett at Riverdale Hospital and were pleased to find that he is keeping well.

**Del Murchison** brought along some interesting books which he purchased on the Internet and pointed out some of their highlights. He also told amusing anecdotes about various coins and privately created money from the book "*Making Money*". (One story, about Emperor Norton, is reprinted in this month's Bulletin.)

**Italo Villella** couldn't get over how a Mexican catalogue listed Mexican surplus coins for sale by the kilo.

**Rick Craig** spoke on an ancient Greek coin of King Archelaos of Macedonia that he chose mainly for its attractive design but also to interest his wife.

**Paul Petch** had handouts on Communion tokens and from the Token Collector group as well as information on the Coin Month Canada 1999 \$2.00 note. He purchased several and is offering them for sale at their original price of \$4.00. (See the whole story in the article in this month's Bulletin.)

Refreshments, served by Roger Fox, were much appreciated on this very warm evening.

Roger Fox and Bob Porter ran the draw and 6 lot auction alternately. Draw winners were: Lucille Colson, Vince Chiappino(3), Bob Wilson, Italo Villella, Norm Belsten(2) Mark Argentino(2), Len Kuenzig, Brian See, Bob Velensky and Paul Petch. Proceeds amounted to \$20.00. The auction brought a commission of \$1.00 and \$18.50 in donations. Many thanks to Italo Villella, Brian See, Norm Belsten, Rick Craig and May Bunnett for their donations.

The meeting closed at 9:45 p.m.

## Question of the Month

The October question will be of interest to our token collectors and early provincial decimal coinage collectors. It asks "what strike orders were filled by the Heaton Mint *prior* to Confederation?" This may not be as easy as it looks!

The September question asked "What is the name and age of Canada's youngest coin designer?" See the article on page 8 for complete details.

## October Auction List

1. Reprint (1963) of P.N. Breton's combined Popular Illustrated Guides of 1894 and 1912 Binding is tight, cover is good, inside is very good Starts at \$30
2. A complete set of Canadian Tire Notes from 1992 to 1998 inclusive. 24 notes all Unc. with face value of \$16.55. Starts at \$30
3. Lot of 8 CTC replacement notes—7 Unc. 1 VF. Full trends is \$10.00 each or \$80.00. Starts at \$40
4. Eight (8) single CTC replacement notes, as the group above, to be sold individually. Start at \$5 for each piece.
5. Ancient Roman bronze coin. Valens 364-378 AD. 18 mm. 1.95 grams. Nice VF. with CNG ticket. Trends at \$15.00 US. Starts at \$14
6. LC-8A1 1/2 P. (1837) Habitant token with City Bank ribbon. Nice problem-free VF-30. Charlton lists at \$15.00. Starts at \$10
7. PC-1A3 1/2 P. (1842) Bank of Montreal token. Nice EF. Charlton lists at \$35.00. Starts at \$17.50
8. Donation item from Mr. J. Charlton: 1902 Canada 5¢ piece, conservatively graded an EF, his estimated value is \$12.00. Starts at \$7.50

Coin Month Canada 1999 \$2 Note



This year's Coin Month Canada '99 Souvenir \$2 note celebrates the 130th anniversary of the first book about Canadian numismatics published in Canada. The book entitled "Coins, Tokens and Medals of the Dominion of Canada" was authored by Alfred Sandham (1838 - 1910) and was published in Montreal, Quebec. This is the third year that Coin Month Canada has issued a limited-edition souvenir two dollar note in conjunction with the promotion of both the hobby of numismatic and the celebration of October as Coin Month.

The notes were designed and created by Claude Bernard, Vice-Chairperson of Coin Month. They measure 2 1/2" by 5 1/2" (65mm by 145mm) and are printed on parchment paper using a "photoprint" technique. The 1999 notes will be limited to an edition of no more than 450 notes.

The underprint image employed for the face of the note is a very imaginative and artistic portrayal of an early 20th century numismatic work desk. The candle-illuminated desk displays several old bronze coins and period numismatic publications. These include Sandham's book as well as the artistically covered "The Canadian Coin Cabinet" by Joseph LeRoux (1892) and "Popular Illustrated Guide to Canadian Coins, Medals, etc." by P. Napoleon Breton (1912). To the left can be found older hand written correspondence, sealing wax and a brass encased clock in the form of a bank building. The right hand

side shows a framed portrait of Alfred Sandham. This will be the first time his portrait will have been seen by most Canadian numismatists.

The face of the multicolored note prominently displays "2 Dollars" in the upper left. To the lower left appear the words "Buy the book before the coin - Achetez le. Uvre avant la pièce", the theme chosen for Coin Month '99. A banner at the top and bottom of the face of the note repeats the words "Coin Month Canada - October '99" and "Mois de la Monnaie Canada - Octobre '99" respectively.

The signatures of Bill Waychison and Claude Bernard, Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson respectively for Coin Month Canada '99, appear above the lower banner and complete the design of the face of the note. On a white panel on the right side of the face is a seal of authenticity (similar to the Optically Variable Device "OVD" found on Canadian currency), embossed with the letters CNA ACN, as well as a watermark of the Coin Month Canada '99 logo.

The back of the note retains the format of the two previous souvenir \$2 issues and is presented in a vertical sense. The

underprint design portrays a close up view of three period medals and an aged sepia photograph of the Chateau Ramezay, all located on a lace mat on a wooden desk. Overprinted on this image are the names of numerous Canadian numismatic clubs and societies that are members of the Canadian Numismatic Association. Above the image appears the URL for the Coin Month Canada '99 Internet site [www.mlink.net/~graphx/cmc-mm](http://www.mlink.net/~graphx/cmc-mm) while below is the serial number (99001, etc.) and the imprint of the printer: GraphX of Quebec City.

The three medals shown on the reverse include the obverse of an 1860 medal displaying the bust of the then Prince of Wales (later Edward VII). This white metal piece is illustrated in Sandham's publication as medal number 20 (LeRoux #935) and was issued to commemorate the Prince's visit to Canada in 1860.

The other two medals have a more direct relationship to Alfred Sandham. The



bronze medal (LeRoux #1881) was issued in 1873 in celebration of the inauguration of the new building constructed for the Montreal Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). The reverse of the medal which is shown, includes the name of Alfred Sandham as Secretary of the Montreal YMCA along with the names of other officers and committee members for the years 1871-72. Sandham was the full time secretary of the Montreal branch

(Continued on page 4)



## The Last Emperor of the United States by Edward C. Rochette

Fantasy is an ideal escape for a mind broken by financial disaster. Joshua Abraham Norton fancied himself Emperor of the United States and the Protector of Mexico. With the assumed sovereignty due royalty he even issued his own currency, which was accepted at face by his "subjects."

English born, Norton came to San Francisco in 1849 from the Cape of Good Hope. While others used the city as their base for sojourns to the Mother Lode country, Norton sought his fortune in real estate. Within three years he was one of the wealthy men about town. Next he planned to corner the rice market but failed, and disappeared from the city for five years.

Early in the fall of 1859 he returned — but not as Joshua Norton. He was now Norton I, by a proclamation he issued:

*"At the peremptory request and desire of a large majority of the citizens of the United States, I, Joshua Norton, formerly of Algoa Bay, Cape of Good Hope, now for the past nine years and ten months of San Francisco, declare and proclaim myself Emperor of these United States. Norton I"*

For the next twenty years he was costumed in a blue uniform complete with military epaulets, dress sword and silk cockade hat. San Francisco, known for its hospitality then as now, accepted not only Norton I, but the money and bonds he issued to sustain himself. Newspapers

gave wide coverage to his edicts and escapades. Bank cashiers had strict orders to accept his currency if presented in reasonable sums. His entourage consisted of two mongrel dogs, Bummer and Lazarus. Together they dined not lavishly but at least generously at the free lunch bars of the cities saloons.

Norton became such a part of the city that the Board of Supervisors paid for new uniforms out of the city treasury. His castle was a Sacramento Street rooming house, the rent for which was a budgeted item of the local Masonic lodge. He held court in the California Street offices of Wells Fargo and Company, when few customers were around. When he died in 1880, 10,000 attended his services, local and state officials and dignitaries among them.

Today his notes are extremely rare. None is know in denominations larger than fifty cents, or four bits of the day. In banker's terms the currency might be described as promissory notes, for they proclaimed that

*"The Imperial Government of Norton I promises to pay the holder thereof the sum of Fifty Cents in the year 1880 with interest at 5 per cent. per annum from date, the principal and interest to be convertible, at the option of the holder, at maturity, into 20 years, 5 per cent. bonds, or payable in gold coin."*

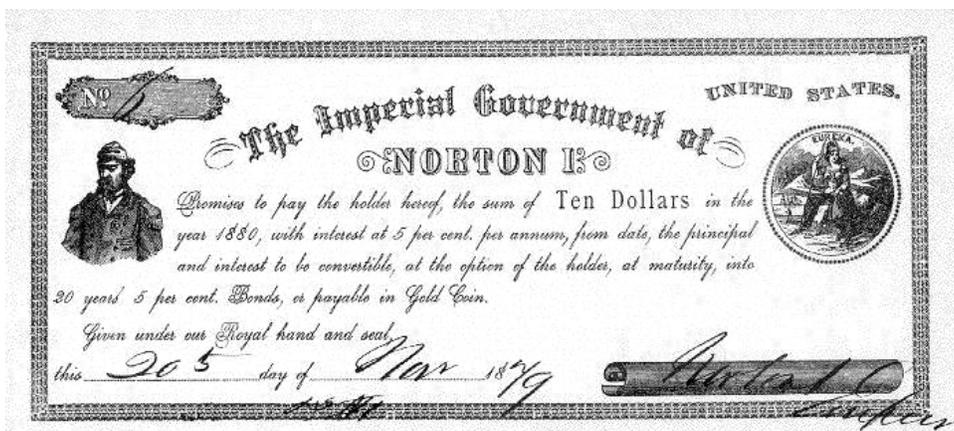
The notes were then dated and signed by



Himself

Norton, legal tender of his imperial reign and penned evidence of the benevolence of the citizens of San Francisco.

*This is one of many interesting stories contained in Mr. Edward C. Rochette's book "Making Money", published in 1986 by Renaissance House.*



## The USA's First and Only Emperor

Emperor Norton was not born into royalty. In fact, he was just another nobody like the rest of us. Although no exact birth record can be found, Joshua Abraham Norton was born to Jewish parents in London in 1818 (some claim 1819). At the age of two years, his parents picked up and moved the entire family to the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa.



Somehow, Joshua managed to wind up in San Francisco in 1849. This was Gold Rush time in California and Joshua Norton was there to stake his claim by selling supplies to the miners. By 1853, Norton was worth an estimated quarter of a million dollars through his various mercantile and land deals. He was a wealthy man, even by today's standards.

During this period of time, China was experiencing a terrible famine and placed a ban on the export of rice. The price of rice in San Francisco climbed from four cents to thirty-six cents per pound. Norton then heard the words that would change his life forever — a ship with two-hundred thousand pounds of rice was arriving from Peru. He knew exactly what to do - purchase all of the rice and control the market. Surely the price of rice would sky-

rocket and Norton would reap all of the profits.

Well, Norton gambled his fortune on December 22, 1852 and lost. Ship after ship of Peruvian rice showed up in port over the next few weeks and the price of rice plummeted. Norton was in debt and was forced to declare bankruptcy in 1858. Yes, Joshua A. Norton was now penniless.

In the months following his bankruptcy,

Norton seemed to disappear off the face of the Earth. But, this would all change on September 17th of 1859. The United States was about to crown its first emperor. Because, on that date, Joshua A. Norton appeared at the offices of the San Francisco Evening Bulletin with his proclamation naming and proclaiming himself Emperor. The editor of the paper, Deacon Fitch, was amused by Norton's claim and decided to run the story in the paper.

Almost immediately, people began to take notice. No one really believed that he was the Emperor of the United States, but they saw no harm in playing along.

His uniform consisted of an old donated army coat and boots. Add to that his famous hat with feathers, a donated sword, and assorted imperial epaulettes and you have one very royal emperor.

The Emp (as those close to him called him) proudly walked the streets of San Francisco. While on these excursions, he set out to rid the world of its ills. He simply ruled by decree. For example, on the verge of the Civil War, he abolished the Union. If you thought that taxes were too high, he ordered them lowered (don't you wish that he was around today?).

Newspapers competed to publish his proclamations. They did this for one very good reason — the proclamations sold more papers. When the papers needed to boost circulation, they simply made up new Norton proclamations.

Businesses also reaped the benefits of the Emp's presence. If a clothier wanted to sell more clothing, he simply placed a sign in the window stating that the store was the Official Clothier of Emperor Norton (whether they actually did or not). If you wanted to see more patrons in your restaurant, you claimed that the Emperor ate there. You get the idea. Sounds like the "George Wash-

*(Continued on page 7)*

(Continued from page 6)

ington Slept Here” scheme that they have on the eastern coast of the United States.

Soon the word spread about the Emperor. People visiting the city purchased statues, postcards, and other souvenirs of the Emp. Yes, he became the city’s first tourist trap.

Unlike most rulers, Emperor Norton did his best to stay in touch with his people. He attended every public function and meeting (a large upholstered chair was always reserved for him in the state legislature). He never had a chauffeured coach — he always walked or rode his bicycle. He patrolled the streets making sure that the police were doing their jobs. If he saw someone performing a kind act, he would ennoble them. His crowning of the common folk with titles was very popular among the children - they would follow him picking up litter and doing kind deeds in the hope of being crowned king or queen for a day (some claim that this is where the expression comes from).

Emperor Norton did not have the fortune that most other rulers possess, either. However, his expenses were few. He was allowed to dine for free in any restaurant of his choice. Three seats at the opening of every theatrical performance were reserved for the Emperor and his two dogs, Lazarus and Bummer. The local Masonic Lodge (of which he was once a member) paid for his small apartment. The city apparently picked up the costs of his uniform.

For money, Norton issued his own imperial bonds - usually issued in values from fifty cents to two dollars. These notes were actually produced by the printing firm of Cuddy & Hughes. Each note allowed the bearer to collect the face value plus seven percent interest at maturity — which was apparently in the year 1900. Today, the bonds are quite rare and are worth a good chunk of

money.

Even the best of Emperors cannot live forever. Emperor Norton died on January 8, 1880. The New York Times reported that he “dropped dead at the corner of California and Dupont streets, in that city”. He was on his way to a scientific conference.

Emperor Norton’s funeral was attended by a reported thirty thousand people. Police had to be called in to control the crowds. He was buried in the city’s Masonic cemetery.

In 1934, his remains had to be moved to Woodlawn cemetery in Colma. Fifty-four years after his death, he still captured the imagination of San Francisco. Flags throughout the city were lowered and businesses actually closed their doors in his honor. Approximately sixty thousand people attended the ceremony which featured full military honors. His new granite tombstone was engraved “Norton I, Emperor of the United States, Protector of Mexico, Joshua A. Norton, 1819-1880”. There are no quotation marks on the tombstone.

Many have come to question Norton’s sanity. Did he really believe that he was Emperor? Or, did he have every one fooled into thinking that he was. Sane or not, he offers an example that modern politicians should be forced to study.



## Canada's September Millennium Coin Sees "Canada Through a Child's Eye"

### Beauport, Quebec August 27, 1999 —

Today, the Honorable Denis Coderre, Secretary of State (Amateur Sport), acting on behalf of the Minister of Public Works and Government Services and Minister responsible for the Royal Canadian Mint, and Mrs. Danielle Wetherup, President of the Mint, came here to launch the September 1999 Millennium 25-cent coin.

This coin, entitled: "Canada Through a Child's Eye", is the work of a Beauport, Quebec, Grade 5 student, Claudia Bertrand. At age 10, Claudia Bertrand is the youngest person ever to have designed a Canadian coin. Her design was chosen from among more than 60,000 designs submitted to the Royal Canadian Mint.

"Claudia's design illustrates, in all simplicity, the value she places upon friendship and sharing", pointed out Mr. Coderre. "She reminds all Canadians of the importance of preserving those values and of working together to build a country where children of the future can grow and flourish".

"The Royal Canadian Mint is very proud to showcase this design, because it reminds us all that the past is the harbinger of the future and that sharing and understanding create solid, enduring ties", added Mrs. Wetherup. "It is very encouraging to know that we will be entering the new millennium flanked by such talented young people as Claudia and her classmates".

The contest aimed to encourage Canadians — of all ages, all walks of life — to celebrate the arrival of the new millennium by submitting a design based on the theme "Drawing on the past. Designing our future", evoking key aspects of Canada's history and their expectations for the next millennium. The twelve designs chosen for the 1999 series highlight the milestones and achievements Canadians consider to be the turning points in Canadian history.



### About the Artist

Claudia is a bright and determined young girl. For the last two years, she has been involved in TIC, an extra-curricular program focusing on advanced technology and its every-day applications.

When she was in Grade 3, Claudia received an award of excellence for academic achievement. Claudia leads an active life. In winter, she has played on a co-ed hockey team for the last three years. During the summer, she belongs to a girls' soccer team — another three-year sports tradition!

Claudia's interests are broad and far-reaching: When she saw the ad for the Royal Canadian Mint's coin design contest in the mail, she decided to submit an entry. She is very proud of being selected as a winner. Claudia wanted to show people holding hands symbolizing friendship and peace. But when asked who the people are, she identified family members. This vision has been expanded in the coin design to apply to our entire country.