

“The Bulletin” November/ December, 2001

President’s Message

Following the practice started last year, we are again crowding news of two meetings into one issue of *The Bulletin*. Be sure to keep this issue around to remind you of the December meeting which is just two short weeks following the November meeting.

You should mark December 11 on the calendar and plan on joining us for the annual Christmas Party. See details to the right and on page 3.

Once again the Club will support The J. D. Ferguson Foundation with a \$50.00 donation and the Numismatic Educational Services Association (NESA) with a \$100.00 donation. This year the NESA donation is being increased and is made in memory of Harvey Farrow, who we continue to miss since his passing last January.

It is now time to renew your membership for the next year. Please bring the renewal enclosed with this mailing to Len Kuenzig at the next meeting or send it in by mail.

Here’s another important reminder: The Bulletin needs your help in the form of

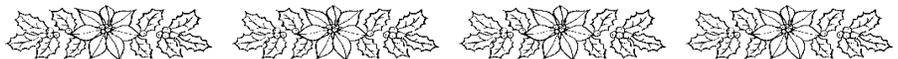
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Canada’s Other Money

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on **Tuesday, November 26, 2001**, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive. We start gathering about 7:30pm with meeting start scheduled for 8:00.

This meeting will be a “Canadian Tire” night with Roger Fox relating his experiences in working with the Bank of Canada’s Money Museum and the Canadian Tire Corporation in bringing the special exhibit “The Story of Canadian Tire ‘Money’” into existence. The members of the Canadian Tire Coupon Collectors Club worked very hard to make the exhibit a reality and Roger, as President, had some special responsibilities. Come to the meeting and get all the news.

Once again we have a small listed auction. This month it is comprised of only books. You are encouraged to bring additional auction material for this meeting as well as items to go into a listed auction for the January, 2002 meeting.



The December meeting of the Club will be held on **Tuesday, December 11, at 7:30pm**. Notice the December meeting is switched to a Tuesday this year and we start at an earlier time, because it is our annual Christmas Party. To supplement the purchased Swiss Chalet food (see page 3 about placing your order), we also appreciate whatever family specialties including salads, cookies, cakes, etc. you are able to donate to the “pot luck” buffet table. Because the room is set for dinner, we’re sorry but there will be no dealer tables at this meeting.

If you want to participate in the optional gift exchange, please bring along a numismatic or non-numismatic gift with a value of around \$6 or \$7. Exchange of the gifts will be sequenced by draw. We will also be holding our usual lucky draw.

In place of the question of the month we are planning a special quiz activity, so come prepared for something that’s a bit different, but entertaining all the same. Following the approach started last year, we will have a few prizes for the top players.

***Next Meeting: November 27
Christmas Party: December 11, 7:30pm***

Meeting News from the October 23 Meeting

The 467th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, October 23, 2001 at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Dr., Willowdale, Ont.

The President, Paul Petch, opened the meeting at 8:02 p.m. and welcomed 28 members and 1 guest. Paul Johnson was present to accept the magnificent On Time Attendance Draw pot of \$2.00. It was pointed out that an error was made in last month's bulletin and that our new member's name is Mark Lane.

At the request of the Secretary, the Chair read the minutes of the September 25, 2001 meeting. After correcting "Canadian Tire display at the Mint" to read "at the National Currency Museum" the minutes were accepted by the Chair.

It was announced that the next Executive meeting would be held on Tuesday, November 13, and that Len is accepting dues and payments for the Christmas Dinner (\$6.00 and \$8.00 as before).

The coming events were listed. John Regitko spoke briefly about his time and the activity at the Stratford Show. John also provided free copies of Canadian Coin News at the meeting.

Further to Roger Fox's Canadian Tire news last month, he reported the display successfully opened on October 18 and will run through to January 20. He gave a brief but enthusiastic account of the presentation and how well it was received, particularly by the kids.

Norm Belsten stated CAWMC had planned to auction off Harvey Farrows' woods at the C.N.A. convention but, as the attendance was so poor, they decided to list them in their Timbertalk publication as a mail auction. To date they have received some very good bids. Bids will be accepted up to December 15.

The club has received a signed, complimentary copy of James Charlton's latest "Coinman to Canadians" for our archives. A thank you goes to Jim Charlton for re-

membering us. John Regitko advised he has autographed copies for sale.

A most enjoyable time was had during the member's participation part of the programme. There was great banter, much laughter and oohs and aahs as the following participated.

- **Dick Dunn** spoke on and displayed "paste-ups" for proposed bank notes.
- **George Fraser** showed a craft item paper shirt made from US currency.
- **Paul Johnson** presented two beautiful books on English coins that he purchased this summer.
- **Bill McDonald** spoke on ancient coins mentioned in the Bible and passed around two of them.
- **Marvin Kay** presented his new collection of coins on stamps, showed how he devised a box for organizing his so-called junk and made a plea for "45" items for his up-coming 45th Anniversary.
- **Mark Argentino** passed around his latest polymer notes and stated up to 22 countries are producing them.
- **Jim Heifetz** told a funny story about his son's "very valuable" purchase at the Torex show.

The members much appreciated the effort put into these presentations.

Avram Zak would like to contact the man who collects old phonograph records. Please contact the President if you spoke to Avram about acquiring his old records.

On this warm October evening, the cold drinks served by Roger Fox for the break were much enjoyed.

The Lucky Draw and the auction of 6 lots were run alternatively. Lucky Draw winners were: Jean Orr, Ron Zelk(2), Bill McDonald, Roger Fox, Avner Bar-Moshe, Paul Petch(2) Avram Zak, Marco Farronato, Jim Heifetz, Vince Chiappino and John Regitko. The draw by Roger Fox with Albert Kasman selling the tickets brought proceeds amounting to \$26.00. The auction, run by Bob Porter with the assistance of

President's Message. . .

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original articles, clippings or suggestions for reprints! The Editor tries to cover a wide range of interests, but your contribution is needed to ensure that your special interest is being represented.

The Club continues to collect the e-mail addresses of all members. If you are now on the Internet, send an e-mail to Paul Petch and let him know at p.petch@rogers.com. This is a new e-mail address which replaces any old address you may have effective November 23, 2001. Phone calls are welcome at the cell number **416-303-4417** or the home number **416-745-3067** (leave a voice message if you can't get through).

While it is a little early, I wish to extend very best wishes to all members and their families, especially the ones we don't see regularly at meetings, for a Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah from all the members of the Club executive and myself.

Coming Events

Coin-A-Rama, Niagara Falls, Nov. 24, 9am-4pm at Our Lady of Peace Hall, 6944 Stanley Ave. Highlights include free gold draw, free parking. Admission \$2. Contact NICF, (905) 356-5006.

Ontario Numismatic Association Annual Convention, Bourse floor April 13-14 at the London Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 1150 Wellington Rd. South. Admission \$3. Hosted by the Ingersoll Coin Club.

This information is courtesy of Canadian Coin News and its web site.

Paul Petch, earned a commission of \$3.90. A special thank you goes to Rick Craig for his donations.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:50 p.m.

November Meeting Auction List

Starts at

- 1) A nearly complete set of Canadian Numismatic Association Journals from 1956 to 1993, property of C.N.A. Past President Dr. John S. Wilkinson. Approximately a dozen issues are missing. A donation auction lot for the club with thanks to Alice Wilkinson. \$200.00
- 2) A section of the above lot, only if it is unsold. If no bid is made for item 1, then the years 1956 through 1962 inclusive will be offered as a lot. The total estimate for the years 1956-1962 is \$100.00 \$25.00
- 3) Three paperback booklets: "A Guide to Collecting English Banknotes", 73 pages "Bank of England Treasury Notes 1694-1970" by D. M. Miller, 47 pages "Collect British Banknotes" by Colin Narbeth, 54 pages Est. \$15.00 \$5.00
- 4) "Roman Coins and Their Values", 1974 ed. by David Sear. Est. \$30.00 ... \$10.00
- 5) "Numismatic Ottawa" edited by R. Paul Nadin-Davis and Franc Fesco, published by the City of Ottawa Coin Club, 1982, bound in card cover. A donation to the Club. Est. \$12.00 \$4.00
- 6) "The Early Period of Coin Collecting, English Coins – Edward II (back) to 130 B.C." is the third volume in Margaret Amstell's trilogy *A Start to Coin Collecting*, 80 pages, 1969. A donation to the Club. Est. \$12.00 \$4.00

Listed Auctions

Bring any material you would like to sell by listed auction in January, 2002 to the November or December meeting and give it to Rick Craig. The items should be presented for consideration in person in an ordinary envelope showing your name, phone number and your estimated value (i.e., reserve bid). Rick is assisting us by assuring consistent descriptions of quality and by pegging fair starting amounts for the listing in the bulletin.

December Meeting Food Selection



The Club will once again go to Swiss Chalet for food for our meeting on December 11. The two dinner choices are:

- 1. **Quarter Chicken Festive Dinner Special** with white or dark meat (includes the chocolate treat) member price is \$6, the Club pays the balance.
- 2. **½ BBQ Back Ribs** member price is \$8, the Club pays the balance.

With each dinner you get sauce, roll, plus your choice of
A. French fries B. Baked potato C. Rice.

Please select \$6 for chicken or \$8 for ribs, stating your choice of Ribs or Chicken with white or dark meat and fries, potato or rice to Treasurer Len Kuenzig at the November meeting. You should notify Paul Petch by phone at **416-303-4417** or by e-mail at **p.petch@rogers.com** by noon on Sunday, December 9 if you either decide to attend or discover you must cancel. Thanks to Len/Paul for taking the orders and to Ron Zelk for handling the pick up.

THE VICTORIA CROSS by Marvin Kay, NYCC #400

The Victoria Cross is one of the world's most prestigious military decorations. It was established by Queen Victoria and was to be awarded to military personnel "for conspicuous bravery... in the presence of the enemy"



Of the 93 Canadians who have won the Victoria Cross in the past, I am specifically interested in four who were physicians.

The first Canadian physician who won the Victoria Cross did so during the Indian Mutiny in 1857. His name was **Herbert Taylor Reade**. Reade was born in Perth, Upper Canada, in 1828 and he obtained his medical education in Quebec and Dublin. He was appointed assistant-surgeon of the Gloucester Regiment and served on the Peshawar Frontier in India. Reade won his Victoria Cross on September 14, 1857 for his bravery and heroism in the face of the enemy. Reade used his sword to defend his patients against rebel insurgents in his hospital ward. During retirement he was the Honorary Surgeon to Queen Victoria. He died in England in 1897.



Herbert Taylor Reade in India

The next Canadian physician to win the Victoria Cross was **Campbell Millis Douglas**. Born in Quebec in 1840, Douglas received his MD from the University of Edinburgh in 1861. Douglas won his Victoria Cross in 1867 while serving in India with the 24th Regiment of Foot. He risked his life to save 17 officers and men under siege on an island in the Bay of Bengal. After leaving the military, he practiced medicine in Lakefield, Ontario. In 1885 he rejoined the military to serve as a physician during the Riel rebellion. Dr. Douglas died in England in 1909. Dr. Douglas' medal now resides in the museum of Canadian Forces Base Borden.

Francis Alexander Caron Scrimger



was born in Montreal in 1880. He graduated from McGill in 1905 and pursued postgraduate studies in Germany and Austria. In the First World War Scrimger was

a medical officer with the Royal Montreal Regiment. According to the citation "when in charge of an advance medical station in farm buildings which were

heavily shelled by the enemy, he directed the removal of the wounded out of the stable in search of a place of greater safety". It was in this same battle that the Germans first used mustard gas. About a year before his death in 1937, Scrimger was appointed surgeon-in-chief of the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal.

The final Victoria Cross physician is **Bellenden S. Hutcheson**. He was born in Mount Carmel, Illinois, in 1883. Hutcheson graduated from Northwestern Medical School in Chicago. Although he was born and raised in the USA, his name is included here because he enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in the First World War. He won his Victoria Cross on September 2, 1918, just months before the armistice took effect. After the war, Hutcheson returned to Cairo, Illinois, where he practiced until his death in 1954.



General

Ever since its institution the Cross has been supplied by the well-known London jewellers, Messrs. Hancocks and Co., now of Burlington Gardens London W1. The Cross and suspender are first cast in gunmetal and then chased and finished by hand; from 1914 to 1950 a die-cast suspender was used. The metal is taken from guns captured from the Russians in the Crimean War although during and after the First World War it is fairly certain that metal from captured Chinese guns was used for a short period. The components of the decoration are then treated chemically to obtain the uniform dark brown finish which is darker on some issues than on others. The Cross is 1.375 inches wide and, together with the suspender bar and link, weighs about 0.87 ounces troy, although chasing and finishing may cause slight variation in these figures. The design of the Cross is attributed to H.H. Armstead who at the time of its inception was working for Hancocks, the design then being approved by the Queen.

Ribbon

Crimson (described as red in the Warrents), 1.5 inches wide. Originally the ribbon was dark blue or the Royal Navy and crimson for the Army. Shortly before the Royal Air Force was formed on 1st April 1918 the King approved the recommendation that what had been the Army ribbon should be adopted by all recipients. When the ribbon is worn alone a miniature of the Cross is pinned on it, a bar being indicated by a second miniature worn beside the first (when first approved in 1916, a single miniature indicated the award of a bar; from 1917 this was changed to the current configuration).

Suspension

By a straight bar, slotted for the ribbon, with a V-lug below, made in one piece. The front of the bar is ornamented with laurels (the die-cast bars having the leaves set more closely together), and the reverse engraved with details of the recipient. The Cross and suspender bar

are joined by a small link which passes through the lugs of both components. On earlier issues the link is completely circular and the inside bottom of the V-lug slightly recessed to accommodate it. Later the link was made oval and the lug not recessed.

Obverse

In reality the Cross is not a Maltese Cross, as it is described in the Royal Warrents, but is closer to a cross patté.

Reverse

The date (or dates), of the act of gallantry is engraved in the centre circle.

Bars

This is based on the suspender bar but without the V-lug, ribbon and frame above. The reverse is engraved with details of the recipient and the date or dates of the act.

Naming

Details of the recipient are engraved in capital letters on the reverse of the suspender bar, and the date or dates of the act of gallantry in the centre circle of the reverse of the Cross. The style of engraving varies although, generally speaking, the use of serifs seem to have been discontinued during the South African War (Boer) War. However, King Edward VII having approved posthumous issues, some comparatively modern Crosses exist which were awarded for services performed many years before. Sometimes the inscription is of the same colour as the decoration itself. The latter practise seems to have been more general before the Boer War although thereafter no particular pattern is apparent.

The details on the suspender bar include the rank, name and regiment, or other description of the recipient. Abbreviations are used, according to the length of the inscription, and during the First World War the practise of adding the regimental or equivalent number in the case of recipients below commissioned rank was introduced. Occasionally the recipient's full (or abbreviated) first names appear. The First World War and later inscriptions tend to be fuller than those appearing previously. The details on the reverse of the Cross give the date or dates of the act concerned, the month usually being abbreviated.

Re-issues

Occasionally a recipient has been issued with a replacement which, in itself, cannot readily be detected, although suspicion may be aroused if the accompanying medals are themselves replacement issues. Hancocks are able to say if a replacement has been issued.

Copies and Fakes

Various types of copy exist, some cast examples being very well made indeed. However, due to the cooling of the metal in the mould, they are slightly smaller than the genuine Crosses and not of the correct weight. Nevertheless, Hancocks do not consider the weight of great importance as the thickness of the decoration can vary, especially with early issues. Some copies are struck from dies which, together with some of those cast, are poorly finished and of too light a colour. On one type of copy the sides of the suspender bar are not straight but have a curved excrescence either side of the ribbon slot, while another type has V-shaped niches at either end of the ribbon slot. Some years ago a particularly well-made copy appeared on the market; in this, however, the inner diameter of the centre circle of the reverse is 14mm which is too wide and hence relatively easily recognisable. Some copies have been faked by the addition of details of actual recipients although usually the engraving is of poor quality. Hancocks can almost invariably state whether a Cross is genuine or not.

*The information on this page
was reprinted from*

British Gallantry Awards

by PE Abbott & JMA Tamplin

Question of the Month

For the November question we are going to do something a bit different. The piece pictured below was donated to the Club by Bill McDonald who has no idea where it came from or what its background may be. The person suggesting the best identifying information for the piece wins it for their collection! By the way, at the time of writing, your editor has no great insight either.



The October question of the month was actually answered a few months ago during Del Newbigging's presentation on medals. If you've been attending meetings and have a good memory you don't have to be a specialist in the subject to know "Who is generally recognized as being the first medallist?" May Bunnett had the right answer which she took from the first issue of the Newsletter of the Medallic Art Society of Canada. Here is a reprint of that article.

Pisanello: The First Medallist

The John VII Palaeologus medal has a shroud of tantalizing mystery about it. We do know that it was by the hand of Pisanello. It bears all of his artistic trademarks: the strength of his three dimensional modelling, his genius of composition and the delicate articulation of space. His use of tranquil yet haunting landscape as a canvas for the reverse is also a classic Pisanello trademark.

That Pisanello never abandoned his roots as a painter is evidenced by his signature on his medals. He consistently signed his work "OPVS PISANI PICTORIS" (The work of Pisanello the painter). Pisanello's development from a multi-faceted International Gothic Style artist to Renaissance medallist was a natural one. Having been able to witness the Renaissance unfolding during his lifetime allowed Pisanello the opportunity to respond to his thirst for beauty and intellect in his work. Pisanello's medals had a profound influence on his contemporaries as well as those who followed, even six hundred years later.

