

“The Bulletin” August, 2002

President’s Message

I'm pleased to pass along the news that a fellow Club member, John Regitko, is the successful applicant for the position of C.N.A. Executive Secretary. Paul Petch tells me that Ken Prophet, the former incumbent, passed away peacefully in the early hours of June 26, a victim of cancer. Ken's friends will be pleased to know that while a private family service was held immediately following his death, a memorial tribute was presented by C.N.A. Past President Earl Soltario as a part of the annual C.N.A. banquet proceedings.

We have now received our meeting permits for the 2002-2003 season. Remember that this is a special **Wednesday** meeting for August, but we return to meeting on Tuesday on September 24. Executive Committee members are reminded of our first meeting coming up on Tuesday, September 10.

If you are now on the Internet, please send an e-mail to the editor at **“p.petch@rogers.com”**. This will allow us to send you any last-minute emergency announcements. You may contact the President, Bob Wilson, at **905-677-3765** or the Editor, Paul Petch at **416-303-4417**.

***Next Meeting:
August 21***

A Summer Club Meeting

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on **Wednesday, August 21, 2002**, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive. We start gathering about 7:30pm with meeting start scheduled for 8:00.

While some Toronto clubs shut down completely for the summer months, we have been able to arrange a meeting on the one night of the week that Edithvale is open. In keeping with the summer season, our August meeting is laid back and lazy, with lots of news from the C.N.A. Convention held from July 12 to 14.

There is no listed auction this month, so you are encouraged to bring your material for this meeting. Hope to see you there.

Coming Events

28th Annual Collingwood Coin and Stamp Show, August 17, 9am-3:30pm at 100 Minnesota St. (between the Police Fire Complex and Cinema 4). Free admission, parking and draw for door prizes, snack bar, 22 dealer tables for all collecting interests. Contact Steve Morris coin_prez@hotmail.com or Show Chair Horst Baulke brho_hobo@hotmail.com

Thirteenth Annual Woodstock Coin Club Show, September 8, 9am-4pm at the South Gate Centre, 191 Old Wellington St. S. Door prizes and displays, admission \$1, children free. Contact Woodstock Coin Club (519) 451-2316.

Guelph Coin Show presented by South Wellington Coin Society and Waterloo Coin Society, September 21, 9:30am-4:30pm at the Col. John McCrae Royal

Canadian Legion, 919 York Rd., Hwy. 7. More than 35 dealer tables, penny draw prizes.

10th Annual London Coin Show, September 22, 9:30am-4:30pm, Ramada Inn, 817 Exeter Rd., off Hwy 401. Admission \$1. Contact Ted Leitch at (519) 472-9679.

Tillsonburg Coin Show, October 6, 9am-4pm at the Tillsonburg Community Centre Complex, 45 Hardy Ave. Admission \$1. Contact Wayne MacFarlane, (519) 842-6666.

Burlington Fall Show, October 12, 9am-4pm at the Brant Hills Community Centre, 2300 Duncaster Dr. Free admission and parking. Contact Nancy Merideth (705) 788-3159.

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

Meeting News from the June 25 Meeting

The 475th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, June 25, 2002 at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Dr., Willowdale, Ont.

The President, Bob Wilson, opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m. and welcomed 18 members and 7 guests.

We were sorry that May Bunnett was able to attend to collect the \$2.00 pot in the On Time Attendance Draw. There's \$4 for the member in attendance with their membership name badge on for the August meeting.

At the request of the Secretary, Len Kenzig read the minutes of the May 28, 2002 meeting which were then accepted as read.



An Application for Membership has been received from Dallas McPhee of Richmond Hill. If accepted his number will be J517. The Mint Box was passed to two juniors. Mark Argentino announced he is willing to pay double face value for any \$5.00 (blue bird) bills having the ANU prefix.

Roger Fox gave a favourable report on Torex and noted this show will move to Novotel Downtown, 45 The Esplanade in October. This will allow more space for show expansion. Paul Petch noted that during the Ancient Coin meeting Bruce Brace gave a marvelous presentation on early Greek coins. Paul also attended the splendid Brantford Show which was held in an air-conditioned arena and had lots

of dealers.

The Chair announced he has nominated Norm Belsten as Delegate to the C.N.A. Convention in Vancouver.

The Chair proudly introduced Bob Porter as guest speaker for the evening. Bob recalled his experiences during World War II when he was assigned to a corvette and later to a mine sweeper and, more particularly, his participation in the D-Day landing of June 6, 1944. Various countries issued AMC's (Allied Military Currency) which were given to all personnel who participated in the invasion. Bob started his interest in collecting with these notes, which he was able to trade for his ration cigarettes. Paul Petch had on hand a copy of the current National Geographic maga-

zine featuring an article on D-Day. There was interesting interaction from the floor and a very warm response to Bob's amazing story. With many thanks, on behalf of the members, the Chair presented Bob with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Roger Fox spoke briefly on the new Canadian Tire \$1 bill which has recently been released. He advised there is a new plate series for 2002 because there is a new president.

Refreshments served by Roger were most welcome on this very warm evening.

Lucky Draw winners were: Mr. Tanli (?), Christine McPhee, Paul Petch(5),



Bob Porter recounts his experiences on D-Day

Franco Farronato(2), Bob Wilson, Del Murchison, Bob Porter, Bob Velensky (2), Mark Argentino and Lucille Colson. The draw was called by Roger Fox with Albert Kasman selling the tickets and brought proceeds amounting to \$28.00.

An auction of 9 lots was ably run by Bob Porter with the clerical assistance of Mark Argentino and with Vince Chiappino as runner and earned a commission of \$2.65.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.46 p.m.



Question of the Month

For the August Question of the Month, we have a very simple question: for how long have people been collecting coins? That is, when were the first coin collections formed?

The June Question of the Month asked for interesting stories about the new fifty cent pieces. Paul Petch, Paul Johnson, Marvin Kay, Albert Kasman, Bob Wilson and Mark Argentino all had tales to tell about people's reaction and acceptance. The coin is both a traditional and a commemorative.

Since the meeting, your editor had a group of Mexicans and a priest from Alaska visiting for World Youth Day. All visitors were presented with one of the 50-cent pieces as a souvenir of their visit to Canada.

Listed Auctions

Bring any material you would like to sell by listed auction in September to the August 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.

Numismatics on the Open Road

Even when traveling and getting away from it all, the hobby just refuses take a break as well.

I was in Dwight, just outside the Algonquin Park west gate, going into the post office to buy some stamps for a few post cards. It came as no surprise to find there were a few Royal Canadian Mint products for sale, just as you would see at any local post office around the city.

What was very different was the enthusiasm that the postmaster had for her numismatic products. In addition to the few items in a display case, there were numerous other items sitting out, freely available to be picked up and inspected.

On the counter was a 2001 3-cent coin and stamp set along with a 2002 silver dollar. Beside the cash register was a 2002 proof set and over on top of the display case were, among other items, 1999 and 2000 sterling 25-cent commemorative sets. On impulse, I decided to purchase the coin and stamp set and found that in addition to the set on display, she had

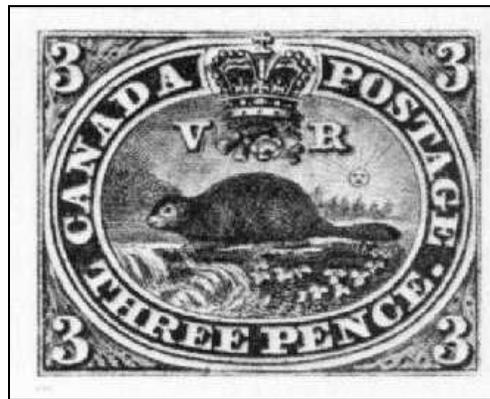
two other sets in stock, still in their shrink wrap, which she took from a huge safe in the corner of the room.

I asked if she sold very much numismatic material, and she said, "Yes, it is very popular around here. I have a standing order for particular series and some of my customers request that I assemble a standard series of products for them each year."

So, I was surprised to find there is a different kind of collector from the ones I normally meet at the club meetings and coin shows I attend. This new collector takes great satisfaction in adding

new mint products as they are released and accumulates them without concern for their ultimate rarity or future value: they are simply fun to own.

In the organized hobby, we all have great respect for the specific collecting interests of our friends and fellow club members. It looks like it is time to extend that respect to the collectors of RCM non-circulation coins as well.



Here are two views of the Vancouver harbour, site of the Renaissance Hotel and the C.N.A. 2002 Convention. On the left are the office buildings and hotels which crowd the scenic port area. Below is a view from the hotel window of Canada Place and a cruise ship just coming into port.



Unique Woods Commemorate Toronto Friendship

I'm sure that every one of us looks forward to our monthly club meetings, even if the calendar's cycle sometimes brings us two meetings in a single week. This story is about a meeting with a difference.



Once a month, through every season and all sorts of weather, a group of Toronto collectors have been meeting for lunch and coin talk at The Feathers, a British-style pub in the Beaches neighbourhood. The meeting site distinguishes itself by its fine selection of draught beers, fine food and the largest selection (300+ and growing) of single malt scotches in the country!

This is a coin meeting of the old style, before the need for a President, Secretary, Treasurer or even a meeting hall.

The only dues is the money you bring to buy your lunch and everyone serves as guest speaker with their collecting news and recent numismatic acquisitions.

A quantity of 200 commemorative woods were produced by North York Coin Club member Norm Belsten. The crest of The Feathers appears on the obverse with its location, TORONTO, above. The reverse shows the words NUMISMATIC above and OLD BOYS below. It is personalized with the signature of a group member.

Regular attendees include (see the picture below and follow from upper left to lower right) James Bakes, Editor of the Classical and Medieval Numismatic Society (CMNS) Journal, William McDonald, reformed paper money collector now devoting his attention to ancient coins in the period 100 B.C. to 100 A.D., Robert Gait, CMNS Governor, and accomplished mushroom artist, Paul Petch, your editor, Scott Cavalier a

former member of Metro Council and Keith Aiken, a long time member of the Toronto Coin Club as well as The Bootmakers, the local group researching the writings of John Watson on his longtime friend, Mr. Sherlock Holmes.



As Graham Esler observed at the ONA Banquet in 2002, here are some people who understand that friendships are treasured long after numismatic material is gone.



Professor James Russell Speaks at C.N.A. C.M.N.S Meeting

Professor James Russell of the University of British Columbia was the keynote speaker at the Annual General Meeting of the Classical & Medieval Numismatic Society held during the C.N.A. Convention in Vancouver, Friday, July 12 at 2pm.

James Russell is a native of Scotland and after immigrating to Canada taught Classics at the University of British Columbia from 1966 to his retirement in 1998. He holds a Ph.D. in Classics and has held research fellowships at Dumbarton Oaks Research Center, Washington, Institute of Advanced Studies in the Humanities at Edinburgh University, and at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton. Professor Russell is a specialist in the archaeology of the Roman Empire and the cultures beyond its frontiers. Since 1970 he has directed the Canadian Excavation of the Roman city of Anemurium in southern Turkey. He recently co-directed excavations at the Jewish settlement of Capernaum on the



*C.M.N.S. President Bruce Brace presents Professor Russell with a bound copy of *The Anvil* in appreciation for his talk.*

Sea of Galilee, Israel. He has published on a broad range of topics, including archaeology, history, numismatics, Greek and Latin epigraphy, the Roman army and early Christianity.

Professor Russell presented an illustrated lecture in which he demonstrated how coins serve to elucidate the history of a site. He showed slides from his own archaeological work at Anemurium, a small Roman-Byzantine city on the Turkish coast. Among the various approaches utilized, he described how coins found in context can assist in dating the construction of a building; how coins in combination with the written evidence of inscriptions can establish an important crisis previously unknown in the city's history; how coins from distant places can shed light on the trading connections of the site in the Middle Ages. In addition, he showed a hoard discovered beneath a single floor tile. It clearly demonstrated the significance of hoards in interpreting archaeological evidence from both Anemurium and his work at Capernaum in Israel. The significance of the city's own civic mint was also discussed and how it can serve to illuminate aspects of the city's religious cults and its self-image.

The 2002 Canadian Numismatic Association Convention Medal

The design chosen for the 2002 Canadian Numismatic Association Convention medal offers a sweeping view of Vancouver Harbour, with the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre and Cruise Ship Terminal in the foreground, and Lions Gate Bridge and the twin peaks of The Lions beyond.

The choice of the scene was not accidental, as it includes the signature themes from the logos of the two clubs jointly organizing the Convention. Lions Gate Bridge, perhaps the most recognized landmark in Vancouver, is the centrepiece of the logo of the Vancouver Numismatic Society. The VNS dates back to 1955 and was, at that time, C.N.A. chapter number 7.

The Lions, evoking the image of a pair of seated lions to those with a developed sense of imagination, are the pair of rocky peaks atop the



mountains of the Coast Range that mark the northern edge of Vancouver. The Lions are the theme of the logo of the North Shore Numismatic Society. The current NSNS had its beginnings in 1972.

The 2002 medal, with its panoramic view of Vancouver harbour and produced by the Royal Canadian Mint, was designed by NSNS members Michael Souza and Ron Richardson.

The copper Convention medal for C.N.A. 2002 was included in the registration kit for all delegates and was available separately at \$20. The premium Convention medal in silver, which was struck in limited quantity, was available for \$40.

North York Coin Club Members Enjoy C.N.A. 2002



Norm Belsten, NYCC delegate to the Convention, at the Royal Canadian Mint reception, the kick-off event on Thursday evening.



Russ Brown sends a friendly wave back to Toronto.



John Regitko takes a break from his C.N.A. Executive Secretary duties and manning the C.N.A. table



Dick Dunn served as delegate from the Scarborough Coin Club and extended his Vancouver visit with an Alaskan cruise.

Roger Fox, President of the Canadian Tire Coupon Collectors Club in conversation with C.N.A. President Geoff Bell.



Tim Henderson, C.N.A. Convention Head Judge, officiates at the banquet and bestows the Fellow, C.N.A. title on NYCC members Paul Petch, centre and Jim Charlton, right.

Paper Presented at the O.N.A. Banquet, London Ontario, 2002 by J. Graham Esler



2002 marks the 40th anniversary of the Ontario Numismatic Association. There are not many of us here tonight who were present on an extremely warm October 7th Saturday afternoon in 1961, when the motion to form the ONA was passed.

The impetus for forming the organization came from the Waterloo Coin Club. At its 2nd annual banquet in March 1961, under the chairmanship of Rod Rokofski, president of the Waterloo Coin Club, a committee was struck to investigate the feasibility of forming a provincial numismatic organization. The committee was to report its findings at the London Numismatic Society's 10th annual banquet on October 7th, 1961.

Representatives from 12 of the 25 clubs operating in Ontario were present at this meeting. The committee reported:

- That there was a need for an Association of Ontario Numismatic Societies which could act as a clearing house to avoid conflicts of annual banquets and other activities
- That the CNA was not adverse to the formation of an Ontario Association
- That an Association in Ontario would increase the interest in numismatics which would, in turn, benefit the CNA

- That interest in numismatics in Ontario was keen enough to hold annual conventions and that, in addition to the usual bourse and auctions, information could be exchanged through special lectures or symposia
- That the Association would assist in the formation of new societies in Ontario and stimulate the older ones.

The report was accepted and the ONA came into existence officially on the motion of Walter Holmes.

From its very inception the ONA introduced 5 important concepts:

- The Speakers' Circuit, the brain-child of Rod Rokofski of Waterloo, whereby experienced numismatic speakers would be available for programs in other clubs
- A systematically developed audio-visual program, prepared and produced by Lloyd Smith of London, whereby slide sets on various topics from the decimal series to tokens would be made available to all the Ontario clubs. Lloyd's work remained the basis for the audio-visual program from 1964 to the late 1980s
- A Court of Honour for invitational non-competitive exhibits, the idea of Frank Uttley of Waterloo
- An Award of Merit, under the auspices of Walter Griggs of Brantford, to be awarded annually to an outstanding Ontario numismatist
- A revised judging system where the coins themselves were not the most important consideration

This last feature prompted the comment from a somewhat disillusioned and disgruntled Walter Holmes that "the points system was devised to compensate people for not owning coins".

The founding convention of the ONA, held in Kitchener on March 24 & 25, 1962 was a resounding success. More than 700 people attended the convention, and 229 sat down at the banquet. Both Seabys and Spinks donated books to help start a library. Jack Griffin exhibited his collection of British and Colonial Proofs and Patterns in the first Court of Honour non-competitive display.

This convention provided one of my favourite numismatic memories. You know, people make this hobby so much fun.

Byron Swayze, the founder and first president of the London Numismatic Society, was there. I suppose that the 2 words most applicable to Byron might be "lovable rogue". If you knew Byron, you knew how to deal with him, but if you didn't the results could be somewhat unsettling.

Byron was a travel agent by profession and he strode into the Walper Hotel and announced that he was Byron Swayze, the well-known travel agent. The gentleman behind the desk said, "Good morning, Mr. Swayze; we have a complementary room for you". Whereupon Byron turned, caught sight of Alex Sweeton, another London member, and said, "Alex, do you want to split the cost of a room with me? Your share is \$7.50".

Byron also just couldn't get over the fact that even though I drove him down Saturday, I wasn't going to drive back and pick him up on Sunday.

If 2002 marks the 40th anniversary of the ONA it also marks the 140th anniversary of the Antiquarian and Numismatic Society, Canada's first numismatic society, which was founded in Montreal in 1862. The Ottawa Numismatic Society appears to have operated from 1891 to 1983. The members of whom we know were all French-Canadian, and the Society may have been more a cultural organization than a numismatic one. However, its

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members struck tokens which were sought after even then, and even more so today. The Toronto Coin Club followed in 1936, and the Canadian Medallic Arts Society soon appeared. This was the first attempt to establish a national organization, but the 2nd World War contributed to its demise. The Ottawa Coin Club was formed in 1946, the CNA in 1950, and a host of local clubs just about the same time.

In late 19th century Montreal, competition for material was fierce and, among certain collectors, almost cut-throat. For these collectors, one-upmanship was the rule of the day. And oh, the shenanigans which took place! Some tokens were re-engraved to create a new variety, which only a select few possessed.



Breton 834

Some collectors created and issued tokens which were out and out scams: Paquet's Cameron token or his token resembling a pool-hall token come to mind. Just consider the Cameron piece (Breton 834). It was dated 1867 but struck in 1892; domiciled in Bytown, but Bytown changed its name to Ottawa in 1854. The denomination was 3^d but the Province of Canada adopted the decimal system in 1858. An out and out scam! There is a numismatic term for such pieces; they are called fantasies.

Breton's 1001, which is an outright concoction, is another example of numismatic chicanery. It doesn't exist as a legitimate piece.

And all of those off-metal post-Confederation token so beloved by modern collectors? The issuing firms never knew they existed. There was simply no need for most firms to issue a to-

ken exact in every way in more than one metal. Indeed, we know that the off-metal tokens were struck in limited quantities, and our old friend F.X. Paquet was responsible for more than a few of them.

In the Paquet correspondence in the National Currency Collection, there is a letter to Paquet from Pritchard and Andrews, dated 30 June 1893:

"Dear Sir,

It is necessary to protect ourselves, that you should get permission from our customers in writing to strike six of each check (token, Breton 855) in copper, brass and aluminum; there in the future we will give you any names and addresses we do business with in order that we may have a letter to the above in our possession."

But nevertheless these pieces were brought out, looked at, gloated over (if you were the possessor), or denounced (if you didn't have one yet).

When was the last time at your club meetings, someone rushed in, bursting with pride to show fellow collectors his latest acquisition and share his joy with you? Have we, perhaps, gone a little too far in the other direction with our numismatic education, talking about coins, tokens and bank notes rather than sharing them? I don't know.

But I do know that there is one thing that never changes: the collectors themselves, the individuals that you meet in the hobby, the friendships you make, and the memories you have.



Breton 1001

Harry Eisenhour was the 2nd active paper money collector I ever met. Gord Gray was the first. I had yet to meet Bill McDonald, Jack Veffler, Walter Allan, Bert Peddle, and Fred Jewett. Walter Holmes and Howard Whitfield had collections of paper money, but Harry actively sought it out.

But Harry made a bad mistake, one that now he would be the first to admit, but one which was good news for the rest of us. If a note was not crisp uncirculated, Harry wasn't interested.

Thanks, Harry.



Breton 855

Allan McNabb, I met Allan in 1961 and traded milk tokens with him. I traded Listowel Dairies tokens but I can't remember what I received in return. My favourite recollection of Allan takes place at the Halifax CNA convention in 1970. Lillian and I were the only ones in an elevator going up. It stopped on the 2nd floor and on got Allan. He put his hands behind his back, rocked back and forth on his heels, stared at a spot about 6 inches above our heads and intoned in a loud voice, "Is there anyone here who can tell me where John Pittman's room is?"

The individuals you meet, the friendships you make, the memories you have, these are the things you treasure long after the numismatic material has gone.

The editor expresses his thanks to Mr. Esler for forwarding a copy of his talk for inclusion in The Bulletin. Readers should be aware that he was directed by the Master of Ceremonies to limit the talk to 15 minutes and to keep it (fairly) non-numismatic. I, for one, greatly enjoyed his after dinner remarks and believe he succeeded in crafting an excellent speech!