

"The Bulletin" October, 2003

President's Message

Once again it is time to be thinking of our December Christmas party and membership renewals. I'm sorry to bring this up, even before Halloween, but it's only about 7 weeks away! The meeting is scheduled for December 11, the second Tuesday of the month. There are no plans to change arrangements from last year, so you can get a head start and see Treasurer Len Kuenzig with your money and menu selection. It's still \$6 for a Chicken Dinner (with white or dark meat) or \$8 for a Rib Dinner. Remember to specify french fries, baked potato or rice.

While you're at it, you can also pay membership and renew dues for 2004... still only \$10 for the year.

The North York Executive is reminded of its next meeting on November 11, 7:00pm at the usual location. We are still looking for a new Bulletin Editor.

You may contact the President, Bob Wilson, at **905-677-3765** or the Editor, Paul Petch at **416-303-4417**. If you are now on the Internet, you may reach Paul at "p.petch@rogers.com".

***Next Meeting:
October 28***

Civil War Tokens

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on **Tuesday, October 28, 2003**, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive. We start gathering about 7:30pm with meeting start scheduled for 8:00.

Rick Craig is presenting his collection of "U.S. Civil War Tokens" in the form of a paper by Len Buth originally presented in London, an excellent set of 24 photos of his tokens taken by Ted Leitch and a few of his specimens. Rick tells us one of the tokens actually has a Canadian connection. Come out, and hear the story.

You are encouraged to bring your own auction material for this meeting. Hope to see you there.

Coming Events

Torex® Coin Show & Auction, Oct. 25 & 26, Novotel Toronto - Centre, 45 The Esplanade. Canada's National Coin Show - Admission \$6 - Under 16 Free! Canadian Tire Coupon Collectors meet on Saturday, October 25, from 12 noon-2:00pm. Classical and Medieval Numismatic Society meets the same day from 2:00pm-4:00pm. Contact Brian R. Smith (416) 861-9523. Web site: <http://www.torex.net>.

Scarborough Coin Club 7th Annual Coin Show, Nov. 1 at the Cedarbrook Community Centre 91 Eastpark Blvd. 9am-4pm Free admission, refreshments available, tables still available. Contact Dick Dunn P.O. Box 562 Pickering, ON L1V 2R7 or e mail cpms@idirect.com.

Hamilton Coin Event, Nov. 9 at the Royal Canadian Legion, second floor, 1180 Barton St. (across from Centre Mall). 10am-4pm, admission \$3, first

100 people get in free, \$100 gold coin door prize. Contact Loc Bui, (905) 512-9098, e-mail hamiltoncoinevent@yahoo.ca.

Windsor Coin Club Annual Fall Coin Show, Nov. 9 at Caboto Hall, 2175 Parment Ave. 10am-4pm Admission \$1, draws for hourly door prizes and grand prize. Juniors admitted free. Lots of free parking. Contact Margaret Clarke (519) 835-0727, e-mail mclarke@wincom.net.

The 2003 International Collectors' Fair, Nov. 14-16 at the Ramada Inn & Convention Centre, 360 Oakville Place Dr. (just off Trafalgar Rd. at QEW). Fri. 4pm-8pm; Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 10am-4pm Admission \$3, free parking. Over 40 tables of coins, medals, tokens, banknotes, and much more. Charles Moore numismatic auction Friday evening and Saturday afternoon. Contact Trajan Publishing, 905-646-7744.

Courtesy of Canadian Coin News
(<http://www.canadiancoinnews.ca>).

Meeting News from the September 23 Meeting

The 487th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, September 23, 2003 at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive, Willowdale, Ont. The President, Bob Wilson, opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m. and welcomed 20 members and 5 guests.

Avram Zak's name was drawn for the On Time Attendance Draw but he was not present to receive the \$2.00 pot. We go to \$4.00 in October.

Minutes of the June 24, 2003 meeting were read by the Secretary and accepted by the Chair.

When the Chair called for reports on summer shows, Terry O'Brien responded with a brief but glowing report on the C.N.A. Convention in Windsor. She stated the hotel and surroundings were beautiful and the convention was very well run. Sadly, the auction was poorly attended but there were lots of children and they were well catered to.



As this evening was listed as "C.N.A. Convention Night", the programme consisted of reports from Paul Johnson, Paul Petch and John Regitko. Paul Johnson was our Club Delegate and he came back with a full report on all of the events, highlights and interesting news such as our Paul Petch becoming first Vice President of the C.N.A. and our Marvin Kay being invested as a Fellow of the C.N.A. Paul has hopes of presenting the second Correspondence Course at the C.N.A. 2004 convention. Of singular interest was the blue T-shirts that clearly

identified the members of the committee. All in all, it was a memorable convention.

Paul Petch followed Paul Johnson's report with many pictures of the participants and the surroundings and, of course, humorous comments and ad-libs. John Regitko explained the benefits of C.N.A. membership and encouraged members to join.

Paul Petch was called to the floor to answer the Question of the Month but, first, he gave the sad news that he has to



give up serving as Editor of the bulletin. He encouraged members, particularly new people, to consider the position.

The Chair announced there is now a third variety of the 2003 1-cent coin which is called the "Uncrowned head".

In Roger Fox's absence, Paul Petch very kindly provided the refreshments and they were attended to by Terry O'Brien. Many thanks, Paul and Terry.

Lucky Draw winners were: Terry O'Brien(4), Vince Chiappino, George Fraser(2), Bob Porter, John Regitko(2), Norm Belsten(2), Len Keunzig(2), Norman G. Gordon, Paul Johnson, Avram Bar-Moshe and Rick Fraser. The draw was called by Norm Belsten with Albert Kasman selling the tickets and brought proceeds amounting to \$27.00.

The auction, ably run by Bob Porter with assistance from Mark Argentino and Vince Chiappino, brought in \$20.50 in donations and \$1.54 in commission.

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

Question of the Month

For the September question, we turned our attention to the year 1927, the Silver Jubilee of Confederation and asked what are the official pieces that were released in that year and what plans for a commemorative piece were abandoned? Rick Craig showed pictures of a large official Confederation Commemorative Medal and a set of three small medals, two of which he had framed. Paul Petch stated there were school children medals and Rick commented that they turn up all the time in junk boxes. It was a set of three coins consisting of the 1-cent, 5-cent and 25-cent that had designs selected, but did not get produced.



The October question asks you to identify the item in the picture above. I expect you will recognize what is shown and that should be a big clue in finding out the background story of this piece.

Salt and Pepper Money

by Robert D. Leonard Jr., Chicago Coin Club

PEPPER MONEY

Unlike at meals, salt and pepper were not used as money at the same time, though both condiments were highly valued at times.

Pepper is the name applied to several unrelated plants from which pungent spices are obtained. True pepper, or black pepper (*Piper nigrum*, family Piperaceae), is native to northwest India. In early historic times, it acquired high regard as a condiment, and was widely cultivated in the tropical regions of southeastern Asia.

Tributes of Pepper

Pepper was an important article of trade between India and Europe in antiquity, so much so that it became a medium of exchange. Tributes were levied in pepper in ancient Greece and Rome. When Alaric appeared with the Visigothic hordes before Rome in A.D. 408, he was persuaded to raise his siege upon the immediate payment of 5,000 pounds of gold, 30,000 pounds of silver, 4,000 silk robes (what dandies those Visigoths must have been!), 3,000 pieces of fine scarlet cloth and 3,000 pounds of pepper. In reporting this transaction, Gibbon remarks, "Pepper was a favourite ingredient of the most expensive Roman cookery, and the best sort commonly sold for fifteen denarii...the pound," citing Pliny, *Hist. Natur.*, xii. 14.

Pepper in the Baltics

In medieval Germany, customs duties were often payable in wine, cheese, herrings, or pepper, and merchants had to provide themselves with pepper, etc. to discharge these dues. Pepper, chickens, and wax changed hands at a fixed price in medieval Brandenburg, and these commodities are claimed to have played a limited monetary role there.

To the north and east of Brandenburg in Poland, the *Wandel* fine was equal to a talent of pepper in the 13th century. Boleslaw the Pious (1239-79), Prince of Kalisz and Gniezno, encouraged Jews to settle in Poland in large numbers, granting special rights to them in 1264 by the Statutes of Kalisz. King Casimir III the Great further confirmed these in 1344 and 1367, and, later, after the unification of Poland and Lithuania, by Grand Duke Vitold in 1388

and King Casimir IV Jagielloncz in 1447 and 1467. Though the first 21 of these statutes were based on the July 1, 1244 Charter of the Jews of the Duchy of Austria, the currency was changed in the Statutes of Kalisz from Austrian silver to the money of Poland. They were not formally abrogated until 1939.

Statute 16 states: "If a Jew has been condemned by his judge to pay the fine known as *Wandel*, he shall pay his judge a talent of pepper which is the anciently established fine." Thus in Kalisz, a quantity of pepper had been specified as a fine for generations prior to 1264. But, though repeated in later confirmations of the statutes as late as 1467, it is not certain that the fine continued to be collected in pepper.

(Interestingly, one of the occupations permitted to Jews in medieval Poland was supervision of the salt mines!) However, pepper continued to be legal tender for taxes on the Baltic Sea coast as late as the 15th and 16th centuries, at the rate of 10 peppercorns to the Baltic schilling. Introduced in the last half of the 14th century by members of the Wendish Monetary Union, the Baltic schilling was also coined by the Scandinavian kingdoms and other neighbouring states. Beginning as a 30 mm silver piece weighing 4.1 grams, it shrank rapidly so that before 1432/3 it was reduced to 25 mm and a weight of 2.3 grams. And its decline did not abate. It was worth 1/32 thaler in the 16th century, but only 1/48 thaler in the 17th. At this level it stabilized, a 17 mm billon coin weighing only a single gram, finally being abolished in 1873.

Your Choice – Gold or Pepper?

Pepper was a standard of value in Italy also during the middle ages. Between 1075 and 1140, an equivalent for a sum of money to be paid in Lombardy was stipulated in pepper. In 1378, Genoa issued a pepper loan, repayable in either pepper or in gold at the option of the holders.

No Choice – Priced in Gold, Paid in Pepper

As would be expected, pepper has been a means of payment at the source as well. According to Chinese author Tung Hli Yung K'An, writing in the early 17th century, pepper money was used in a dis-

trict of Sumatra: "When the men of Jambi bargain for goods, the price is agreed upon in gold, but they pay only in pepper, e.g., if something costs two taels of gold, they pay a hundred piculs of pepper or thereabouts. They like to buy foreign women, and girls from other countries are often brought here and sold for pepper."

Jambi, a port on the east coast of Sumatra, was merely the point of shipment of the pepper; it was actually produced in the interior by so-called "upstream" societies. Traders from Jambi traveled to the interior by boat to buy the pepper. Women dominated the pepper trade, and elite women of the court were the only ones with connections to the pepper growing districts. Consequently, good relations between the upstream and downstream communities were essential for pepper exports, and the Southeast Asians only trusted people who were kin to them. As a result, 17th century Chinese pepper buyers usually married local women, which ritually transformed them into kin of the Sumatrans.

All this began to change with the arrival of the Dutch East India Company, who established their headquarters in Batavia in 1619. Beginning in the 1620s, the old Muslim trade route to the Red Sea was closed. However, the Dutch were only interested in getting spices, not in intermarrying with native Muslims. They also failed to grasp the kinship-trade system; when women were offered to them to take as wives, they treated them like prostitutes, making no effort to follow local cultural practices. As a result, they were forced to hire Chinese middlemen to buy the pepper.

Despite driving out the Gujaratis, English, and Portuguese by 1666, the Dutch pepper monopoly gradually slipped away. In 1677 the fragile connections between upriver and downriver economic alliances in Jambi were fully ruptured. The people of Jambi finally turned against the Dutch, and when they attacked in 1768 the Dutch post at Jambi was closed. No pepper is grown in this region today.

When pepper ceased to be a means of payment in Jambi is not recorded, but the conditions described by Tung Hli Yung K'An had changed drastically by the 1620s, and more radically still by 1677. By the latter date, pepper money must certainly have become extinct.

References

- Angell, Norman. *The Story of Money*. Garden City: Garden City Publishing Company, 1929: 78.
- Beinart, Haim. *Atlas of Medieval Jewish History* New York: Simon and Schuster, 1992: 64-5.
- Blair, Allen M. *A World of Money from the Earliest Times*. 2nd ed. Alexandria, MN: Northcountry Publishing Company, 1997: 57, 60, 92-5.
- Brians, Paul, et al., eds. "Leo Africanus: Description of Timbuktu from *The Description of Africa* (1526)," excerpt from *Reading About the World, Vol. 2*. <http://www.wsu.edu:8080/~wldciv/world_civ_reader/world_civ_reader_2/leo_africanus.html>. March 12, 2002.
- Central Queensland University, School of Humanities, Dept. of History. "52148: Imperialism and Commodities: Spices." <http://www.ahs.cqu.edu.au/humanities/history/52148/module_s/imperial_conunoditiesZ.html>. April 5, 2003.
- Clark, Leon E., ed. *Through African Eyes/ Cultures in Change*. New York: Praeger, 1970:11-15.
- Connah, Graham. *African Civilizations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987: 4, 14, 87, 117-8, 130, 146-8, 157, 173, 212, 222, 226, 230.
- Craig, William D. *Germanic Coinages*. Mountain View, CA: William D. Craig, 1954:224.
- Cribb, Joe, ed. *Money From Cowrie Shells to Credit Cards*. London: British Museum Publications Ltd., 1986: 30-1.
- Dillingham, Paul M. "Odd and Curious List #3" (ca. 1969): 2, "List Number 6" (1970): 1, "List #16" ca. 1976): 3, "List #17 (ca. 1977): 3 and figure.
- Dupre, Marie-Claude. "Raphia Monies Among the Teke: Their Origin and Control." Guyer, Jane I, ed. *Money Matters: Instability, Values and Social Payments in the Modern History of West African Communities*. Portsmouth, NH, and London: Heinemann and James Currey, 1995: 39-41, 47.
- Du Puy, William Atherton. "The Geography of Money." *National Geographic* December, 1927: 746, 756.
- Einzig, Paul. *Primitive Money in its Ethnological, Historical and Economic Aspects*. London: Eyre & Spottiswoode, 1949: 99, 100, 104, 122-5, 137, 139, 140, 144, 146, 152, 158-9, 164, 168, 235, 239, 257, 266, 268, 281, 285, 358, 400, 410, 413.
- Ekejiuba, Felicia. "Currency Instability and Social Payments Among the Igbo of Eastern Nigeria." Guyer, Jane I, ed. *Money Matters: Instability, Values and Social Payments in the Modern History of West African Communities*. Portsmouth, NH, and London: Heinemann and James Currey, 1995: 136-7.
- "Fishman catalogs Peru's coins." *Coin World*. Nov. 12, 1977.
- Gibbon, Edward. *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. Ed. Oliphant Smeaton. New York: The Modern Library (Random House), n.d. (ca. 1970 printing): 130, 155.
- Gibbs, Howard D. *Odd and Curious Money of the World: A Complete Register*. 3rd ed. New York, 1956: Hans M. F. Schulman, 1956: 9, 10, 34.
- Halsall, Paul. "Jewish History Sourcebook: The Charter of the Jews of the Duchy of Austria July 1, 1244 CE" (part of the Internet Jewish History Sourcebook, from Jacob Marcus, *The Jew in the Medieval World: A Sourcebook, 315-1791*. New York: Jewish Publication Society, 1938: 28-33. <<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/jewish/1244Jews-austria.html>>. April 5, 2003.
- Harl, Dr. Kenneth W. (updated by Annette Lindblom Mar. 19, 1998). "History/Medieval Studies 303: Early Medieval and Byzantine Civilization: Constantine to Crusades." <<http://www.tulane.edu/~august/H303/chronologies/FallWesternEmpire.htm>>. April 4, 2003.
- Heiser, Charles Bixler, Jr. "Pepper." *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 1967 ed.: 17: 587.
- Insoll, Timothy A. "The Road to Timbuktu - Trade & Empire." *Archaeology* November/December 2000:48-52.
- "Kilka słów - o - ,Statucie Kaliskim" (Boleslaw the Pious and the "Kalisz Statute" for the Jews of the Year 1264). <<http://goeasteurope.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?site=http://www.info.kalisz.pl/STATUT/index.htm%23Eighteen>>. March 1, 2003.
- Kohl, Melvin J. *Ethiopia - Treasure House of Africa*. Santa Monica: The Society for International Numismatics, 1969: 10-11.
- Kurlansky, Mark. *Salt: A World History*. New York: Penguin Books, 2002: 12, 47-51, 89, 205.
- Leonard, Robert. "The Statutes of Kalisz." *Israel Numismatic Society of Illinois Bulletin* November-December 1983.
- "Lithuania." *JewishEncyclopedia.com*. <<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/view.jsp?artid=468&letter=L>>. March 1, 2003
- Opitz, Charles J. *Odd & Curious Money: Descriptions and Values*. 2nd ed. Ocala: First Impressions Printing, Inc., 1991: 83, 94.
- An Ethnographic Study of Traditional Money*. Ocala: First Impressions Printing, Inc., 2001: 248, 289-94.
- Polo, Marco. *The Travels of Marco Polo*. Ed. (and trans.?) Ernest Rhys. London and New York: J. M. Dent & Sons, E. P. Dutton & Co., 1908, reprinted 1936: 240-2.
- Quiggin, A. Hingston. *A Survey of Primitive Money - The Beginnings of Currency*. London: Methuen & Co., Ltd., 1949: 15-6, 46, 47, 51-6, 62, 67, 84, 97, 101, 103, 106, 192, 202, 220, 221, 257-9.
- Reed, Mort. "Coinology - The Hand Standards for Salt Money." *Coin World* Sept. 30, 1970: 12.
- Odd and Curious*. n.p., Fisher Printing Co., n.d. (1963):6, 54.
- Sigler, Col. Phares O. "The Primitive Money of Africa. Chapter VII. Miscellaneous Currencies." *The Numismatist* 67: 241-4 (March 1954).
- "Salt Currency." *The Numismatist* 70: 19 (Jan. 1957) (reprinted in "Strange Money of The World," n.d.: 12-3)
- Southard, Addison E. "Modern Ethiopia." *National Geographic* June, 1931: 712.
- Spufford, Peter. *Money and its use in medieval Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988: 2, 60, 98, 163, 368-9, 378.
- Stearns, Peter N., general ed. *The Encyclopedia of World History*, 6th ed. Houghton Mifflin Company, 2001. <<http://www.bartleby.com/67/841.html>>. April 5, 2003.
- Sullivan, Tim. Untitled Associated Press story datelined Taoudermi. Mali, January 7, 2001.
- Taylor, Jim Mann. "Timbuctoo the Mysterious: The classic account of Timbuctoo related by Leo Africanus who reached it in 1510... This version is taken from Francis Moore's translation of 1738." <<http://www.manntaylor.com/timbuctoo.html>>. March 12, 2002.
- Taxay, Don. *Money of the American Indians and other primitive currencies of the Americas*. Flushing: Nummus Press, 1970: 58.
- Trenholm, Peter. "Money Matters _ `Coin of the realm' can tax one's imagination." *Winnetka Talk* Dec. 3, 1981: 124C.
- Williams, Jonathan. ed. *Money, A History*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1997: 196-7, 200, 204-5, 207, 209.'
- Wood, Howland. *The Coinage of Ethiopia*. New York: Wayte' Raymond, Inc., 1937: 3.
- Woodward, Donald B., and Marc A. Rose. *A Primer of Money*. New York and London: Whittlesey House, 1932: 3, Pl. 3.