



North York Coin Club

Founded 1960

**MONTHLY MEETINGS 4TH Tuesday 7:30 P.M. AT
Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive, North York**

**MAIL ADDRESS: NORTH YORK COIN CLUB, P.O.BOX 10005
R.P.O. Yonge & Finch, 5576 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, M2N 0B6**

Contact the Club :

E-mail: The_Club@sympatico.ca
Phone: 416.945.9299

Member :

Canadian Numismatic Association
Ontario Numismatic Association

PresidentNick Cowan
1st Vice PresidentBill O'Brien
2nd Vice President.....Open
SecretaryPaul Petch
TreasurerLen Kuenzig
Past PresidentRobert Wilson

Executive Committee

DirectorTony Hine
DirectorRoger Fox
DirectorVince Chiappino
Junior DirectorOpen
AuctioneerBob Porter
Auction ManagerMark Argentino
Co-EditorsPaul Petch/Tony Hine

ReceptionistAlbert Kasman
Draw PrizesBill O'Brien
Social ConvenorBill O'Brien
LibrarianRobert Wilson
Program PlanningPaul Johnson,
Paul Petch, John Regitko

THE BULLETIN FOR FEBRUARY 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello fellow members:

Just think, by the time you read this, Daylight Saving Time and *spring* are only 4 weeks away under the US/Canada agreement on DST. I can feel the sunshine already; maybe I should clean off the BBQ, just in case it comes earlier.

I have some issues that we need to address at the next meeting, they are as follows:

1. At and after the last Christmas dinner, there were some comments made about the auction. Although we, as a general membership, had agreed upon this for the Christmas entertainment, apparently, it did not prove to be popular with some members and women guests.
2. There was considerable commentary about the food, both at the meeting and afterwards, such as;
 - a. It was delivered cold and took far too long to be served, causing most of us to have a cool, if not cold dinner.
 - b. Notwithstanding the fact that Paul Petch graciously picked up the food on his way to the meeting, I would guess the traveling time and temperature allowed it to cool faster than anticipated. Also, we are not professionals when it comes to food service. Everyone tried their best, but problems still arose.
3. At the last Executive meeting, the above was discussed and those present for the meeting, albeit not all of the Executive were present, decided that

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27 - 47TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING

We start gathering at 7:00 p.m. with meeting start scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Len Kuenzig will be speaking to us at this meeting about his collecting specialty, 1967 Centennial material. You can bring along items for show and tell as well!

Last call to renew your membership: still only \$10... please see the Treasurer.

Don't Forget: *Please bring some numismatic material for the auction.*

we would put forth to the members a possible change of pace. That would be to have our 2007 Christmas dinner in a local restaurant *only if they are able to give us a private area*, where we could still have our meeting and whatever entertainment we choose. This would allow all of us to eat at the same time, have a choice from the menu or arrange to have a pre-set dinner. Yes, the cost is going to be marginally higher; however, we do not have to worry about the pick-up, distribution at meal time and the clean-up afterwards. Personally, I feel this is a better way for just a small increase in the price. Let someone else do the work for us, so we can enjoy and have fun for the whole evening as a group.

I just received copies of the Chicago Coin Club "Chatter" for June and July 2006. In the June issue, they started a 1 year trial campaign of paid advertising from local coin dealers and other numismatic interests. I have emailed the Editor and asked if they would share the results with us. If it was successful, then maybe we should look at this as an additional source of revenue. There are many Dealers and private individuals whom I think would be willing to spend a few dollars in an attempt to garner some of the club member's business. I also understand that some Canadian clubs have tried this approach; does anyone know what the results were? Please have some thoughts on this, as we will be discussing it at the February meeting.

We still have ONA Dream Vacation tickets available. They are 6 for \$10.00, so please, why not split a book with someone and help me sell them all.

Last on the list please bring a guest.we need more new members to keep your club alive.

Nick Cowan
E-mail: The_Club@sympatico.ca
Phone: 416.945.9299
(The Club 'phone number)

REMINDER OF EXECUTIVE MEETING - TUESDAY, MARCH 13

Meeting starts promptly at 7:30 p.m.

***All Executive Committee members
welcome and encouraged to attend***

MEETING NEWS OF THE JANUARY 2007 MEETING

The 521st meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on January 23, 2007 at the Edithvale Community Centre, North York, Ontario. The meeting came to order at 7:45 p.m. with the President, Nick Cowan, in the chair and 25 members and 1 guest in attendance. This was the first meeting where we tried to start at 7:30 p.m. The President welcomed the members to our first meeting of 2007 and introduced David Quinlan, our guest.

The on-time attendance draw of \$12 was won by Paul Petch. The pot returns to \$2 for the February meeting.

Because some members had not received the monthly bulletin, the Secretary read the minutes of the December 2006 meeting. One correction was made to include Roger Fox in the list of recipients of C.N.A. 2006 Convention medals, for his work on signage. The minutes were then accepted.

The Treasurer provided a statement of 2006 financial operations.

Discussion arose concerning the need to maintain \$10 as the annual dues now that so many members receive the bulletin by e-mail and expenses have been cut. The Treasurer and Secretary each spoke to the issue, pointing out the full scope of Club expenses and the reality that we have operated in deficit for many years, being supported by C.N.A. and O.N.A. convention profits from earlier years. The President sought assurance that the current \$10 rate is not out of line with what other clubs charge and, finding the rate is reasonable, indicated there would be no change.

The President announced that the trip for Ottawa is now planned for Friday April 27/Saturday April 28 including visits to the Royal Canadian Mint and the National

Currency Collection, Bank of Canada. This is the weekend following the O.N.A. Convention. Members of all Toronto clubs will be given the opportunity to book the trip, but the option to cancel is being kept open in the event sufficient numbers do not sign up.

The President reported that recent Internet advertising has resulted in about twenty-eight inquiries, some of which he hopes will result in new members for the Club. He also repeated his offer from his column in the bulletin to host the June meeting of the Club at his house in the form of a garden party.

Bill O'Brien observed that it would be nice to see some additional people enhancing Bob Porter's dealer table by setting up tables of their own and offering numismatic collectibles.

Tony Hine requested that members consider writing articles to be included in the monthly bulletin.

This was a member participation evening. Paul Petch read a paper about the 1936 'dot' coinage; the event now being a full 70 years ago. Our guest, David Quinlan provided some short remarks on his collecting interests. Dr. Marvin Kay has served on the executive committee of his graduating class from the University of Toronto for many years. He presented background information and displayed the 50th anniversary medal produced by Pressed Metal Products of Vancouver to commemorate the event. Terry O'Brien had brought a 2005 twenty-five cent piece with a curious gold tone and passed it around, hoping someone would have an answer to its strange appearance. Nick Cowan commented that he had broken open a roll of these coins and over half had the same peculiar appearance. Some discussion followed regarding

problems with the plating process during manufacture. Roger Fox brought the members attention to a change of signatures on Canadian Tire coupons. The signature of Tom Gould replaces that of Wayne Sales. Because he had purchased and was examining full blocks of notes, it was possible to work his way sequentially through the block and easily identify replacement notes since the old series of Wayne Sales replacement notes were being used up — that is, the signatures changed from Tom Gould back to Wayne Sales as replacements were encountered. Roger also displayed an attractive framed \$50 Canada Savings Bond, with all coupons still in place, from his days working as a clerk at the Bank of Montreal.

We thank Bill O'Brien for once again taking care of refreshments.

Bob Porter conducted the auction with Dick Dunn serving as auction manager and David Lemmond as runner. Dick commented that there were over 25 lots with many items from George Fraser's library. The auction alternated with the evening's Lucky Draw called by Bill O'Brien. Draw ticket sales were \$32 and the club earned \$10 in auction commission and donated material. Lucky Draw winners were George Fraser (2), Shawn Hamilton (2), Bob Velensky, Norman G. Gordon (3!), Paul Petch, Len Kuenzig, Tony Hine and Avner Bar-Moshe. The Club thanks those who donated draw prize material.

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

Welcome to new members Vic Shewchuk #524 and Leonid Gurev #525. Also, thanks to Lucille Colson, Frank Zarah, Tom Wilson and George Fraser for their donations to the club.

ROYAL CANADIAN MINT PLANNING MILLION-DOLLAR COIN

Wednesday, February 7, 2007
CBC News

You'd need mighty deep pockets to jingle the new coins planned by the Royal Canadian Mint: Canada's official money-maker wants to stamp out a \$1-million coin.

Coin experts say it would likely be made of gold, be the size of a pizza and be extremely heavy. Some numismatists wonder if it would be a good idea.

The federal cabinet passed an order earlier this month at the recommendation of the

transport minister allowing the mint to stamp out the non-circulation coins.

The editor of Canadian Coin News, Bret Evans, said if it goes forward it would be the first of its kind in the world, the mint's attempt to create a record-breaking coin.

"The coin becomes an event," Evans said. "It's purely being done to get attention. To throw something on the market, to make a statement which is, 'Here we are.'"

There's no word on how many coins the mint is looking at stamping out. Mint officials acknowledge they have permission to make a \$1-million coin, but will not comment beyond that.

Coin experts are talking, though, and among those questioning the project is Regina dealer George Manz, who wonders who would buy the mint's mega-loonie.

"The people that I know, if they're going to go and spend \$1 million on a coin, they want something that is extremely rare," he said.

On the other hand, Evans notes that the last time such a special coin was made — €100,000 from Austria — all 15 sold out in less than a month.

The \$1-million loonie, he figures, would weigh around 100 kilograms — about the weight of a typical hockey player.

SHIPWRECK DISCOVERY BREWS INTERNATIONAL STORM

An American shipwreck hunter has found “thousands of coins” and other artifacts at a site off the coast of Nova Scotia where a War of 1812 gunboat thought to be carrying White House plunder sank in a storm on its return to Canada after the ransacking of Washington.

But the discovery, the strongest sign yet that Philadelphia-based Sovereign Exploration Associates may have discovered the remains of the legendary British frigate HMS Fantome or other ships from its fleet, sets the stage for a possible international legal showdown involving the salvage company, the British government and heritage officials in Canada and the U.S. over the future of the wreck site.

CanWest News Service has learned the British government has asked Canada to halt exploration at the possible Fantome site and insisted that nothing should be taken from

the area without permission from London.

Wendy Barnable, a spokesperson with the Nova Scotia government’s Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Heritage, said Wednesday the province has received a letter, via federal officials in Ottawa, in which Britain argues that the Fantome — along with a sunken 18th-century British treasure ship, HMS Tilbury, also being sought by Sovereign off the Cape Breton coast — “remain the property of the British government and can’t be disturbed without their consent.”

Describing the British intervention as unprecedented, Barnable said provincial heritage officials are studying the “very complex” issue and have, in the meantime, advised the U.S. salvager to seek British approval to continue its explorations.

In a statement announcing its latest finds, Sovereign said: “Our divers observed

flatware, artifacts, ship fittings and thousands of coins. While our science team has not positively identified the vessels on the site, the new data combined with last year’s recoveries . . . clearly establish the site as one of significant historical importance.”

The search for the Fantome has been controversial and jurisdictionally complex because the British wreck lies in Canadian waters but is believed to hold gold and other treasures looted during a famous 1814 raid on the White House, treasury headquarters and other buildings in the U.S. capital. The same naval operation also inspired the “bombs bursting in air” imagery of The Star-Spangled Banner, the U.S. national anthem.

Randy Boswell
CanWest News Service

COMING EVENTS

FEB. 24—25, Toronto TOREX, Radisson Admiral Hotel, 249 Queen’s Quay West, Admiral’s Ballroom. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission \$6. For more information, contact Brian Smith, 416-861-9523. Web site: www.torex.net.

MARCH 2—4, Montreal, QC NUPHILEX, Holiday Inn Midtown, 420 Sherbrooke St. W. Hours: Fri. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Early bird admission \$15 (\$10 donated to Quebec Autism Society). Coin auction by Lower Canada Auctions, Louis Chevrier auctioneer.* For more information, contact Gabriel Sebag, 514-842-4411, nuphilex@bellnet.ca. Web site: www.nuphilex.com.

MARCH 3, Windsor, ON First L.A. Coin Show, Most Precious Blood Church Hall (Tecumseh Road and Meldrum Street). Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission. 20 dealer tables. For more information, contact Glen Gibbons, 519-256-2013, ggibbons1@cogeco.ca.

MARCH 4, Mississauga IV Polish-Canadian Coin, Stamp & Collectibles

Show 2007, John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd. Hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. *Many tables of coins, medals, paper money, stamps, militaria & antique papers. Polonica & historical souvenirs. Exhibit of Upper Silesia’s coins, stamps, paper money, sports pins, medals & collectible. Exhibit of Polish POW camps stamps of the Second World War. Polish Mint info table. Troyak special medal and show souvenirs. Free admission and parking. Refreshments available.* For more information, contact Janusz (Peter) Machulec 647-400-7857 or 416-724-4410 or info@troyakclub.com. Web site: www.troyakclub.com.

MARCH 17, Cambridge 16th Annual Coin Show, Cambridge Newfoundland Club, 1500 Dunbar Rd. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Free admission. Coins, tokens, paper money, trade dollars, militaria, CTC coupons at 51 tables.* For more information, contact Vince Vevidon, 519-622-6625 or Wolfe Derle, wolfe1937@hotmail.com.

MARCH 25, Leamington, ON Annual Spring Show, Real Canadian Superstore, Community Room, 201 Talbot St. E. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking and

admission. For more information, contact Margaret Clarke, 519-735-0727, mclarke@wincom.net.

MARCH 30—APRIL 1, Kingston, ON EONS, Days Inn & Convention Centre, 33 Benson St. Hours: Fri. 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Sat. 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Sun. opens 9:30 a.m. *Auction Veiwing: Fri. 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Auction commences Sat. at 7 p.m. Admission \$4 per day. Early admittance on Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$20 good for the weekend. 50 tables of coins, paper money, militaria, jewelry and much more. Local coin club in attendance.* For more information, contact: Ted Bailey, 1-866-747-2646, tedscollectables@bellnet.ca.

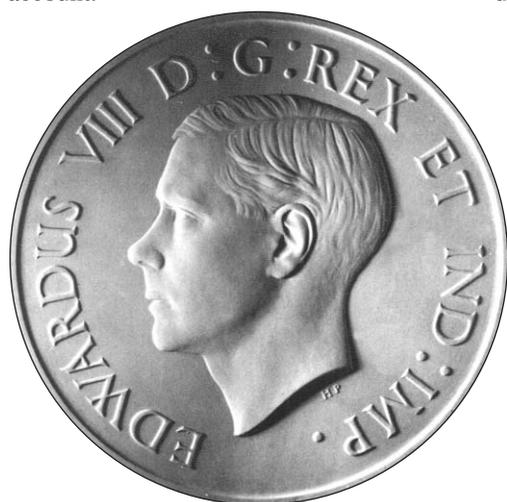
APRIL 20—APRIL 22, London, ON O.N.A. 2007 Convention at the Four Points Sheraton, 1150 Wellington Rd. S. Hours: bourse floor opens at 10:00 a.m. each day Saturday April 21 and Sunday April 22. Admission \$3 per day. For more information contact Tom Rogers, 519-451-2316, trogers@sympatico.ca and visit the web site www.ontario-numismatic.org/convention.htm

THE ABDICATION INCIDENT

by Paul R. Petch

As father time moves the calendar from December to January and a new year settles upon us, I find myself recalling events of the past and anniversaries worthy of note. For this year, 2007, I am thinking about the 70th anniversary of the ‘new’ coinage of 1937—and also those difficult times for the staff at the Royal Canadian Mint as they tried to follow through with plans to begin striking the 1937 coinage, at the same time being confounded by events that brought another new monarch to the throne in less than a year.

It is a well-documented fact that John Honeyford Campbell, who served first as the Deputy Master and then as the Master of the Royal Canadian Mint between 1925 and 1938, was an advocate of the modernization of Canada’s coin designs, which had primarily featured the maple leaf as their main device. His years of promotion finally gained results at the start of 1936 with the passing of King George V and plans for the new coinage of King Edward VIII. In addition to the new obverse, there would be new reverse designs developed as well. The task of commissioning artists, selecting designs and preparing dies in time for the striking of the new coinage in 1937 was, in the main, highly successful. But that process is not the focus of this account.



Plaster model of Edward VIII intended for use on Canadian coinage, but never utilized due to his abdication late in 1936

In the final weeks of 1936 King Edward VIII abdicated the throne in favour of his brother King George VI. All the work on the new reverse designs with dies showing a date of 1937 were still going to be of use, but the work expended on the obverse dies with the effigy of Edward VIII was all in vain. Mint Master Campbell recognized that it was going to take some time to prepare the new George VI dies and so, as happened in 1910 following the death of Edward VII, there was some stockpiling of 1936 coinage against new coinage orders that may come to the Mint during the transitional period. The 1936 Mint report states that the striking of 1936 coinage continued into 1937, without specifically indicating this was for the one-cent, ten-cent and twenty-five cent denominations. Nor was it reported that a small punch mark was added to the reverse dies. It was centred either below the date or the bow of the wreath for these denominations, so as to create a raised dot to indicate that the 1936-dated coins were actually struck in 1937.

Campbell states in the 1937 Mint Report that striking of the new George VI coinage with its revised designs was underway by May. Curiously, no mention is made of the provisional dot coinage in that report either; the main attention in the commentary going to the change in design. There is similarly no mention as to whether all the stockpiled coinage was released into circulation or if it was melted and re-formed into coinage of George VI, the latter being embraced by many modern-day collectors. In fact, we would know very little about the coinage created as a result of the abdication incident, except for the fine work of some Ottawa numismatists.

James A. Hector, a resident of Ottawa, relates that he had “specialized in the coins and tokens of Canada for a number of years. In 1938, while examining some loose change, he noticed a peculiar feature in a quarter dated 1936. It consisted of a minute dot just below



The famous radio broadcast in which King Edward VIII abdicated the throne of Great Britain

the bow of the wreath . . . Such a variety did not appear to have been reported previously, so all 1936 quarters received from then on were carefully scrutinized. One or two more were found with the dot, but it was evident that the variety was by no means common.” At the time there was no local numismatic organization in Ottawa, and Mr. Hector was not able to locate any other local collector with whom he could compare experiences.

Guy R. L. Potter, Corresponding Secretary, Bulletin Editor and an early President of the Canadian Numismatic Association, relates that about 1942, through the efforts of Major L. J. Pierre Brunet of the Public Archives, meetings including James Hector and Maurice LaFortune, then employed at the Royal Canadian Mint, did get underway. The dot twenty-five cents was an early topic of discussion at the meetings.

Mr. LaFortune, having access to Mint files, undertook considerable research into the matter. In addition to reaching the conclusion that the dot coins were produced in 1937 while waiting for George VI dies, he found the following record of quantities struck:

1¢	678,823
10¢	191,237
25¢	151,322

It is not known if the files contained any specific information on specimen strikes, but it subsequently occurred to Mr. LaFortune that the Mint vault might contain a few specimen sets available for sale. By luck, he found one complete set and a partial set missing the ten-cent denomination. He acquired both, retaining one and

selling the incomplete set to another member of the Ottawa Coin Club. Upon that member's death, Guy Potter purchased the incomplete set from the estate.

With the information from the Mint files on hand, and at the prompting of his fellow Ottawa coin friends, James A. Hector prepared a one-page article for the August 1947 issue of *The Numismatist*, the official journal of the American Numismatic Association. What is today one of the most celebrated rarities of the Canadian coin series was finally documented a little more than 10 years after its creation. Sadly, Mr. Hector passed away shortly thereafter, his death being noted by Mr. J. Douglas Ferguson in a piece on the Ottawa Coin Club appearing in the *Coin Collectors Journal* for July/August 1948.

In 1952 two important coin catalogues were published: these were James E. Charlton's first edition of his very successful *Catalogue of Canadian Coins, Tokens & Fractional Currency* and a new third edition of Wayne Raymond's *Coins and Tokens of Canada*. While Mr. Charlton did record the 1936 dot coins, Mr. Raymond did not. Guy Potter, upon learning that Mr. Raymond did not consider including them because of their failure to be listed in Mint reports, took it upon himself to write to the Master of the Royal Canadian Mint, Mr. Walter C. Ronson. In his letter, Mr. Potter outlined what had been learned of the dot coinage, including quantities struck, and requested that Mr. Ronson "go on record" with an official statement.

In a letter dated Tuesday July 22, 1952 and printed in the August / September / October issue of the *C.N.A. Bulletin*, Mr. Ronson replied:

"With reference to your letter of June 24, 1952, the figures you quote for the one cent, ten cent and twenty-five cent pieces dated 1936 with 'dot' are correct and all were put into circulation. The 'dot' on coins dated 1936 was put there to denote they were struck in 1937 due to a delay in receiving the 1937 dies.

Yours truly,
W.C. Ronson,
Master"

So, he not only confirmed as accurate the details set out by Mr. Potter in his letter, but also took it upon himself to confirm, "all were put into circulation." This last statement was far from useful, in the light that only the twenty-five cent denomination has certainly been found in circulation and that there is great dispute over the authenticity of one-cent and ten-cent denominations not found in specimen sets. He then goes on to refer to "a delay in receiving the 1937 dies," which is such a generalization of the facts it borders on being inaccurate.

These statements, written 15 years after the event, do not reference any authoritative source and leave us wondering who was responsible for researching the information conveyed in the letter. Owners of one-cent and ten-cent circulated dots would have us believe Mr. Ronson. This writer tends to side with Dr. James A. Haxby in *Striking Impressions* who, writing that text after having access to Royal Canadian Mint files himself, concludes they were apparently melted down. One final observation is the subtle fact that those who write of the dot coinage as emergency currency frame a scenario in which the coins are

struck in haste and shipped as quickly as possible, whereas those who speak of them as a stockpile—on hand for a need that never occurred—are more open to them being melted down.

Returning once again to the question of specimen strikes, Mr. J. A. Elliot of Toronto, commenting through the pages of the *Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine* for May 1957, believed that 12 cased specimen sets including the dot coins were created for presentation to high public officials. He arrived at this number based on a census he conducted. Guy Potter quickly refuted his comments in the same magazine with an update and reprint of the article appearing in the *Canadian Numismatic Journal* for April 1962.

Turning our attention to tales of acquisition, theft and sale of 1936 dot coins, the Guy Potter 1936-dot cent, broken out of his incomplete specimen set, was the first to be sold at auction. This was a mail auction listed in the May 1955 issue of the *C.N.A. Bulletin*, which fetched \$900.

John Jay Pittman was noted for owning two complete specimen sets. The first set was purchased from Maurice LaFortune in November 1951. The second set was obtained in 1954 from Mrs. T. Roberts, the widow of a Royal Canadian Mint employee who regularly purchased early specimen material. I recall that one of these sets was put on display at a 1963 North York Coin Club spring show and that, at the time, Mr. Pittman spoke about visiting Mrs. Roberts in her living room and completing the purchase.

The LaFortune set was stolen from the Pittman home in 1964 and the dot cent and 10-cent we later



returned in an unmarked envelope, but the other four coins were never recovered. The Roberts set was put on display at the 1966 C.N.A. convention at the Marlborough Hotel in Winnipeg where it was only through the attention of alert security guards that thieves were apprehended in the act of opening the display case. Clearly shaken by the incident, Pittman said, "Never again will I display these items. This is the second attempt made against me and common sense dictates I retire before further serious damage is done to ruin any portion of my numerous accumulations."

On a personal note and by coincidence, both Roger Fox and myself were on the same flight after the convention from Winnipeg back to Toronto as John Pittman. He pretty much kept the display material in a single bag clutched to his chest throughout the flight. As we were leaving the plane he asked that Roger and I stay close at his left and right side as we moved through Toronto International until he met up with his wife, Gehring. Folks that had come to meet us were waving, but Roger and I simply shouted a promise to come back as our eyes darted from side to side as we moved quickly through the horde of travelers. John saw his wife and with thanks and assurances that he was alright now, quick-

ly deposited the material inside yet another container and then they were gone—and I felt a great responsibility lifted from me.

It made me rather glad that I never had the financial wherewithal to become involved in any aspect of the abdication incident myself. The Roberts set passed from the Pittman estate to Sid and Alicia Belzberg in August, 1999. In turn, that collection sold in January 2003, with the cent hammering down at \$230,000US, and the 10-cent for \$74,750US.

Coin dealer David Ackers, commenting in Pittman sales I and III, provided a census of known specimens as of 1999, which seems to be a good place to conclude this short reminiscence of this enigmatic series:

- Known examples of the 1936 Dot Cent:
- The Pittman I sale example. Gem Specimen. Purchased from Maurice LaFortune in 1951 as part of a complete, cased Specimen set of 1936 that contained the three Dot denominations, later stolen from Pittman in 1964.
 - The coin in the complete, cased Specimen set of 1936 that was sold in Part III of the Pittman Collection sale in 1999, originally purchased from the widow of T. Roberts of Ottawa, Ontario, in 1954.
 - The coin from the partial set acquired by

M. LaFortune from the Mint while he was employed there. Later obtained by G.R.L. Potter and sold at auction in 1955 for \$900. Subsequently, purchased by Pittman from Jim Charlton's 1961 CNA auction in Hamilton, Ontario.

Known examples of the 1936 Dot 10-Cent:

- The Pittman I sale example. Gem Specimen, matte surface. Purchased from Maurice LaFortune in 1951.
- The coin in the complete cased set of 1936 Specimen coins containing all three Dot coins sold in the Pittman III sale in 1999, originally purchased from the widow of T. Roberts of Ottawa, Ontario, in 1954.
- The example in the Numismatic Currency Collection, Bank of Canada.
- A duplicate in the Numismatic Currency Collection, Bank of Canada.

More recently, as part of the Heritage Auction Galleries Dominion Collection sale of September 2006, a fifth 10-cent dot sold, this time for \$115,000US. It is rumoured to be from the holdings of an employee of the Royal Canadian Mint from those early days of 1937, which saw the genesis of the 1936 dot series. Even after 70 years, it seems this story is not over yet.

CANADIAN KEY DATES: 1936 DOT COINAGE

by Tony Hine

The United Kingdom's abdication crisis of 1936 came at a time when the European theatre was on the brink of World War Two, as Germany armed itself and expanded east. In Canada, 1937 saw the founding of Tran Canada Airlines, the company that ultimately became Air Canada, Canada's Via Rail of the skies.

The stock market crash of 1929 created a financial crisis that broadened into a global depression, known in North America as the dirty thirties.

The death of King George V in January 1936 meant that King Edward VII was due to become king. However, when he announced plans to marry American Wallis Simpson, U.K. Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin refused to sanction the marriage, on the grounds of her two divorces. As a result, Edward abdicated on

December 11, 1936, and his brother Bertie became King George VI. The Charlton Catalogue reports that this created great strain on the Royal Mint, which then had to scrap its Edward VII obverse tools in order to create new George VI obverse tools. The delay forced the Royal Canadian Mint to strike its initial 1937 coinage using the 1936 dies and an altered reverse die marked with a tiny raised dot under the "1936."

Despite a reported mintage of almost 700,000 pieces, only three 1936 dot copper cents have been authenticated, all in mint state. Accordingly, prices are high. A 2003 sale from the Belzberg collection fetched US\$230,000.00 The silver ten-cent coin of 1936 was struck in 1937 had a dot on the reverse under the wreath. Although the reported mintage was

191,237, only five are known to have survived, all in specimen condition. One was sold in 2003 from the Belzberg collection for US\$74,750.000. The silver twenty-five cent coin of 1936 is more plentiful. Beginning in 1940, some collectors noticed that some 1936 quarters in circulation had a dot under the wreaths. The only mintage information is that the dot quarters were included in the 1936 mintage figure of 1, 125,779. An unspectacular VG-8 catalogues at \$45.00, a value reflected in the current trends.

The Detroit Red Wings under coach Jack Adams won the Stanley Cup for 1936/7.

Later in 1937, the New York Yankees won their sixth World Series, breaking the record of five World Series set in 1936 to tie the Philadelphia Athletics.

DOTTY NUMISMATICS

by James A. Hector

During those hectic days of December, 1936, when humanity hung breathless on the news from London, and at long last romance came true, and a king declared “the world well lost for love,” the lady in the case, Mrs. Wallis Warfield Simpson, was probably held responsible for more miscellaneous skulduggery than you could shake a stick at. Now that the heat of controversy has died away, most of these frequently hysterical allegations have sunk back into the limbo from which they should never have emerged. But there is one item for which the present Duchess of Windsor deserves the grateful remembrance of numismatists-Canada’s 1936/37 ‘dot’ coinage.

The writer has specialized in the coins and tokens of Canada for a number of years. In 1938, while examining some loose change, he noticed a peculiar feature in a quarter dated 1936. It consisted in a minute dot just below the bow of the wreath on the reverse, in the position indicated in the sketch. Such a variety did not appear to have been reported previously, so all 1936 quarters received from then on were carefully scrutinized. One or two more were found with the dot, but it was evident that the variety was by no means common. Subsequent enquiry at the Ottawa Mint brought out an interesting story.

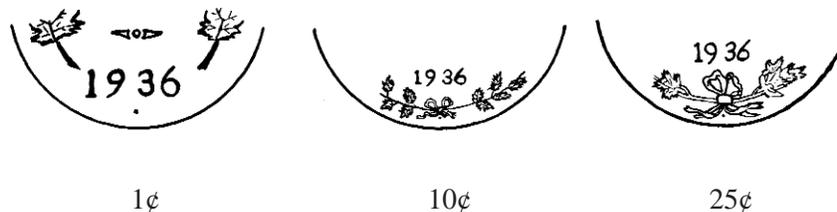
When George V died, in January, 1936, it was of course necessary to prepare new coinage. The master dies in such cases are prepared at the Royal Mint, London, England. The dies for the Edward VIII coins were well under way when, in December, he ceased to be king. Although work on the dies bearing the head of his present majesty was started immediately, such work takes time, and before the new dies were ready a shortage of certain coins developed.

In these circumstances, it was decided to strike such quantities as were needed to tide over the emergency from the dies of the preceding year-1936-first marking the dies so as to distinguish the coins struck in 1937. The dies of the quarter, dime, and cent were accordingly marked by drilling a minute hole which, of course, produced a tiny dot when the coins were struck. The positions are indicated in the accompanying sketches.

The Mint records give the following as the quantities struck

25 cent	76,800
10 cent	192,000
1. cent	627,200

It will be realized, therefore, that none of the coins can be described as common, and experience indicates that the dime and cent are particularly elusive. A census of material in the possession of local collectors shows between twenty and thirty quarters, but only two of the cents, and one solitary dime. No other cents or dimes have been found in circulation locally, although 1936 coins are still quite commonly found in change. In view of the quantities struck, it is indeed curious that the rarity appears to be in inverse proportion to the numbers turned out.



Sketches showing position of dots in Canada’s 1936–37 coinage. The actual dots are very minute approximately the size of the pearls on the arches of the crown on the reverse of the dime.

ANCIENT COIN CHALLENGES MYTH OF CLEOPATRA'S BEAUTY

Antony and Cleopatra were not the handsome General and his beautiful queen Hollywood would have us believe, according to experts at Newcastle University, who have been studying the depiction of the one of history's most tragic romantic couples found on a Roman coin.

The silver coin of Mark Antony and Cleopatra was discovered in a collection from the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne, which was being researched as part of the preparations for the Great North Museum, currently under development in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Antony and Cleopatra are shown on either side of the small silver coin (pictured), which is about the size of a modern five pence piece. Cleopatra is depicted with a shallow forehead, long, pointed nose, narrow lips and a sharply pointed chin, while Mark Antony has bulging eyes, a large hooked nose and a thick neck.

Clare Pickersgill, Assistant Director of Archaeological Museums at Newcastle University, said: 'The popular image we have of Cleopatra is that of a beautiful queen who was adored by Roman politicians and generals.

'The relationship between Mark Antony and Cleopatra has long been romanticised by writers, artists and film-makers. Shakespeare wrote his tragedy 'Antony and Cleopatra' in 1608, while the Orientalist artists of the nineteenth century and the modern Hollywood depictions, such as that of Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton in the 1963 film have added to the idea that Cleopatra was a great beauty. Recent research would seem to disagree with this portrayal, however', said Clare.

Lindsay Allason-Jones, Director of Archaeological Museums at Newcastle University, added: 'The image on the coin is far from being that of Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton!

'Roman writers tell us that Cleopatra was intelligent and charismatic, and that she had a seductive voice but, tellingly, they do not mention her beauty. The image of Cleopatra as a beautiful seductress is a more recent image'.

The coin is a silver denarius of Mark Antony and Cleopatra dated to 32 BC, which would have been issued by the mint of Mark Antony. On one side is the head of Mark Antony, bearing the caption Antoni



Armenia devicta meaning 'For Antony, Armenia having been vanquished'.

Cleopatra appears on the reverse of the coin with the inscription Cleopatra Reginae regum filiorumque regum, meaning 'For Cleopatra, Queen of kings and of the children of kings' (or possibly 'Queen of kings and of her children who are kings').

The coin itself is not enormously rare, but due to its depictions, it is very collectable. The collection has been owned by the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne since the 1920s. Until now, it has been kept in a bank, but the development of the Great North Museum project means that other 'hidden gems' like the Antony and Cleopatra coin, will be able to go on display to the public for the first time when the GNM opens in 2009.

The coin will go on display in Newcastle University's Shefton Museum from Valentines Day, Wednesday 14 February.

Antony and Cleopatra

Cleopatra VII was the last ruler of Egypt before its conquest by the Roman leader Octavian in 30BC. She was also the last Ptolemaic ruler of Egypt. The Ptolemaic rulers, who ruled Egypt from 305BC until 30BC. Cleopatra was born in 70/69BC probably in Alexandria. She became queen at the age of 17, and died when she was 38.

Mark Antony, born in 83BC, was a Roman general and politician who had been a supporter of Julius Caesar. After the death of Julius Caesar he joined with Octavian and Lepidus to form a body of three governing people in Rome. The second triumvirate, as it is referred to, ended in 33BC after which civil war followed. Mark Antony was also known for his fondness of wine, women and song.

Mark Antony had been interested in the support of Cleopatra and Egypt for his campaigns in Armenia, Parthia and Mesopotamia. On their meeting Cleopatra put on a show that displayed her wealth and which left Antony in awe. Antony had a relationship with Cleopatra, despite being married to Fulvia and later to Octavia. Cleopatra already had a son, Caesarion, from her relationship with Julius Caesar, but she had three more children with Antony, the twins Alexander and Cleopatra, and a son Ptolemaios.

In 31 BC the battle of Actium, between Antony and Cleopatra and Octavian, took place off the west coast of Greece. Cleopatra fled with her ships back to Egypt and Antony followed. Soon after this defeat, in 30 BC, Antony committed suicide. Shortly afterwards, Cleopatra also committed suicide, apparently by allowing asps to bite her.

Octavian, who later became the first Roman emperor Augustus, then took control of Egypt. Cleopatra's son Caesarion was killed by Octavian's troops, but the three children belonging to her and Antony were raised by Antony's wife Octavia.

After the suicide of Antony and Cleopatra the portrayal of Cleopatra as drunk and decadent and as being responsible for ensnaring Antony were circulated in Rome. Her suicide, on the other hand, was regarded as a noble act, and in Egypt she continued to be viewed as a patriotic ruler. Her suicide, often seen as a result of her love for Antony - but more likely because she did not want to be dragged into Rome as part of the victory parade of Octavian - has contributed to the romantic image we have today.