



# 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: [northyorkcoinclub@rogers.com](mailto:northyorkcoinclub@rogers.com)  
Phone: 647-222-9995

## Member :

Canadian Numismatic Association  
Ontario Numismatic Association

President .....Nick Cowan  
1st Vice President .....Bill O'Brien  
2nd Vice President.....Open  
Secretary .....Paul Petch  
Treasurer .....Len Kuenzig  
Past President .....Robert Wilson

## Executive Committee

Director .....Tony Hine  
Director .....Roger Fox  
Director .....Vince Chiappino  
Junior Director .....Open  
Auctioneer .....Bob Porter  
Auction Manager .....Mark Argentino  
Co-Editors .....Paul Petch/Tony Hine

Receptionist .....Albert Kasman  
Draw Prizes .....Bill O'Brien  
Social Convenor .....Bill O'Brien  
Librarian .....Robert Wilson  
Program Planning .....Paul Johnson,  
Paul Petch, John Regitko

## THE BULLETIN FOR OCTOBER 2007

### COMING EVENTS FOR FALL 2007

**OCT. 20, Guelph**, South Wellington and Waterloo Coin Societies, Colonel John McCrae Legion, 919 York Rd. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Displays, free parking, accessible, buy-sell-trade, over 50 tables.* For more information, contact Lowell Weirstra 519-824-6534.

**OCT. 21, 2007, Stratford**, Stratford Coin Club Annual Show, Festival Inn, 1144 Ontario Street. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Adults \$2, *Admission includes draw on gold coin, 16 and under free. Buy, sell coins, paper money, tokens.* For more information, contact Larry Walker, 519-271-3352, [walker@wightman.ca](mailto:walker@wightman.ca).

**OCT. 27 - 28, Toronto**, Torex—Canada's National Coin Show, 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, please call 416-705-5348. Web site: <http://www.torex.net>.

**NOV. 2 - 4, 2007, Montreal**, NUPHILEX, Holiday Inn Midtown, 420 Sherbrooke St. W. Hours: Fri. 11 to 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$3 per day, Sunday free. Early bird admission \$25 (\$10 donated to Quebec Autism Society). Room security from Thurs. 5 p.m. to Fri. 8 a.m. Coin auction by Lower Canada Auction. For more information, contact Gabriel Sebag, 514-842-4411, [nuphilex@bellnet.ca](mailto:nuphilex@bellnet.ca). Web site: <http://www.nuphilex.com>.

### NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23

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

Henry Nienhuis has been researching the first item ever struck at the Royal Canadian Mint... exactly 100 years ago. Henry will be telling us all about this most interesting piece, so plan to attend and find out more!

**Please Don't Forget:** *We need some donations to our supply of draw prize material, and please bring some items for the auction.*

**NOV. 3, Scarborough**, Scarborough Coin Club 11th Annual Coin Show, Cedarbrook Community Centre, 91 Eastpark Blvd. Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. *Free admission and draws with refreshments available.* For more information, contact Dick Dunn at [cpms@idirect.com](mailto:cpms@idirect.com) or PO Box 562, Pickering ON L1V 2R7.

**NOV. 11, Windsor**, Windsor Coin Club Annual Fall Show, Caboto Club, 2175 Parent Ave. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Lots of free parking. \$1 admission includes draws for hourly door prizes and a grand prize. Juniors admitted free.* For more information, contact Marg Clarke, 519-735-0727 or e-mail [mclarke@wincom.net](mailto:mclarke@wincom.net).

**NOV. 17 - 18, Cambridge**, TLC Show, Future Inns, 700 Hespeler Road. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission adults \$4, seniors and children \$2. For more information, contact Linda Robinson, 289-235-9288, [lindarobinson@cogeco.ca](mailto:lindarobinson@cogeco.ca) or Tom Kennedy, 519-271-8825.

**NOV. 24, Niagara Falls**, Coin-a-Rama, Our Lady of Peace Hall, 6944 Stanley Ave. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking, \$2 admission, free gold draw. For more information, contact B. Kostyk, 905-356-5006.

### ROYAL CANADIAN MINT WINS GUINNESS WORLD RECORD!

*100-kg, 99.999% pure gold bullion coin with a \$1 million face value is certified as world's largest gold coin*

October 18, 2007 - The Royal Canadian Mint is proud to announce that its masterpiece 100-kg, 99.999% pure gold bullion coin with a \$1 million face value has been proven by Guinness World Records to be the world's largest gold coin.

The 100-kg, 99999 pure gold bullion coin with a \$1 million face value was originally conceived as a unique showpiece to promote the RCM's new line of 99999 pure one-ounce Gold Maple Leaf bullion coins. After several interested buyers came forward, the RCM decided to make a very limited quantity available for sale. To date, five of these majestic gold bullion coins, weighing 3,215 troy ounces each, have been purchased by investors from Canada and abroad.

The coins are manufactured at the RCM's Ottawa facility, where the Mint operates world-class gold and silver refineries, securely stores gold bullion and mints all RCM gold bullion products and collector coins.

## MEETING NEWS OF THE SEPTEMBER 2007 MEETING

The 527<sup>th</sup> meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on September 25, 2007 at the Edithvale Community Centre, North York, Ontario. The meeting came to order at 7:40 p.m. with the President, Nick Cowan, in the chair and 28 members and 1 Guest in attendance. The mint box was immediately passed to one visiting junior.

The on time attendance draw of \$2 was missed by Vic Shewchuk, so it goes to \$4 for the October meeting.

The Secretary drew members attention to the minutes published in the bulletin and supplemented that information with financial data. The treasurer indicated that the information as presented at the June meeting was incorrect and was actually the numbers from March, 2007. The correct figures will be made available in his report at the October meeting.

This is an election year for the club. The President called on any member willing to serve as the chairman of a nominations committee. There being no response, he indicated he would endeavour to appoint a chair.

The President announced recent news on plans for reconstruction of the Edithvale

site. It is now planned to leave much of the current building in place during construction of a new facility. This will ensure that all current permit holders will be able to continue with their programs during the construction period. Plans for the annual Christmas Party now include use of the local Legion Hall and also reservations in a party room at a Swiss Chalet just south of the 401 on Yonge Street. Discussions have begun with the objective of arranging space at the North York City Hall site for the O.N.A. 2011 convention.

Henry Nienhuis as the North York Coin Club C.N.A. Convention delegate and he presented his report on the event. It was a full and detailed commentary on events and will be printed in the next bulletin. Paul Johnson, in his capacity of C.N.A. Executive Secretary, presented C.N.A. 25 year membership certificates to Terry O'Brien and Jim Heifetz and a 45-year C.N.A. membership certificate to Marvin Kay. Marvin Kay also received a Fellow of the C.N.A. medal, a recent addition to the honour being presented to existing fellows. Paul Petch, with his interest in numismatic literature, detailed four significant and new books, which were available for purchase during the convention.

Shawn Hamilton made a few remarks on the giant A.N.A. convention held in Milwaukee. Roger Fox, noting that the Canadian dollar was reaching par with the US dollar, produced a US one dollar note featuring Sandy McTire (as seen on Canadian Tire Notes) as the vignette at the centre of the note.

We thank Bill O'Brien for sitting in as Receptionist and providing and preparing refreshments for the break.

Bob Porter conducted the auction with Terry O'Brien most ably serving as auction manager and Vince Chiappino as runner. The auction alternated with the evening's Lucky Draw called by Bill O'Brien. Draw ticket sales were \$37 and the club earned \$18.95 in auction commission. Lucky Draw winners were Bob Velensky, Tony Hine, Karen Eaton, Franco Farronato, Nick Cowan, Paul Johnson, David Lemmond, Tom Ivovic, Mr. Bar-Moshe, Jr., Len Kuenzig and Leon Saraga. The Club thanks those who donated draw prize material, and everyone is reminded that more material is needed since the shelf remains rather bare.

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

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## CONVENTION REPORT TO THE NYCC SEPTEMBER 2007 MEETING

### DELEGATE REPORT BY HENRY NIENHUIS

I would first like to take this opportunity to thank the members and the executive of the North York Coin Club for allowing me to be their delegate this year. I greatly appreciate the honour.

During the course of the five days of the convention I saw a number of fellow members of NYCC at the various events; which to me, is a great indicator of the support the C.N.A. has within our club.

My first memory upon arriving at the 2007 C.N.A. Convention on Wed. July 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 is the image of John Regitko standing in the Hotel lobby directing people towards the Educational Symposium. It was greatly appreciated as my morning coffee hadn't quite settled in and I might have been

wandering the halls for hours.

In retrospect it was a great convention, in my opinion the best I've attended, with many events appealing to a wide range of interests. To me, the educational symposiums held on Wed. and Thurs., was the highlight of the convention. Over the course of the two days I learned many things about our hobby and photography. I had been asked to act as the backup photographer at the convention.

#### *Educational Symposium July 11-12*

The symposium sessions started off to a great start, aside from the expected technical gremlins, on Wed. morning with Dan Gosling's interesting talk about the life and times of J. Douglas Ferguson. One of the

pluses of getting there for the morning session was the great handouts Dan distributed, including a CD with a 185 pages of back ground information accumulated while researching his topic, an MP3 file of a speech Mr. Ferguson made in Moncton 1969, numerous images and the Apr 1982 C.N. Journal containing *A Tribute to J.D. Ferguson*.

David Bergeron, Curator of the National Currency Collection, presented an interesting and potentially new area of collection, Payment Cards (Credit/Debit Cards).

Michael Walsh discussed, in great detail, weak strikes on Canadian Coins; a topic that all collectors should be conscious of while studying their collections.

Rob Turner's talk was based on his ground breaking work on the 1858 1cent piece. One of the key points in the presentation is Rob's research showing that the mintage of 1858 1 cent pieces is significantly higher than previously assumed.

Tolling Jennings detailed account of the Lasqueti Mint was both amusing and full of information. The facility described is relatively primitive by today's standards (the mint to this day uses a drop hammer as the only coining mechanism) and yet produces the wonderful works of art manufactured by the mint. (Chuck Moore commissioned the Lasqueti mint to create his convention token this year.)

### Wednesday 11 July

- 900 - Daniel Gosling *The Life and Times of J Douglas Ferguson*
- 1000 - Philip Carrigan *Auction Sales of the 19th and 20th Century with Significant Canadian Content*
- 1100 - Graham Esler *English Issues of the Bank of Montreal, Revisited*  
—Lunch—
- 1300 - Ron Greene *Early tokens of Nelson, B.C.*
- 1400 - Henry Nienhuis *Canadian Error Coinage*
- 1500 - Dr. Peter Moogk *The Value of Archaeological Evidence to Eighteenth and Nineteenth-Century Numismatics*
- 1600 - David Bergeron *Payment Cards, Credit and Debit*

### Thursday 12 July

- 900 - Michael Walsh *Weak Strikes on Canadian Coins*
- 1000 - Rob Turner *The 1858 Canadian Cent*
- 1100 - Paul Berry *The Double Tournois in 17th Century Canada*  
—Lunch—
- 1300 - Dr. H. Don Allen *Ones' Own Money: Two Centuries of Cheque Evolution in Canada and the United States*
- 1400 - Tolling Jennings *A Short History of the Lasqueti Mint*
- 1500 - Ted Leitch *The Eight Real in the New World*
- 1600 - Dr. Chris Faulkner *Some Observations Regarding the Production of the PEI Holy Dollar*
- 1700 - Wendell Wolka *Canada's Battleship Banknote*

### Club Meetings

The C.N.A. convention is an opportune venue for specialty clubs to hold meetings. This year was no exception with no less than 9 scheduled meeting. This is a great opportunity to be exposed to a wide range of interesting material covering many areas of numismatics. The club meeting schedule:

### Friday July 13th

- 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m. CPMS Luncheon & General Meeting
- 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Coin Error Enthusiasts Meeting
- 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Newfoundland Enthusiasts Meeting

### Saturday July 14th

- 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. CNRS Breakfast Meeting
- 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. MASC Executive Meeting (by invitation only)
- 12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m. CATC Meeting - Canadian Association of Token Collectors meeting
- 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. MASC Meeting - Medallion Art Society of Canada meeting with educational program
- 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. CTCCC Meeting - Canadian Tire Coupon Collectors Club

### Sunday July 15th

- 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. CAWMC Breakfast - (pre-purchased tickets required)

### The Royal Canadian Mint Reception - Friday July 13th

The Royal Canadian mint reception was held at the Hilton hotel from 6:00–7:30 was a great way to meet the mint officials. A special highlight in this year's reception was Charles Moore receiving a special service award from Max Lewis COB and Ian Bennett CEO.

### The C.N.A. Club Delegates meeting - Saturday July 14th

This is my first club delegates meeting. It was held Sat. morning from 8:00–10:00, this meeting featured a very interesting keynote talk by Michael "Stan" Turrini. The talk was structured around a survey format. According to Stan, he has had an opportunity to conduct this survey in a number of occasions. It served as a great ice breaker

allowing the audience to learn many interesting snippets of information about the fellow attendees. The highlight for me came when the youngest member mentioned that he was introduced to the hobby by 'taking' his fathers collection. This was met with a room full of laughter. I believe that the attendee's broke the record for Stan in that the accumulated length of time the 20+ members of the audience had been in the hobby totalled over 900 years. In addition to the great talk given by Stan was the fantastic give-aways distributed by John Regitko.

### The C.N.A. General meeting - Saturday July 14th

This year's General meeting, Sat. 10:30–11:30, saw Chuck Moore transitioning the presidency to Michael Walsh. Among the presentations, Paul Johnson gave a very well structured summary of the association's finances. Dan Gosling as Archivist, Librarian and editor of the CN Journal talked about the current initiatives and appealed for more contributions from the association membership with respect to archival material and articles.

Associated with this meeting was an opportunity for Chuck Moore to present special presidential award plaques as well as long membership certificates. There were a number of certificates that were given for 50 years of membership . . . WOW!

In addition the winners of the Display competition were identified and were given their ribbons and a medal.

At this point Norman Williams, past president, performed the installation ceremony for the incoming 2007–2009 officers.

With this complete the meeting was adjourned.

### Incoming Executive meeting - Sunday July 15th

Something that was new for me this year was to attend the incoming executive meeting held Sun. from 8:00–10:00. This is not a closed meeting and is open to the membership to attend. It was an interesting insight in the executive and the running of the association and would heartily recommend others attend future such meeting. A number of topics were on the agenda including the 2008 convention preparations. There is a VIP tour of the Ottawa Mint being plan in conjunction with that convention.

**Educational Forums - Saturday July 14<sup>th</sup>**

The educational forums, held Sat. from 3:30–5:00, were of great interest to me. There were two speakers; Jody Sales, analyst at the Bank of Canada, and Stan Witten, Sr. Engraver from the RCM. Jody spoke once again about counterfeit detection and the mechanism the BofC are putting in place in an attempt to foil would be counterfeiters. Stan's presentation was focused on the steps involved in the production of the tools from initial conception to the production of final working dies. As part of his presentation he brought along examples of the various stages from the 2004 commemorative silver dollar he engraved. This was certainly one of the highlights of the convention for me!

**Hospitality Suite**

As is the recent custom the Hospitality suite was available from 10:30 until 4:00, a welcome oasis during the day. Manned (or showed I say personned) by the volunteers of the convention committee.

During the convention there were a number of book related announcements two of note are:

- 1) Daryl Atchison was here from Ireland to launch the Canadian Numismatic Bibliography. Orders were taken during the convention and delivery is now underway. This will be must-have reference for all numismatic libraries.
- 2) Rob Turner announced his ground breaking work, The 1858 1 Cent of Provincial Canada. With this release Rob has set a new bar fro numismatic publications.

In summary and in my brief experience, this was the best Convention the C.N.A. has had. I express my thanks to the C.N.A. convention committee for all their hard work and tireless effort. There were so many events scheduled over the course of the convention, with very little overlap, that I can attest to the expert planning that went into this convention. I am pleased to conclude my report with this short message from John Regitko:

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*The C.N.A. Convention Committee would like to thank members of the North York Coin club for their support in making the 2007 Convention the largest ever in a number of areas. Not only were a number of members of the NYCC on the Convention committee, but many others registered or attended for one day or more.*

*As a result of the support received, the Convention made a profit of over \$11,000. Added to the \$10,000 that was bid for the rights to host the Official Auction, the C.N.A. is ahead by around \$22,000, probably an all-time record.*

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**MINT DEMANDS \$48,000 FOR TORONTO'S ONE CENT COIN AD CAMPAIGN**

**CITYNEWS.CA STAFF, FRIDAY OCTOBER 5, 2007**

Never mind a penny for your thoughts - these ruminations may cost you \$47,680. You may remember a few months ago we told you about the City of Toronto launching its "One Cent of the GST Now!" campaign, designed to pressure Ottawa to give struggling municipalities across the country a single penny from all the money collected on the GST to help their cash crunch.

And in a response that can only be akin to adding insult to injury, the feds have finally responded. Or at least one of their departments has. The Royal Canadian Mint is seeking compensation from City Hall for using the penny in its advertising blitz, an image that belongs to the money manufacturer.

The cash controllers claim Toronto never asked their permission to use the reproduction of the coin, didn't pay the \$350 application fee, ignored royalty payments, and never paid up for using the phrase "one cent" in the campaign.

Now the city has responded to the bizarre request by putting its own two cents in.

"The penny is a public domain," notes Don Wanagas, a spokesman for Mayor David Miller. "We were not using it for any sort of financial gain. There was not a for-profit aspect of it. So, you know, this is a coin that a



lot of people will see one on the street. They won't even bother to bend over and pick it up. So I mean, you know, let's be real here." The city also notes even the ad space was donated, making it anything but a commercial venture.

The Mint claims it must scrupulously guard the images it owns and took the action to protect its rights, even as it ponders getting rid of the expensive-to-manufacture coin altogether. The city disagrees and the campaign remains in effect. "One government should not be seeking payment from another government for the use of words and an iconic image in a not-for-profit public education campaign," it defends in a statement.

But Toronto Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong thinks he knows where the real blame

lies for all this penny pinching. "It doesn't make sense for one level of government to be arguing with another level of government in this instance. But what I would also add to this is this really is another example of incompetence on behalf of the city's part."

Does the public have a 'cents' of outrage about this ongoing war of words and pennies? "I think they're being a little ridiculous," opines Nancy Pacitto. "That seems like an awful lot of money just to show the image but at the same time the city of Toronto should ask for permission ahead of time."

"They do a lot of stupid things," adds Raoul Oliveira.

Matt Wise thinks the whole thing is worth less than a red cent. "I don't think the city should have to dish out money for an image that's pretty much public property ... The whole claim is far fetched."

The lawsuit is distracting some from the original goal of the campaign. It's estimated Toronto could reap an extra \$400 million every year if it could wrangle one of those disputed pennies from a share of the GST. And for a city on the edge, that would be pennies from heaven.

## A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

BY RANDY BURTON

Thursday, October 04, 2007

### *Could it be the end of the penny?*

The very foundation of our monetary system appears to be under attack. Global National is reporting that the federal government is thinking about doing away with the venerable little coin. Apparently it costs more to produce it and to keep it in circulation than it's actually worth. Thus, the folks in the Finance Department have been considering eliminating it from circulation for the past two years.

Imagine that. Right under our very noses, they have been secretly plotting the penny's demise. If the television network had not filed an Access to Information request, it's very likely that the government would have just dummied up about the whole thing until it was a fait accompli.

Of course, a lot of people won't care. They will accept the penny's demise as part of the inevitable march toward progress and world economic union.

After all, New Zealand gave up on the penny in 1990 and Australia followed suit in '92. Can Canada be far behind? After all, we know Prime Minister Stephen Harper is a soul mate of Australian Prime Minister John Howard. They see eye to eye on world terrorism, they take a similar approach to climate change, and certainly Harper has borrowed from Howard on how to run an election campaign.

Could they also be in cahoots on the penny?

Of course, there's a compelling argument to be made for losing it altogether. Consider this for example. There are something like 20 billion pennies out there and it costs about \$130 million to keep them in circulation. Just think of it. You could build part of a bridge in Saskatoon for that kind of money, and maybe put lights on it, too.

What's more, only about one-third of us actually use pennies. The rest of us simply toss them in fountains or worse,

let them pile up at home. With 20 billion in circulation, that's an average of 600 pennies per Canadian. What this tells me is that somebody is hoarding the little beggars.

I certainly don't have any more than two or three hundred on my dresser, which has to mean that other people have far more than their share. Who knows? There could be people out there with thousands of pennies mouldering away in jars and coffee cans.

And think of the time that could be saved if the penny went the way of the dodo. Have you ever been in line at a store waiting for the little old lady ahead of you to count out her change? I swear snap purses were specifically designed to torture the arthritic. No one knows the value of a penny better than a senior. They count them out like they were emeralds. Meanwhile, there you are, watching your life stretch before you like all eternity. There's no question, killing off the penny could add years to your life.

Yet the scene I describe here is the very reason the government can't move on the issue. Seniors would never stand for it. For one thing, if the penny goes, so does the penny slot machine. And then what happens to the Saskatchewan casino industry?

If government kills the penny, every retail establishment in the country faces a choice on whether to round prices up or down. Now which way do you think they're going to go?

Is there a consumer in the country who won't think of Stephen Harper every time he pays an even \$10 for an item, rather than \$9.98? For the answer to that, just think of Brian Mulroney and the GST.

And how will all those shop owners advertise their goods if they can no longer knock two cents off the price to convince gullible consumers what a bargain they're getting?

This is all quite apart from the penny's cultural significance. It would mean the end of those little penny collection plates that go to help out charities. It would also mean the end of those cool penny stamping machines you still see in the United States, the kind that flattens and elongates the coin while imprinting a new image.

I happen to have a beauty from the Grand Canyon that shows a prospector riding a mule up a steep canyon trail. Who's going to want to waste a nickel on that kind of thing?

This is all quite apart from what the death of the penny would do to the English language. No longer will you be able to convince your friends that that clapped-out old pickup in the driveway was "worth every penny." No longer will you be able to plan your retirement around the trajectory of those "penny stocks" your broker convinced you to buy.

And think of the implications for the newspaper business. No longer will we be able to condemn the government for being "penny wise, but pound foolish." Inevitably my "two cents worth" would be, well, you get the idea.

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*Is our one-cent piece  
reaching the end of the road?*

## GOING ONCE, TWICE ...

by Dr. R.S. "Bart" Bartanowicz, September 28, 2007

"Would you mind being our auctioneer?" Our numismatist wasn't prepared for the question.

"Can't we get another club member to do it? If someone volunteers, I can coach the individual."

The club president wasn't taking no for an answer despite our numismatist trying to talk him out of it. "If you insist, I'll go ahead and do it," our numismatist said, adding the caveat, "but only for a short time."

Truth of the matter is that this was one job he just didn't like. Plus he knew that once he agreed to become the auctioneer it would be difficult to get someone else to do the job.

He had served as a club auctioneer, and he wasn't very good at it. The problem was that he became too absorbed or interested in the coins to really do a good job of auctioning them off.

On the other hand, he knew he could be entertaining by mixing in a bit of wit while conducting the auction. Plus, when appropriate, he always liked to add helpful information to help sell or move a coin along the way.

The club had decided that auctions would spark interest in the club. It was a small club, where 15 members or so usually attended the once-a-month meetings. And, of course, as with most clubs, members always had extra coins or material that they wanted to dispose of as they upgraded coins or sold off collections. So a monthly auction was a popular idea.

Our numismatist steeled himself the night of the club auction. To his relief, there were only 20 lots, which meant that the auction would not last too long.

He looked over the offerings and crosschecked them against the auction-lot inventory that included the grade of

each coin and minimum bid, as provided by the consignor.

The first few lots sold quickly, as he advanced to the next lot. "We have two George V Canadian large cents that are graded Fine. The patina is a lovely light brown that is evenly colored on the obverse and reverse.

There are no distracting marks, and the coins are probably under graded. The reserve is \$2.50. Do I have an opening bid?

To his surprise, there were no bids. Not to be dissuaded, he continued. "There are only 10 large cents in the George V series that ran from 1911 to 1920. This is a very affordable set."

Adding a bit of humor, "By the way, these aren't my coins, nor do I have a proprietary interest in them."

This brought a few chuckles but no bids. He relented. "Seeing no interest, we'll move on."

Following the auction, a club member asked, "Are those Canadian large cents really a good deal?"

Our numismatist nodded.

"Most people don't appreciate the low mintage of these coins and the good prices. Those are two really nice specimens and you could have had the pair for a couple of dollars. If you're interested you can check with the owner and see if he still wants to sell them." The reply was a firm, "I'll do

that," as the club member picked the coins up and went to the owner.

Our numismatist smiled. He had finished his auctioneering and had interested someone in collecting a much unappreciated and undervalued coin. He might not be a hotshot auctioneer, but he wasn't a bad educator.

This column is about a lot of things. It's about keeping small coin clubs going, auctions, educating club members, and a nice Canadian coin series.

As with most of my columns, this is based on one of my adventures. I don't care to be an auctioneer, as I do really get more involved with the coins than I should. What I mean is that I sometimes can't understand why folks aren't bidding on coins I think are good buys. In this case it was Canadian large cents. Oh, did I tell you, I'm also slow? Put otherwise, I know that I won't be getting a call from any of the major auction houses to serve as an auctioneer.

Small club auctions are an excellent opportunity to expose club members to a wide variety of coins, usually at good prices. There are also clubs with big auctions. For instance, one club I belong to routinely has 50 lots up for sale each meeting. Either way, auctions can spice up a club.

Now for my personal numismatic tip: Canadian coins are affordable and have a wonderful numismatic legacy, including colonial issues, tokens, as well as modern issues. I especially like the large cents, which started in 1858 and ran up to 1920 before being replaced with small cents.

The large cents are affordable and nice. Take a look.

I need to sign off. We have a club auction next week and I have to do some research on a marvelous-looking Polish zloty that's been put in the auction.



*"I'm confused..."*

*is this the auction or are we still on the guest speaker?"*