



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

Web site: www.northyorkcoinclub.ca

Contact the Club :

E-mail: northyorkcoinclub@rogers.com
Phone: 647-222-9995

Member :

Canadian Numismatic Association
Ontario Numismatic Association

PresidentNick Cowan
1st Vice PresidentBill O'Brien
2nd Vice President.....Shawn Hamilton
SecretaryTony Hine
TreasurerLen Kuenzig
Past PresidentRobert Wilson

Executive Committee

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

Receptionist
Draw PrizesBill O'Brien
Social Convenor.....Bill O'Brien
LibrarianRobert Wilson
Program Planning

THE BULLETIN FOR SEPTEMBER 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi again, fellow members:

Well, it is back to collecting time and to start thinking about the fall season, Christmas Dinner, while also thinking to ourselves; "Where did the summer go?"

This is also the season of change and it's the time to start a season of change at NYCC. Now, we don't want change for the sake of change, what we need is change for the better and change for the future and survival of the Club. My agenda is not to upset the proverbial applecart, but to make sure that it can carry the load for many years ahead.

I have a full agenda prepared for the coming season and I will be pushing and pushing hard, to have everyone do whatever they can to bring in new members.

I know you have heard this from me at least a 100 times, but the reality is, if we don't get our membership up, and very soon, we will start on an irreversible decline into oblivion. That is not what you really want, so it is up to each and every one of us to put an end to lethargy and do something about it.

I need the commitment and participation of every member this year, in order to carry out our much-needed change.

I have lots of other plans and ideas, which I will bring up at the September meeting. One of the items on my mind is to ensure that everyone is behind me, and as enthusiastic as I am to once again hold our Christmas dinner at the Legion, the same place as last year. In doing a survey, I found that all those who attended last year really enjoyed themselves and would be pleased to return this year. It was enough of a vote of confidence for me to book our usual second-Tuesday-of-December evening before anyone else might grab it. The

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

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

The feature speaker at our September meeting will be member Henry Nienhuis, presenting a talk titled "Recent Counterfeit Collector Coins." In recent years there have been a large number of counterfeit coins appearing on popular on-line auction sites. Henry will present his research and experiences with such pieces, now often being sold as *replicas*. His presentation will include detailed images of these coins with comments on methods to distinguish them from genuine specimens.

Our supply of draw prize material is very low and we appreciate all donations.

Remember to bring some items for the auction!

only complaint from last year was that, for some people, the food portions were not large enough. Since the value for the dollar is so good at the Legion, the obvious answer to go to a buffet format with only a modest cost increase. Also at the next meeting, it is the right time to catch up on all the summer news, especially from those who could not be with us at our July and August meetings.

We need donations for the Juniors Treasure Chest . . . *it is empty.*

We need donations for door prizes, *we have almost none left.*

Let's ALL go into our hiding places and pull out a few of the odds and ends we forgot we had and don't know why we saved them. They make great donations and prizes.

So bring all you can in prizes, donations and Guests to this and future meetings. You have done it before many times and now you can do it again.

Our website is up and running. Mark Argentino has sent an e-mail to some members requesting your ideas and thoughts. We have, for now, simply put up the list of those on the executive and provided some contact information at [http://www.northyorkcoin-](http://www.northyorkcoin-club.ca/)

[club.ca/](http://www.northyorkcoin-club.ca/). In his e-mail Mark suggested a bunch of sections, including: Meetings, Bulletins (current and past), History of club, Articles (this will be the 'meat and potatoes' of the site), Archives, Auctions, Membership, A Forum for comments (including suggestions and discussions amongst members), a Marketplace, buy and sell section, Upcoming Events, Appraisal, About us, the Executive list and How To Contact Us. If you have thoughts and have not responded, please do so. Mark, David and others have done a lot of work on securing this website, so you should be part of the action.

You can advertise, sell, buy, trade, look for a job or offer one (just think, who would hire me?) post a picture of your latest acquisition and a myriad of other grand ideas. Remember, we are in the 21st. Century, so let's become the Club of the future, not a club from the past.

We have a wonderful history as a Club; let us show the collectors of the World what we are all about. Great names have come and gone through NYCC.

It is to our advantage to let other collectors know about us.

Nick

MEETING NEWS OF THE AUGUST 2008 MEETING

The 538th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on August 20, 2008 at 7 Edithvale Blvd., North York, Ontario. Ten members and one guest were in attendance when the President held the on time attendance draw at 7:35 p.m. The name of George Fraser was drawn, but in his absence the treasurer announced that the prize for September would rise to \$4.00.

As he welcomed those in attendance, and introduced guest Davit C., the President commented that this might be the last meeting of the North York Coin Club in room 123 at 7 Edithvale, as construction was expected to begin shortly on the replacement facility. This would result in our group being moved to other available rooms.

The President has booked the second Tuesday of December at the Royal Canadian Legion for the annual Xmas dinner. This will probably take the form of a buffet and be a few dollars more expensive than last year. He asked that this be highlighted in the contact made with members with the delivery of the September bulletin.

The Treasurer presented a financial statement. The President corrected a statement in the July minutes regarding a commitment for state of the art audio-visual equipment to be available in the new facility. He said the wording should be subtly softened to say rather that the city would attempt to provide audio-visual equipment subject to budget constraints. Such equipment would not be required more than ten times per year.

Responding to a question about website progress, David Quinlan replied that an overseas work assignment had prevented his putting any time into the project. The President added that <http://www.yourcdncoinconnection.com/> had launched, containing misinformation about several clubs.

A break for coffee, cookies and juice, generously supplied by Bill O'Brien was held at 8:17 p.m. A thank you goes to Bill for all his hard work.

After the break member Paul Petch showed a table with ten books recently purchased from the Amazon.ca website.

His three top recommendations were:
Good Money: Birmingham button makers, the Royal Mint and the beginning of

modern coinage, 1775–1821 by George Anthony Selgin;

100 Greatest Ancient Coins A Whitman book by Harlan Berk; and

Money: A History by Catherine Eagleson.

Good Money traces the period in the U.K. where small change was in short supply. Matthew Boulton, who founded the Birmingham Mint, contributed to the British series popularly known as Condor Tokens against this background. Boulton partnered with James Watt to produce a steam driven minting press. Although the book's story revolves around economics, the bibliography cites all standard numismatic reference works.

100 Greatest Ancient Coins, Harlan J. Berk's book, which was selected by the numismatic Literary Guild as a top choice for specialized books in 2008, met all Paul's expectations for a Whitman publication.

Money: A History is out in paperback on the tenth anniversary of the original hardcover edition corresponding to the opening of the permanent money exhibit at the British Museum.

Time permitted Paul to mention make other recommendations. The first was *Numismatic Photography* by Mark Goodman. All the coins photographed in *Numismatic Photography* are United States coins, but the techniques are equally applicable to Canadian, world or ancient coins and the book contained good advice on buying equipment. The subject raised a question from Bill O'Brien who asked what a macro lens for Nikon bayonet mount digital camera might cost. Henry Nienhuis answered that less expensive compatible lenses from Conica fit the bill.

Another book was *Striking Change: The Great Artist collaboration of Theodore Roosevelt and Augustus Saint-Gaudens* by Michael Moran, which traces the renaissance of U.S. coinage, a pet project of Theodore Roosevelt to make U.S. coinage look prettier. Many regard the United States twenty dollar gold piece as the prettiest coin the U.S. has ever produced. While Paul had expected the book to be a light read, he found instead an exhaustive detailed study of the coins and their times.

Finally Paul mentioned a non-numismatic book that may be of interest to numismatists. *Byzantium* by Judith Herrin, deals with the second Roman Empire in Constantinople from the fall of Rome in 1234 until 1450, when movable type changed the world.

Henry Nienhuis talked about a book from 1926 by Robie L. Reid on the subject of the proposed mint and assay office for at Westminster, British Columbia. Henry is preparing three views on the story in a five-part article for the RCN Journal. Paul Petch remembered the last time he saw the book was when Syd Belzberg brought his \$10.00 and \$20.00 gold B.C. pattern coin to this Club, with the book by way of explanation. Henry added that Mr. Belzberg assembled a complete Canadian collection, including the 1911 pattern silver dollar, but ironically, lost money when he sold his collection.

Henry also displayed and passed around an RCM 2008 NCLT \$15.00 piece which depicts playing card money, an historical numismatic curiosity dating back to the French regime in Nouvelle France.

David Quinlan showed his numismatic souvenirs from his Australia trip. He located five coin dealers in Sydney on the Internet, but two were open only on weekends. He managed to visit four, finding them quite friendly and helpful. David displayed several coins including some non-silver duplicates that he was willing to sell. He also showed some paper money, which he received as a throw-in with a collection he purchased.

The President remarked on the need for donations to the door prize table and urged members to bring in anything they were tired of looking at as a donation to the Club.

Door prizes were awarded to Davit C. (2), Avner Bar-Moshe, John Regitko and Tony Hine (2), plus others not recorded.

Our next meeting is September 23rd and will feature a presentation by Henry Nienhuis, reprising his insightful symposium presentation from the 2008 CNA Convention in Ottawa.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

COMING EVENTS FOR FALL 2008

SEPT. 21, Essex, Essex County Coin Club Fall Show, Essex Retirees Social Club, 32 Russel St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Admission 50-cent, hourly door prizes, 15 tables, free parking.* For more information, contact president and show manager Dan Jones, djones33@cogeco.ca, (519) 733-6296.

SEPT. 26 - 28, St. Catharines, TNS, Quality Hotel, 327 Ontario St. TNS, Quality Hotel, 327 Ontario St. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Saturday and Sunday *Daily admission is \$4, Show pass is \$20.* For more information, contact Rick Simpson, Jo-Anne Simpson, rscoins@cogeco.ca (905) 643-4988, fax (905) 643-6329.

OCT. 4 - 5, Cambridge, TLC Show, Future Inns, 700 Hespeler Rd. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Admission Adults \$4, \$2 seniors (65), students 16 and under free. Free parking.* For more information, contact Linda Robinson (289)235-9288, lindarobinson@cogeco.ca or Tom Kennedy (519)271-8825.

OCT. 18, Oshawa, Oshawa Coin Club COIN-A-RAMA, Five Points Mall, 285

Taunton Rd. E. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. *Free dealer public, and membership draws. Free admission. Featuring paper, coins, tokens, medals & many other items.* For more information, contact Sharon at 905-728-1352 or e-mail papman@idirect.com.

OCT. 19, Mt. Elgin, 46th Annual Tillsonburg Coin Show, Mt. Elgin Community Centre, Highway 19. Hours: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. *Admission \$1. Free parking, lunch available.* For more information, contact Wayne MacFarlane, (519) 842-6666, waynemacfarlane@sympatico.ca.

OCT. 25 - 26, Toronto, Torex - Canada's National Coin Show, Hilton Toronto Airport Hotel, 5875 Airport Road, Mississauga Ballroom. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. *Admission \$6. Official Auctioneer: the Canadian Coinoisseur, Michael Walsh.* For more information, please call 416-705-5348. Website: <http://www.torex.net>.

OCT. 26, Stratford, Stratford Coin Show, Army, Navy, Air Force, 151 Lorne Ave. E.

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. Lunch available.* For more information, contact Larry Walker (519) 271-3352, Box 221, Gadshill, ON, N0K 1J0.

NOV. 1, Scarborough, Scarborough Coin Club 12th Annual Coin Show, Cedarbrook Community Centre, 91 Eastpark Blvd. Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. *Free admission, free draws and refreshments available. Tables still available.* For more information, contact Dick Dunn at cpms@idirect.com or PO Box 562, Pickering, ON L1V 2R7.

NOV. 9, Windsor, Windsor Coin Club Fall Show, Caboto Club, 2175 Parent Ave. *Admission of \$1 includes draws for hourly door prizes and a grand prize. Plenty of free parking.* M. Clarke email: mclarke@wincom.net, telephone (519) 735.0727.

NOV. 22, Niagara Falls, Niagara Falls Coin Club Show, Our Lady of Peace Hall, 6944 Stanley Ave. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., *Admission \$2 includes free draw.* For more information, contact Todd Hume, (905) 871-2451.

Listings are courtesy of Canadian Coin News Coming Events

ROMAN COIN PAINTS A PICTURE OF CITY'S PAST

BY LAUREN ROGERS, WORCESTER NEWS, AUGUST 19, 2008

Archaeologists scratching through layers of history in Worcester have found an ancient Roman coin and a 200 year-old halfpenny. The small coins were once separated by thousands of years, but now sit side by side in the increasingly full exhibition case on show in The Butts.

For the next eight weeks more finds will be added to the glass cabinet as they are unearthed. It is the perfect place to see and start to comprehend just how much history lies under our feet.

The Butts dig is now in its third week.

Professionals from *Worcestershire County Council*, working with volunteer members of the public, continue to find an abundance of Roman pottery – from locally made Malvernian to Samian ware imported from France.

Last week, they found three coins. The Roman denarius has been badly eroded making it impossible to date, but you can still make out the image of a Roman emperor stamped on its face.

The halfpenny dates to 1807 when King George III ruled England and slavery was abolished from the British Empire.

The team also dug up a 17th century coin of King Charles' reign, indicating that there could be artefacts dating back to the Civil War hidden beneath the surface.

Tom Vaughan, field project manager, said: "There's a big trench running across the site which we think was put there just after the city ditch was filled in." The ditch would have been outside the Mediaeval city, boundaries running along the length of the city walls.

"This coin could have been dropped in when they were filling it," said Mr Vaughan.

"Or, it could have been thrown in before that.

"Finding it here helps us know when the ditch was filled in."

Bits of pottery found in the same trench were described by archaeologists as "generic 17th and 18th century" and they, along with the coins, are now on display.



Angus Crawford with Roman coin

VIEWPOINT: PEOPLE ARE AT THE HEART OF THE COIN COMMUNITY

BY MICHAEL S. TURRINI



“Stan” Turrini, just retired from 31 years of teaching. He is well known for his involvements in organized numismatics at all levels. He is also well known to Canadian numismatists and a regular attendee at the RCNA conventions, not only brightening proceedings with his enthusiasm, but contributing to the formal program as well. Presently, he is the American Numismatic Association’s (ANA) Representative Program’s national coordinator. His email is EMPERORI@juno.com.

“You know they sit around and say ‘Look at my old coin,’ and smile a lot. That’s what Mr. Turrini’s coin friends do,” judged Tim Crowell, 18, editor of Will C. Wood High School’s (Vacaville, California) first-ever all-color yearbook, “Cat Tracks.”

One day, as the weeks ticked-down in my career teaching board drafting, social studies, and directing yearbook and while reading my work e-mails, the “Cat Tracks” Staff gathered in the production room. We had completed our last deadline—and my last deadline with retirement just weeks away—and played time on the PCs. Tim noticed that I was e-mailing one of my coin friends about the local coin club meeting that evening.

Laughing and joking, he and Ryan Cliff, 18, a fellow staffer, explained, “You and your coin friends, that’s what you talk about: ‘Look at my coin,’ ‘Want to hold it,’ and ‘Let me see yours.’”

Their remarks were in jest and they knew numismatics. Our “world of money” is a significant segment of my energy, time, commitment and passion.

Their joking sarcasm, most likely the result of their youth, sparked my thoughts. Maybe that is what my coin friends and I do talk about: “Look at my old coin.”

When I officially closed my career of 31 years and walked-out proudly from Will C. Wood, I made the mental note to listen to what my coin friends—anyone in our universal “world of money”—do talk about. In my

observations this past June we talk about much more than “show me yours and I will show you mine.”

The first answer came on Monday, June 9, before the Peninsula (Palo Alto, Calif.) Coin Club’s monthly meeting when Fred G. van den Haak and I met for dinner. Did we talk about coins? No, rather we debated politics, he being a blue Democrat and me a rabid red Republican. Yet, our conversation was not just the upcoming national election. No, we talked about our parents, his mother and mother-in-law both over 100 and my mother at 95, we talked about his daughter at the University of California-Davis, his wife’s love of horses, and about our weights and diets. In fact, as the dinner conversation progressed, I noticed that we never talked about coins; rather, we talked about far greater values in life: family, friends and faith in the future.

I have yet to see Fred’s famous and rare Dutch coins. Yet I know, from the poverty of post World War II Holland, his late father took the family to South Africa, hoping for a better life. After 10 years he had earned enough for four plane tickets out, bringing Fred and his late brother and parents to California. That personal fact stays with me more than Fred’s knowledge of Dutch gold trade ducats.

That personal fact speaks volumes of what our world of money is about: people, and not those round metallic discs. People are our world of money.

A few days later, in my annual trek to the Gateway (Merced, Calif.) Coin Club to present my “What Is Money” talk, Gordon R. Donnell and I found ourselves at the table with two women, and never did coins come across of our conversation. One of the women reminded us that she and her husband, who is the club’s vice president, would celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary in December, and the other woman, Theresa M. Lund, has won her battle with cancer and was just glad to be at the club’s gathering and out of her home.

We talked about trials, our tribulations and ourselves, the price of gasoline, the heat, and those dreams and hopes that make life worth living. I never asked the woman what she collected, but I know this December she celebrates six decades of marriage. Now, between the two facts, what would be more important?

The following evening found me in Cupertino, Calif., with a visit, long overdue, with the Cupertino Coin Club, and beforehand, I met brothers Bill and Dan Shattuc at TGIF Restaurant for dinner. Among the once most active coin enthusiasts around northern California, and holder of all offices in the Cupertino Coin Club, never over dinner did we mention coins. No, it was the changes here in the Golden State, traffic, gay marriage, the conservation efforts that Dan has devoted much of his life to, my mother, individuals we knew and their remembrances. Individuals that we know and knew. People.

Our conversation came again and again to those who, to paraphrase Mike “Steamer” Stanley, “have gone to the big coin club in the sky.” Again, it is the people.

Coin friends are more apt to ask how your family is doing or what plans you have for the weekend or in time of hurt and sorrow to express empathy before asking you for a recent Greysheet or the latest quote for silver or a current issue of Numismatic News or Coins.

No, Tim and Ryan had it wrong. It is not the coins that are the mortar and magnetism of our world of money. It is the people.

I can say more about Steamer and his adventures at every port in the Pacific than his outstanding and growing collection of rare

Continued next page...

GOOD MONEY REVIEW

POSTED BY ALEX TABARROK, SEPT. 2, 2008 IN HIS MARGINAL REVOLUTION BLOG

At the dawn of the industrial revolution as workers left the fields and moved to industrial employment the demand for a means of payment increased dramatically. Workers, once paid in kind, needed to be paid in a medium they could use to buy the necessities of life. Small-tender bank notes, however, were illegal and in Great Britain the production of coin was monopolized by the Royal Mint, which failed to provide enough high quality coin to meet the demands of workers and business. Silver coin, despite the efforts of Sir Isaac Newton, the Master of the Mint at the time, was over-valued and fled the country. Gold was too expensive to make coins suitable for workmen and the Mint could not or would not produce high-quality copper coins.

Good Money is George Selgin's explanation of how enterprising button makers solved what Sargent and Velde called *The Big Problem of Small Change* thereby making the industrial revolution possible. Selgin is a monetary theorist so you might expect a dry account of monetary history but the mint-battle between Matthew Boulton, whom Wired *once named* the ultimate CEO, and copper-king Thomas Williams propels the story forward. If you can imagine, *Good Money* is something of a cross between Friedman and Schwartz's *A Monetary History of the United States* (although not as broad in scope) and a business epic like *Barbarians at the Gate*. I also liked how Selgin draws on newspapers, novels, limericks and tavern songs to illustrate the prob-

lems and events of the time. This bard was both a good economist (he has Gresham's Law!) and public choice scholar.

'Tis Gold buys Votes, or they'd have swarmed ere now,

Copper serves only for the meaner Sort of People

Copper never goes at Court

And since on Shilling can full Twelve Pence weight,

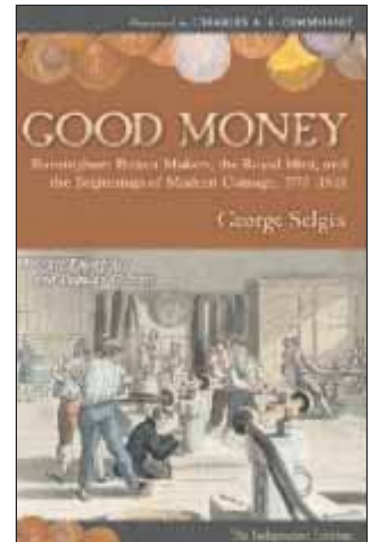
Silver is better in Germany

'Tis true the Vulgar seek it, What of that?

They are not Statesmen, -let the Vulgar wait.

The money problem influenced and was influenced by all of the major events of the day so *Good Money* is also an economic and political history of the industrial revolution. Here's an interesting tidbit. Company stores were not so much a way for firms to rip off employees (why not just pay them less?) but were rather a means of economizing on coin. Selgin shows how the shortage of coin sheds light on a number of other otherwise peculiar business practices.

What lessons can be drawn from the history of private coinage? Private money circulated only if it was voluntarily accepted as a means payment. Thus the primary problem faced by private firms was how to create trust and credibility. To encourage circulation, for example, issuers promised to redeem their tokens in gold (which the Royal Mint did not). In turn, the promise to redeem gave producers an incentive to make



their coins difficult to counterfeit, which they did by making the coins beautiful - numismatists will appreciate the full-color illustrations of the private coinage produced by Boulton and his rivals - as well as technologically advanced.

Today, the big problem of small change is no longer such a big problem, although shortages of wanted coin continue to occur sporadically around the world as well as surpluses of *unwanted coin*. Nevertheless, the basic problems of private coinage were trust and credibility. Modern issuers of digital cash face the same problems and thus Selgin's history is a valuable reminder about the scope and potential of alternative monetary institutions.

...PEOPLE ARE AT THE HEART

and choice Seated and Bust coinages. Why? Because it is the people, those "coin friends" to my two seniors.

One recent lazy summer June evening, in the backyard of the nice suburban Livermore, Calif., home of Steven and Sharon Kramer, the Livermore Valley (California) Coin Club gathered for its annual picnic.

After the slab-toss, barbecue chicken, desserts and soft drinks, we sat and our conversations crossed topics diverse as education in the Oakland, Calif., public schools and

the best way to barbecue a thick steak. Again, it is the people.

I telephoned Jim Majoros in the Garden State, and we shared our updates on the impending travel to the Canadian Numismatic Association, yet if minutes were being tabulated, like through an old mechanical coin counting machine, we talked more about my retirement, his retirement, his business, and his Fourth of July weekend escape. In fact, I have snapshots of Jim's floral business, but no pictures showing his coin collections.

No, my two seniors had only part of it correct. There are "those coins," yet they failed

to realize it is the hands and hopes of those who mount "those coins" into albums that is the mortar and magnetism of our hobby.

Bob Fritsch from the Granite State once spoke of our coin community, and a community is composed of people. There are no villages where coins breathe and live. People make up our world of money.

Tim and Ryan had a good laugh about my coin friends, but in the end it made me realize that this hobby and this coin community thrive because of the people involved. It's the people who make all the difference.

Canada's History Charted with Money

BY MARION C. GEORGE

Blind, deaf, indomitable, Will Kernohan spent nine long years and a heart full of devotion on a project he couldn't see

Numismatists who choose to collect in the Canadian arena soon find that the field is replete with interesting specimens, be they the tokens of the French regime or the later British colonial issues, playing card money, the fractional shinplasters, or the commemorative coins of the modern era. In addition to these more common items, there are also the interesting and unique money charts of Will Kernohan.

Kernohan, not a rich man by the rules of most, spent a great deal of his money and years of his life researching Canadian history as it related to numismatics in order that he

might leave for future generations of Canadians his charts tracing "The History of Canada in Money."

When after many years he finally had the contents of the charts completed, it developed that the deputy minister of finance of Canada would not grant the necessary permission to reproduce appropriate specimens of Canadian currency in print. A stubborn Irishman, Kernohan had worked too long and hard to accept defeat at this level. In retaliation he went to the top, writing the following letter to George VI, King of England:

"Your servant has a matter he would like to bring before His Majesty in connection with Canada's history. For some time I have been working on a plan, in the form of a chart. This chart, when completed, will show a complete history of all the coinage and paper

money of the Dominion of Canada, from 1867 to the present issue. . . . but our great difficulty is to get a reproduction as it is a criminal offense to reproduce money. Your servant desires to ask His Majesty if he will consider some means of issuing a permit to have this chart reproduced for the purpose heretofore stated."

To appreciate the deep meaning Kernohan put behind this letter one must explore his background and the intensity with which he compiled the information and collected the numismatic specimens illustrated on his money charts.

Kernohan was born in 1874 on a farm near Forest in south western Ontario. His father emigrated to Canada from Ballamana, Ireland, and was of Empire Loyalist stock. His mother, the adopted daughter of a sea captain, was from Edinborough, Scotland.

At 13 young Kernohan developed alskie poisoning behind the eyes as a result of expo-

I first became aware of William H. Kernohan in the kitchen of Louise Graham, a past General Secretary and a Past President of the Canadian Numismatic Association. It was no later than 1963 when she presented me with Kernohan's second chart and, being a high school student at the time, it seemed a natural enough educational aid.

Then, in 1967 in the pages of the November issue of Canadian Numismatic Journal, I found an anonymous article providing a short biography of the gentleman. The article began by considering the various special and sometimes unique ways in which people approach the hobby. It reflected on some of the great individuals that have contributed research and left their mark on Canadian numismatics, and then went on to introduce a most unique gentleman, William Kernohan (1874–1962), who had lived in Forest, Ontario.

That article included this tantalizing background information:

"Mr. Kernohan for many years, knew that an affliction would in due course claim his sight, and thereby rob him of the enjoyment of studying his numismatic specimens. At the same time, this remarkable person conceived the idea of alleviating to some extent the school child's drudgery, as rep-

resented by the classes in Canadian history. Mr. Kernohan became convinced that history could be made more interesting, and its presentation more attractive, if it were tied in with our numismatic past. But not satisfied to drop it in a basket labelled "Good Intentions," he proceeded to do something about it. Despite many disappointments, and delays, inherent in the undertaking of such a project, by 1944 he was able to commission a printing firm to prepare the necessary printing plates, for Charts 1 and 2 of his "History of Canada in Money." Reproductions of these appear on pages 450 and 452. Some 2,000 copies of each chart were made and distribution primarily to schools through Boards of Education, was begun. A further number went to libraries and persons interested in the cause he espoused. It is a matter of regret that a country which was then emerging from long years of war, failed to fully appreciate the contribution Mr. Kernohan had made, and of course, coin collectors were very few and far between at that time, so the project can hardly have been a financially profitable one. But as a contribution to Canadian numismatics, by a numismatist, we salute the memory of William H. Kernohan."

The article concluded with the news that Carl Lehrbass of Alvinston and Lloyd T. Smith of London were collaborating on a more detailed monograph dealing with Mr. Kernohan and his contribution to our hobby. I never did see the results of that research, but two years later I did enjoy the article that is reproduced here from Coins Magazine of November 1967.

In searching past auction sales, I don't see the charts coming up, other than a single occasion I was able to find. The Frank Rose Mammoth [Kenneth Merlyn] Gaver (Collector's Research) Numismatic Collection from November 1977, listed both charts 1 and 2 as lot number 179, but did not include Kernohan's name. The lot was estimated at \$125, but I don't have a PRL of this particular sale, so do not know what it actually sold for.

I had not thought much about Kernohan's charts until discovering a copy of chart number 2 for sale at the London Numismatic Society's September 14 coin show. The dealer I spoke to said he had about a dozen of chart 2 in stock and that they had been hanging around for over 40 years. I purchased one, because my original copy has more water damage than the particular one being offered. My search for a copy of chart 1 continues.

Paul Petch

sure in the threshing of alsike clover. He soon began losing his sight and was in later years to become completely blind.

The lifetime handicap was to serve as Kernohan's inspiration in later life for the production of his unique money charts, which were primarily intended to serve the youth of the land. His idea was that the charts would provide lasting illustrations of old Canadian currency for future generations, linking them with the growth, the industries and the resources of Canada, "so they can see them while they're young, because some may lose their sight as I have."

Having a great love for Canada, Kernohan believed that the romance of her history could and should be presented to school children in an interesting visual form. He felt the charts could be the beginning of such a method, and his ambition was to see them placed in schools, libraries and museums: all across Canada.

Certainly Kernohan had no idea at the time that only a few years after his death coin collectors in Canada and the United States would consider the charts as collector items. Active coin collectors were few and far between in Canada when Kernohan was doing research for his compact "The History of Canada in Money." Today his achievement stands as the only, chronicle of its kind in the world.

Kernohan set out on his task of compiling and presenting these charts in 1938. It was an enormous task for a man of 64 years age who had three strikes against him from the very start, being totally blind, nearly deaf and heavily dependent on others. By the time he was ready to print his charts Canada was at war, making both labour and material scarce.

To realize his dream in compiling, "The History of Canada in Money" Kernohan set out first to research available material on Canadian currency, linking it with the story of Canada's growth from a wilderness inhabited only by Indians to a modern nation. Then, all of this compiled historical data was checked by educators.

money charts project is evidenced by the fact that he purchased a series 1935 Sir Wilfred Laurier \$1,000 note.

In another instance he went to great pains to locate a specimen of an 1872 Dominion of Canada \$50.00 banknote. Though he was never able to obtain one, he was not stopped easily, as he again wrote a request to King George VI, one which would not be filled.

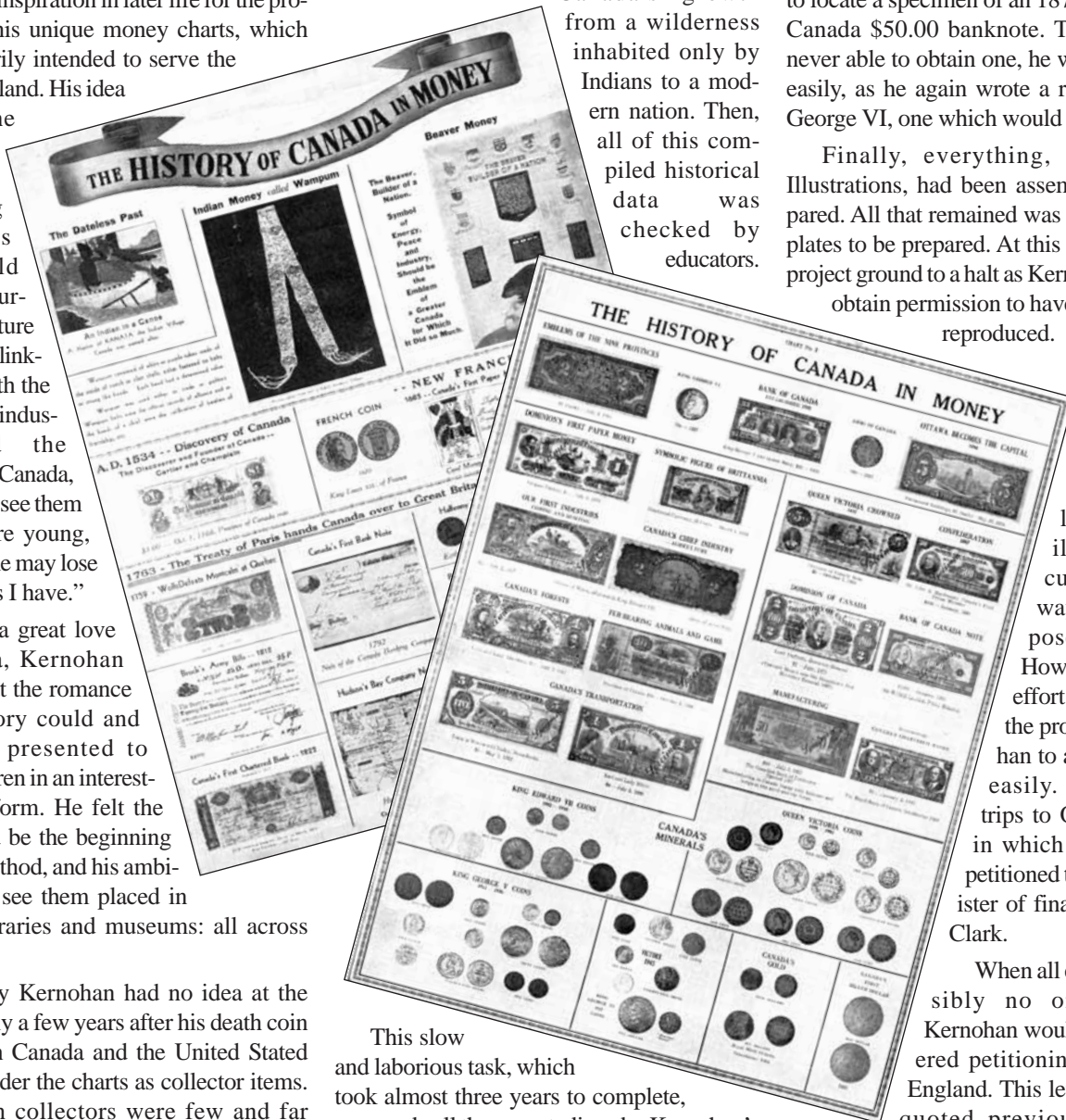
Finally, everything, the text and illustrations, had been assembled and prepared. All that remained was for the printing plates to be prepared. At this point the entire project ground to a halt as Kernohan could not obtain permission to have the banknotes reproduced.

He was told finally and emphatically that it was against the law to print illustrations of currency in any way for any purpose whatsoever. However, too much effort had been put in the project for Kernohan to allow it to drop easily. Two fruitless trips to Ottawa ensued, in which he personally petitioned the deputy minister of finance, Dr. W. C. Clark.

When all else failed, possibly no one but Will Kernohan would have considered petitioning the King of England. This letter, which was quoted previously, brought results. A reply in the affirmative was received from the governor general of Canada.

Soon wheels were set in motion and the little man from Forest with the big idea for future Canadians received the permission he sought to print reproductions of certain early Canadian banknotes. This permission was received from the very man who had twice refused him, Dr. W. C. Clark.

Now only one more problem remained to solve, and Kernohan felt that time was running



This slow and laborious task, which took almost three years to complete, was made all the more tedious by Kernohan's lack of sight. Another influencing factor was his lack of a complete formal education.

In the meantime, and actually since 1927, Kernohan had been collecting the numismatic specimens which were to be used in preparing illustrations for the charts. His ambitions as a coin collector had been given light in 1927 when he was given an 1859 cent.

The examples of paper currency used in illustrating the charts came from two sources; Kernohan's personal collection and items which were borrowed from the archives of Canada's chartered banks. His devotion to the

... Canada's History Charted

out on him. Who would print the charts to suit him?

After many inquiries and frustrating delays the Hull Printing Company of Winnipeg, Manitoba, was selected to be responsible for the preparation of the plates and the printing. Kernohan's first letter to them was dated December 8, 1942, and it was not until April of 1947 that the first printed charts came from the press.

The shortage of labour and the obtaining the right kind of paper had slowed down the work. An additional influence was the great distance between the author and the printer. During the more than four years Kernohan made two trips to Winnipeg to personally check proofs and layouts.

Kernohan had shipped to Winnipeg the numismatic items to be used in the preparation of the illustrative plates. The engravers who made the plates refused to be responsible for the valuable coins and paper money in the collection, insisting that one of the brothers in the Hull printing firm pick them up each night. Each morning they were returned from the security vaults. This ritual continued until the job was completed.

Finally, nine years after Will Kernohan first started work on "The History of Canada in Money" charts, they were ready for distribution. One of the first copies was sent to Princess Elizabeth, with appreciation and acknowledgment being made by the governor general on August 17, 1948.

Educators were immediately enthusiastic about the Kernohan money charts. They were requested by public schools, colleges, universities, libraries and museums. They were placed on display at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto through the efforts of Lieutenant E. A. Baker, co-founder of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, who was personally interested in the project.

Although Kernohan's family did not share his interest in the money charts, and couldn't understand his devotion to a project which did not interest them, his son Fred has a pair of them in his general store in Inwood, Ontario. Five years ago coin collector Carl Lehrbass of Alvinston, Ontario, noticed the charts hanging on the wall and asked about them. This brought to light another chapter in the story of the charts.

It develops that after nine years of labour and a sizeable expenditure in money, the charts were nearly lost. With the elder Kernohan dying in 1961, Fred moved to Inwood with the charts, storing them in an uncle's barn. The roof leaked and some of the charts were ruined and the uncle was going to burn the rest.

Although he had no personal interest in the money charts, Fred removed them from the barn and stored them in his home, as being Scottish he had a saving nature. Also, he knew only too well how hard his father had worked on them, and how much money they cost, as he had guided his father on the fruitless trips to Ottawa when he was seeking permission to illustrate the examples of Canadian currency.

Originally intended as a visual aid to be used in schools to encourage interest in Canadian history, time has converted the Kernohan money charts to relics which the coin collector relishes. On these charts Kernohan made no attempt to provide a complete history of Canada's currency. Rather, it was his intent to present reproductions of both coins and notes representing the principal events in Canada, her industries and resources.

There are two charts, both printed on two sides. The first chart begins by tracing Canada's history through its currency from 1534 when Jacques Cartier landed on the shores of the St. Lawrence, making acquaintance with the natives of North America and their "wampum." It is interesting to note that a "wampum belt" owned by Kernohan was actually given to him by his old thorn Dr. Clark.

The second chart presents the story of Canada's circulating currency from the era of Queen Victoria up through the World War II victory coins of 1945. The back side of this chart presents a chronological outline of the significant events in Canadian history from 1534 through 1945.

Each coin or note illustrated on the four chart faces represents a development in Canada's then 411 year history. The illustrations include Canada's first paper money, the French card money, beaver money, coins of the French regime, an early Hudson's Bay Company note, provincial halfpenny and penny tokens and Prince Edward Island's doughnut shaped "Holy Dollar" of 1786.

Also illustrated are the British Columbia \$20 gold coins of 1862, the Magdalen Island one penny token of 1815 and 20 and half cent.

coins issued during the reign of Queen Victoria. A large variety of notes are illustrated, including a 25 cent shinplaster, a \$4 bill depicting the Earl and Lady Minto and Canada's highest denomination, a \$1,000 note.

One can observe that perhaps Will Kernohan was a man who lived before his time. He had a consuming idea that few could grasp but, because he had vision instead of sight, was stubbornly Irish and fiercely Canadian, we have his "The History of Canada in Money." It is more than another collector's item, it is the only work of its kind in the world.

**Reprinted from Coins Magazine,
November 1967**

The Canadian Silver Dollar ... All you had to do, was ask!

Numismatists who are interested in the Canadian series have for a long time awaited the striking of the silver Canadian dollar, but it appears the mint authorities are not yet ready to coin pieces of that denomination for general circulation. Mr. R. W. McLachlan recently was given to understand by the Canadian Deputy Receiver General that silver dollars could be obtained if the mint were requested to strike them, as the dies were ready. Mr. McLachlan wrote to the Ottawa Mint requesting several specimens, and was informed by Deputy Master Bonar that he was "unable to comply with your request, as no silver dollar coins have yet been struck, nor has the mint been requested to coin any up to the present date."

Mr. McLachlan states that when the cases were prepared for the proof sets of the first coinage of George V, space was left for the dollar, and that he learned while in Ottawa a year ago that punches had been sent out from the London mint for making the dies for the dollar, and that a pair of dies had actually been prepared from which a single pattern had been struck, but that so far as he knows no numismatist has seen this interesting dollar of 1911.

It is hoped that instructions will soon be given to the Canadian mint authorities for the general issue of this coin, which will represent the first of the denomination to be coined in Canada.

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