



# 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](http://www.northyorkcoinclub.ca)

## 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.....Shawn Hamilton  
 Secretary .....Henry Nienhuis  
 Treasurer .....Ben Boelens  
 Past President .....Robert Wilson

## Executive Committee

Director .....David Quinlan  
 Director .....Roger Fox  
 Director .....Vince Chiappino  
 Junior Director .....  
 Auctioneer .....Bob Porter  
 Auction Manager .....Mark Argentino  
 Editor .....Paul Petch

Receptionist .....Franco Farronato  
 Draw Prizes.....Bill O'Brien  
 Social Convenor .....Bill O'Brien  
 Librarian .....Robert Wilson  
 Program Planning .....

## THE BULLETIN FOR JUNE 2009

### MATTHEW BOULTON AND JAMES WATT NEW FACES OF £50 NOTE

By Chris Irvine, Telegraph Media Group, UK

*Matthew Boulton and James Watt, leading figures of the Industrial Revolution, are to be the new faces of the Bank of England's redesigned £50 banknotes.*

Mervyn King, the Governor of the Bank of England, made the announcement on Friday evening when he opened a new exhibition at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery: "Matthew Boulton: Selling what all the world desires".

"Just as the Bank of England plays an essential role in the economy as the United Kingdom's central bank, so too did Boulton

and Watt's steam engines and their many other innovations as essential factors in the nation's Industrial Revolution," said Mr King.

"So many of the advantages society now enjoys are due in large part to the vital role of engineering and the brilliance and foresight of people such as Boulton and Watt whose development and refinement of steam engines gave an incredible boost to the efficiency of industry."

"The unique and rare opportunity that the Bank has through its banknotes to acknowledge and promote awareness of our nation's heritage of artistic, social and sci-

### NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, JUNE 23

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

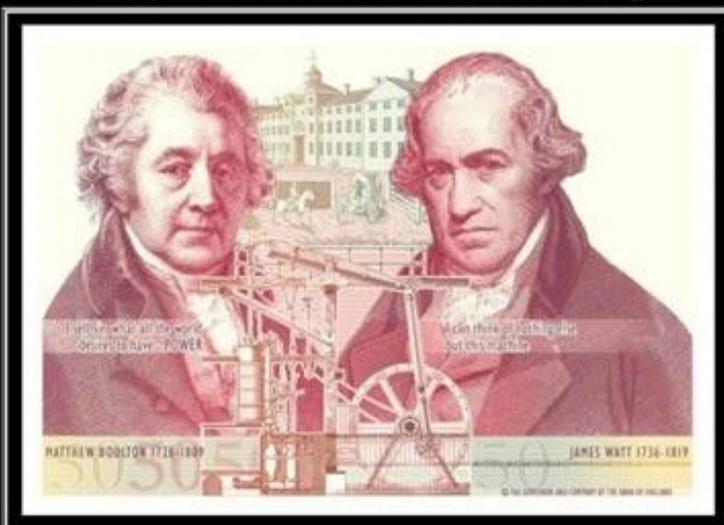
Under the general title of *Polish Numismatics*, our guest speaker, Peter Machulec, will guide us through how our hobby relates to familiar Polish newsmakers such as Solidarity, the infamous Lodz Ghetto and Pope John Paul II. Don't miss this culturally-focused and very special meeting.

**We appreciate all donations to our supply of draw prize material.**

*Remember to bring some items for the auction!*

**Our new Treasurer, Ben Boelens, is working up a list of those members still owing \$10 for their 2009 dues. Please either mail your dues to the NYCC address or see Ben at the next meeting.**

### Boulton & Watt Banknote Concept



The proposed design for the new £50 note

Photo: BANK OF ENGLAND

entific endeavour is an honour for us. The Bank's choice of Boulton and Watt, a reminder of the invaluable contribution from engineering and the entrepreneurial spirit to the advancement of society, I think, well reflects this."

The Boulton and Watt £50 banknote will be launched in around 18 months time.

It is the first time two portraits will appear together on the reverse of the note. The current portrait of The Queen, first used in 1990, will be retained on the front.

Boulton and Watt formed a successful partnership in the 18th century, eventually helping turn the steam engine into a commercial success.

## MEETING NEWS OF THE MAY 2009 MEETING

The 547<sup>th</sup> meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, May 26, 2009 in room 123 of the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive, North York, Ontario.

The meeting was hammered to order at 7:32 p.m. with our First Vice-President, Bill O'Brien, in the chair. Nick had sent his regrets; he was unable to make the club meeting this month. There were 27 members and 2 guests in attendance.

Member Len Kuenzig's name was drawn for the on-time-attendance draw. Len collected his prize of \$8. Congratulations Len! The pot will restart at \$2 for the June meeting.

The Secretary, Henry Nienhuis, asked if there were any changes required to the minutes of the April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 meeting published in the newsletter; no changes were identified by the members present and the minutes were accepted as written.

Member Bill O'Brien mentioned that he had not been receiving his newsletter for some time; Henry said he would follow-up on the possible cause.

Henry mentioned that he was asked by Nick Cowan to introduce our new Treasurer, Ben Boelens. Ben's expertise will be of great benefit to the club in this position. The financial report was again deferred so that our new treasurer could take a fresh accounting.

The community centre administration made a short visit to drop off the permit applications for the summer and winter seasons. The NYCC will be holding meetings in the summer months again this year, based on the reasonable turnout last year.

Member Paul Petch requested the floor to report on an action item from the previous meeting with respect to a LCD projector the club intends to purchase. Paul indicated that he had asked a friend who works at Sony to watch for a good refurb appearing in the company store. The employee discount would of course be passed on to the club. This will be a very cost effective method of obtaining a good quality projector for our club.

This month's special event consisted of a presentation and display by Marvin Kay on his latest numismatic adventure – vacation. This

year Marvin and his wife took a cruise around the southern tip of South America, stopping off at ports of call such as Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, and the Falkland Islands. The members were treated to an extensive collection of coins and banknotes that Marvin was able to accumulate during his trip.

As is his custom, Marvin brought along currency of his planned ports-of-call. To simplify exchange rates he followed the general rules; Brazilian Reals – divide-by-2, Argentinean Pesos – divide-by-3, Uruguayan Pesos – divide-by-20, and for Chilean Pesos – divide-by-500! Marvin showed a note with a lot of zero's!!

Ultimately landing in Rio de Janeiro they boarded their cruise ship the H.M.S. Amsterdam, after a bus tour around Rio. They saw the famous Ipanema and Copacabana beaches – but what stood out were the extensive barrios (slums). These are so large that they are self contained cities with their own informal governments, schools and shops. Marvin pointed out his display of Brazilian

*Continued next page...*

## COMING EVENTS FOR SUMMER 2009

**JUNE 27 & 28, Toronto**, Torex - Canada's National Coin Show, Hilton Toronto Airport Hotel, 5875 Airport Road, Mississauga Ballroom. Featuring Canada's finest dealers. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission \$6. Official Auctioneer: The Canadian Numismatic Company. The Hilton hotel is located directly across from Toronto's Pearson International Airport. For more information, please call (416) 705-5348. Website: <http://www.torex.net>.

**JUNE 27, Mississauga**, Canadian Tire Coupon Collector's Club, TOREX Meeting, Hilton Toronto Airport Hotel, 5875 Airport Rd. Hours: 10 a.m. to noon. *Canadian Tire Coupons and Memorabilia, trading, displays, auction, education seminar, fun and fellowship.* For more information, contact Roger Fox, telephone: (905) 898-7677, or e-mail: [phoxy@look.ca](mailto:phoxy@look.ca). Website: <http://www.ctccc.ca>.

**AUG. 9, Paris**, S.W.O.N., Special Events Building, 139 Silver St. (Fairgrounds). Hours 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission \$2, (includes ticket on gold coin draw). *More than 55 tables of coins, paper money, jewellery, nostalgia items and more. Food and drink available at show. Buy sell trade.* For more information, contact Ted Bailey, 1-866-747-2646 or e-mail: [tedscollectables@bellnet.ca](mailto:tedscollectables@bellnet.ca). Website: <http://tedscollectables.com>.

**AUG. 12 - 16, Edmonton, AB** Royal Canadian Numismatic Association Annual Convention, Delta Edmonton South Hotel and Conference Centre, 4404 Gateway Blvd. For more information, contact Jamie, (780) 903-5343, email: [jhrld@shaw.ca](mailto:jhrld@shaw.ca). Website: <http://www.nunet.ca/rcna>

**AUG. 30, Woodstock**, Woodstock Coin Club Show, Community Complex, 381 Finkle St. Twentieth annual show. Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission \$1, kids free, free parking, lunch counter, hourly draws. Wear your dealer badge and you could win \$50. Contact Tom Rogers, telephone (519) 451-2316.

**SEPT. 13, London**, London Numismatic Society 17th Annual Coin Show, The Ramada Inn, 817 Exeter Rd. off Hwy. 401. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Displays and dealers in coins, medals, notes and tokens. Admission \$2, includes entry for draws. Children free.* For more information, contact Len Buth (519) 641-4353, email: [lbuth@webmanager.on.ca](mailto:lbuth@webmanager.on.ca).

**SEPT. 25 - 27, St. Catharines**, TNS Fall Show, Quality Hotel, 327 Ontario St. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Show pass \$20 (includes early entry), daily admission \$4. For more information, contact Rick and Jo-Anne Simpson, email: [rscoins@cogeco.ca](mailto:rscoins@cogeco.ca), telephone 905-643-4988, fax 905-643-6329.

**SEPT. 27, Windsor**, Essex County Coin Club Annual Show, Fogular Furlan Club, 1800 EC row Ave. E. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Canadian, U.S., and world coins and paper money, watches, and tokens. Admission by donation to Canadian Diabetes.* For more information, contact Essex County Coin Club, email: [club@hotmail.com](mailto:club@hotmail.com), or Colin Cutler, email: [ccutler@cogeco.ca](mailto:ccutler@cogeco.ca).

*Listings are courtesy of Canadian Coin News Coming Events*

currency; the Real is divided into 100 Centavos. The smallest banknote being 2-reales, the reverse depicting an animal or bird but in portrait view (rotated 90 degrees). The 1-real is a bi-metallic coin.

The next port-of-call was Buenos Aires, Argentina. Marvin's display of the currency of Argentina was quite interesting. The Peso again is divided into 100 centavos.

His next stop was Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay, across the river Plate. During the bus tour he came across a vendor selling coins in a flea-market. Marvin tried his hand at bargaining . . . the vendor won! The 10-peso coin is bi-metallic, the flea-market prize was the 1950, 5-peso Sesquicentennial commemorative coin. His display of Uruguayan banknotes was very colourful; with detailed images. All Uruguayan notes have different geometric symbols in the upper left-hand corner; Marvin thought might be used for automated sorting.

The next day the Kays sailed to the Falkland Islands, which are really nothing more than desolate rocks in the South Atlantic Ocean, population 1200, . . . hardly worth fighting a war for! The currency of the islands is the Falkland-Pound. It is equivalent to and freely circulates with the British-Pound. The coinage depicts typical Falkland wild-life; the reverse of the 1-cent coin has two penguins. (While there, Marvin and his wife saw hundreds - if not thousands of penguins!). The largest coin is a 2-pound bi-metallic coin. The main banknote is the 5-pound note.

The last part of Marvin's wonderful display dealt with Chile. These notes amounted to the best he received from the currency exchange kiosk at Yorkdale Mall, one being a polymer note. The Chilean coinage Marvin was able to collect consisted of several denominations in various sizes and metals. The 100-peso and 500-peso are bi-metallic. The banknotes consisted of 1000-, 2000-, and 5000-peso notes. Marvin told the members present that the numismatic highlight of his trip to Chile was the acquisition of a few "nitrate tokens," call *fiches* in Spanish. Used as tokens to purchase goods from the company store associated with the various nitrate mines established starting in 1870 until 1916 when synthetic nitrates were developed . . . a very interesting numismatic story to which he was alerted by member Tony Hine. These

*fiches* are found in a large variety made from brass, aluminum, pewter, Bakelite, Vulcanite and plastic for example. Marvin identified two references for members interested in learning more about these tokens:

Rector, John L., *The History of Chile*, Palgrave Macmillian, 2005

Collier, S., and Sater, W. F., *A History of Chile, 1808 – 2002*, Cambridge University Press, 2004.

In addition to the very informative presentation, and display Marvin donated a number of items to the club for auction from each of his ports-of-call. All told the club received \$10.00 in proceeds. Thank-you Marvin, your generous donation is greatly appreciated!

Member Ben Boelens also brought a show and tell consisting of a number of coins that he had acquired on his recent trip to the Netherlands. The coins he passed around for those present to have a good look at consisted of a beautiful 5-euro bi-metallic from Finland, 1000-togrog from Mongolia, 14 examples of 5-peso coins from Mexico, and a Loon from Canada – the loon was the new 2009 Montreal Canadian's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorative! As it happens, Ben's wife received one in change – oh well!

Just prior to the break, member John Regitko asked for the floor. He wanted to make sure everyone was aware of a recent celebration, member George Fraser celebrated his 98<sup>th</sup> birthday a couple of days prior!! George is the oldest member of the NYCC and he is still active at every club meeting! Congratulations George!

At 8:25 the refreshment break was called; Bill O'Brien prepared the refreshments.

After the break, member Henry Nienhuis gave his delegate's report of the ONA convention, as promised last meeting, in the form of a power point presentation full of images of the various events and meetings. Henry made an effort to point out each of the NYCC club members in attendance at the convention. A summary was printed in The Bulletin for May, 2009. Highlights included:

- The ONA convention this year was held April 24-26 at the Holiday Inn, Kitchener, ON.
- 8:00-10:00 – Reception included a cake celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Waterloo coin club. The

cake was cut by dealer Bob Armstrong and his wife. William English, founder of the WCC received a plaque honouring the club's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary by RCNA president Michael Walsh. Michael also presented a certificate to Bob Armstrong, who is retiring as a dealer.

- Saturday saw a number of club meetings including the RCNA executive meeting, the CTCCC, CPMS, CAWMC and the CATC meetings.
- 11:00-1:00 Education seminars took place from Chris Boyer, Fred Freeman, Steve Bell and Paul Johnson.
- The Annual ONA General Meeting and the Club Delegates meeting took place between 1:00-2:00. During this meeting NYCC member Paul Petch was officially installed as ONA President by outgoing president Tom Rogers.
- The annual banquet took place from 7:00, good food, great company and an interesting time was had by all.
- Sunday was a day of wrap up. The ONA Executive meeting took place between 9:00-10:00.
- The fantastic bourse closed at 3:30 and the official convention end was at 4:00.

Bob Porter, our Master Auctioneer, assisted by Paul Johnson as Auction Manager and Vince Chiappino as runner conducted the regular club auction beginning at 9:00. One highlight of the evening's auction was a special collector's coin cabinet. A work of art in itself, the cabinet was made from mahogany, containing 4 drawers each containing 25 dollar-sized holes inlaid with felt. The item sold for \$125.00 a real bargain! Intermixed with the auction lots was the evening's Lucky Draw. The Club earned \$28 through the sale of draw tickets and \$22.45 from the auction, of which \$12.25 was donated. Lucky Draw winners were - John Regitko, George Fraser, Richard D, Tony Hine (3), David Quinlan (2), Phillip Simms (2), Italo Villella, Henry Nienhuis (4), Franco Farronato, Harry Yark (2), Richard D., Jared Stapleton, and Bob Porter (2).

The Club thanks those who donated draw prize material. Please mention your donations to the club secretary so that your support can be recognized in the minutes and newsletter.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m. As a reminder, our next meeting is June 26<sup>th</sup>.

## A NUMISMATIC SANDWICH

BY ALAN HERBERT, COINS MAGAZINE

### *The Sandwich is Not Just for Lunch!*

The well-loved “sandwich” has a variety of meanings, hardly as many as the possible fillings available at the deli counter, but still a source of possible confusion for the coin collector. It’s a very commonly used word, so it’s not surprising that the coin hobby has adopted it.

Wikipedia says that “The first form of sandwich is attributed to the ancient Jewish sage Hillel the Elder, who is said to have put meat from the Paschal lamb and bitter herbs inside matzo (or flat, unleavened bread) during Passover.” The English earl, Lord Sandwich, is credited with assembling a hasty meal of bread and filling, which was dubbed the sandwich in his honour.

So, what does all this have to do with coins? Well, in case you hadn’t noticed, coin collectors have a habit of applying nicknames to their coins and sandwich is well on the way to becoming a favourite.

After all, the term has long since been applied to our clad coinage, a natural considering that when you put a sheet of one metal between two other sheets of different metals, what point is there in avoiding the obvious?

One word of caution is important here as the misconception is rampant that “clad” applies only to a copper core between layers of copper nickel. Actually, any metals or alloys can be used in making a clad coin. To point out just a couple, the 40-percent silver Kennedy halves have silver in the core and the clad layers, as do the 40 percent silver Eisenhower dollars.

If that were the only instance of using the term in the hobby, I’d need to pontificate about the earl, but there are other uses.

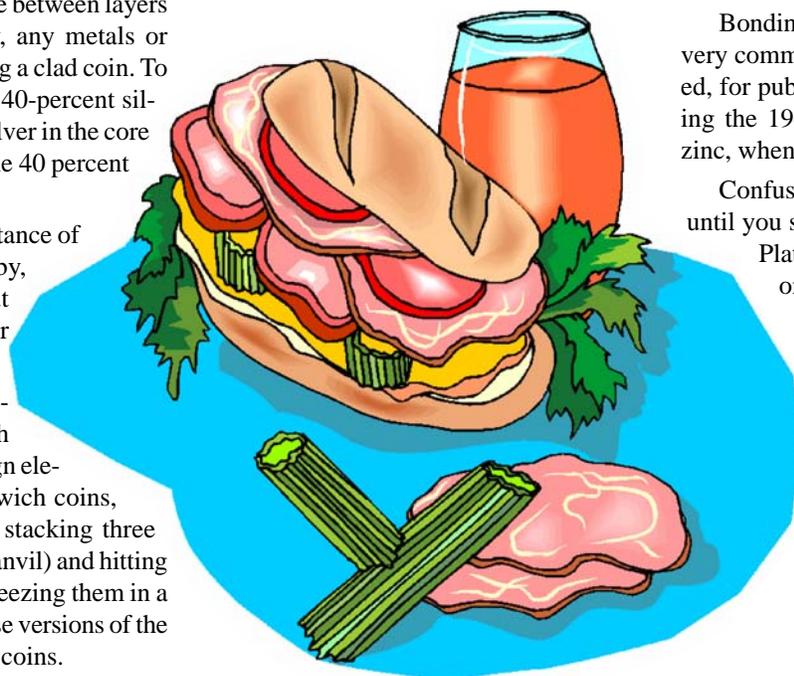
For instance—and a frequent question—coins with extra, incuse, reversed design elements are also called sandwich coins, because they are made by stacking three coins, (or two coins and an anvil) and hitting them with a hammer or squeezing them in a vise. The “filling” gets incuse versions of the designs from the other two coins.



Point to watch here is that the sandwich may be filled, or it can be open faced. Think about it.

There are at least three numismatic meanings for the term:

1. A clad coin that has a solid core, surrounded by clad layers.
2. An altered coin, produced by sandwiching a coin between two others.
3. This one is something of a surprise. An expert in English coins understood sandwich to mean two coins soldered together. That was a new usage to me. Although English collectors, like their American counterparts, have a similar tendency to use slang and nicknames when referring to their coins.



Actually, there is a precedent for the United States’ clad coinage. Seems that clad coinage has been around for some time. The Greeks instituted a silver-clad copper coinage after A.D. 700.

I know I’m going to miss one or more important usages of the term, but my loyal readers will be more than happy to fill in the blank spots in my memory.

While on the topic of sandwich coins, it wouldn’t hurt to explain that there are at least two ways of producing clad coins. The U.S. Mint started out in the mid-1960s with an expensive process that depended on a thin layer of explosive to bond the clad layers to the core. It quickly wrecked their budget and they were busy searching for a cheaper alternative.

The method they found uses pressure to bond the metal layers together. For the collector of minting varieties, the appearance of sandwich coins lacking one or both slices of bread made them highly collectible. This bonding method was introduced in 1967.

A bonding process line was installed at the newest Philadelphia Mint in 1969, doubling the cost of the building to more than \$30 million, only to be abandoned later in favour of purchasing bonded strip from outside suppliers. Remember, this was the cheaper process!

Bonding, coating and plating have some very common roots. The U.S. Mint persisted, for public relations reasons, in describing the 1943 steel cents as “coated” with zinc, when it was actually plated.

Confusing the three terms is quite easy until you sit down and study them closely.

Plating usually involves transferring one metal onto another using electricity, but there are actually other methods, such as to accomplish anodizing, or even chemical plating.

All of which takes us far from our original sandwich, but it serves as a gentle nudge to ensure you have an appetite for the right terms.

## GETTING YOUR 4-CENTS WORTH

BY BILL MILLER, SOUTHERN OREGON MAIL TRIBUNE

*\$15 for 2009 pennies?  
That joke was done  
nearly a century ago!*

Tom Bartholomew thought the best way to celebrate Abe Lincoln's 101st birthday was with a practical joke. After all, the old rail-splitter always had loved a good story.

Tom was the owner of the West Side Pharmacy, just a couple of blocks up Main Street from the Medford railroad tracks.

It's sometimes difficult to find a penny these days, but if you should get desperate and really want one for yourself, check with your friendly banker or favourite cashier. If you want to pretend you still can see Tom Bartholomew's sign, head for the corner of Grape and Main in Medford. The devilish Westside pharmacist dispensed his particularly strange brand of humour just about where the Britt headquarters now stands.

In March 1910, the newly minted Lincoln pennies, first issued in August 1909, still were pretty hard to find. The public, especially young boys, were stashing them away in bags and drawers.

In Bartholomew's store window, up went his sign — "\$15 for 1909 Pennies." Even the mathematically challenged quickly recognized a \$14.99 profit. Drawers opened up and bags of copper coins came out. One by one, customers hurried in with their dreams of a new bonnet, yoyos or maybe even a few extra beers at their favourite saloon.

A timid lady approached Tom's counter clutching her new "Lincoln" and asked if it were really true.

"Why, sure I'll give \$15 for 1909 pennies," said Tom.

"But, I only have one penny," said the lady, ready for her reward.

"Well, you must get 1,908 more pennies," said Tom, with a smile. "To get the \$15 you must have 1,909 pennies."



It didn't take long for the rest of the town to get the news. How many people laughed at the joke — and how many only fumed — wasn't reported.

The enduring design of the Lincoln penny, with only occasional changes, has lasted longer than any other United States coin, but when it was new, it wasn't always a hit. Artistically, they said, it was no match for the beautiful Indian Head penny it replaced, and Lincolns wouldn't stack as high as the Indians. The coin was "too thick and too heavy." Coin machine owners said it just didn't fit, and telephone companies found Lincoln pennies used as nickels in their new pay telephones.

Then there was the portrait, the first to appear on a national coin. Some said it was like a Roman Emperor, while others found it appropriate that a humble, unpretentious patriot would be honoured on the country's smallest, humblest and most common coin.

**In the United States,  
four new pennies  
will appear this year  
in celebration of  
Lincoln's 200th birthday**

For 50 years, even when it was made of steel in 1943, the reverse of the coin carried two wheat heads, the words UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and the national motto, E Pluribus Unum, "one out of many." That was replaced by the Lincoln Monument in 1959.

On Feb. 12, Lincoln's 200th birthday, the U.S. Mint issued the first of four new pennies that will appear this year. Lincoln remains on the front, but

the back images will change about every three months. First is the log cabin where Lincoln was born. In May, it's Lincoln reading on a log, followed by Lincoln in front of the Illinois Statehouse, and in December comes an unfinished Capitol Building, just as it was during the Civil War. Next year, a not-yet-released design will celebrate the union of the states.

In 1910, Tom Bartholomew's joke would cost you \$14.99. This year, it's going to take \$59.96. Now, that's what you call inflation.

### 20 MILLION LINCOLN RAIL SPLITTER PENNIES SOLD IN FOUR DAYS

By MIKE UNSER, NUMISMATIC NEWS

Blazing past all expectations, collectors purchased more than 400,000 rolls of the 2009 Lincoln Rail Splitter cent in just four days, the latest United States Mint sales figures show.

The Mint launched the coin Thursday to an excited public. On the same day, two-roll sets — one roll of 50 coins for the United States Mint at Philadelphia and one roll of 50 coins for the United States Mint at Denver — went on sale for \$8.95. Or, perhaps more clearly, for 8.95 cents per penny!

As of Sunday, the Mint said 200,055 of the

two-roll sets have sold for a total of 400,110 rolls, adding up to more than 20 million pennies.

A staggering level that greatly outshines the very impressive performance of the first Log Cabin cent where 96,000 sets were sold in less than two weeks. To be fair, the Mint unexpectedly stopped selling those rolls, and

that helped create further excitement for the second launch. And, obviously, the sales limit was greatly increased for the new cent.

The public, and collectors specifically, apparently had little objections in paying premiums for the rolls. In running the numbers and discounting shipping, the Mint has grossed a whopping \$1.79 million (\$8.95 x 200,055) for the pennies so far.

For the Mint's part, a clear motivation was getting more pennies out to a demanding public. And to the Mint's credit, they have not shut down sales of the coins. The action may help reduce Lincoln coin prices overall. After the first 2009 log cabin cent launch, prices for the pennies in the secondary market went (and are) much higher than original Mint prices.



## THE WAR MUSEUM PAYS \$288K TO BUY VICTORIA CROSS

BY DAN BLACKBURN AND RANDY BOSWELL, SASKATCHEWAN LEADER-POST

The Canadian government spent almost \$300,000 at a controversial auction in Toronto on Monday night to buy a Victoria Cross awarded to First World War hero Robert Shankland, preventing the iconic medal from leaving the country.

A set of nine military decorations given to Shankland — who was one of the three “Valour Road” soldiers from the same Winnipeg street who earned VCs in the 1914-18 war — was sold for \$288,000 to officials from the Canadian Museum of Civilization Corp., the federal Crown corporation that oversees the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa.

The hammer price of \$240,000, plus a buyer’s premium to be paid to sale organizer Bonhams Canada, pushes the total to \$288,000.

News of the outcome came as a “delight” to Murray Burt, author of a forthcoming 100th anniversary history of the Winnipeg-based Queen’s Own Cameron Highlanders, Shankland’s former regiment.

The regiment had been engaged in a “quiet” fundraising effort ahead of the auction to acquire the medal if the top bidder on Monday was a foreign collector.

“It really is a relief,” Burt told Canwest News Service minutes after the sale of Shankland’s VC and the rest of his medal set. “I don’t think there’s a better place for it than the Canadian War Museum.”

He added that the regiment had “substantial philanthropists on our side” in case a fundraising drive had been necessary to keep the medals in Canada.

“This means that we won’t have a protracted hassle” to raise cash and prevent the export of Shankland’s decorations.

The planned auction of the Victoria Cross, awarded to Shankland for “most conspicuous bravery” in leading an attack against the Germans at Passchendaele in 1917, had prompted the federal NDP — with backing from the Royal Canadian Legion

— to introduce a bill last month that would outlaw such sales in the future.

The medal set included the “very scarce” combination of Shankland’s VC and his Distinguished Conduct Medal — won in 1916 for rescuing a team of Canadian stretcher bearers under enemy fire.

Veterans Affairs Minister Greg Thompson had already vowed to do “what-

earned through several daring dashes into no man’s land in 1945 — the federal Liberal government of the day vowed to block the sale or to purchase the medal.

In the end, a public fundraising campaign spearheaded by the veterans of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion — Topham’s former unit — raised \$300,000 to prevent the medal’s sale to a British collector.

Topham’s VC was later donated to the Canadian War Museum — now the likely home of Shankland’s medal following its acquisition by the museum’s parent corporation.

Shankland, who immigrated to Canada from Scotland in 1910 and settled in Winnipeg, earned his Victoria Cross in October 1917 during one of the bloodiest battles of the First World War.

A lieutenant with the Cameron Highlanders, he was credited in his VC citation with “most conspicuous bravery and resource in action under critical and adverse conditions.”

The official description of his exploits describes how Shankland “rallied the remnant of his own platoon and men of other companies, disposed them to command the ground in front, and inflicted heavy casualties upon the retreating enemy. Later, he dispersed a counter-attack, thus enabling supporting troops to come up unmolested.”

Shankland lived before the war on Winnipeg’s Pine Street, along with two other future Victoria Cross recipients — Cpl. Leo Clarke and Sgt.-Major Frederick Hall.

The street was later renamed Valour Road in honour of the First World War heroes.

Neither Clarke nor Hall survived the 1914-18 conflict. But Shankland returned to Canada, working in Winnipeg and Vancouver before — at the age of 53 — rejoining the Camerons in the Second World War and serving in Britain as an officer at the Canadian army headquarters.

Shankland died in 1968 at age 80 and is buried in Vancouver.



*Victoria Cross of Robert Shankland, one of the trio of First World War heroes from Winnipeg’s ‘Valour Road’*

Photograph by: Handout, Canwest News Service

ever it takes” to keep Shankland’s VC in Canadian hands, and provisions under the federal Cultural Property Review Board would have compelled any foreign buyer of the medal to accept a matching offer from a Canadian collector or public institution within six months.

“These medals are a powerful part of our nation’s history and they are staying in Canada — where they belong,” Veterans Affairs Minister Greg Thompson told Canwest News Service Monday night.

Burt said Thompson’s vow had been “very comforting” to the Cameron Highlanders.

“His heart seemed to be in the right place.”

Previous attempts to auction examples of the country’s highest military decoration — awarded only 94 times in the Canada’s history, and not once since 1945 — have prompted controversy.

In 2004, with the family of Toronto-born Second World War medic Fred Topham poised to auction his Victoria Cross —

## EFFORTS INCREASING TO KEEP VICTORIA CROSS IN CANADA

BY RANDY BOSWELL, SASKATCHEWAN LEADER-POST

April 24, 2009

A growing controversy over the planned auction of an iconic Canadian war medal — the Victoria Cross of one of Winnipeg’s “Valour Road” heroes from the First World War — has officials with Lt. Robert Shankland’s former regiment plotting ways to prevent any sale to a foreign collector while debating whether Ottawa or Winnipeg should eventually lay claim to the illustrious decoration.

Shankland’s VC, awarded to him in 1917 for “most conspicuous bravery” in leading his troops against the Germans near the Belgian town of Passchendaele, is the centrepiece of a nine-medal set being offered at Bonhams’ May 25 auction of Canadian art and history.

The high-end estimate for the full set — which includes a Distinguished Conduct Medal awarded to Shankland in 1916 for rescuing a Canadian unit of stretcher bearers from enemy fire — is \$330,000.

In one of Canadian war history’s most poignant twists of fate, Shankland lived before the war on west-end Winnipeg’s Pine Street along with two other future Victoria Cross recipients — Cpl. Leo Clarke and Sgt.-Major Frederick Hall.

The street was later renamed Valour Road, which remains a focal point of Winnipeg remembrance activities.

Murray Burt, historian and secretary for the Winnipeg-based Queen’s Own Cameron Highlanders, said the regiment is lining up “quiet financing” for an attempt to secure the Shankland VC, but intends to “hold our fire until after the sale.” It’s a strategy aimed at taking advantage of federal rules that give Canadians six months to match any auction price paid by a foreign buyer for specially designated Canadian cultural artifacts, including historic military objects.

“Our principal worry is that it goes out of the country,” said Burt, adding that if any international collector purchases Shankland’s VC “we’ll sure go after it.”

He added that the Cameron Highlanders “took some comfort” from the vow earlier this week by Veterans Affairs Minister Greg Thompson to do “whatever it takes” to block

the export of the “powerful and enduring symbol” of Shankland’s gallantry.

“We have a duty to protect and preserve this proud history of our nation’s truest heroes,” Thompson said Tuesday to Canwest News Service after it first reported the planned sale. “Our heritage cannot be for export.”

Wayne Lightfoot, a federal public servant in Winnipeg, has also launched a public campaign to keep the Shankland medals in Canada.

Burt noted that some Cameron Highlanders working to secure Shankland’s medals “would like them in Winnipeg” to be displayed at the regimental museum or elsewhere. Others, he says, believe the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa — which holds 30 of the 94 Victoria Crosses awarded to Canadians between the 1850s and 1945 — would be the “best place” to exhibit the Shankland VC.

Jack Kerr-Wilson, president of Bonhams Canada, has said Shankland’s medals are attracting considerable international interest and that they will be available to any Canadian or foreign buyer.

Previous attempts to auction examples of Canada’s highest military decoration have also provoked public ire and government objections to the planned sales.

In 2004, with the family of Toronto-born Second World War medic Fred Topham poised to auction his Victoria Cross — earned through several daring dashes into no man’s land in 1945 — the federal Liberal government of the day vowed to block the sale and even offered to purchase the medal.

In the end, a public fundraising campaign spearheaded by the veterans of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion — Topham’s former unit — raised \$300,000 to prevent the medal’s sale to a British collector.

Also in 2004, the planned sale of the Victoria Cross won by Canadian soldier Filip Konowal during the First World War was halted by the RCMP after the Canadian War Museum claimed ownership of the medal.

Konowal’s VC had disappeared from a museum storage area in the 1970s. Following a brief police investigation, the

medal was returned to the military history collection in Ottawa, where Konowal had worked as a Parliament Hill janitor before his death in 1959.

And even the first Victoria Cross awarded to a Canadian — Alexander Dunn’s VC from the 1854 Crimean War — sparked controversy when it was auctioned in Britain in 1894. Canadian government officials later purchased and repatriated the medal, which is now on display at Dunn’s former school in Toronto.

### Would you like to know more about the Victoria Cross? Here are some citations from the *Canadian Numismatic Bibliography*:

<<Victoria Cross>>. – CNJ : Vol. 12, no. 9 (Sep. 1967). – p. 330 - 331, ill. – *history of the Commonwealth’s highest gallantry award which was instituted in 1856. Includes a chart displaying the number of VCs and bars awarded in various wars to Commonwealth Servicemen and civilians*

1000 Brave Canadians. – Toronto : Unitrade Press, 1991. – 415 p. – *includes all of the citations for Canadians awarded the: Victoria Cross; George Cross; Albert Medal; Edward Medal; George Medal; King’s Police Medal; Cross of Valour; Star of Courage; Medal of Bravery; and the Meritorious Service Cross*

<<Four Canadian physicians have won the Victoria Cross>>. – CNJ : Vol. 36, no. 4 (April 1991). – p. 136 - 137. – *biographical notes on Herbert Taylor Reade, Campbell Millis Douglas, Francis Alexander Caron Scrimger and Bellenden S. Hutcheson - all physicians who were awarded the Commonwealth’s most distinguished military honour while serving with Canadian Units at various times from 1857 -1918 (by NYCC member Marvin Kay)*

History of the Victoria Cross : being an account of the 520 acts of bravery for which the decoration has been awarded, and portraits of 392 recipients. – Glendale, New York : Benchmark publishing, 1970. – xxiii, (1), 442, (2) p., ill. – reprint of original 1904 edition by Philip A. Wilkins

## WHY YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE “TICKEY”

BY CHRIS WOLTERMANN, WORLD COIN NEWS

South Africa's 1898 gold threepence provides a valuable lesson on how a non-circulating legal tender coin (NCLT) can become a coveted collectible of lasting numismatic interest. Collectors today wonder how many of their era's NCLT issues will fare as well.

We readers of World Coin News appreciate the timeliness of this question. Every month, Colin Bruce II's "World Coin Roundup" gives us a global overview of new coins. The majority of these, at least in a typical month, comprises mint products never intended for circulation.

One such piece struck over a century ago recently fetched the second-highest figure, 1.4 million South African rands or about US\$185,000, ever paid for a South African coin. We may draw from its story several conclusions as to the conditions that foster or impair the numismatic potential of modern NCLT issues.

The enigmatically named Sammy Marks tickey, as South African collectors denote their 1898 gold threepence, is difficult to classify. Krause Publications joins South African cataloger Brian Hern in treating it as a pattern. We gain a better understanding of it as a NCLT off-metal strike if we delve into its meaning as a "tickey" and its association with Sammy Marks.

"Tickey" is long established South African slang for a threepence. Of uncertain origin but arguably deriving from a Nguni (Zulu, Xhosa) word meaning "something small," it became a fitting nickname for the smallest silver coin in South Africa's old monetary system. A tickey was nothing special; it was, quite simply, an ordinary coin.

Sammy Marks was extraordinary. Born in Lithuania, he immigrated to southern Africa where he made his fortune in the Kimberley diamond fields. He later moved to the Zuid Afrikaansche Republiek, the famed Transvaal. Marks soon became one of the ZAR's first great industrialists. He initially focused on manufacturing and coal mining, from which he diversified into gold.

The basis of the connection between the 1898 gold tickey and Marks was his double role as a personal friend of the ZAR's president, Paul Kruger, and an unofficial financial adviser to Kruger's administration. During the turbulent 1890s, Marks repeatedly secured financing crucial to the completion of the government's railroad project.



Marks sought to show his esteem for the people close to him by giving each of them a most unusual memento. Pursuant to this end, he arranged through Kruger's intercession the privilege of using the ZAR's Pretoria mint for one day. To their credit, Marks and Kruger acted openly so as to avoid suggestions of scandal.

Thus was born the Sammy Marks gold tickey. The mint struck only 215 pieces, and Marks proceeded to distribute them to his relatives, friends and associates in government.

Surviving examples of the Marks tickey are much outnumbered by benign replicas and, to a lesser extent, counterfeits meant to deceive. The genuine article does not differ, except for its date and gold composition, from silver threepences struck from 1892 to 1897. Official 1898 dies were used. Ironically, these saw no other service as the ZAR canceled its plans to coin silver in 1898.

The recent market performance of the Marks tickey has been stunning. S A Coin, whose senior broker Christine Jones negotiated the sale of a pristine example for R1.4 million, affirms that such a piece would have brought only R50,000 10 years ago.

Behind this price appreciation lie elemental numismatic passions and other, more mundane factors unique to South Africa. The latter, principally the country's tax-free treat-

ment of numismatic profits and the influx of blacks into the ranks of white collectors, have amplified the effect of the former. Being clear about this fact allows us to discern whether other NCLT issues, including ones now being coined in 2008, have anywhere near the potential of the Marks tickey.

I've distilled from the story of the Marks tickey three quasi-rules that seem to be determinative. They are:

**Rule #1:** The coin should have a meaningful relation to the history and/or culture of the country of issue. NCLT pieces associated with some peripheral personage or an obscure event fall far short of this standard. So too do coins minted long after the occurrence of an associated event or the death of an honoree. In general, the more contemporaneous the minting is with a coin's referent, the better.

**Rule #2:** The coin should be recognizable as a coin in the context of the minting authority's circulating coinage. This means, among other considerations, that the coin should bear the denomination of an ordinary workaday coin. The NCLT's metallic composition should be common to some other circulating coinage, even if, as in the case of the Marks tickey, it is characteristic of different denominations. Finally, the coin's design should not be too far removed, if at all, from that of its circulating counterpart.

**Rule #3:** The coin should be scarce. Anything suggestive of contrived scarcity, though, is a major negative. The ideal NCLT issue has a small mint run, one sufficient to satisfy the coin's initial market upon its release to the public, but which subsequently meets with unexpectedly strong collector interest.

Although the foregoing criteria may seem too stringent for modern NCLT coinage, they nevertheless are useful tools for assessing which modern issues fall so short that their potential for long-term collector interest is negligible. Perhaps the Sammy Marks tickey is in a class by itself.

The pinnacle of South Africa's NCLT coinage will serve a function unimaginable to Sammy Marks if it stimulates foreign interest in South African numismatics. Collectors and investors in South Africa have created a robust domestic market whose allure is already becoming global.