



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,
5261 Naskapi Court, Mississauga, ON L5R 2P4

Web site: www.northyorkcoinclub.ca

Contact the Club :

E-mail: northyorkcoinclub@rogers.com
Phone: 416-897-6684

Member :

Ontario Numismatic Association
Royal Canadian Numismatic Association

Executive Committee

President	Bill O'Brien	Director	David Quinlan	Receptionist	Franco Farronato
1st Vice President		Director	Roger Fox	Draw Prizes.....	Bill O'Brien
2nd Vice President.....	Shawn Hamilton	Director	Vince Chiappino	Social Convenor	Bill O'Brien
Secretary	Henry Nienhuis	Junior Director		Librarian	Robert Wilson
Treasurer	Ben Boelens	Auctioneer	Bob Porter	50 th Anniversary Planning	Paul Petch
Past President	Nick Cowan	Auction Manager	Mark Argentino		416-303-4417
		Editor	Paul Petch		p.petch@rogers.com

THE BULLETIN FOR NOVEMBER 2009

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

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

At our next meeting, 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 also welcome our new club President Bill O'Brien as he assumes the chair for the November meeting! Bill moves into his new role in his capacity as 1st VP, with the resignation of Nick Cowan. We all owe Nick a vote of thanks for his many contributions and years of service as President.

We appreciate all donations to our supply of draw prize material.
Remember to bring some items for the auction!



PLAN FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8 AND THE ANNUAL DECEMBER CHRISTMAS MEETING

Set up begins at 7:00 p.m. and dinner starts at 7:30 with meeting festivities to follow dinner

To supplement the purchased Swiss Chalet food, we also appreciate whatever family specialties including salads, cookies, cakes, etc. you are able to donate to the "pot luck" buffet table. Because the room is set for dinner, we're sorry but there will be no dealer tables at this meeting. Plans include our traditional lucky draw and bingo.

If you want to participate in the optional gift exchange, please bring along a numismatic or non-numismatic gift with a value of around \$10. Exchange of the gifts will be intermixed with the lucky draws.



In the spirit of the season, we are asking each person to bring at least \$5 worth of non-perishable food for donation to the food bank.



SWISS CHALET DECEMBER \$10 DINNER CHOICES

To help simplify the food orders, the basic order is for a Festive Dinner (that's the one with the extras, including a desert treat) with white meat and French Fries.



Substitutions include:

you may select dark meat in place of white meat;
you may select Baked Potato, or Garden Salad in place of French Fries.

You may place an order by e-mail or telephone until Friday December 4. You may also cancel if you are forced to change plans, and you will get a full refund.

Contact Ben Boelens: e-mail: boelens40@gmail.com Telephone: 905 890 9484

PAY OUR TREASURER AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING

Our treasurer, Ben Boelens will be collecting money and marking off payment for dinner and for 2010 annual Club dues. \$20.00 will handle both ... that's \$10 for dinner and \$10 dues. The Club will subsidize the extra cost for dinner.

MEETING NEWS OF THE OCTOBER 2009 MEETING

The 549th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 in room 123 of the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive, North York, Ontario.

The meeting was hammered to order at 7:35 p.m. with our President, Nick Cowan, in the chair. There were 30 members and 3 guests in attendance.

The on-time attendance draw was won by member Richard Duquette. Richard, being present, collected his prize of \$2. Congratulations Richard! The pot will restart at \$2 for the November meeting.

The Secretary, asked the members present if there were any errors or omissions in the minutes of the September 22nd, 2009 meeting published in the October newsletter; no changes were identified by the members. Member Marvin Kay made a motion to accept the minutes as published and was seconded by member Norman G Gordon. Carried.

Proceeding to current club business, President Nick Cowan reminded the mem-

bers that, as of the December meeting, he would be stepping down. Since this is halfway through Nick's term our current first vice-president Bill O'Brien will assume the role as President.

It is Xmas time once again! And time to plan for our annual December banquet meeting. As is our custom, this year's December meeting will be held on the SECOND TUESDAY, December 8th at our usual start time of 7:30 pm. Ben Boelens, our treasurer will be taking orders (and payment of \$10.00 per person) for our Swiss Chalet "Festive Meal" dinners. Please contact Ben directly or bring payment to the November meeting.

Nick mentioned that he had occasion to attend a regular meeting of sister club, Waterloo Coin Society. Nick was impressed with how well organized the club is; the WCS president Robb McPherson and his executive certainly deserve a pat on the back for their great work! Nick also commented on being impressed by his conversation with auctioneer Chris McClean.

Nick's next topic was a reminder to the members present that 2010 is our club's 50th anniversary. It is certainly in our membership's best interest to participate in the festivities planning. Nick suggested that if anyone has any ideas that they bring them up to Paul Petch or a member of the club executive . . . let's make this a year to remember!

Member Paul Petch, chair of the Anniversary Committee, requested the floor to talk about two items concerning the clubs upcoming anniversary

Paul's first topic was the special LIMITED EDITION 50th Anniversary medal, only 100 medals will be struck. He distributed a subscription order form to all members present. The order form details the specifics of the medal as well as the choices of metals to have your custom order struck in. As indicated previously, the medal will be produced only if the mintage of 100 pieces is sold by subscription. The distribution of the order forms caused a great deal of activity and enthusiasm with members eager to get their orders in. The subscription will be sold on a

A Small Sample of the interesting images included in *"Coins & Tokens As Tools, Jewellery & Other Uses"*



Spoons, made by recovering soldiers



Canadian tokens made into gears/washers



Bracelet made from 1940-41 Dutch coins



Cuff links engraved "ECH"



Brooches engraved on Canadian tokens



Tea pots made from coins

first come, first served basis with club members having first opportunity to order. Since the medal mintage will be kept to a strict 100 pieces we believe this is destined to become a sought after collectors item in the years to come. **DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO OWN ONE!** Place your orders immediately; for those who were not present at the meeting, a subscription order form will accompany the next newsletter.

Paul's second item was to report on the Anniversary banquet planning. The banquet is tentatively planned for the 3rd week of June, although no specific date has been set. We need feedback on what this event should be like. Do we want a guest speaker, what format should the food service be, etc. We would very much like to get feedback from the membership to help plan an eventful celebration!

The next order of business was the Treasurer's report by Ben Boelens. Following a statement of account balance, Ben Boelens reminded the members that membership dues are now payable for the 2010 year. Please forward payment to Ben (or remember to bring your dues to the November meeting) as soon as possible.

At 8:15 the refreshment break was called; Bill O'Brien prepared the refreshments.

After the break, member Paul Petch, with

assistance from Henry Nienhuis presented "*Coins & Tokens As Tools, Jewellery & Other Uses.*" This presentation was prepared by Len Buth and submitted to the London Numismatic Society. This particular presentation is part of an educational series, in power-point form, prepared by Ted Leitch from the London Numismatic Society and donated to the O.N.A.'s audio/visual library. Our originally planned speaker, Sgt. Pearce from the Metro-Toronto Police, unfortunately was not available for the October meeting; so Paul borrowed the material from the O.N.A. as a back up program for our club meeting.

Paul introduced the presentation with:

It is interesting to observe the many and innovative uses of coins and tokens, other than their original monetary or trade value intent. Coinage and tokens have been used to make a variety of items - such as those fitting into the following categories:

- tools
- jewellery
- toys
- love tokens
- artistic works
- and many other interesting objects.

In some instances items can overlap - for example, a love token may be considered jewellery, or an artistic work depending on how one views the individual piece.

Paul's presentation was well received by the members who thought the topic was interesting and well researched. The full colour power point slides added the enjoyment of the presentation. The club's computer projector was put to good use once again this month! Because of the success of this presentation, we will likely be making effective use of other material of this calibre supplied by the LNS and borrowed from the O.N.A. in the future.

Bob Porter, our Master Auctioneer, assisted by Mark Argentino as Auction Manager and Vince Chiappino as runner conducted the regular club auction beginning at approximately 9:00. Intermixed with the auction lots was the evening's Lucky Draw. The Club earned \$40 through the sale of draw tickets and \$15.70 from the auction. Of the auction returns, \$9.35 was received through the donation of material to the club. Lucky Draw winners were Paul Petch, Richard Duquette, Terry O'Brien, Henry Nienhuis, Nick Cowan, Norman G. Gordon (2), Paul Johnson, Raj Makhijani and Tony Hine.

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 9:40 p.m.

COMING EVENTS FOR FALL 2009 / WINTER 2010

NOV. 21, 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.

JAN. 15 - 17, 2010, Toronto, Unipex Stamp and Coin Show, Rameses Temple Shrine Club, 3100 Keele St. Hours: Fri. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Free admission, TTC service to the door, licensed snack bar, free parking, door prizes.* For more information, telephone: (416) 242-5900.

JAN. 29 - 31, 2010, Hamilton, CAND Annual Show, Sheraton Hamilton Hotel, 116 King St. West. Auctions conducted by Jeffrey Hoare Auctions Inc., numismatic auction on Saturday, military auction on Sunday. Public admission Sat. and Sun. at 10 a.m. Adults \$4,

seniors \$2, young collectors free. Show passes \$30. For more information, contact the show chairman Tom Kennedy, 519-271-8825, email: cand@cogeco.ca.

FEB. 7, 2010, Paris, SWON, 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 and more, food and drinks available. Buy, sell, trade and appraise. For more information, contact Ted Bailey, telephone: 1-866-747-2646; email: tedscollectables@bellnet.ca.

FEB. 20, 2010, Oshawa, Oshawa and District Coin Club Durham Coin-A-Rama, Five Points Mall, 285 Taunton Rd. E. *Free dealer, public, and membership draws, free admission. Featuring paper, coins, tokens,*

medals and many other items. For more information, contact Sharon, telephone: (905) 728-1352, email: papman@bell.net.

FEB. 27 - 28, 2010, Toronto, Torex - Canada's National Coin Show, Hilton Toronto Airport Hotel, 5875 Airport Rd. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission \$6. Under 16 Free. *Official Auctioneer: The Canadian Numismatic Company, Marc Verret and Eric Pacquet. The Hilton hotel is located directly across from Toronto's Pearson International Airport.* For more information, call (416) 705-5348. Website: <http://www.torex.net>.

SOME AES OF CAIUS, CALLED CALIGULA, 37-41

BY JAMES R. BAKES, SPECIAL TO THE NYCC BULLETIN

An ancient coin type set

Historically, during the time of the Roman republic, the *tresviri monetales*, the young men on the first rung of the ladder to a Senatorial career, had struck coins in all three metals (copper, silver and gold) from the mint of Rome. Two thousand years ago, as the first century BC developed, the many strongmen vying for position were forced by circumstance to strike their own coinage, usually silver to pay their armies, giving rise to a system of mints traveling with these contenders for power. During these times the token coinage in copper all but vanished and the main mint at Rome faded into relative obscurity.

Then, with the victory of Augustus over Anthony in 31 BC, coinage once again was centred at the mint of Rome, although various satellite mints (imperial not provincial) struck coins in Spain and southern Gaul (now France). Eventually, over the length of the reign of Augustus, the duties of the *tresviri* were downplayed. They no longer affixed their names to the coins after 4 BC, nor did they have as much say in the coin designs as they had previously. Gold and silver became the product of the Imperial mint at Lugdunum (now Lyon, France) and token coinage in the base metals (brass and copper) was struck under the authority of the Senate at the mint of Rome. The mint building was still located near or perhaps in, the Temple of Juno Moneta at the opposite end of the Capitoline Hill from the Temple of Jupiter. The Senate's permission to strike the base metal coins used daily by most of the population was loudly trumpeted from the reverse of each one, the design often being merely the two letters SC, *Senatus Consulto*. Within the political climate of the time, the early principate (i.e., the Julio-

Claudian dynasty) still feared a coup from Senators whose birthright had been the rule of Europe, a function now handed over to the new Augusti. From our modern point of view, the Senators seem inept and sycophantic, but from a first century view and from their recent history, the rise of a strongman seemed quite possible unless the Senate was given some apparent power as a sop to pacify their wounded pride.

Tiberius continued the system he inherited virtually without change: precious metals were coined under authority of the Emperor at the Imperial Mint at Lugdunum, copper and the more impressive appearing brass, sometimes called oricalchum, at the Senatorial mint in Rome. This did not of course prevent local mints coining specific base metal issues for use in their own territory as small change.

This brings us to the time when Emperor Caius took over, to great expectations from the population after the death of the reviled Tiberius in 37. Caius's own equally perverse rule was to be mercifully brief. At the beginning of the new reign, the striking of silver and gold coinage may have been brought back to the mint of Rome, or perhaps it was left in Gaul until the massive re-coinage some 25 years later under Nero, after the famous Great Fire. Certainly, the old mint of Rome went undamaged through the fire and may well have taken over all the empire's coining functions. The late ancient coin specialist at the British Museum, C.H.V.Sutherland, in *Roman Imperial Coinage* (RIC) thinks the gold and silver of the reign of Caius was probably struck at Rome and he makes several stylistic arguments in Rome's favour. Prestigious as RIC is, however, the prevailing current opin-



Marble bust of Emperor Caligula
Houston Museum of Natural Science

ion seems to be that precious metals stayed put in Lugdunum until Nero's re-coining in 62-64.

There is no doubt, however, that the aes or base metal coins continued to be struck at the Roman mint, and it is those that we will be looking at in this article.

Because of the brevity of the four-year reign of Caius, hereafter referred to by his more popular name Caligula, there were not a great many types struck. It should therefore be possible to put together a type set of the bronzes of this reign, and of course you can if you have deep pockets. Most, though not all coins of Caligula are beautiful, historical and rare, a trio of attributes that leads to high prices for many coins in the series.

The first coin is the common As, usually quite affordable and the coin representing Caligula in many collections. It was struck throughout the reign, the most common year being this one from his first year, 37-38. On the obverse, facing left is a good portrait of the emperor surrounded by his titles: **C CAESAR AVG GERMAN-ICVS PON M TR POT**. On the reverse is a left facing representation of perhaps, the seated cult statue of Vesta, her name above, and to either side **SC** in letters large enough to flatter the most begrudging Senator. The earliest issues of the reign were often used to set the theme for the coming years and this, the goddess of the hearth and of home life, proved to be more appropriate than many people think when referring to Caligula.



Coin number two, also an As, is the most common coin of the entire early principate. It shows the left-facing portrait of Agrippa,



the lieutenant of Augustus and the man primarily responsible for Augustus's winning the naval battle of Actium in 31 BC. For this reason the figure of Neptune, god of the sea, forms the reverse device, with again a prominent SC. Stressing his past through his connection to recent great figures was a theme of the coinage and Caligula was drawing attention to the fact that he was the great grandson of both participants in that struggle for the world, Mark Anthony and Octavian Augustus as well as the grandson of Agrippa. This coin was also struck throughout the reign and some think beyond it, due to the vast numbers that survive.

The third coin shows the dedication of the Temple of Divus Augustus, located in the Forum in the heart of Rome. The obverse shows a representation of Pietas, seated left in very similar pose to the Vesta, presented as coin number one. Pietas is used to draw attention to Caligula's religiousness in opening a temple to the divine first



emperor. Around is his inscription for 39-40 when the coin was struck in which he identifies himself as the great grandson (*pronepos*) of Augustus, and again we see the family theme of this coinage: **C CAESAR DIVI AVG PRON AVG PM TRP III PP**, with **PIETAS** in the exergue of the coin, the area below the base line. On the reverse is the dedication ceremony, which took place just after his accession in 37 showing the garlanded temple with roof statuary and pediment figures, six columns, Caligula himself, hooded, with two attendants preparing to sacrifice a bull. Again SC is very prominent. No trace of this temple has been found, although its general location is known to have been in the small valley between the Capitol and the Palatine where the emperor's palace stood. The Roman historian Suetonius reports that Caligula wanted to use the temple roof as a support for a footbridge leading to the Temple of Jupiter so he could walk over and talk to his father.

Fourth we see a quadrans, one quarter of an As, from the year 40-41. This was a coin not always struck because of its small value, although it was reportedly the price of admission to one of the many public baths; there was no excuse for poor hygiene in imperial



Rome. The inscription for the year appears around the edge, with **RCC** centred in the field. This is for *remissa ducentesima*, remission of the 1/2 % sales tax on auctioned goods. The Romans took this so seriously that the cap of manumission from slavery is featured on the reverse, a bit overstating a minuscule sales tax, at least in our eyes. But the Romans were among the least taxed people in western history, at least those who lived in the centre of the empire. Virtually no taxes were paid. The expenses of empire were covered by conquest and resulting tribute and people expected the government to pay them, rather than the other way round. Bread and circuses formed the basis of the common man's lifestyle.

Continued next page...

Q: How Crazy Was Caligula?

Written by Mental_Floss
Published November 9, 2006

A: When you hear the name "Caligula" you may immediately think of the infamous 1977 sexploitation flick, and not really the model for the movie himself. You may wonder then, was the real Caligula really as crazy as all that?

Well, yes. The Roman emperor Caligula had more loose screws than a hardware store

in an earthquake. According to the ancient historians Suetonius and Flavius Josephus, although Caligula was only emperor for four years — from 37-41 CE — he certainly made quite an impression.

The adopted son of the previous emperor, Tiberius, he was initially very popular with Roman commoners. Partially, because he would spontaneously distribute *gold coins* to them and partially because he'd engage them with his wild, unpredictable sense of humor. But the public's opinion of him quick-

ly turned sour when (according to Suetonius) Caligula started cross-dressing in public, impregnated his own sister, declared war on the Greek god Poseidon (bringing back chests full of worthless seashells as booty), and topped it all off by declaring himself a god. (And if you think that's bad, wait till you hear the crazy stuff!)

Evidently, all of his deranged behavior didn't exactly sit so well with his bodyguards because they got together and decided to assassinate him not long after.

The fifth coin is a sestertius struck in commemoration of Agrippina the elder, Caligula's mother and one of the most tragically unfortunate women in Roman history. The promise of the first half of her life only served to accentuate the tragedy of her downfall. Born in the reign of her grandfather Augustus, she married Livia's superstar grandson Germanicus and the couple seemed headed for the Royal Palace. Upon the death of Augustus and the accession of Tiberius, however, the bloodlines shifted from the Julians to the Claudians and, when her husband died suspiciously in 19, Agrippina was left the lone Julian among the Claudian family of Tiberius. She devoted the next decade of her life to the tracking down of her husband's murderers, whom she was sure were hired by the emperor himself, or his henchman Sejanus. By 29 her persistence cost her her freedom and she was arrested and banished to the tiny island of Pandateria. Severe beatings undoubtedly ordered from Rome, caused her to lose the sight of one eye and she finally, apparently, committed suicide by starvation in 33.

The inscription on the coin struck by Caligula, **AGRIPPINA MFMAT CAESARIS AVGVSTI**, describes her as the daughter of Agrippa and mother of the emperor. On the reverse is a superb rendition of the *Carpentum* (or covered cart) mentioned by Suetonius in *Caius 15*. He describes the measures taken by Caligula to honour his family at the outset of his reign, which included gathering the ashes of his mother and brother, victims of persecution under Tiberius, and transporting them back to Rome. He describes Caligula



transferring the ashes of his mother to an urn with his own hands for transfer to the Mausoleum of Augustus. Later he instituted Circus Games in her honour at which "... her image would be paraded around the track in a covered carriage." This coin's reverse shows that scene. Above is the legend: 'From the Senate and People of Rome to the memory of Agrippina.' The *Senatus Consulto* is implied in the **SPQR**.

Both this coin and coin number seven, a dupondius struck in the year 40 for Caligula's two elder brothers, Nero and Drusus, also imprisoned and murdered by order of Tiberius through Sejanus, give a window into the dark mind of Caligula who witnessed the violent deaths of his entire family, to all of whom he was apparently very close. The devils within his soul must have been spawned by these circumstances, a monster created not born.

Coin number six is a large medallion sestertius, the first of a long line showing an emperor addressing his troops, in this case members of the emperor's personal army the Praetorian Guard, stationed on the city's north side just inside the *pomerium* or city boundary. This particular coin was struck early in the reign, in 37 (although the same type was struck later in the reign too). It shows the emperor speaking to a group of 5 guards, four holding aquilae, the eagle standards. He stands upon a raised dais, his arm outstretched in classic orator's form, the camp stool from which he has just arisen behind him: just one of the boys. On the death of Tiberius, a bequest of 1000 sestertii was made to each member of the guard and this coin would have formed part of that donative. The lack of SC on the reverse pointedly means the Senate is to get no credit for this gift to the guards; it is the emperor's gift alone. Sutherland has pointed out the impracticality of giving each man 1000 sestertii, a pile of coins that would have weighed between 25 and 30 kilograms,



(60 to 75 lbs.), and been unwieldy to say the least. If, however, the donative was given in a mix of aureii, gold quinarii, denarii and two of these sestertii as souvenirs, the weight would be brought down to a mere 625 grams. These rare coins were souvenirs of that memorable day.

Returning to coin number seven, this dupondius shows what was probably a commemorative statue erected in the Forum to Nero and Drusus Caesars, the two elder brothers of Caligula mentioned earlier, who had been killed in 31 and 33 respectively. A scarce coin not often seen in the best condition, it has a quiet, respectful dignity about it. The obverse shows the pair statue, the horses' front legs heroically raised and around the edge simply their two names: **NERO ET DRVSVS CAESARES** while on the reverse are the emperor's titles for the year 40 around a large **SC**.



Agrippina the elder, as obstacles on his path to power. After seeing to the death of Germanicus in Syria, far from public scrutiny,

Sejanus eventually persuaded the emperor, by now in exile on Capri, that the widow Agrippina and her eldest son were a danger to his throne. For her part, Agrippina contributed to Tiberius's believing his trusted lieutenant Sejanus by so tenaciously pursuing the murderers of her husband. She and Nero Caesar died in exile. This left Drusus Caesar and Caius Caligula, the youngest son, alone against the powerful Sejanus. Drusus was arrested next and imprisoned in the palace where he was starved to death reportedly reduced

at the end to eating the straw from his mattress. Undoubtedly Sejanus was reserving Caligula for the next round, but the young boy caught the eye of Tiberius who appears to have had less than honourable intentions towards him, and he became the elderly emperor's constant companion on the island. This allowed Caligula to survive until after the fall of Sejanus in 31; it is not difficult, then, to imagine why rumours of Caligula's having smothered Tiberius gained currency.

Coins eight through eleven are illustrated courtesy of The Classical Numismatic Group (CNG) of Lancaster Pennsylvania. Three of the four repeat the family theme, which is such a constant in this reign and, in modern terms, type set series.



Coin number eight is the reverse of one of the most famous coins of the era, upon which Caligula represents his three sisters. Clearly named, they bear the attributes of various 'personifications.' On the left is Agrippina the Younger as the personification of Securitas (Agrippina eventually becomes the wife of Claudius and poisons him with mushrooms). In the centre is Drusilla, the favourite of the emperor who represents Concordia, a suitable guise for one who, rumour had it, was wife as well as sister to Caligula. Finally, on the right is Julia as Fortuna. This coin is very rare because it was struck for only a short time since two of the sisters were suspected of plotting against their brother and Drusilla herself died in only the second year of his reign.



Coin number nine is a stock issue sestertius, struck in many of the empire's early reigns and showing on its reverse the Crown of Oak given, as it says, for saving the lives of citizens. Who these citizens were remains a mystery.



Next as coin number ten is an As with a portrait of the emperor's father Germanicus, also featured on the one bronze coin of Caligula not illustrated in this article, showing him in his triumph after returning the legionary eagles lost in Germany under Augustus's general Varus.



The final coin is a dupondius showing a statue erected in Rome in honour of the divine Augustus; remarkably, the statue, as the inscription around states, was erected under the consensus of all three of the levels of Roman society: the Senate, the knights (or equestrian order) and the people.

Caligula may have been a monster, but he was a much-understood one; given the circumstances of his upbringing it is hard to see how he could have been anything else.

2009 SEASONAL COLLECTOR PRODUCTS FROM THE ROYAL CANADIAN MINT

(INTERNET: WWW.MINT.CA — TELEPHONE: 1-800-267-1871)

Theme: All aboard for Holiday fun!

Toy trains have long been a part of Holiday celebrations. Some believe it all began when regular passenger rail service became available in North America. Imagine how people of that bygone era must have marvelled at these extraordinary machines that could whisk them off to unknown places like magic. Suddenly, families could get together for Holiday celebrations as never before. Trains became a vehicle for childhood dreams and adult aspirations, and before long, miniature toy versions were being proudly displayed beneath Christmas trees.



Theme: Winter's fleeting beauty

To scientists, they are “six-sided dendrite ice crystals”; to children, they are the beginnings of snowmen and fun-filled toboggan rides; to Canada, they are its most defining climatic feature. But to the observant eye, the one that delves into that great blanket of white, snowflakes are tiny sculptures of incredible beauty; so intricate they have been the focus of much scientific study.



Star-shaped snowflakes may appear to have endless shapes and forms, but they all maintain their hallmark shape; and none of their branches are ever exactly the same. Science has clearly established this, but the best way to experience the wonder of snowflakes is to stand outdoors on a perfect winter day; when the air is calm and snow is falling and countless fleeting masterpieces land on your glove to be admired. The artist is Konrad Wachelko.

Theme: The Joy and Anticipation of the Holidays

Stockings hanging from the fireplace are a sure sign that a season of fun and excitement is about to begin. The link between stockings and Christmas began to emerge with the legend of Saint Nicholas and one account of how he helped a poor man acquire dowries for his unwed daughters. Saint Nicholas dropped three small bags of gold down the chimney and into the stockings where they were discovered by three delighted daughters the following morning. Centuries later, Clement Moore (1779-1863)

wrote his famous words, “...The stockings were hung by the chimney with care in hopes that Saint Nicholas soon would be there,” and the tradition gained popularity as never before. Stockings became a fixture in Holiday celebrations. The artist is Tony Bianco.



2009 Holiday Gift Set (only \$19.95)

Celebrating Life's Special Moments, the Holiday Gift Set with a Canadiana theme will mark the 2009 Holiday Season. This set includes uncirculated versions of each of the denominations issued for circulation in Canada and a painted 25-cent coin.

