



North York Coin Club

Founded 1960 — 50th Anniversary Year

MONTHLY MEETINGS 4TH Tuesday 7:30 P.M. AT
Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive, North York M2N 2R4

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5261 Naskapi Court, Mississauga, ON L5R 2P4

Web site: www.northyorkcoinclub.ca

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E-mail: info@northyorkcoinclub.ca
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Member :

Ontario Numismatic Association
Royal Canadian Numismatic Association

PresidentBill O'Brien
1st Vice President
2nd Vice PresidentShawn Hamilton
SecretaryHenry Nienhuis
TreasurerBen Boelens
Past PresidentNick Cowan

Executive Committee

DirectorDavid Quinlan
DirectorRoger Fox
DirectorVince Chiappino
Junior Director
AuctioneerBob Porter
Auction ManagerMark Argentino
EditorPaul Petch

ReceptionistFranco Farronato
Draw Prizes.....Bill O'Brien
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LibrarianRobert Wilson
50th Anniversary PlanningPaul Petch
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THE BULLETIN FOR FEBRUARY 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone:

Although the New Year is already well upon us the numismatic community has been eagerly awaiting the opportunity to attend this years upcoming show's, auctions and conventions. Even though the winter months are a time for us mammals to hibernate we should venture out into the cold to support our local club's and show's.

Since it is our club's purpose or objective to acquire and dispense numismatic knowledge, cultivate fraternal relationships and to promote and encourage coin, banknote or token collecting. It is thus our responsibility to make every effort to attend these great shows so that the hobby can survive and flourish.

During the upcoming month's myself and our executive committee have put together an array of interesting and informative speakers and presentations to help us facilitate our club's objectives.

Please plan on attending all of our future meetings and bring a friend so that we can make our club one of the best in the region.

Don't forget that your dues for 2010 are now payable. If you have already paid, the club thanks you. If not, please see Ben before the next meeting.

I want to make special mention and express the thanks of the Club to Norm Belsten for donating his services and covering the cost of the preparation of the 50th Anniversary obverse wood die. All members are reminded that they should contact Norm

if they would like to produce their own personalized wood in celebration of the anniversary.

May 2010 be the year for us to all broaden our horizon's and support the numismatic hobby as you have in the past.

Bill O'Brien



Reserve Tuesday, June 8 2010
for the North York Coin Club
50th Anniversary Banquet!

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

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

For February it is the Club's 50th anniversary meeting with a looking back presentation, cake and special souvenirs for those in attendance. This month our special draw prize with anniversary packaging is a 1986 C.N.A. silver medal.

Regular club members are reminded that it is time to pay their 2010 dues... still only \$10. Cheques may be mailed to the club or you may pay by cheque or cash at the next meeting.

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

Remember to bring some items for the auction!

Members are invited to pre-list their auction items in the bulletin. Send a description of your planned auction item to the editor at p.petch@rogers.com at least two weeks before the meeting.

ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION 48TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

APRIL 16 - 18, 2010, Kingston, , Four Points by Sheraton, Downtown, 285 King St. East, K7L 3B1. Fifty-six bourse tables, daily admission \$3. Hours: Friday, 3 p.m. set-up, bourse open to public 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Jeffrey Hoare Auctions is operating a numismatic auction Fri. April 16 at 6 p.m. Convention Hotel offers a convention rate, telephone: (613) 544-4434 or 1-888-478-4333 or use the reservation link under Upcoming Convention on the ONA web site. For more information, contact Tom Rogers, telephone: (519) 451-2316, email: trogers@sympatico.ca for bourse tables, or Sandy Lipin, telephone: (613) 542-6923, email: sandlipin@aol.com Convention Chairman. Website: <http://www.ontario-numismatic.org>.

APRIL 17, Canadian Tire Coupon Collectors Club 20th Anniversary Meeting, from 9:00am to 5:00pm, followed by a sit down dinner in conjunction with the ONA banquet Saturday evening. Everyone is welcome. You won't want to miss this one! For more information contact Sandy Lipin, telephone 613-542-6923, email: sandlipin@aol.com. Website: <http://www.ctccc.ca>.

MEETING NEWS OF THE JANUARY 2010 MEETING

The 552nd meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, January 26, 2010 in room 123 of the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive, North York, Ontario.

This being January, it is the club's Annual General Business Meeting. The meeting was hammered to order at 7:45 p.m. with past President Paul Petch in the chair. There were 26 members and 2 guests in attendance. Paul was guest chair of the meeting on behalf of Bill O'Brien, as part of the 2010 50th Anniversary festivities.

The member's name drawn for the on-time attendance draw was Leonid Gurev. Unfortunately Leonid was not present; the pot will increase to \$6 for the February meeting.

It was decided to change the normal order of the business portion of our meeting to accommodate our special guest speaker, Constable Wayne Peirce, Crime Prevention Officer attached to 32 Division.

After a short interlude dealing with technical gremlins Paul introduced Constable Peirce.

Constable Peirce began his presentation taking about the necessity of being prepared and having a plan. The criminals who accost innocent individuals have the upper hand because they have a plan . . . they know what they expect to happen. The unprepared victim has no clue . . . if they do not prepare ahead of time in the event of a crime. He talked about a recent crime involving a local 68 year old

woman who was accosted by 3 teenagers who took her purse. Her credit cards were stolen and within 15 minutes they were used in a theft. After reporting the robbery the cards were cancelled within 20 minutes. This is an example of just how fast events can happen and indicates how the thieves planned to steal from the woman. Criminals watch what you do . . . do not keep a regular routine. The constable advises not to use bank machines as they can be watched easily. When leaving a bank, be aware, be cautious.

Constable Peirce's presentation was highlighted by a video tape of a compilation of J. J. (John Joseph) Bittenbinder's 1990s TV series entitled "Tough Targets." Bittenbinder is a retired Chicago homicide detective and public speaker (known for his distinctive handlebar-moustache) who evangelizes public safety through becoming "street-smart" and empowers his viewers to be prepared so that you can avoid being victimized by violent crime. Bittenbinder's strategy involves a four-step approach:

- Have a Plan — become 'street-smart' — know what you are going to do before it happens to you. It doesn't have to be sophisticated, the simpler the better.
- Deny Privacy - do not allow your self to be taken to a 'secondary crime scene.' Notorious mass murderers Bundy, Gacy and Dahmer would take their victims to a secluded place to perform their murders. If the criminal wants to take you somewhere do not go . . . EVER!

- Attract Attention - make a scene; yell, scream . . . do what ever it takes . . . the 'goof' can not ignore it, he does not want to be seen.
- Take Action - if you can run away DO SO! Give up your property . . . throw it at the 'goof' and get out of there. If the attack is physical fight back anything you can do . . . do not let the 'goof' get you in his car!

After a comprehensive question and answer period, Paul Petch congratulated Constable Peirce on his excellent presentation and presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Club. The constable thanked the members present and left to tend to other duties.

At his point we turned to the business session for this evening.

The Secretary asked the members present if there were any errors or omissions in the minutes of the November 24th and December 8th, 2009 meetings published in the January newsletter; no changes were identified by the members. Member Philip Simms made a motion to accept the minutes as published and was seconded by member Marvin Kay. Motion carried.

The next order of business was the Treasurer's report and reading of the Financial Report for 2009 by Henry Nienhuis for Ben Boelens who is absent due to vacation plans.

The financial report is included as an attachment to these minutes. Member Norm Belsten made a motion to accept the financial



report as presented. This was seconded by Norman G. Gordon. Motion carried.

The chair took the floor. With deep sadness, Paul reported the news of two deaths which had taken place in the families of member's of our club.

- Bill O'Brien, our club president was absent this evening due to the sudden death of his sister. The members and executive express their deepest condolences to Bill on his loss.
- Dick Dunn's wife Cathy passed away on December 24, 2009. All members present expressed their heartfelt condolences for Dick and his family in this time of sorrow. Cathy was a great friend of the club and organized numismatics in general, she will be deeply missed.

Paul then opened the subject of proposed revisions to the club's Constitution and By-laws which were distributed to the members in early December. With the discovery of a later dated Constitution and By-laws revision by our secretary during the research he is doing into the history of the club, it was decided to defer discussion until changes, if any, to this newer document could be determined.

Paul, as the chair of the anniversary committee reported on the status of the planned festivities.

- The June banquet date has been set for June 8 and a speaker chosen; Toronto historian Mike Filey has agreed to be guest speaker. We have not yet chosen the venue for the banquet, although it is expected to be a buffet format. Tickets for the event are estimated at \$35.00 per person and we will plan for approximately 50 people to attend.
- The current medal sales are approximately 52, we have a way to go but the executive remains optimistic that we will sell out. Articles will appear in the CN Journal and CCN. The club website has been updated to include the medal on the home page. This may bring some desirable public attention.

As a final point Paul took a moment to remind the membership of upcoming coin shows: CAND (Jan 30-31), SWON (Feb. 7), and the ONA convention (April 16-18 in Kingston). Paul then opened the meeting to any further business.

Member Philip Simms asked if there had been any further thought given to the running of a fundraiser event such as a garage sale. The chair suggested that we add it to the agenda of the upcoming executive meeting which is scheduled for March 8th.

Member Roger Fox asked for the floor to update the membership on the plans the CTCC has to celebrate its 20th anniversary this year. Roger mentioned the club planned:

- an all day meeting in conjunction with the ONA, plenty of time to wheel and deal
- issuing 10-, 15-, and 20-year anniversary pins
- issuing a special membership pin
- 20th anniversary laminated membership card, (membership is just \$15)
- issuing a special limited edition (only 252) '57 Dodge Fleet-side Model truck, manufactured by Liberty Classics. Members only issue price will be \$75. Roger expects this to become a sought after collector's item in the secondary market.

Roger went on to a show and tell of a very special "Sandy McTire Order of Distinction" medal that he designed in 2003. The beautiful silver medals are issued in pairs (so that you can see both sides) in an attractive case. Roger was the very first recipient of the medal in 2007. Congratulations Roger!

Member Philip Simms asked Roger what he knew about the recently issued addition to Canadian Tire's loyalty program, a \$1.00 token. Roger mentioned that he discovered that there were 2 million issued, struck for CTC by the Royal Canadian Mint. They were released over one weekend (December 5-6th) through a special promotion. The stores were required to return any of the tokens that remained un-issued. Paul Petch mentioned he was able to obtain a small number of rolls of the tokens through his son, who works at a CTC store. Roger said he was not given any prior knowledge of the token . . . it was as much of a surprise to him as anyone else. He

hypothesizes that they are intended as a cost cutting measure, likely to eventually replace 50-cent, 1- and 2-dollar coupons. Roger forecast that perhaps the percentage of coupon value to purchase amount may increase above the current 0.04%. The loyalty program was original set to equal the sales tax amount of 5%. Member Henry Nienhuis asked about the special brass plated versions. Roger said he found out that there were 9,000 issued to employees of the corporation (not the individual stores), with special Lucite paper-weights issued to store owners.

The long overdue refreshment break was called at 9:20; Roger Fox prepared the refreshments in Bill O'Brien's absence.

There was no auction associated with this month's meeting. The Lucky Draw was held. Lucky Draw winners were- Norman G. Gordon, Tony Hine (2), Bob Porter (2), Paul Johnson, Raj Makhijani and Dr. Marvin Kay. The club earned \$24.00 through the sale of draw tickets.

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 9:45 p.m.

As a reminder, our next meeting is February 23rd 2010. This is the official 50th Anniversary meeting . . . come prepared to celebrate! There will be cake and limited edition collectibles!



A HISTORY OF THE NORTH YORK COIN CLUB

BY HENRY NIENHUIS AND PAUL R. PETCH

The First Year

With the organizing meeting now in the past and the necessary ground work, in the form of a constitution and by-laws in place, the newly appointed executive and charter members were ready to enjoy the fruits of their labour. Although filled with numismatic enjoyment, the first few meetings of the club are best described as formative, as the members worked together to build the culture and the routine of the club.

The first regular meeting of the North York Coin Club took place at 8:00 p.m. on March 22nd, 1960, in the viewing room at the North York Public Library, 5126 Yonge Street. This was the very same location which played host to the chance meeting of Curtis and Bunnett some months earlier.

Thirteen of the charter members were present along with a very impressive 22 guests! One of the organizers of the club, Mrs. Louise Graham, provided the evening numismatic entertainment in the form of a filmstrip borrowed from the C.N.A. library entitled “Canadian Currency and Banking.” The commentary to the film, written by numismatic icon J. Douglas Ferguson, was read by one of the guests present, Ronald Scovell.

As a sign of things to come, the executive received an application for membership from 13 of the guests, almost doubling the size of the club at this very first meeting. At the next regular meeting held on April 26th, the club once again grew substantially with 7 more guests submitting an application for membership.

A one-page news bulletin was mailed to the membership after each meeting. This bulletin was issued by the secretary, Kenneth Bunnett. It is these very bulletins that now act as the main surviving account of the club’s early years and form the basis for this club history project.

During the meeting in April the membership ratified the decision that the NYCC would apply to be a chapter member of the C.N.A. Through the efforts of the John Curtis and Mrs. Louise Graham the official acceptance

was published in the May 1960 issue of the CN Journal, (Volume 5, Number 5, page 247); with the club becoming Chapter #28.

The meeting held on May 24th saw the first presentation from a visiting numismatist Hamilton Coin Club’s Bruce R. Brace, F.R.N.S. Bruce spoke on “Coin Collecting for the Beginner”; which was especially appealing to the novice collector. He displayed some illustrations of Roman coins and urged new collectors to study this ancient field of numismatics. Not only was Brace the featured speaker of the evening, he also chaired the meeting in the unavoidable absence of both Curtis and Langille.

The May meeting took on a more solemn note with the report of the recent passing of charter member #14, Mr. Francis Douglas Graham, on May 20th. The club observed a moment of silence for their departed comrade and husband of Mrs. Louise Graham. In addition to being charter member of the NYCC, Douglas Graham was also an early member, no. 20, of the Toronto Coin Club.

In the June 28th meeting the club initiated a policy at the forefront of numismatics, that of publishing (in their Bulletin) the discoverer of new varieties. The concept was developed after a talk entitled “Ones Man’s Opinion” dealing with die breaks and other variations that appear on Canadian coins delivered by Ed Knight, an early dealer member. In the discussion following the talk, it was suggested that at future meetings any coins bearing new or unusual variations or die breaks displayed by members will be

“recorded by this club, and such items proving to be definite die breaks, or new varieties, be published along with the collector’s name.”

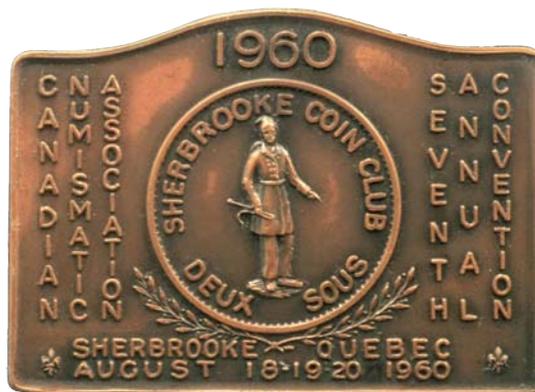
Following on this topic, the July 26th meeting saw a talk on “Why Die Breaks are Caused” delivered by John Shepherd. The following Bulletin published the club’s first highlighted variety, a 1956 10-cent with a dot above the 9 belonging to Kenneth Beavis.

NYCC Reaches Out

August saw the members of the NYCC participate in their first Canadian Numismatic Association convention as a club. The C.N.A.’s 7th convention was held in Sherbrooke, Quebec, between August 18–20. William Lavell was designated as the NYCC delegate at the convention. Arthur Lavine, having just become a member of the club, presented a report at the September meeting on both the C.N.A. convention and the A.N.A. convention, which was held in Boston, Massachusetts

The August 23rd meeting of the NYCC was highlighted by special guest speaker and visiting numismatic dignitary, R. C. Willey, F.R.N.S., President of the Nickel Belt Coin Club and Assistant Editor of the CN Journal. Willey’s topic of the evening was, not surprisingly, early Canadian tokens. Willey was currently involved in authoring a very extensive work on this topic; which was appearing as instalments in the CN Journal.

Perhaps as an indicator of the resolve and determination shown by the early members of the NYCC, a committee was formed during the September 27th meeting to commence organizing their first annual banquet and auction. This organizing committee consisted of Ken Beavis, John Shepherd and Herb Samways; they were tasked with planning the event for February, 1961. This meeting was also the first time a “Lucky Coin Draw” was held. This would later become a standard part of the regular club meetings. Once planning for the Banquet-Auction began to take form, it was realized that February was a little too optimistic and during the



*Medal of the 1960 C.N.A. Convention
at which the NYCC
was represented by a delegate*

November 22nd meeting the date of the event was revised to Saturday, March 4th, 1961.

Another indicator of the energy and devotion seen in this early membership might be the attendance of 24 members and guests at the December 27th meeting, the day after Boxing Day! Although no special programme was planned, the participants spent an enjoyable evening in friendly numismatic discussion and displays by the members. This meeting had a sombre moment with the report of the sudden passing of charter member #8, Mrs. Hazel Farrow, mother of club librarian Harvey Farrow on December 24th. Condolences were also given to Mr. And Mrs. John Shepherd on the loss of Mrs. Shepherd's mother the day of the meeting.

Another Canadian numismatic legend was guest speaker for the January 24th, 1961 meeting. Mr. James E. Charlton of Canadian Coin Exchange gave a talk on the housing of coins. He brought numerous examples of products on the market. He also displayed examples from his personal collection of odd and curious monies of the world including: plate money from Sweden, Tree money from Japan, Stone money from the island of Yap, Whale Tooth and Wampum.

By the end of the club's first 12 months in existence not only did the club boast an impressive roster of guest speakers, but its membership had grown to an impressive 50 individuals. This phenomenal growth continued into the club's second year with membership reaching 88 by the following January. It is this growth, beyond its modest beginnings, which necessitated the club move its meeting place in August 22nd, 1961, to a larger, brighter space in the North York Memorial Community Hall, 5090 Yonge St.

Anyone familiar with the organization of a club will recognize the exceptionally good start the NYCC enjoyed in their first year—to say the least!

New NYCC members in 1960

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| [16] John Shepherd | [34] C. L. Proctor |
| [17] Ronald Scovell | [35] Douglas F. Toogood |
| [18] Knud A. Rasmusen | [36] E. Malezewski |
| [19] John Mortensen | [37] Miss Jean Orr |
| [20] Edith Young | [38] Donald C. Stewart |
| [21] Norbert Hartje | [39] Mrs. Jeanne Morgan |
| [22] (Karl Hartje) | [40] Mrs. Doris Shepherd |
| [23] William Lavell | [41] Mrs. May Bunnett |
| [24] Joan Lavell | [42] R. A. Smith |
| [25] Mrs. A. C. Rust | [43] N. Oleskiw |
| [26] H. F. Leitch | [44] J. Walford |
| [27] E. D. Knight | [45] Arthur Lavine |
| [28] Frank G. McMahon | [46] George A. McLachlan |
| [29] Gerald Pancer | [47] Les Varga |
| [30] Audrey Conson | [48] Edward Denby |
| [31] Roy Shapiro | [49] John Marshall Jr. |
| [32] J. H. Bleaney | [50] Mr. J. H. Mackenzie |
| [33] G. Laurence Young | |



Roger Fox's sketch of the North York Memorial Community Hall as it appears on the 1986 C.N.A. Convention medal

The residents of the Township of North York, a suburb of Toronto back in 1945 with a population of less than 50,000, voted to spend \$70,000. to build a memorial community hall to commemorate the veterans of the Second World War, which had just ended. The building was started in 1949 and finished in 1950. It housed the first library for North York along with the Magistrate's Court.

With the building boom of the 1950's in the Township, other buildings had to be built to facilitate the North York Public Library and Magistrate's court. The Canadian Red Cross Society then took a portion of the Memorial Hall building along with various lodges,

local associations and senior citizens clubs.

With continued growth and the development of the City of North York, a new city hall was built next door to the community hall. The last stage of the new complex was started on January 15th of 1985, and it saw facilities for a hotel, office tower, community hall, library, and an entrance from subway transit system right into the complex and, ultimately, the demolition of the original community hall building.

BLUNDERS COST MINT AT LEAST \$10M

BY IAN MACLEOD, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN, DECEMBER 21, 2009

OTTAWA — Years of precious metal miscalculations and blunders have cost the federal mint at least \$10 million, including \$3 million worth of government gold sold at a fraction of its value to U.S. slag recyclers, the Crown corporation revealed Monday. In a 12-page report, the Royal Canadian Mint announced a series of special audits have “fully accounted” for 17,500 ounces of gold valued at \$15.3 million and missing from its Sussex Drive fortress since October 2008. But the mint acknowledged 3,450 ounces, worth millions of dollars, have not been physically recovered and never will be.

“While we don’t have it all on hand, we have accounted for all of it, we know where it all went,” said Christine Aquino, mint spokeswoman.

Thousands of other ounces, it turns out, were never missing, just lost in a quagmire of sloppy stock-taking dating back to 2005. The Citizen has also learned that 48,800 ounces of unaccounted-for silver, worth about \$882,000 at today’s prices, has been reconciled, though details were not available.

The government responded swiftly Monday, announcing it was cancelling discretionary bonuses for senior mint executives and putting the organization on a short leash. “Despite the explanations, I am disappointed that errors have occurred,” Minister of State for Transport Rob Merrifield said in a press release. “I will continue to require the mint to . . . update me on how they are implementing the processing, accounting and security recommendations put forward by the reviews. I will continue to hold the mint accountable.”

The government ordered the mint to call in the RCMP in June after a series of Citizen reports revealed mint officials had been searching for the gold for eight months, including initiating an independent audit by Deloitte. Deloitte in June reported it had found no accounting, bookkeeping or other internal errors in 2008 to account for the missing gold, the equivalent of almost 44 400-ounce bars. The Mounties last month ruled out theft, though a criminal investigation was never started.

The mint announced Monday it has revised its 2007 corporate profit to \$23.8 million, down \$6.9 million, to correct a “small number” of instances where ownership of gold was “incorrectly attributed to the mint when inventory was calculated.” The revision means hundreds of mint employees will have portions of their 2007 performance pay clawed back. Money

owed by about 90 workers who have since left the mint will be paid for by mint CEO Ian E. Bennett and four vice-presidents of their own accord. The total amount hasn’t been disclosed but is said to be significant.

The corporation’s record profit for 2008 — \$55.3 million — already reflects a \$3-million loss for 3,450 troy ounces of gold residue in 50 tons of refinery slag sold to two U.S. recyclers. The mint believed it contained only 150 ounces. No additional details were provided about the transactions with the two companies, identified as ACC and SGS. Year-end financial statements for both years are to be tabled in the Commons in January. Another \$1.3 million was spent on the 14-month hunt by teams of special auditors to find the missing fortune. That is to be charged to the mint’s 2009 books and will bring the total estimated loss to \$11 million.



Photograph by: Stephane St-Jean, The Ottawa Citizen

Mint officials, however, seem relieved that human error and even bungling rather than theft is to blame. “The unreconciled difference was not the result of criminal activities . . . or reasons relating to data manipulation of the IT system,” said the report. The mint and its auditors paint a picture of an operation in 2008 swamped by a 250-per-cent increase in its bullion business and daily challenges keeping track of a constantly fluctuating gold inventory.

Until this year, the mint reconciled its rolling precious metals inventory every April and October in a complex and time-consuming process. By government order, it now counts its stock of precious metals every quarter. Some of the gold belongs to the mint, while some belongs to customers who store it at the mint. Account records are checked against physical stock. The October 2008 count could not reconcile tabulations of the mint’s own gold with the physical stockpile. More than \$8 million worth — 9,245 ounces — was somehow miscounted in a fall 2008 refinery inventory check. That and other factors resulted in the opening gold balance for 2008 being overstated by

10,600 ounces compared to the physical stockpile.

A second audit by Deloitte this fall traced the problem of “transaction discrepancies” back to inventory counts in 2005, 2006 and 2007. They were then carried forward to the opening balance for the annual October 2008 count, which triggered the biggest scandal in the mint’s history. On the other side of the ledger, auditors found the mint had understated 6,900 ounces. That included internal processing of 18 tons of slag from the 2008 production cycle using a new and more efficient recovery method revealed 5,400 more ounces of gold than expected and worth \$4.75 million. Another 1,500 ounces, worth \$1.3 million, surfaced as bits and specks during an “aggressive” cleaning of equipment and space in the historic Ottawa building.

“Entrained gold can stick to surfaces of equipment,” explained Aquino. “It’s a natural consequence of gold processing. Normally (we) do that every two to four years, but at the time (in 2008) our priority was on meeting demand” for refined gold, especially the mint’s Gold Maple Leaf coin series. “At the end of the day, we’ve learned a lot of lessons,” she said. “These reviews have bolstered our reputation by strengthening the mint’s accounting practices, vindicating our security systems and confirming that our technical procedures and expertise in other areas are superior to industry standards.”

Responding to the government’s decision to scrub some executive bonuses, she said: “The relationship between the mint and the government has always been productive. It is our duty to be accountable and transparent to our shareholder and we have done just that through this entire process. Among the changes are the hiring of a metal comptroller, a director of material control in the gold refinery and a new policy to re-refine all slag internally. After reading the audit reports Monday, a senior U.S. refining executive, who asked to remain unidentified, said: “The idea that you would lose 3,600 ounces of gold in your slag is ridiculous.”

Bonnie Crombie, the Liberal critic for Crown corporations, accused the government of using the cover of the Christmas holidays to release the report and “bury this story.” “We don’t have confidence in the way the government has oversight of our Crown corporations,” she said. “If you can’t trust the mint to protect our money, who can you trust?”

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MINTING THE MEDALS ON SUSSEX DRIVE

BY MARIA COOK, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN, FEBRUARY 14, 2010

To make the undulating Olympic medals — each of which is unique — the Royal Canadian Mint in Ottawa had to reinvent the wheel, and then some.

OTTAWA — The athletes standing on the podium in Vancouver will receive gold, silver and bronze medals made at the Royal Canadian Mint on Sussex Drive. For the athletes, they represent the highest achievement in their sport. At the mint, they are celebrated as the pinnacle of craftsmanship.

“Their true journey starts now,” says Renato Romozzi, the mint’s design co-ordinator. “When these medals find their rightful owners, they are going to represent Canada all over the world. We’re so proud. They’re such beautiful medals.” The mint assembled 34 engineers, engravers, die technicians, machinists and production experts to make the 615 Olympic and 399 Paralympic medals.

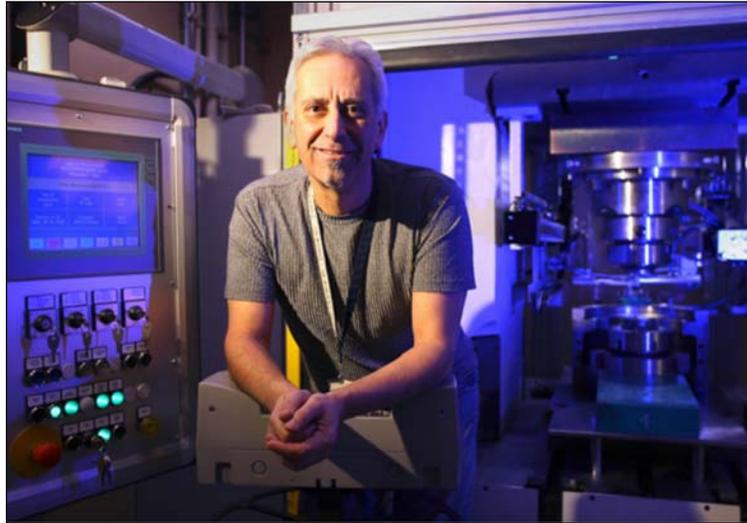
It was probably the most challenging job ever faced by the mint, says Romozzi, 53. “I don’t think we’ve made anything that comes close to the complexity,” he says. “We’ve never put together a group of people like we did for this medal; a lot of people, a lot of technologies.” It was the final step of a two-year creative process that spanned the country. “It’s all done with love,” says Romozzi.

The medals were designed by artist Corrine Hunt, 50, and industrial designer Omer Arbel, 33, both of Vancouver. Hunt, of Komoyue and Tlingit heritage, comes from a renowned family of West Coast artists.

Viewed from the side, the medal forms a gentle wave shape, inspired by the ocean, mountains and snow drifts of British Columbia.

“They will be unique,” says Jim Greensfelder, a Florida collector who wrote a reference guide to Olympic medals.

“There’s never been a medal that’s had that (wavy) contour,”



Renato Romozzi, Royal Canadian Mint Design Co-ordinator

he says. “People will recognize it as being very distinctive for Vancouver and Canada.” No two medals are alike. Each of the 1,104 medals is engraved with a different segment cropped from two drawings by Hunt.

She chose to depict a killer whale or orca on the Olympic medals “because of its strength and beauty and athleticism, as well as the idea that the orca travels within its community,” she says.

“Just as the athlete is not alone but it is always surround-

ed by his or her community, which would be the team or nation.” Hunt’s orca is drawn in four panels as it might appear on a traditional bentwood box “used to contain the treasures of our culture,” she says. “The idea was that the athletes would receive their treasure from this box.” For the Paralympic medals, Hunt drew a raven in three parts in the style of a totem pole. The raven is associated with creativity.

“My uncle is paraplegic,” she explains. “He’s risen above all these challenges to become the captain of a fishing boat and an engraver and he taught me how to engrave.” Each athlete will receive a scarf printed with the master artwork in which they will be able to find their fragment.

“All the medals together make the complete art work,” says Arbel. “Every athlete’s story is unique, but together they’re part of a larger Olympic whole.” Weighing between 500 and 576 grams, the medals are among the heaviest in Games history.

“Athletes like them heavier,” says Greensfelder. “They feel like it’s more substantial, that it’s worth more.” The Olympic medals are circular, 100 mm in diameter. The Paralympic medals are a squared-circle and measure 95mm by 95mm.

For the first time, Paralympic medals are equal in size to Olympic medals. “Paralympic are usually much smaller,” says Romozzi. “These set the standard now for the rest of the world to follow.” While the mint produces circulation coins in Winnipeg, the Crown corporation’s Ottawa headquarters makes collectors’ coins and



Corrine Hunt’s Orca design (left) used as the source for Olympic Medals and Raven design (right) used as the source for Paralympic Medals



Olympic Silver, Gold and Bronze medals (left) and Paralympic Silver Gold and Bronze medals (right)

The medals by the numbers:

- 2 designers created them.
- 2.05 kg of Teck's gold were used to make them.
- 6 g of gold plating were used for each gold medal.
- 6.8 metric tonnes of scrap circuit board was diverted from landfills to make them.
- 9 times each medal was struck to shape it into the undulating form.
- 30 steps were used by the Royal Canadian Mint to make them.
- 34 mint engineers, engravers, die technicians, machinists and production experts manufactured them.
- 48 medal design ideas were submitted by artists across Canada and internationally.
- -20 C was the temperature used to test them.
- 90 kg is the weight the ribbons can withstand.
- 95 mm is the width of the Paralympic medals.
- 399 Paralympic medals were produced.
- 615 Olympic medals were produced.
- 903 kg of copper were provided by Teck for the bronze medals.
- 1,014 different crops of the two master aboriginal artworks were laser etched into each one-of-a-kind medal.
- 1,950 kg of silver was used for the silver medals.
- 2,817 hours of precision manufacturing was needed to produce them.

medals, including military medals and Order of Canada medals.

It has made Olympic medals once before, for the 1976 Montreal games.

Romozzi, a native of Ottawa and a graduate of Algonquin College in electro-mechanical technology, met with Hunt and Arbel in Vancouver to discuss how the mint could bring their design to life.

"We bumped heads on the shape," he recalls. "It was pull, take, give." Arbel's original proposal consisted of two discs that opened and contained an interior cavity. Arbel envisioned the medal as a locket that could hold an item of sentimental value such as a lucky charm or a photograph. The locket idea fell away. But the undulating surface would push the mint team to the limit.

"The challenge for us was to strike a medal with bumps," says Romozzi. "This is not something that is very common in our industry. Coins are flat. Some have high relief, but nothing like this." They experimented with press settings and designs of dies, metal blocks imprinted with undulations which give the medals their shape. Many early attempts were melted down.

"Every time you struck, the dies would move apart," recalls Romozzi. "The undulations don't actually meet each other. That's where we had a lot of trouble. It was so critical for the shape to be exactly what we needed and to be consistent." Not least of all for the

laser machine which etches the motifs onto the medals. "The laser follows the bumps," says Romozzi. "If they're all different, the laser freaks out." The 102-year-old mint is a familiar landmark in Ottawa. Sitting on a bluff above the Ottawa River, it resembles a castle with its stone walls and turrets.

The medals were made at the plant inside, which is organized into rooms equipped with large machines. Each medal took 24 hours to complete and went through more than 30 steps.

The metal came from Vancouver mining giant Teck Resources, a Games sponsor. They supplied 1,950 kilograms of sterling silver (for the silver and gold medals), 2.05 kilograms of gold (to plate each gold medal with six grams of gold), and 903 kilograms of copper (for the bronze medals.) Production started at a massive furnace where the raw materials are melted down. "It looks like molten lava," says Romozzi. "It's red hot." The liquid metal exits the furnace through a device that forms it into bars about 60 centimetres long and 15 mm thick. These bars pass through a machine in which two giant rolling pins compress them to the required thickness of 9.2 mm.

As the metal gets thinner, the bars stretch to strips about 2.5 metres long. The strips are chopped into square plates called blanks, which measure 106 mm by 106 mm.

Washed, rinsed and heated in the furnace, the blanks are ready to be struck. Each blank is hand-placed on the press between the two dies. The medal is struck nine times with 1,900 tonnes of pressure, the weight of 760 cars piled on top of each other. “The tonnage is incredible. We’ve never struck anything as high as 1,900 tonnes,” says Romozzi.

By comparison, a silver dollar is struck twice with between 200 and 300 tonnes.

“There’s so much material,” he says. “Pressing it once doesn’t fill it properly. We have to squish it nine times. The press looks like it’s taking a big bite every time it comes down.” The blank is struck in three sets. In between each set, the blanks are heated in a 600C furnace for four hours to make them softer.

After the strikes “you’ve got this thing that looks like a little pizza,” says Romozzi. “The design is right in the centre. You’ve got all this excess material around it.” A milling machine trims the surplus. Another tool cuts a slot in the edge of the medal in which a hanger for the ribbon is inserted.

The next step is to etch the artwork onto the discs with a laser machine which is programmed to apply the motifs. This proved a struggle. The pattern of the artwork on the front of the medal goes through the Olympic rings or three Paralympic agitos. But the machine could not laser on the rings.

“Our guys did the most incredible thing,” says Romozzi. “They did something the (machine’s manufacturer) didn’t know you could do. They trained the laser to know what the rings were. They would jump over, laser inside and jump out.” On the reverse side, the medals contain the official names of the Games in English and French, Vancouver 2010’s emblems, and the name of the sport and event the medal was awarded in. Finally, each medal is clad in transparent protective coating to prevent wear and tarnishing.

After 402 days, the medals were finished. The \$2 million feat was part of the mint’s sponsorship of the Games.

“They shipped out Jan. 8, so we lost them,” says Romozzi. “It was a sad moment. We got so attached to them.” In the search for a medal that would reflect Canada and delight athletes, the design team learned “just how much meaning a small object could have,” says Arbel.

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OLYMPIC MEDAL DESIGNERS

Omer Arbel

In 2000, Arbel graduated with numerous honours from the University of Waterloo School of Architecture and subsequently apprenticed with several notable architects, including Enric Miralles, John and Patricia Patkau and Peter Busby.

Arbel, who is based in Vancouver, BC, began working as a freelance designer in 2003 focusing on conceptually motivated and materially explorative furniture and objects. Work produced during this period (most notably the 2.4 cast resin chair) facilitated opportunities that led to founding two companies in 2005, OAO (Omer Arbel Office) and Bocci. Both companies have achieved instant critical and commercial success at the highest levels of the design and architectural landscape.

Pieces by Arbel have won numerous yellow pencil, good design, ID magazine review, iF and Red Dot awards, have been accessioned into various notable private and institutional collections, and have been featured extensively in the prevalent design, architectural and popular media of our times. He is considered one of the leading young voices in the international architectural and design landscape.

Corrine Hunt

Born in Alert Bay, British Columbia in 1959, Corrine has been creating contemporary art for more than 22 years that reflects the themes and traditions of her First Nations Komoyue and Tlingit heritage. A member of the Raven Gwa’wina clan from Ts’akis, a Komoyue village on Vancouver Island, Corrine’s rich family history includes renowned First Nations artists Henry, Richard and Tony Hunt, all of whom have influenced her art. Corrine currently resides in Vancouver.

Corrine has searched for unique ways to bring the stories of her First Nations culture to contemporary life. She is continually inventing and reinventing stories from her culture, honouring her roots and cultivating a refreshing artistic expression at the same time.

Her art is not overly ornate; like poetry, it conveys its message using as few lines as possible. Corrine began designing furniture and other installed art pieces in part because in First Nations households, adorned furnishings are part of daily life. Objects in the home are not only beautiful, they are also practical and infused with cultural significance.

ROYAL CANADIAN MINT ISSUES THE LUCKY LOONIE

VANCOUVER – February 11, 2010 - The Royal Canadian Mint is proud to issue the 2010 Lucky Loonie. The one-dollar coin, which features the Ilanaaq, the Official Emblem of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games, was launched at a public hockey shoot-out special event outside the Royal Canadian Mint Pavilion in downtown Vancouver.

“The Mint has provided each member of the Canadian Olympic and Paralympic Teams competing in Vancouver with a Lucky Loonie as their own personal good luck charm and through the launch of the coin, Canadians have an opportunity to own a piece of the Games.” said Ian E. Bennett, President and CEO of the Royal Canadian Mint.

Ten million 2010 Lucky Loonies, designed by Royal Canadian Mint engravers, have been produced and will be distributed exclusively by RBC branches across the country beginning tomorrow, February 12th. Canadians can also look for these special coins in their change.

In addition to the circulation coin, the Mint is also offering a sterling silver collector version of the 2010 Lucky Loonie, featuring the painted Official Emblem of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games (\$54.95).



A DIFFERENT KIND OF MINT ERROR

COIN OF THE REALM: SPELLING CHILE THE RIGHT WAY

CNBC.com: Friday, 12 February 2010

An exciting new role has just opened up at the national mint of Chile, but there's a catch: successful applicants will have to be able to spell the word "Chile."

That seemingly simple task was the undoing of the former general manager of the Chilean mint, Gregorio Iñiguez, who has reportedly been let go after an embarrassing blunder.

Iñiguez minted a set of 50-peso coins with the nation's name spelt C-H-I-I-E instead of the usual C-H-I-L-E, the BBC reported.

The mistake was only picked up late last year even though the coins were circulated back in 2008, the report said. Locals are now searching through their small change in the hope that the coins will become collectors' items and rise above their nominal value of around 9 cents, the report said.

The president of the governing body, María

Eugenia Wagner, insisted that Mr Iñiguez's was not fired just because of the spelling mistake, but said he didn't fit the "profile" required by the company, the London Times reported.

The mistake was also missed by the head franker at the Chilean mint, Pedro Urzúa, who pleaded his innocence when it was alleged the mistake was done on purpose, the BBC said. Urzúa pointed out to the BBC that an entire chain of people saw and approved the coin.



CHILE'S MINT FIRES BOSS OVER 'CHIE' COIN TYPO

REUTERS, 13 February 2010S

ANTIAGO: Chile's mint has sacked its managing director after he sent into circulation thousands of coins bearing an incorrect spelling of the country's name.

The 50-peso coins, worth around 10 US cents each, were issued in 2008 with Chile spelled "Chiie" — an error that was only noticed late last year.

"Director Gregorio Iniguez has been fired over a series of issues, including the misspelled coins, which have brought the institution into disrepute," a mint official told Reuters on Friday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Some of the coins are still in circulation. They still carry their value. Some collectors are buying them up because they feel they are rare," the official said.

COMING EVENTS FOR WINTER 2010

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>.

FEB. 27, Toronto, Canadian Tire Coupon Collectors Club Toronto Meeting, The Hilton Toronto Airport Hotel during Torex. Everyone is welcome. The meeting is from 10:00 a.m. to noon. For more information contact Roger Fox, 905-898-7677, email: phoxxxy@look.ca. Website: <http://www.ctccc.ca>.

MARCH 7, Windsor, Third LA COIN SHOW, Windsor Moose Lodge 777 Tecumseh Road, W. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Free admission, 25 dealer tables.* For more information contact Glen Gibbons, telephone 519-256-2013, email ggibbons1@cogeco.ca.

MARCH 14, Mississauga, VII Polish - Canadian Coin, Stamp & Collectibles Show 2010, John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd. (just south of 403). Hours 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. *Many tables of stamps, coins, medals, paper money, militaria and antique papers. Stamps info table, stamp exhibits, exhibit of orders and decorations, Polish Mint info table, Junior table with free stamps for kids. Troyak medal and show souvenirs. Free admission and parking. Refreshments available.* For more information contact Wieslaw Grzesicki, telephone 416-258-1651, or Ignacy Kania, telephone 905-273-7313, email info@troyakclub.com. Website: <http://www.troyakclub.com>.

MARCH 20, 2010, Cambridge, 19th Annual Cambridge Coin Show, Cambridge Newfoundland Club, 1500 Dunbar Rd. *Free admission, buy, sell, trade, and evaluate at 52*

tables of tokens, trade dollars, paper money, coins, militaria, sports cards, and CTC coupons. For more information, contact Wolfe, email: wolfe1937@hotmail.com; Vince Nevidon, telephone: (519) 740-1416; or Louie Schmidt, telephone: (519) 653-7838.

MARCH 21, Brantford, Brantford Collectibles Show, Brantford Civic Centre Auditorium, 69 Market St. S. Beside the Brantford Charity Casino. Hours: 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.. Admission \$2. *Featuring more than 40 tables of coins, paper money, sports cards, nostalgia and more. Buy, sell and trade, free parking.* For vendor space or more information contact Ian Ward, telephone 519-426-8875 (call weekdays between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.), email toyshow@kwic.com.

MARCH 28, Windsor, 4th Semi-Annual Essex County Coin Club Show + sale, Fogolar Furlan Club 1800 EC Row Ave E. Show Hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission 50 cents, food available. *More than 20 tables of paper money, bank notes, tokens, world and Canadian coins, bullion.* For more information contact club president, telephone 1-519-733-6296.

Listings are courtesy of Canadian Coin News Coming Events