



North York Coin Club

Founded 1960

**MONTHLY MEETINGS 4TH Tuesday 7:30 P.M. AT
Edithvale Community Centre, 131 Finch Ave. W., North York M2N 2H8**

**MAIL ADDRESS: NORTH YORK COIN CLUB,
5261 Naskapi Court, Mississauga, ON L5R 2P4**

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E-mail: info@northyorkcoinclub.com
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Member :

Ontario Numismatic Association
Royal Canadian Numismatic Association

Executive Committee

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| President | Bill O'Brien | Director | Roger Fox | Auction Manager..... | Paul Johnson |
| 1st Vice President | Henry Nienhuis | Director | Paul Johnson | Editor | Paul Petch |
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| Treasurer | Ben Boelens | Auctioneer | Dick Dunn | Social Convenor | Bill O'Brien |
| Past President | Nick Cowan | | | | |

THE BULLETIN FOR FEBRUARY 2017

THE MARCH MEETING IS AUCTION NIGHT

The club is holding a full auction night at the March meeting. We are asking club members to consign items at the February meeting so that we can photograph and list them in an auction catalogue to be included with the March bulletin. This will assist you in choosing which items you may want to bid on. Please bring your items on February 28 when they will be accepted by the auction manager for the March auction.

An auction consignment form is being distributed with this issue of *The Bulletin*. Each member may consign up to 10 lots, but please offer items that you really believe will sell and be very careful setting reasonable reserve amounts. It is to your advantage to know the marketplace when setting the reserve.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Good day all fellow numismatists and everyone who receives the North York Coin Club's monthly bulletin. Please pinch me because I think that I am dreaming. This is the middle of February, the Family Day weekend, and the temperatures here in Southern Ontario are in the low teens. Bring on global warming, and then we Canadians won't have to migrate south in the winter the way we do now. That would also give us more time to attend coin meetings and shows in our area and support the hobby.

North York Annual Coin Show

I know it is warm this weekend and that May is still a long way away, but is not too early to book your table now for the North York Coin Club's Annual Coin Show. As always, the tables are available on a first come first serve basis, so don't delay in booking your table. The show this year has been scheduled for May 13th and is being held in the same place as all previous years, the Banquet Room at Edithvale Community Centre on

Finch Avenue in North York. As with prior years, we have 18 tables for sale, but as I write this they are nearly all gone and only 2 are left. See the club's temporary treasurer Christopher Dunsmuir and Show Chairman Paul Petch to reserve your table now.

Discount to join the R.C.N.A.

Here is some news for people that don't as yet belong to the R.C.N.A.: watch for the special membership application forms for club members that wish to try out the organization for a year at a discounted price. Up to six individuals per club will have the opportunity to join the R.C.N.A. for a reduced price on regular or digital memberships. Please see the R.C.N.A. district representative, Bill O'Brien, if you are interested.

2018 R.C.N.A. Convention

The year is now well upon us and the club continues to accept names to add to the R.C.N.A. convention committee membership. These are the folks that will do the planning

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

We start gathering in the Banquet Room on the first floor of the Edithvale Community Centre, at 7:00 p.m. with meeting start scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

It's our 57th anniversary meeting coming up at our next gathering with the usual cake at break time. Some very sad news since our last meeting was the passing of Lucille Colson, who served as Club Secretary for over 32 years. John Regitko will be speaking about her and bringing some of her keepsakes to this meeting. We are looking for your participation at the meeting as well, so any old club memories or new items in your collection will also be welcome.

Please remember to bring your auction lots so we can have a really fine auction at this meeting. Also, we appreciate all donations to our supply of draw prize material.

that will lead us to the R.C.N.A. convention opening in the summer of 2018. All those interested in supporting this endeavour, which the membership voted on accepting, can sign the 2018 Convention Committee Form on the front table at the February 28th meeting.

Speaking about the R.C.N.A. it's not too early to make your arrangements to attend the annual convention this year in Boucherville PQ. As always, it is the don't miss numismatic event for the year where you can get a taste of the event before it returns to the GTA next year.

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You are reminded to pay your 2017 dues and to bring material for the March consignment auction!

NEWS OF THE JANUARY 2017 MEETING

The 629th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 in the 1st floor Banquet Room at the Edithvale Community Centre. It was hammered to order at 7:37 p.m. with our President, Bill O'Brien, in the chair and 25 members and 2 guests in attendance.

The first order of business was the on-time attendance draw. Member Dr. Marvin Kay was present when his name was drawn to receive the on-time attendance draw prize of \$10.00. The draw will reset to \$5.00 for the February 28th meeting.

Bill asked the members present if they had noticed any errors or omissions in the minutes of the November meeting as published in the January newsletter. With no corrections identified, Norman G. Gordon made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Phillip Simms. Motion carried.

Treasurer, Ben Boelens, was on vacation and so the financial report was deferred until the February meeting.

Bill O'Brien opened the business portion of the meeting with a further discussion regarding the R.C.N.A.'s CANADA 150 medal program. Bill mentioned it was time to determine the number of copper medals the club would like to have made. After an in-depth discussion, which included the project costs and suggested selling price, Bill made a motion to purchase 100 medals. The motion, seconded by Bob Velensky was put to a vote, and it passed by a large majority. Henry Nienhuis was instructed to place the order through the Mississauga Mint. Silver medals can be order on a prepaid subscription basis at the next meeting.

Bill then reminded members of the Annual Coin Show, scheduled for Saturday, May 13, 2017, and that Paul Petch has table application forms available for the Show. Paul Petch mentioned that tables were selling out fast and that anyone interested should make sure that they paid their table fees soon to avoid disappointment.

Bill also reminded everyone that either Christopher Dunsmuir or himself are now collecting Club membership dues for 2017. He also reminded everyone that the next meeting will be our annual anniversary meeting and that he will be bringing along cake in celebration.

With the business of the club now concluded we moved on to our show-and-tell session.



Andrew Silver's "The Spirit of Canada" \$3 collector coin from the Royal Canadian Mint. This product was fully described in the October 2016 issue of The Bulletin.



Roger Fox brought these replacement notes that are actually in sequence based on being 1000 apart.

Andrew Silver brought along a new \$3, 1/3 oz silver coin, in colourful package just released by the Royal Canadian Mint. This new program is intended to replace the \$20 for \$20 program coins that mint has issued for the past few years.

Roger Fox brought his collection of \$2 dollar replacement notes, many of which were in small runs of sequential serial numbers, the largest run being of 8 notes. He remembered obtaining them from his mother who once was employed at the large Sayvette City Department Store located in the Towne and Countryside Square (now Centerpoint Mall) at the corner of Yonge and Steeles. As a young collector Roger had told his mother what to look for when she was preparing the cash. Roger talked about how to recognize bills that came from the same brick based on the last three digits of the serial number.

Paul Petch took a moment to remind the members present of the article on the 2017 circulating coins commemorating Canada's sesquicentennial. He challenged everyone to look through their change and to report back when they first see the new coins in circulation.

After the show and tell, Bill called for our customary refreshment break from 8:20–8:45 p.m.

We then resumed the meeting with our regular club auction and lucky draw. David Quinlan served as our Auctioneer and Andrew Silver as the Runner for the evening. Lucky draw numbers were called at various times while the auction took place. Lucky draw winners for the evening were- John Kane (2), Linda Simms (3), Andrew Silver, David Bawcutt, Richard Duquette, Paul Johnson (3), Henry Nienhuis, John Batton, and Bob Velensky. The club earned \$33.00 through the sale of the draw tickets! Our auction manager, Paul Johnson, reported that

receipts from the auction added \$27.35 to the club coffers and \$6.00 resulting from donated material.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

The club executive would like to thank members for supporting the club through the purchase of draw tickets and draw prize donations. Please consider supporting your club through a donation of numismatic material or other items. We would like to thank Italo Villella, and Dr. Marvin Kay for their kind donations to the club. (Don't forget to mention your donations to the club secretary so that your support can be recognized in the minutes and newsletter.)

Our next regular meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 28, 2017, in the 1st floor Banquet Room of the Edithvale Community Centre. We hope to see everyone there!



**North York Coin Club
Annual Coin Show**

Saturday May 13th 2017
9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.
Banquet Room at the
Edithvale Community Centre
131 Finch Avenue West

FREE Admission and plenty of
FREE parking, all types of collectibles and
featuring coins, paper money, tokens, both to buy and sell.

Everyone is welcome and for further information
please contact:
Paul Petch at: p.petch@rogers.com OR
Phone 416-303-4417 OR
go to www.northyorkcoinclub.ca



President's Message ... continued from page 1

The meeting just mentioned on February 28th will be the night the club will be collecting the items that you wish to consign to the club's March 28th auction night. With all of the items listed with reserve prices with night should run through very quickly and efficiently. Now remember this auction night will only be successful if you bring your auction material in February and your money to bid in March. Please help make this night a success, as it is our second most important revenue tool in the year for the club.

As I have mentioned before and will be doing again and again during the next few years, I encourage everyone to take on a more active role within the club. This will lessen the burden on the few who run the club and give all an opportunity to gain experience in the operation of a club and the logistics of holding a national convention.

I may sound like a broken record, and I've mentioned it in previous bulletins numerous times, but we are in dire need of draw prize material to replenish our cupboard that is practically empty. I thank Dr.

Marvin Kay and Hezi Shami for their generous donations last month and encourage more of you to do the same.

Even though the weather is sunny and warm we must not kid ourselves that this is still winter and the weather can change in a heartbeat. We should take advantage of this opportunity to visit one of the coin shows over the next month. Three of the shows are in the Toronto area with the Torex this weekend on February 25-26, the Troyak Club holding a show in Mississauga on March 4-5 and a Trajan sponsored show also in Mississauga March 25-26. Plus the big out of town show is on March 18 down the 401 in Cambridge. As always check our Coming Events listing for all the details.

Well I've taken too much of your time but I thank all you who have read this entire bulletin. Please remember to bring in your auction material to our anniversary meeting on the 28th and come to the meeting to enjoy a piece of cake with the rest of the club's members. Happy collecting to all.

Bill O'Brien

It was decided at the last meeting that silver Canada 150 medals would be available on a subscription basis. If you are interested in this opportunity, please bring \$50 per medal to the February meeting to reserve your order.

RCM's "HEART OF OUR NATION" SILVER COIN A GREAT WAY TO HOLD ONTO MEMORIES OF CANADA 150

February 15 — As Canadians far and wide reflect on what their country means to them in the year of its 150th anniversary, the Royal Canadian Mint is offering a new silver collector coin, overflowing with favourite symbols of home. Featuring landmarks, wildlife and even artifacts that define our culture, this 99.99% pure silver coin is affordably priced at \$19.95 and is on sale as of today.

It will be a matter of personal taste as to whether you find the design appealing and inspired or, perhaps, simply cluttered. The approach of using multiple iconic images was also employed on the Spirit of Canada coin, also in this series, described in the October 2016 issue of *The Bulletin*.

The Honourable Melanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage, commented at the unveiling, "The Government of Canada is delighted that the Royal Canadian Mint is adding to the celebration of Flag Day 2017 with the launch of a new Canada 150-themed silver coin that honours the Canadian flag and many other icons that connect us all to Canada. As Canada 150 brings Canadians together in a year-long celebration, the Mint's *Heart of our Nation* collector coin is an uplifting and precious way to be reminded of the many ways we love our country."

Sandra Hanington, President and CEO of the Royal Canadian Mint, added, "The Mint has a proud tradition of celebrating Canadian heritage through coins and we are excited to add to the celebration of Canada 150 through an extensive coin program that meets the needs of all collectors. The new *Heart of our Nation* collector coin is an opportunity to give Canadians of all ages a way to hold onto their special memories of Canada 150, as well as experience the joy of coin collecting."



| Specifications | |
|--------------------|--|
| Mintage | while supplies last (unlimited) |
| Composition | 99.99% pure silver |
| Finish | specimen |
| Weight | 7.96g |
| Diameter | 27mm |
| Edge | serrated |
| Certificate | not serialized |
| Face Value | 3 dollars |
| Artist | Laurie McGaw (reverse) & Susanna Blunt (obverse) |

Canadian artist Laurie McGaw from Guelph, Ontario, has created a fun and uplifting collage of the places and things that make Canada great. This design joins two others that should be familiar. The first was the 2016 \$1 circulating coin featuring the theme and commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote. More recently her design won Most Historically Significant Coin in the Krause Coin of the Year completion. It appeared on a \$20 silver piece marking the 100th anniversary of In Flanders Field by John McCrae.

Heart of Our Nation shows clockwise from the top: hockey sticks and puck, snowflakes, polar bear, an Inukshuk, Parliament Hill, Canadian flag, maple syrup, lighthouse, lobster traps, toboggan, Canada goose, canoe, beaver, moose, black spruce tree, Beaver plane, salmon, wheat, cowboy boot, mountains. The elements are roughly placed in an east/west/north/south orientation to reflect their location on a Canadian map. Together, they encircle a maple leaf that is the heart of the design—and the heart of this nation—on which is engraved "150 YEARS/ANS".

The 99.99% pure silver coin retails for \$19.95 CAD.



From left: Royal Canadian Mint CEO Sandra Hanington, Minister of Democratic Institutions Karina Gould and Minister of Canadian Heritage Mélanie Joly unveil a new silver collector coin celebrating Canada 150 at the annual Flag Day ceremony on Parliament Hill.



Portrait and coin artist Laurie McGaw holds another one of her designs. This design, featuring Lt. Col. John McCrae composing In Flanders Fields, was used on a \$3 silver coin product in 2015.

BRIDGES ON ANCIENT COINS

by Mike Markowitz from CoinWeek on the Internet

Romans were proud of their bridges, some of the most spectacular feats of ancient engineering. The high priest of the Roman state religion was called the Pontifex Maximus—literally the “supreme bridge-builder”—a title later adopted by the Popes of the Roman Catholic Church.

A number of Roman coins depict bridges, but not always accurately; die engravers were not architectural draftsmen and they struggled to represent long, complex structures in the narrow circular confines of a coin.

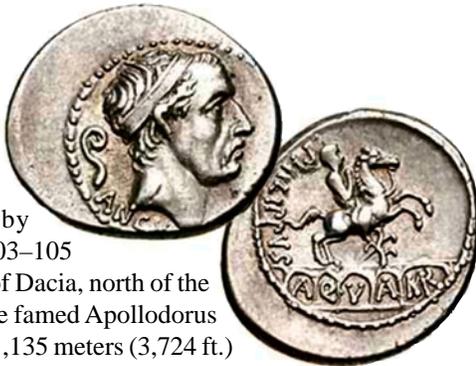
For most bridges, Romans relied on the same circular stone arch used to build the aqueducts that brought water into the city. Possibly the earliest coin showing such a structure is a silver denarius issued by a mint official named L. Marcius Philippus in 52 BCE¹. On the reverse, he commemorates his ancestor, Q. Marcius Rex, who constructed the aqueduct known as the Aqua Marcia in 144–140 BCE. What appears to be a man riding a horse across a bridge on the reverse is actually an equestrian statue of this builder atop the aqueduct. The coin is relatively common; different dies show different numbers of arches.

Trajan’s Bridge

*Emperor Caesar son of the divine Nerva,
Trajan Augustus, Germanicus, Pontifex Maximus,
invested for the fourth time as Tribune,
Father of the Fatherland, Consul for the third time,
excavating mountain rocks and using wood beams has made
this road.
— Dedication plaque of Trajan’s Bridge*

By far the most famous Roman bridge to appear on a coin is the Danube River bridge built by Emperor Trajan in 103–105 CE for his conquest of Dacia, north of the river. Designed by the famed Apollodorus of Damascus, it was 1,135 meters (3,724 ft.) long. Twenty massive stone and concrete piers joined by timber arches carried the roadway 19 meters (62 feet) above the surface of the river.

The bridge appears on three different denominations struck c. 107–110: a sestertius, a dupondius and an as³. The coins only show one arch of the bridge, and the engraver misunderstood the structure—it seems to be a two-storied covered bridge. Modern reconstructions assume the roadway was level and open-topped, supported by radially braced double wooden arches. The massive towers topped by statuary at each end are probably correct; such towers made it easier to defend the bridge against attackers.



Trajan’s bridge remained intact for only a few years. About 117, Hadrian ordered the timber arches dismantled to prevent Dacians from crossing to the south bank.

Some of the piers remain in place underwater (two were dynamited in 1906 to widen the navigation channel, others were swept away over the centuries). The ruins of the towers at either end are preserved as archaeological sites by Serbia and Romania, respectively.

Tiber Bridge

Considering how important the Tiber River has been in Rome’s history, it’s surprising how rarely it appears on the coinage. The reverse of a very rare bronze medallion of Antoninus Pius (ruled 138–161) shows two arches of the Pons Cestius⁴, which connected the Tiber island to the opposite bank. Much rebuilt over the centuries, this bridge still exists. In a 2011 New York auction an example of this large medallion sold for \$9,500⁵.

Marcus Aurelius’ Pontoon Bridge

When a crossing was needed quickly, Roman military engineers constructed pontoon bridges, linking anchored boats with wooden planks and framing. A sestertius of Marcus Aurelius struck ca. 171–172 shows the emperor leading legionary troops across such a bridge over the Danube.

There are only three boats, and they are tiny compared to the soldiers, but the engraver managed to fit the story onto the coin. An example of this rare type brought over \$1,700 in a recent European auction⁶.



Severus’s Bridge

In 208, Septimius Severus issued a gold aureus and a bronze as showing a bridge very similar to the one on Trajan’s coins—a braced arch between towers. What seems to be an arched roof over five tiny soldiers may be the engraver’s attempt to represent the wooden balustrade on the upstream side of the roadway. One theory (Reed) is that this is the bridge over the Firth of Forth constructed for Severus’s campaign in Scotland. A more recent argument (Desnier) is that this is the Pons Milvius⁷, just outside Rome (see below for another representation of this famous bridge).

The aureus is so rare I could not find an illustration, but an example of the as sold for over \$4,500 in a 2015 European auction⁸.

Some Provincial Bridges

The bronze coins issued by Greek-speaking cities in the Roman East often show local landmarks, including bridges.

Adrianople (now Edirne in the European part of Turkey) is located on the Maritsa River. In 2014, an apparently unique Roman provincial bronze coin of Gordian III (238–244) sold for almost \$6,700 in a major European auction⁹. The richly detailed reverse shows the emperor on horseback with troops marching over a triple-arched bridge, while boats emerge through the arches below.

The city of Alexandria Troas was located on the Aegean near the site of ancient Troy. A bronze of Maximinus I (235–238) shows a chariot driving across a single-arched bridge, perhaps over the local Scamander River. Although rather worn, an example of this rare type sold for \$745 in a 2008 online auction¹⁰.

The Maiandros River (now the Büyük Menderes in Turkey) gave its name to the verb “meander,” meaning to wind back and forth. During the reign of Gallienus (253–268) a small town on this river, Antiochia ad Maeandrum¹¹, issued a large bronze coin showing a five-arched bridge beneath an image of the local river god. River gods are usually shown in ancient art reclining and holding a reed.

Mopsuestia¹² was a city located on the Pyramus River (now the Ceyhan) in Cilicia. A five-arched bridge appears on the reverse of a local bronze coin dated to 255 or 256 during the reign of the emperor Valerian. Within the arches are Greek letters spelling out the word *dorea*, meaning “gift.” The reclining river god appears in the field above. Remarkably, this bridge, which has at least nine arches, still exists. A superb example of this type sold for \$2,750 in a 2011 auction¹³.

Notes

1. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucius_Marcus_Philippus_\(consul_38_BC\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucius_Marcus_Philippus_(consul_38_BC))
2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trajan's_Bridge
3. The dupondius was worth half a sestertius; the as was one quarter.
4. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pons_Cestius
5. New York Sale XXV. 5 January 2011. Lot 185
6. Bertolami Fine Arts—ACR Auctions, E-Auction 32. 11 January 2016. Lot 819
7. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ponte_Milvio
8. Numismatica Ars Classica Auction 87. 8 October 2015. Lot 293
9. Numismatica Ars Classica Auction 78. 26 May 2014. Lot 1080
10. Classical Numismatic Group, Electronic Auction 188. 28 May 2008. Lot 231
11. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antioch_on_the_Maeander
12. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mopsuestia>
13. Classical Numismatic Group Auction 88. 14 September 2011. Lot 985
14. Gitbud & Naumann Auction 16. 4 May 2014. Lot 1174
15. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pont_du_Gard

References

1. Desnier, J.-L. “On the bridge on a coin of Septimius Severus AD 208,” *Numismatic Chronicle* 157 (1997)
2. Foss, Clive. *Roman Historical Coins*. London (1990)
3. Hallett, Judith. “Over Troubled Waters: The Meaning of the Title Pontifex,” *Transactions and Proceedings of the American Philological Association* 101 (1970)
4. Hyde, Walter. “Trajan’s Danube Road and Bridge,” *The Classical Weekly* 18 (1924)
5. O’Connor, Colin. *Roman Bridges*. Cambridge (1993)
6. Reed, Nicholas. “The Scottish Campaigns of Septimius Severus,” *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland* 107 (1975–6)

Constantine’s Milvian Bridge

To mark the foundation of Constantinople as a new imperial capital in 330, Constantine I issued an enormous volume of bronze coins in many different types, most of which are quite common today. The most affordable Roman coin showing a bridge is Constantine’s Milvian bridge type, commemorating the battle fought on 28 October 312 that secured his control over the empire.



A particularly sharp example sold for over \$400 in a recent European auction¹⁴.

On most examples, the representation of the bridge is very sketchy—a straight span connecting two towers, with some wavy lines below to suggest the flow of the river. The first bridge over the Tiber at this site was built in 206 BCE, and it was rebuilt many times over the centuries. The present structure, still in use, consists of five stone arches.

Modern Bridges on Coins

The impulse to commemorate bridges on coins is something modern Americans and Europeans share with ancient Romans.

A 1936 US commemorative half-dollar celebrates the opening of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge with a striking Art Deco style reverse. The 2001 Rhode Island state quarter shows the Pell Bridge over Narragansett Bay, and the 2005 West Virginia quarter shows the spectacular New River Gorge Bridge. Between 2004 and 2007 the reverse designs of the UK one-pound coin depicted famous British bridges.

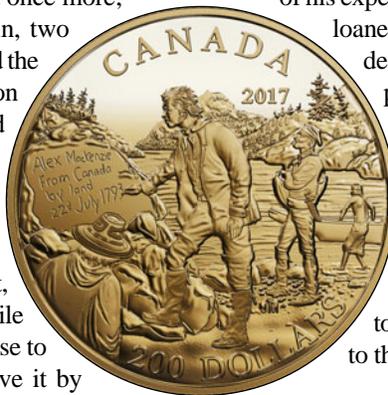
It might also be noted that the reverses of Euro banknotes depict bridges from different historical eras — the five Euro note shows a Roman aqueduct modeled after the Pont du Gard near Nimes, France¹⁵.

RCM RELEASES \$200 ALEXANDER MACKENZIE PURE GOLD COIN

With a mintage of 1,000 it retails for \$1,195

By the late 18th century, explorers and *voyageurs* were pushing further into western Canada. La Vérendrye and his quest for the “great western sea” had helped spur the expansion of the fur trade, but the search continued for an overland route to the continent’s western coast. History credits Sir Alexander Mackenzie (1764–1820) for being the first person on record to achieve this; by reaching the waters of the Pacific in July 1793, Mackenzie holds the distinction of being the first European to cross the North American continent north of Mexico. The published account of his voyages to Canada’s Arctic and Pacific coasts stirred great public interest and inspired others to follow, while cementing Mackenzie’s reputation as one of the greatest explorers in Canadian history.

Alexander Mackenzie’s two epic voyages pushed deeper than ever into the largely unmapped reaches of western and northwestern Canada. In 1789, his first expedition unexpectedly reached the shores of the Arctic Ocean after following a great river that would later bear his name. In 1793, he fixed his sights on the west once more; setting out in a birch bark canoe with his cousin, two guides, six *voyageurs* and a dog, Mackenzie heeded the advice of local First Nations as he led his expedition down the Peace, Fraser and Bella Coola Rivers, and portaged overland where necessary. While Mackenzie’s determination ultimately brought him to the waters of the Pacific, he was forced to turn back without reaching the open sea—but not before leaving a record of his journey and achievement, with the simple words shown painted on a rock. While Mackenzie used a mix of vermilion and bear grease to paint his message, surveyors later helped preserve it by



permanently inscribing it in the rock. Today, visitors to Sir Alexander Mackenzie Provincial Park can view the etched inscription on what is known as Mackenzie’s rock, which is located near the water’s edge on Dean Channel.

Designed by Canadian artist John Mantha, the coin features a full-length portrait of Mackenzie. Engraved in meticulous detail, the scene captures Mackenzie’s expedition at the westernmost point of their transcontinental voyage, in a breathtaking inlet surrounded by rocky peaks. Here, the waters of the Pacific in the background seem to sparkle with a golden gleam, thanks to the coin’s surface and the polished finish. In the foreground, Mackenzie stands at the water’s edge where he has inscribed the words “Alex Mackenzie from Canada by land 22nd July 1793” on a large rock, as evidence of the explorer’s passage and his epic journey. Instrumental to the success of this expedition is a Nuxalk guide, who is pictured at bottom left with his back turned to the viewer; to the right of Mackenzie stands a member of his expedition, while another helps to carry the dugout canoe loaned by the Nuxalk over the shallow water. The coin’s design boasts a high degree of historical accuracy—particularly in its depiction of the clothing worn by the voyageurs and the traditional cedar hat of the Nuxalk.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie’s journals were published in 1801, in a book titled *Voyages from Montreal Through the Continent of America to the Frozen and Pacific Oceans in 1789 and 1793*; it is said to have inspired U.S. President Thomas Jefferson to commission the famous Lewis and Clark expedition to the Pacific.

PIANO TUNER FINDS GOLD STASHED IN AN OLD UPRIGHT

by Jack Malvern, Arts Correspondent, The Times, January 13, 2017

A piano tuner may be eligible for a windfall of tens of thousands of pounds after discovering a hoard of gold coins inside an instrument while working on it. The upright piano has become the subject of a coroner’s inquest after a “life-changing” amount of gold was discovered in a cavity that has been undisturbed for at least 33 years, and possibly for as long as a century.

John Ellery, the senior coroner for Shropshire, opened a hearing in Shrewsbury yesterday to try to trace the person who hid the coins. If no one comes forward with a verifiable claim then it will be declared treasure, entitling the piano tuner to share its value with the piano’s owner. The Treasure Act 1996 determines that hoards that are less than 300 years old will be declared treasure if they are substantially made of gold or silver, were deliberately concealed by the owner with a view to later recovery and the owner (or their heirs) is unknown.

Items ruled to be treasure become the property of the crown, with compensation due to the finder and the owner of the land or object where the treasure was found. This usually means the metal detectorist who unearthed the hoard and the owner of the site, but in this case it is the piano tuner and the piano owner. If a museum raised the money to acquire the hoard, the finder and the owner would split the proceeds. If not, the gold would be returned to them.

The coroner did not identify the piano owner yesterday, but *The Times* understands that a community group recently received it as a donation from a family that had owned it for 33 years. The family, who live near Saffron Walden, kept the piano as a working instrument but never noticed anything odd. It was only when the instrument, a 110-year-old model by John Broadwood & Sons, was donated to the community group that the tuner found the hoard of more than 100 coins, thought to be gold sovereigns.

Mark Rasmussen, a coin dealer who was previously a director of the Spink auction house, said that the coins would be worth a minimum of £250 apiece if they were standard gold bullion, but could be worth more than £1,000 if they were rare and in good condition. If they were from rare dates such as 1819 or 1828 then they could be worth tens of thousands each.

“The best hoard I ever handled was one with a George III five-guinea piece. Today it would be worth £100,000. [But] it sounds to me that these are going to be standard bullion coins, probably Victorian,” Mr Rasmussen said.

Peter Reavill, who handles reports of possible treasure at Shropshire council, said the coins had “a life-changing value, but it’s not like winning the lottery.” The inquest was adjourned until March 16.

COMING EVENTS FOR WINTER & SPRING 2017

Apr. 21 – 23, Kitchener, Ontario Numismatic Association 55th Annual Coin Show & Convention, Holiday Inn Kitchener-Waterloo Conference Centre, 30 Fairway Rd. S. at Hwy 8. Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. *Buy-Sell-Trade-Appraisals. Coins, paper money, tokens and more! Over 50 qualified dealer tables. Featuring a Youth Only Table and a FREE Coin Kids Auction on Saturday. Hotel reservations call 1-519-893-1211, mention O.N.A. for special rate. For updates, visit the ONA website. For more information contact Robb McPherson, General Chair, email president@theona.ca, telephone 519-577-7206. Website: <http://www.the-ona.ca/con2017.php>*

Feb. 25 – 26, Toronto, TOREX Show, Hyatt Regency on King, 370 King St. W. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission \$7. Under 16 Free! *Featuring Canada's finest dealers in Canadian, ancient, and foreign coins, paper money, coin and paper money supplies and reference books. Official Auctioneer: The Canadian Numismatic Company. Auction Viewing begins on Friday.* For more information contact Brian R. Smith, email brian@torex.net, telephone 416-705-5348. Website: <http://www.torex.net>

Feb. 25, Toronto, Canadian Tire Coupon Collectors Show in Toronto, Hyatt Regency, 370 King St. West Toronto The next Canadian Tire Coupon Collectors Club (CTCCC) Show in Toronto will be held at the Torex meeting from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., admission is free and parking is available. *I encourage you to bring your extra coupons, gift cards or any other CTC items for trading or selling. Everyone is welcome; if you know of any other potential members that have an interest in collecting any of the CTC memorabilia, bring them along.* For more information contact Roger Fox, email r_fox@bell.net, telephone 905-898-7677. Website: <http://www.ctccc.ca>

Mar. 4 – 5, 2017, Mississauga, Mississauga's 14th Annual Coins and Stamps Show, John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Over 30 dealers & 60 dealer tables. Canadian and world coins, banknotes, stamps and supplies. Buy, sell, trade, appraise.* For more information contact Les Plonka, email leszekp@rogers.com, telephone 416-505-7999. Website: <http://www.troyakclub.com>

Mar. 10 – 12, Montreal, QC, Nuphilex, Complex EVO, 420 Sherbrooke St. West ****NEW DATES**** Admission \$3 Friday and Saturday, free Sunday, early bird admission \$25, beginning Friday 8 a.m. (to be donated to Quebec Autism Society and Miriam Home). Hours: Fri. and Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information contact Emmanuel, email montrealnuphilex@gmail.com, telephone 514-889-7740. Website: <http://www.nuphilex.com>

Mar. 18, 2017, Cambridge, 26th Annual Cambridge Coin Show, Cambridge Newfoundland Club, 1500 Dunbar Road Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission. *Buy, sell, trade and evaluate at over 50 dealer tables with coins, paper money, tokens, medals, trade dollars, official Mint Products, hobby supplies, reference catalogs and much more. Fully accessible with lots of free parking and on-site lunch counter. Donations to the Cambridge Self Help Food Bank accepted.* A portion of the show proceeds will be donated to charitable organizations. For more information contact Ben Dettweiler, email coinshow@waterloocoinssociety.com, telephone 519-807-1881. Website: <http://www.waterloocoinssociety.com>

Mar. 25 – 26, Mississauga, National Postage Stamp & Coin Show, Hilton Mississauga / Meadowvale, 6750 Mississauga Rd. Presented by Canadian Coin & Stamp News. Admission \$3 on Saturday, free on Sunday. Free parking. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. *The show will feature coin and stamp dealers from across Canada, who are selling, buying and appraising all kinds of numismatic and philatelic materials. Special room rate available at the hotel. Check out our website for show updates and list of dealers.* For more information contact Mike Walsh, email mwalsh@trajan.ca, telephone 905-646-4820. Website: <http://www.stampandcoinshow.com>

From 100 Years Ago in the pages of *The Numismatist*, February 1917

Substitutes for Silver Coins



Professor Leacock of McGill University, Montreal, who is known both as a humorous writer and as a teacher of economics, has proposed a plan by which the Government of the Dominion of Canada could make between \$5,000,000 and \$10,000,000. He suggests that nickel be substituted for silver coins. The professor, in explaining his scheme, points out that silver is only a token, and can be replaced by nickel or tin or celluloid, for that matter. He would call in the \$20,000,000 of silver coins in circulation and sell the metal in them as bullion. It is estimated that there is about 70 cents worth of silver in a dollar's worth of coins. Nickel is worth about 50 cents a pound, and the total coinage would be replaced for \$350,000. The professor has expressed a willingness to undertake to carry out the scheme himself without salary. It is hard to say whether Stephen Leacock is serious or not, but, judging from the fact that the ideas above presented appear in the dignified *Monetary Times of Toronto*, it is safe to venture the guess that the author of "Nonsense Novels" is not joking this time. - *New York Times*.

May 13, North York, North York Coin Club Annual Coin Show, Edithvale Community Centre, 131 Finch Ave. W. Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free admission, free parking, all sorts of collectibles and featuring coins, paper money, tokens, etc. For more information contact Paul Petch, email coinshow@northyorkcoinclub.com, telephone 416-303-4417. Website: <http://www.northyorkcoinclub.com>

Listings are courtesy of *Canadian Coin News Coming Events*