

# The Logbook

Newsletter of the Newfoundland Numismatic Enthusiasts



Modern Replica of HMS Matthew

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*Submit an article  
and get published!  
Four of our  
members have  
contributed to this  
issue. You can be  
next. Get writing!*

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## From the President

*By Bill Kamb, President*

As a result of our first newsletter, our website, and being advertised in other club newsletters, Steve tells me our membership is now over eighty! I believe this is impressive for a club that is geared around a "neglected part of the market," as I've heard Newfoundland numismatics referred to many times. As a result of our first newsletter, several members responded to the questions: should our club be strictly devoted to Newfoundland numismatics and what should the name of the club be? The result is as I originally envisioned over a year ago, when I placed an announcement in Canadian Coin News. The club will focus on Newfoundland and we will be called the Newfoundland Numismatic Enthusiasts. This name happens to be what was on the sign posted outside our meeting room last summer in Niagara Falls, which several members remembered.

It took me a long time to realize that friendship plays an important role in Numismatics. For years I went to coin shows with blinders on, bought a coin or two, and then went home. About ten years ago, I mistakenly arrived a day early at an Ontario Numismatic Association Convention, and having nothing to do, I helped a few club members set up the bourse room. I was invited to the hospitality suite that night and fell in love with the club scene. Soon after, I joined the ONA and a little later, the CNA.

This year I made several numismatic purchases, and one of them was possible, strictly due to friendship, in this case twice over. I attended the Torex Show in February and was having lunch upstairs, when a dealer friend brought a collector to see me, who wanted to sell a Newfoundland coin. He could have bought it but my friend thought I might be interested in

the coin, as it was the Belzberg example of the 1888 half dollar, a key coin in anyone's book! The problem was, the collector wanted cash, much more than I've ever brought to a coin show. To make a long story short, another friend, with whom I was having lunch, arranged for a loan on the bourse floor, and I had my coin! Friendship really pays off.

My point to this message is that numismatic friendships can open doors and are what makes the hobby fun. Hopefully, as many of you as possible can make it to next year's CNA Convention in Niagara Falls. In addition to a two-hour meeting, which we already have scheduled, we're also planning a catered lunch. The latter is not cast in stone so we would like your thoughts. Over the coming weeks and months, I'm going to make an effort to meet every club member, whether by e-mail, telephone, or at shows. I look forward to hearing your thoughts about the club's direction. And don't forget, we always need input for our newsletter, so put your thinking caps on and submit an article!

## Executive Keeps Busy!

*By Steve Woodland, Editor*

Well, I've finally managed to put this issue to press! My sincere apologies for the late arrival to Issue Number 2. I just recently started a new job and getting up to speed has kept me rather busy. I did enjoy a short weekend retirement, leaving my old job on Friday and starting the new job on Monday). Now that things are running smoothly at the office, I am able to get to the really important stuff – our club newsletter!

Bill, like many others of you, has been extremely busy, finding new members to the NNE. As of January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007 we are now 85 strong. Keep up the great recruiting effort and soon we'll celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> member.

Bill has also been busy building his collection, writing articles for the newsletter (see elsewhere in this issue), and convincing others to contribute as well. For those of you who have been “thinking about putting pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard),” there has never been a better time. Just send your text and photos to me and I’ll make sure it gets formatted, edited and published in *The Logbook*.

Don’t worry about perfect prose, great grammar, or fancy graphics! What we want is content! A single article from each of our members once a year would put your editor in a most enviable position. So let’s hear from each of you, I’m sure you have a topic you would like to hear about! Also, please send us your ideas for articles and we’ll see if we can get them written.

Dan Gosling has been beavering (a good Canadian verb, eh?) away at creating a club website. You can find it at its temporary address at <http://gosling.anikast.ca>. I think he’s done a great job with it in a very short time. If you can help with content or ideas, just drop him a line at [dan@gosling.ca](mailto:dan@gosling.ca).

We are still debating the name for our own website/domain name. It seems to be down to two, one long and one short: **newfoundlandnumismatics.com** or **nneonline.com**. What do you think? Once we sort this out, we’ll purchase the domain name and set up the website with that address. Hopefully we can have this done in time to announce it in the next issue of *The Logbook*.

Again, we want to hear from you! Send us a letter or an email with your thoughts, ideas (off the wall or otherwise), and comments. I promise not to reveal the source of any zany suggestions unless you want me to!

## A TOREX Find!

By Bill Kamb

I attended the October TOREX Show in Toronto and made a surprising purchase: an unlisted token from Epworth, Newfoundland, issued by merchant George M. Goddard. I’ve

been collecting Newfoundland tokens for almost twenty years and had never seen one of these first hand. However, I did have a picture of a Goddard token in my files. A couple of years ago Scott Douglas, an officer in the Canadian Association of Token Collectors, e-mailed me a picture of a similar token and asked if I had ever seen or heard of it. Scott explained that someone from Alberta had found the token with a metal detector and wanted to know more about it. Neither he nor I had ever seen it.

The token that I bought is brass. On the obverse there is a radial design, which reminds one of a compass, consisting of eight spearpoints, each with a small ball radially out from the point at 12:00, 1:30, 3:00, or North, Northeast, East, etc. with small circles in between the spearpoints and a small star in the center. GEO. M. GODDARD is at the rim from 9:30 to 2:30 and EPWORTH, N. F. from 3:30 to 8:30, with stars at 3:00 and 9:00. The reverse has a large 10 in the center, with GOOD FOR from 10:00 to 2:00 at the rim and IN MERCHANDISE from 3:00 to 9:00 with stars at 2:30 and at 9:30. Unfortunately, there is a small punch mark after the N of IN that shows through, as a bump, on the obverse. The token in Scott’s picture was different: The obverse had two balls radially out from each spear point, so they looked like a colon (:), and the

reverse had a large 25 in the center instead of a 10, and there were stars at the rim at 2:30 and 9:30.

What is interesting about these tokens is the fact that Epworth is part of Burin, which is where my grandfather came from. Epworth / Burin is 2/3 of the way down the East coast of the Burin Peninsula, a long peninsula, that juts out from the South coast of Newfoundland. Burin harbor is a deep-water port, ringed by islands and 80 - 90 years ago, when I estimate this token was issued, Burin was the major outpost on the West coast of Placentia Bay. At the time Burin’s population was approximately 2500 of which 90% were involved in the fishery.

A simple internet search indicates that a George Goddard, listed as a general merchant, lived in Epworth about a hundred years ago and that he died in Medicine Hat, Alberta, in 1931. In addition, a third edition of a book issued by the Burin Historical Society in 1977 also indicates that George Goddard was a merchant there.

If anyone has more information on the Goddard tokens or has one in their collection I’d like to hear from them at: [nfld73h@siscom.net](mailto:nfld73h@siscom.net).

## Newfoundland Varieties

By Greg Ingram

Brought to my attention a few years ago was an unreported variety of the

### Characteristics –

**Metal:** Brass      **Date:** undated      **Weight:** 4.9 gms  
**Diameter:** 24.4 mm      **Die Alignment:** medal      **Edge:** plain  
**Rim:** strong denticles on the obverse and very weak ones on the reverse



Obverse



Reverse

Newfoundland 1898 50-cent piece. I acquired a piece from a dealer and decided to start activity looking for more.

The following is reported on page 66 of "The Currency and Medals of Newfoundland" by C. Francis Rowe, James A. Haxby and Robert J. Graham:

There are two interesting varieties to be found if one looks at the obverses of the 1896 50¢ pieces. One variety is struck from the same portrait die 1 employed for the 1894 issue ... . This variety may be distinguished by the over punching of the W of NEWFOUNDLAND by a larger W, to repair the letter on the die sunk from a punch on which the letters were breaking up. ... Between usages in 1894 and 1896 this die was inadequately greased and began to corrode. Evidence of pitting of the die surface is found in the form of irregular raised dots, particularly in the region of the ND of NEWFOUNDLAND, ... . The second variety bearing the obverse portrait 2, has a small W in

NEWFOUNDLAND, and no evidence of corrosion.

We have then the obverse 1, large "W" (illus 1) and obverse 2, small "W" (illus 2) currently known and used by the professional grading services in their attributions today.

There is a third!! It is an obverse 1, and small "W" (illus 3).

I have acquired about 11 pieces over the last 7 years and have examined over 400 pieces at shows, auctions, dealers, etc., and have seen no more than 20-25 pieces in all. The two common ones seem to be found in equal numbers. Assuming my rarity statistics of 25 out of every 400 I see, that translates into about a strike of about 4875 pieces. A truly rare piece!

The practice of using earlier obverse dies for 50-cent pieces for Newfoundland dates is also mentioned in the book.

So where did this die come from? This MUST have been a "resurrected" die from an earlier time. The possible dies for obverse 1 were from 1870, 1872,

1873, 1876, 1880, 1881, 1885, 1888, 1894 and 1896. By my observations, the dates 1896, 1894, 1888 and 1885 are only obverse 1 dies occurring with the large "W". The 1885 50-cent piece was a resurrected obverse 1 die with the large overpunched "W".

The next likely candidates for obverse 1 dies exhibiting the small "W" include the 1881 die, an 1880 die, or even earlier. Mintages were very low for those dates. Were these obverse dies still good enough to be considered for the 1898 50-cent piece? It appears possible.

If anyone can add more information about this interesting and rare variety, I would like to here from you. I can be reached at: Greg Ingram, P.O. Box 1272 Stn "M", Calgary, AB, Canada, T2P 2L2, [ingramgs@shaw.ca](mailto:ingramgs@shaw.ca).

## Collecting History

*By Jerry Himelfarb*

In 1528, before Canada was a major concern, the "Newe Founde Lande" was actively becoming Britain's oldest colony. The Cabots were rewarded the sum of 5 pounds for their discovery of this place by Henry VII.

This fascinating history, which includes the demise of the "Red Indians (Biothic)" in 1829 with the death of Shauna Dithit, can be had at relatively accessible prices. The cost? One Newfoundland coin. Why?

When you hold that original numismatic piece in our hand and study it for a while, you can't help but reflect on what was happening in the early days of its circulation: who held it, how did they earn it, what did they spend it on, where did it go next? These actions, romantically frozen in time in this snapshot in history, help us define that history. Canada just wouldn't be Canada without Newfoundland.

That craggy piece of coastline, with its often hand-to-mouth existence, represents the tenacity that is Newfoundland and the Newfoundlander. From a numismatic perspective, finding quality examples of



these coins is as tough as the people that used them.

In the Canadian decimal series, anyone might find an MS-65; and although they may be scarce and expensive, they are still available. The Newfoundland series, however, will definitely test you as you search, and your wounded ego might just have to settle for that EF-40.

But take heart! There is a tremendous group of fellow collectors out there that just might help in your quest for that missing piece of history. You have only to make your desires known so that someone can respond.

Happy Hunting!

## Newfoundland Woods

By Steve Woodland

Newfoundland and Labrador Woods! Little (usually) round discs with coloured designs, words and numbers on them. I wasn't even aware they existed or that anyone collected them, let alone that there was a database listing them. Then again, I guess I shouldn't be surprised by the fact, since there are collectors out there for just about anything you can imagine – and I never imagined people would collect something called “woods” from an island nicknamed the “rock.”

I first heard about Newfoundland and Labrador woods in an email from Norm Belsten, who was kind enough to send me a listing of them. I was intrigued to see that they come in all sizes, shapes and colours, even multi-coloured. The list of 71 woods is extremely detailed, providing the Identity number, location

of issue, description, date and quantity issued (where known), the obverse and reverse colour(s), shape, size, and an indication of rarity. Unfortunately, it does not include any photos, but Norm indicated to me that he has black & white images of most of them. Norm graciously sent me some coloured pictures, which I have included here.

According to Norm, there are about 7500 woods for Canada in his listing with about 1500 in the Maritimes. The prices for the commoner woods (R1-R2) are around a dollar or less, while the scarcer woods (R3-R4) can cost \$3-\$5 or more. His complete Canadian listing is available both electronically and in printed form.

I then learned that another of our members, Eric G. Jensen, also produces a listing of Newfoundland and Labrador woods. The copy he sent me, dated November 2006, provides all the same information (less the quantity minted) for 59 woods, plus it has black and white images of the obverses and reverses of each wood. Eric's listing is actually one part of a three-part listing of Medallions, Tokens and Woods of Newfoundland and Labrador.

After looking through these two listings, I was amazed at the variety of shapes, colours and designs of the woods. While many were strictly for advertising a product, service or establishment, others were “good fers,” and some were even to celebrate a specific event.



If any of you would like to contact Norm or Eric to get a copy of their listings or to correspond with either of them about Newfoundland and Labrador woods, just send me a letter or an email and I will pass your message on to them. Another source of information on Canadian Woods is the Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors (CAWMC) at: <http://www.nunetcan.net/cawmc.htm> or via regular mail at: 86 Hamilton Drive, Newmarket, Ontario, Canada, L3Y 3E8.

## Your Article Here!

Next newsletter, wouldn't it be great to have your own article published here? All you have to do is put a few words on paper or in an email and send them to me, and I'll see your article gets published. No muss, no fuss! Got a photo? Even better. So get writing!

