



**NEWSLETTER
OF THE
NEWFOUNDLAND
NUMISMATIC
ENTHUSIASTS**

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THE LOGBOOK

President's Message

By Bill Kamb, President

The third annual meeting of the Newfoundland Numismatic Enthusiasts club will be held on Friday afternoon (July 18) from 4:00 - 6:00 P.M. at the CNA Convention in Ottawa. Steve Woodland, the general chairman of the convention, tells me that it will probably be the biggest CNA Convention ever, as there are already over 200 registrants, 70 dealer tables have been sold, and well over 500 room nights are booked. The Royal Canadian Mint and The Bank of Canada have receptions planned for registrants. If you attended in 2000, when the convention was last in Ottawa, you know what wonderful events they will be. If you can afford to attend only one show each year, this is the one for you.

Bret Evans, editor of Canadian Coin News, and Phil Carrigan, a longtime Newfoundland collector, have agreed to be our speakers this year. Bret is going to talk on David Kirke, the first governor of Newfoundland, as well as the Ferryland tokens recently found at the on-going archaeological site south of St. John's. Phil is going to speak on what is different about collecting Newfoundland coins. Be sure to attend the meeting and hear them speak. There will also be time for questions followed by a show and tell. Bring your favorite coin, token, or piece of paper money to show other NNE members what interests you about Newfoundland numismatics.

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Once again some club members will combine their collections and jointly exhibit parts of them. The tokens and paper money that were displayed last year in Niagara Falls will again be shown at Ottawa. Hopefully, we will also see the finest Newfoundland decimal collection in existence. Three members plan to combine their coins into a complete set, provided that insurance coverage can be arranged. Including the popular varieties, this merged display is in uncirculated condition, except for about ten pieces in almost uncirculated condition.

I have been hearing complaints for years about the Newfoundland trends not being accurate. If you pay attention to the CCRS website, you know that it is a topic of discussion. At the recent Torex Show I met with Bret Evans, of CCN, and Rick Simpson, editor of CCN Trends. As a result we are going to contribute the Newfoundland portion of the trends for publication. I've appointed a trends committee with a mix of collectors and dealers so hopefully we'll have more realistic results before long.

We have over 100 members now, with two new members joining at Torex. As you can imagine, we have members who are advanced collectors going for completeness, collectors focusing on one or two denominations, where others are looking for varieties or errors. I hope that you can attend the meeting and try and meet someone you don't know. Look for me at the convention. I'd like to meet you.

An Interesting Double Die Newfoundland 5 Cent

By Iain Green

The 5 cent decimal coinage of Canada, Newfoundland and New Brunswick provides several interesting reverse error varieties for the collector. Re-punched dates and mintmarks in

the Canadian five cent group include the highly regarded 1885 5 over 5 and the 1870 7 over 7 (one of my personal favorites) and others. The New Brunswick series offers the large 6 and small 6 punch varieties for the 1864 issue.

In my experience, beyond consideration of the portrait varieties, there are few, if any, recognized obverse errors¹. So, I was pleasantly surprised to come across what I believe to be a nice example of an offset hub doubled variety of an 1880 Newfoundland five cent piece. This is certainly a first for my collection. I find no mention of such an error in the books I have on hand (which, although not complete, includes Charlton², Haxby³, Charest⁴ and James⁵), or on any of the internet sources I have investigated. Offset hub doubling, Class IV, is described by Wexler and Ribar⁶, as occurring when the centers of the hub and die are not in alignment on a second or later impression during the die making process. A misalignment of this nature creates an offset in the same direction across the die and any subsequent coins.

This coin is been graded as VF-20 by ICCS and the doubling is still noticeable in the laureate with this level of wear. The spread is wide enough that it looks like a blurring of this region even under relatively minor magnification.

¹ I don't include the 1873H Newfoundland 5 cent as an obverse error, even though the H mintmark appears on the obverse, as this coin is likely to be an accidental mule between an 1872H obverse and the standard 1873 reverse (Wayne L. Jacobs, Royal Mint Report Document, Coinages of Canada and Newfoundland.)

² A Charlton Standard Catalogue of Canadian Coins, 60th Anniversary Edition, W.K. Cross, The Charlton Press.

³ Coins of Canada, J.A. Haxby and R.C. Willey, 3rd Edition, Whitman Coin Products

⁴ The Book of Canadian Coins and Their Varieties, Pierre Charest, Charest Internet Inc.

⁵ The Guide Book of 1670-1970 Canadian Coins, Paper Currency and Tokens, Somer James, 11th Edition, 1970, Regency Coin and Stamp Co. Ltd.

⁶ The Best of The Jefferson Nickel Doubled Die Varieties, J.A. Wexler and B.A. Ribar, 2nd Edition, Brooklyn Galleries Coins and Stamps Inc.



Figure 1. Doubling is very clear between the nose and upper lip. All figures magnified x60.

This coin also exhibits a possible small die break to the southwest of the 'G' of REG (see Figure 2). The reverse does not appear to have any significant distinguishing marks.



Figure 2. Doubling is also apparent on the 'G' of REG' and the following dots.



Figure 3. Noticeable doubling in the berries, leaves and vines of the laureate.

Another interesting feature of this coin is that the letters have an irregular appearance, see Figure 4. I suggest that this is a result of the doubling in that some edges of the letters on the die (such as the T of VICTORIA) have been weakened and deteriorated by the close, but not exactly overlapped, pressure.



Figure 4. Note the deterioration of the base of the 'T' of VICTORIA. This effect is also especially noticeable in the 'T' of VICTORIA, the 'D' of D:G and the 'R's of VICTORIA and REG

Charlton and others report the mintage of the 1880 Newfoundland 5 cent as 40,000. I have had the opportunity to examine only 2 other pieces, both raw coins that I would grade as VG

to F. Neither coin showed the same doubling, which I believe would be visible even at these grades.

Reviewing the reasonably high resolution photographs generated for the Belzburg Collection auction⁷, it doesn't appear that the Belzberg coin displays the doubling. I would be surprised if such a feature had escaped the

Notice!

*There will be a meeting of the
Newfoundland Numismatic
Enthusiasts at the upcoming C.N.A.
convention in Ottawa.*

All Are Welcome!

When – 4 to 6 p.m. July 18, 2008

*Where – Panorama Room, Crown
Plaza Hotel, Ottawa*

*Club auction: "The Currency and
Medals of Newfoundland"*

Speakers:

*Bret Evans: Ferry land tokens and
Governor David Kirke*

*Phil Carrigan: What's different
about Newfoundland numismatics*

Followed by "Show and Tell"

attention of the cataloguer. I have seen an ICCS graded F15 coin at auction recently that appeared to have 'blurring' of the laureate from the photographs provided. From these data points it is impossible to assess rarity, but it is plausible that this doubled die variety is reasonably available, merely unattributed to date. In fact, given my distance to an adequate supply of coins to examine, it is entirely possible that this double die variety is the norm, well known to other collectors and I would regret not having purchased non-doubled versions. Whichever the case, this coin is a very pleasing addition to my collection.

Newfoundland Colonial Tokens

By Bill Kamb

During the first half of the nineteenth century, the indigenous population of Newfoundland reached 100,000 and the fishery was at its peak. The powerful merchants of St. John's controlled the commerce of the island utilizing the dreaded "truck system," which lasted well into the twentieth century in some isolated areas.

The fishermen in the numerous outposts were in virtual bondage to "the barons of Water Street." Because of agreements made requiring them to pay for supplies advanced in the spring of the year by the merchant's agents, (at inflated prices), the fishermen had to pay off their debt with their catch in the fall, (at deflated prices).

As situations arose, the fishermen would clandestinely sell part of their catch to passing ships for hard money. Oftentimes a man could be in debt after a hard year's work, if the fishery wasn't as expected, while the merchant sometimes made up to 500% on their investment.

⁷ The Sid and Alicia Belzburg Collection of Canadian Coinage Heritage World Coin Auctions, Signature Sale #312 catalogue.

For currency, people were forced to rely on whatever came in on the ships, whether it was English, French, Spanish, or American coinage. In the 1840's, the Rutherford brothers, who had recently emigrated from Scotland, opened stores, one in St. John's, which was operated by Robert and I. S., and one in Harbour Grace, which was operated by George and Andrew. The Rutherfords were the first merchants in Newfoundland to issue their own tokens, which were widely accepted, as they were nearly full weight.

These halfpenny tokens were first issued from the store in St. John's, and come both dated (1841) and undated. Tokens from Harbour Grace were all dated 1846. All Rutherford tokens were minted by Boulton and Watt of Birmingham, England. However, the reverse die, at least of the Harbour Grace tokens, was most likely engraved by Ralph Heaton II, as his initials appear above the date and as he was a diesinker himself. The Birmingham City Museum has die impressions on cardboard that were donated by The Birmingham Mint (Heaton's) about forty years ago and one of these impressions is of the 1846 Rutherford reverse. As the Harbour Grace tokens were issued four years before Heaton's began minting operations, it can be inferred that Boulton and Watt ordered the reverse die from Heaton's.

The obverse of all the tokens features a large hanging fleece, which most likely symbolized the woolen industry in England or less likely, universal peace as promoted by the Order of the Golden Fleece, an order of knights dating to the fifteenth century. The reverse features the Rutherford family coat of arms. The dated varieties have the date at the rim at 6:00. The legend on the obverse mentions the Rutherfords and the place of issue. Those from St. John's read: ROBERT & I. S. RUTHERFORD from 9:00 to 3:00 at the rim and St. JOHN'S / NEWFOUNDLAND below the fleece. Those from Harbour Grace are similar, substituting

RUTHERFORD BROS. at the rim and HARBOUR GRACE / NEWFOUNDLAND below the fleece.

In Charlton's Canadian Colonial Tokens there are four undated (NF-1A) and three dated (NF-1B) varieties from St. John's. The varieties are determined by whether they are copper or brass and whether they have a coinage or medal die axis. Some advanced collectors question the existence of true brass Rutherford tokens. Instead they believe impurities in the copper created a lighter looking token, a slightly different alloy, and call them "light copper." The light copper varieties appear to be much scarcer than the normal copper varieties and command a premium.

The four undated varieties from St. John's can be paired as follows:

NF1-A1 & NF1-A4: copper and light copper respectively with a coinage axis

NF1-A2 & NF1-A3: copper and light copper respectively with a medal axis

The NF1-B2 and NF1-B3 can be similarly paired with a medal die axis leaving the lone NF1-B1. I own or have viewed examples of all

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of the paired varieties and have never seen an NF1-B1 (which could be paired with a non-cataloged NF1-B4). **The existence of the NF1B1 should be seriously questioned.**

In addition to the four undated varieties from St. John's, there is another variety, listed in Charlton's as Wiley #181. No picture is provided and the description simply states that the apostrophe in St. John's touches the right hind hoof of the fleece. I believe this description is slightly misleading and that a token in the Bank of Canada's Collection is the variety described. It is a well circulated, copper, token with coinage die axes, similar to the NF1-A1, but the apostrophe, although under the right hind hoof of the fleece, is close to but does not touch the hoof as described in Charlton's. This example is the only one I know of and was acquired by the Bank of Canada in 1964 from the Sheldon Carroll collection.

The four varieties from Harbour Grace (NF1-C1 through NF1-C4) are all copper and differ according to the texture of the fleece and the ornamentation in the legend. The NF1-C1 has the finest wool of the four with the NF1-C2, being slightly coarser. Both have an oval ornament at 4:00 and 8:00 at the rim, whereas the NF1-C3 and NF1-C4 have a crude star as an ornament in the same location. These two latter varieties have much coarser wool than the two former and differ from each other in their die alignment, the NF1-C3 having medal and the NF1-C4 coinage die alignment.

The traditional copper varieties from St. John's (NF1-A1, A2, and B2), and the four varieties from Harbour Grace (NF1-C1, C2, C3, and C4), are fairly common in low and middle grades. Only the NF1-C1 variety is generally available in high grade. At the end of the article I have included a table indicating my opinion of the rarity of all the Newfoundland tokens, based on my twenty years of collecting experience. I have never seen an uncirculated Newfoundland

colonial token. If one exists, I would love to see it.

The next token listed in Charlton's is the very rare McAuslane token (NF2). Peter McAuslane was a dry goods merchant who had a shop in St. John's. The store was lost in the great fire of 1846, which apparently destroyed most of the tokens, with only a few surviving today. The token is farthing size and was probably simply used as an advertisement.

Text is on both sides of the token. The obverse reads: PETER / McAUSLANE / St. JOHN'S / NEWFOUNDLAND and the reverse: SELLS / ALL SORTS / OF SHOP & / STORE / GOODS. Its first auction appearance in over fifty years was in a Jeffrey Hoare Sale in January of 2002. That example, one of approximately twenty similar pieces, had been recently dug up on Prince Edward Island, was badly corroded, and sold for over \$6000. Prior to this hoard only three or four pieces were known.

In the next decade two smaller size, underweight, anonymous, copper tokens were issued in St. John's, minted by Ralph Heaton and Company of Birmingham, England. These tokens were similar in size and weight to those in circulation on Prince Edward Island and also passed for halfpennies. The "1858 ship" token is rare but when found is usually in VF to AU condition, as it was issued shortly before tokens were redeemed in 1865. The obverse features a three mast ship under full sail to the right. The reverse simply bears the date, 1858, in large block numerals. Two varieties are described in Charlton's, the open 5 or NF3-A1, and the closed 5 or NF3-A2. According to *The Currency and Medals of Newfoundland* the former variety is purported to be heavier in weight than the latter. Last year I viewed ten examples of the ship token in various collections and in two different auctions. Every token I saw had an open 5, including one that

was misattributed as a closed 5 in one of the auctions. I also had a scale and weighed some of the tokens that hadn't already been weighed, and the results were surprising. Weights varied from a low of 4.2 grams to a high of 6.7 grams, which is a much broader range than listed in Charlton's, for both varieties. **My conclusion is that the closed 5 variety doesn't exist** and that weights have nothing to do with it. In addition, all the tokens that I viewed had a ten degree clockwise die rotation, including the misattributed one in the auction, another indication that there is only one variety of the "1858 ship" token.

The last colonial token attributed to Newfoundland is commonly called the fishery rights token (NF4) and simply has text on both sides. On the obverse, the date, 1860, is in the center with a circle around, at the rim: FISHERY RIGHTS FOR NEWFOUNDLAND. The reverse reads: RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT around the rim with AND / FREE / TRADE in the center. It was apparently issued to commemorate a treaty that attempted to remove the tensions that had developed between foreign crews coming ashore to replenish supplies and the local inhabitants with

whom they had confrontations. These tokens are also found in better grades than the Rutherfords. I've seen several VF's, a few EF's, one damaged AU, and have heard of a choice AU buried deep in a collection.

Collecting Newfoundland tokens is challenging and rewarding. They are challenging because they are so elusive and rewarding because they represent the era in Newfoundland's history known for its wooden ships and iron men. You can sit down at a dealer's table and search through a double row box of tokens and be lucky if he has a low grade Rutherford. You can attend an auction where you'll have to pay well over estimate for an EF example of a token that won't be seen again in that grade for years. You have to be in the right place, at the right time, and in addition, develop a network of collectors and dealers who handle the material to find many of these tokens. My advice is, if you see a Newfoundland token in a desirable grade, you should buy it even if you have to sell or trade something out of your collection to raise money, since nice ones are few and far between.

Newfoundland Colonial Token Relative Rarities						
Grade	G/VG/F	VF	EF	AU	UNC	
Token	Approximate Nr. Of Years Needed To Find The Token					
NF1-A1	<1	1-2	3-5	ND	BNE	
NF1-A2	<1	1-2	3-5	ND	BNE	
NF1-A3	5+	10+	ND	ND	BNE	
NF1-A4	5+	10+	ND	ND	BNE	
NF1-B1	Probably Does Not Exist					
NF1-B2	<1	2-3	10+	ND	BNE	
NF1-B3	3-5	5-10	ND	ND	BNE	
NF1-C1	<1	<1	1	1-3	ND	
NF1-C2	<1	1-2	3-5	10+	ND	
NF1-C3	1-2	3-5	10+	ND	BNE	
NF1-C4	1-2	3-5	10+	ND	BNE	
NF2	1 In Fifty Years					
NF3-A1	ND	3-5	5-10	10+	BNE	
NF3-A2	Probably Does Not Exist					
NF4	ND	1-2	3-5	10+	BNE	

ND = No data available. BNE = Believed not to exist.
 Note: The last sale of an undamaged NF2 occurred in the 1952 ANA auction.
 A small hoard of badly corroded pieces was recently discovered.