

# NORTH YORK COIN CLUB

FOUNDED 1960

MONTHLY MEETINGS 4TH TUESDAY 8 P.M.  
NORTH YORK MEMORIAL COMMUNITY HALL  
5090 YONGE STREET, WILLOWDALE, ONTARIO

MAILING ADDRESS: BOX 294, WILLOWDALE  
EDITOR: TED BANNING  
XVI:5



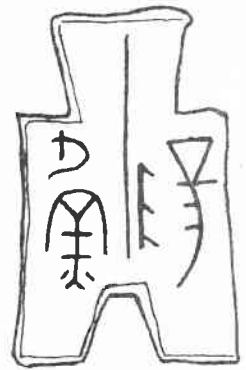
MEMBER:  
THE CANADIAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION  
ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

*May 1975*

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Junior Night at the April 22, 1975, meeting of the North York Coin Club was extremely successful; so much so that the club will make it a twice per annum event. Chaired by Jon Jones, acting President, the meeting began with the reading of two meetings' minutes and the Show Report by acting Secretary, David Brown; while Tom Becket took over as Treasurer, Alan Blair as Receptionist, and Larry Tierney and Andrew Jurrius as Draw Ticket Salesmen. Attendance was also great, with something like 60 members and guests. John Dewyze gave a report on the recent Torex show, mentioning an attendance of almost 10,000 people, excellent displays (including many junior ones), and a well-attended educational symposium. Paul Johnson, a N.Y.C.C. member, was recipient of the Torex Best of Show awards, for his display of the Canadian Coinage of Queen Elizabeth II. The club was privileged, as Mrs. Graham pointed out, in having four candidates for C.N.A. posts present at the meeting. Mr. Fred Jewett, the club's nominee for C.N.A. President; Mr. Jack Veffer, the club's nominee for 1st Vice President; Mr. James Charlton, candidate for 1st Vice President; and Mr. Robert Aaron, the club's nominee for Ontario Director; were all introduced and asked to say a few words. In response to Mr. Aaron's views on the Royal Canadian Mint's lack of both public relations and co-operation with the numismatists, Mrs. Graham noted that the Mint was making some progress in the directions pointed out by Mr. Aaron, even if they do have a long way to go. Al Bliman announced the September 20th Toronto Coin Club Show and the November 22nd to 24th C.A.N.D. Show. The meeting was followed by a lively auction run by junior member, Robert Ryan, with Peter Stanwick assisting.

Speaker for the evening was member Ted Banning, who gave an informal talk on collecting Oriental coinage. Having pointed out that the most common excuses for ignoring Oriental coins are that "they all look alike to me," that "they're impossible to read," and that "there are too many counterfeits," Ted pointed out that all of these "problems" can be solved with the aid of a few good catalogues and books. Far from looking all alike, there is much more variety in Oriental coinages than in most Western issues. While the West generally issues long series of coins of the same types, with only the minor change of date, every Oriental coin issued until relatively recently was a type in itself, dated only (in most cases) to the reign of an emperor. The shapes and composition of Oriental coins are also quite varied: round, oval, square, lozenge, spade- or knife-shaped; holed or unholed; and gold, silver, copper, iron, porcelain, or even wood. While most of the coins are without pictorial artistry, the calligraphy on them is often most beautiful in itself (the mints often employed the talents of the most famous artists and emperors to do the inscriptions), which brings up the problem of reading. Actually, the collector does not need to know how to read Chinese or Japanese or any other Oriental tongue to collect



CHOU DYNASTY PU  
(1122 - 255 B.C.)  
Lu-yang 魯陽

coins of those countries. All that is required for the identification of the coins is a good catalogue, and some of the more important characters -- numbers, dates, denominations, titles and metals -- will soon become familiar to you anyway. The last problem, that of counterfeiting, can be serious; but one is able to form an interesting and attractive collection from the more common (and hence, less counterfeit-prone) coins, and even in buying rarer coins, which are more likely to be counterfeit, one can reduce his risk by buying them from reputable and knowledgeable dealers and by making use of the A.N.A. Certification Service. There is a wealth of history and artistry behind some of these coins, and it would be a shame to let what little problems there are stand in the way of a collection.



At left is a silver Tangka of Tibet, minted between 1772 and 1930, and showing a lotus blossom with eight Lama Buddhist symbols. At right is a Siamese porcelain gambling token of one Salung value, issued during the years 1821-1875, and circulated even after this time.



#### COMING EVENTS:

- July 14-16 - C.N.A. convention: Palliser Hotel, Calgary, Alberta. Information: Calgary Numismatic Society, P.O. Box 633, Calgary, T2P 2J3.
- August 9 - Collingwood & District Numismatic Association Show: The Lion's Den, Hurontario Street, Collingwood, Ontario. Information: Collingwood & D.N.A., P.O. Box 565, Collingwood, Ontario. 10 AM - 6 PM.
- August 19-24 - A.N.A. convention: Los Marriot Hotel, Los Angeles, California. Information: E. C. Burgolte, P.O. Box 2377, Sepulveda, CA 91343, U.S.A.
- September 13-14 - C.Y.N. convention: Four Seasons Sheraton Hotel, Toronto; Essex, Algoma, Algoma North rooms. Information: C.Y.N., P.O. Box 249, Station "G", Toronto, Ontario, M4M 3G7.
- September 13 - Huronia N.A. Show: Bayfield Street North, Barrie, Ontario. Information: P.O. Box 243, Barrie, Ontario, L4M 4T2.
- October 7 - London N.S. annual banquet: St. George Presbyterian Church Hall, London, Ontario. Tickets: \$3.50.
- October 16-19 - Torex/O.N.A. Joint Fall Convention: Harbour Castle Hotel, Toronto. Torex '75, 347 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario for information.
- September 20 - Toronto Coin Club Show, Royal York Hotel, Toronto.
- November 22-24 - C.A.N.D. Show. Details on the last two later.

NEW MEMBERS to the club are Leslie Brown and Robert Ryan. Welcome. Applying for membership are Frank Dennis of Willowdale, John Regitko of Toronto, Glen Lappin (junior), Terry Moran (junior), both of Willowdale.

#### THE EARLIEST COINS OF INDIA

The earliest literary reference to Indian coinage is the statement of Quintus Curtius, Vit. Alex. viii 12, 42, that Omphis, King of Taxila, presented eighty talents of coined silver (argenti signati lxxx talenta) to Alexander the Great, which has generally been taken as evidence of the existence of coinage in India about 325 B.C.<sup>1</sup>

Actually, there is a great deal of doubt surrounding the antiquity of native Indian coinage. Some numismatists even suggest an independent invention of coinage in India,<sup>2</sup> implying a very early date. The more probable origin of Indian coinage, however, is the land to the North-West, whose own coinage tradition traces back to ancient Lydia. With the conquests of Alexander the Great, Hellenistic coinage would indeed have entered India, and

could have inspired a native coinage; yet the statement of Quintus Curtius certainly seems to indicate that coinage already existed in India before Alexander. John Allan,<sup>3</sup> in fact, has shown a likelihood that early Indian coins derived from those of the Persian Empire.

The coins which Mr. Allan has placed first in his catalogue "are thick, slightly bent bars of silver stamped with wheel or sun-like designs, double on the larger denominations and single on the others." He shows six basic varieties of the "wheel" device, which follow:



Mr. Allan notes the fact that all known finds of these coins have been made in that corner of India which was included in the Persian Empire from the end of the sixth to the middle of the fourth century B.C. He goes on to say that the pieces "are struck on a Persian standard and represent double sigloi or staters, half- and quarter-sigloi. The siglos does not seem to be known."

These pieces of evidence suggest that the date of issue of the coins might well "fall within the period of Persian influence in India or Afghanistan. We would suggest that they belong to the fourth, or even fifth, century B.C., and that it may have been pieces such as these rather than the usual punch-marked coins that Omphis presented to Alexander the Great."

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EMPEROR THREE TIMES!<sup>4</sup>

Puian Tung: At the age of three he became Emperor [of China] on Nov. 14, 1908. This lasted until his abdication on Feb. 12, 1912. However he continued to live in the imperial Palace, as a virtual prisoner.

In 1917 he was restored to the throne for just 17 days.

In 1934 when the Japanese had control of much of China, the Japanese made him emperor for the third time. This lasted until the defeat of Japan in 1945. Captured by the Russians, he spent the next eleven years in Siberia. Turned over to the Chinese Communists in 1956, he was pardoned by them in 1959 after having "repented his crimes against the Chinese people."

He died in 1966.



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NEXT MEETING: The next meeting, on May 27th, 1975, will feature a talk by John Munro-Cape on the Coins of Great Britain, including a slide program.

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<sup>1</sup>John Allan, M.A., F.S.A., Catalogue of the Coins of Ancient India (Oxford: Trustees of the British Museum, 1967), xiv.

<sup>2</sup>L. R. Laing, Coins and Archaeology (London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1969)

<sup>3</sup>John Allan, op. cit., xv.

<sup>4</sup>Thomas E. Mowery, One Cash Coins of China's Manchu Dynasty, 1644-1911, (Fortmeyer and Lang, St. Paul, 1972), p. 28.



SOVIETS FIND ANCIENT GOLD BARS -- Toronto Star, May 1, 1975, p. B6.

SCOW (UPI) -- Soviet archeologists have unearthed a treasure they believe was the gold reserve of the Kushan Kingdom, which flourished in Central Asia between the third and first centuries before Christ, Tass news agency said yesterday.

The discovery consists of marked gold bars weighing 110 pounds.

Tass said the gold bars bore Greek inscriptions indicating weight and monetary units and markings in Kharoshti characters -- a north Indian alphabet with an Aramaean basis -- giving the amount of metal in each bar.

DONATIONS to the club have very generously been made by James E. Charlton, Lily Ditching, Murray Baigent and John Dewyze, to whom we extend our thanks. The club is also the grateful recipient of an Elliott addressing machine, and a sizeable quantity of paper plates for the same, donated by All Soul's Anglican Church of Willowdale. This machine should save your editor a good deal of time and writer's cramp in addressing envelopes for the mailing of the club bulletin.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: The club, in order to increase membership, is instituting an award whereby the member who signs up the greatest number of new members each year will hold the following year's membership at no cost. The winner, therefore, will have his dues for one year paid by the club.

Readers are also reminded that there are some of you who have still not paid the 1975 membership dues. If you are among these, this will probably be your last bulletin, unless, of course, you pay them to the club Treasurer in the near future.

ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY: The President is happy to announce the appointment, with the executive's approval, of Miss Jean Orr as the club's Social Convenor. In this same vein, the club's annual garden party will be held at the President's home at 305 Spring Garden Avenue, Willowdale, from about 2:00 PM until evening, on Sunday, June 22, 1975. All members and their spouses are invited, and of course, the junior members are not to be left out. Please check the insert at the bottom of this page, and either give it to the receptionist at the May 27th meeting or return it to the club by mail no later than May 27th, in order to ensure that there will be enough food available on June 22nd (the club's address is on the masthead of this bulletin, p. 11). This will replace the regular meeting of the fourth Tuesday. Members who are coming to this June garden party are asked to bring, if possible, their own lawn chairs, as the President will almost certainly NOT have enough. Members' co-operation in this will be most appreciated.



Please return by May 27th, 1975

- YES, I will attend
- YES, I will bring my spouse

Total Num.

Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

JUNE 22nd, '75

**NYCC GARDEN PARTY**