

# 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: 6



MEMBER:  
THE CANADIAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION  
ONTARIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

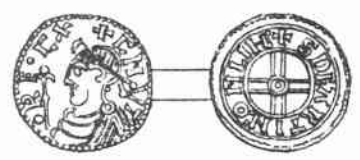
The May 27th, 1975, meeting of the N.Y.C.C. began with the announcement that Secretary Lucille Colson was in the hospital -- the club is sending her a basket of fruit with a card -- and Paul Johnson filled in for her at this time.

Fred Jewett, the club's delegate to the recent O.N.A. convention, reported on that event, having been "extremely favourably impressed." He mentioned that the association is in a healthy state in spite of rather low membership, and that it continues to provide a wide range of services. The show was very enjoyable, the hotel very comfortable. Mr. Jewett has been chosen as the club's delegate to the upcoming C.N.A. convention, too, with Rob Aaron as his alternate.

The executive has decided to revive the appointed office of Librarian, a post which has been vacant for some time. The idea is to add one more worker to the executive and at the same time enlist someone to store the club's incoming journals and books -- almost as an archivist -- without making necessary any constitutional changes. Several have either volunteered or been suggested for the post; the appointment will be made and announced at a later date.

The N.Y.C.C. executive, with the approval in principle by the club, has tentatively agreed to apply for the 1976 O.N.A. Convention, subject to the availability of hotel convention space.

The guest speaker, Mr. John Munro-Cape of Richmond Hill, gave an interesting survey of the "Coins of Great Britain." It was about 2,500 years ago that coins first began to circulate in the British Isles, tin from the South of England being not only a trade attraction, but the material for a speculum coinage -- a coinage either cast by the cire perdu (lost wax) method, or with wooden moulds or patterns, as a curious "grain" on their surfaces would suggest. In 55 B.C. came a Roman invasion; Roman coins became the circulating medium of the south-eastern corner of the British Isles, and Roman mints were established at both London and Colchester. Finally, however, barbarian influxes across the Roman frontiers forced an isolation of the Romano-British community, and Roman culture disappeared from the British Isles. For a time the only coins produced there were very crude, but Anglo-Saxon kingdoms in the last centuries of the first millennium improved the quality of English coins, and in the 10th century came the first "King of England."



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WILLIAM I

In 1066, with the invasion of William the Conqueror, French coins began to circulate in southern England for a while, but in time the situation was reversed, with English mints providing coins for "English" dominions on the French continent. This was probably the first time that this had happened, and the coins involved were of rather good quality. In 1327, Edward III, a later Norman king, held the titles "King of England, France, Aquitaine and Ireland;" while Mary, "Queen of England, France and Spain," lost England's French possessions except the Channel Islands. Still, her successors until the reign of George III (when Napoleon objected) continued claims to France in their titles. Scotland was added with the

accession of James I, and under his reign well struck, nice looking hammered coinage was produced. After civil war and the execution of Charles I, the Commonwealth of England (not "Britain") issued more hammered coins; and when monarchy was re-established under Charles II his title was "King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland"

Milled coins had appeared in Italy with attempts of the late 16th century, and in the mid-17th century came to England; it was Charles II who had the old hammered coins recalled for replacement by milled coins: coins produced in a screw press and not struck with a hammer.

In the mid-18th century, the Industrial Revolution had further possibilities for coin production, and the steam engine was applied to British coin production. The Soho Mint (Heaton, Birmingham) and Matthew Boulton took a government contract for coinage, and by 1797 minting had become fully automated.

These were the first self-acclaimed British coins, since George III had now taken the title Britanniarum Rex. The new coins were also unusual in that, due to much debasement and forgery, an Act of Parliament allowed for full value "cartwheel" copper coins, with a one ounce penny and two ounce two pence.

Since that time have come many patterns and attempts at decimalization (finally adopted February, 1971) of British currency, while at the same time Ireland began its own coinage in 1921, and Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Man, and Isle of Lundy have produced their own coins. "What's a coin of Great Britain?" asks Mr. Munro-Cape, "I don't know still."

President Stan Clute thanked the speaker and gave him on behalf of the club a one year Honourary Membership, a practice which will be continued at future meetings.



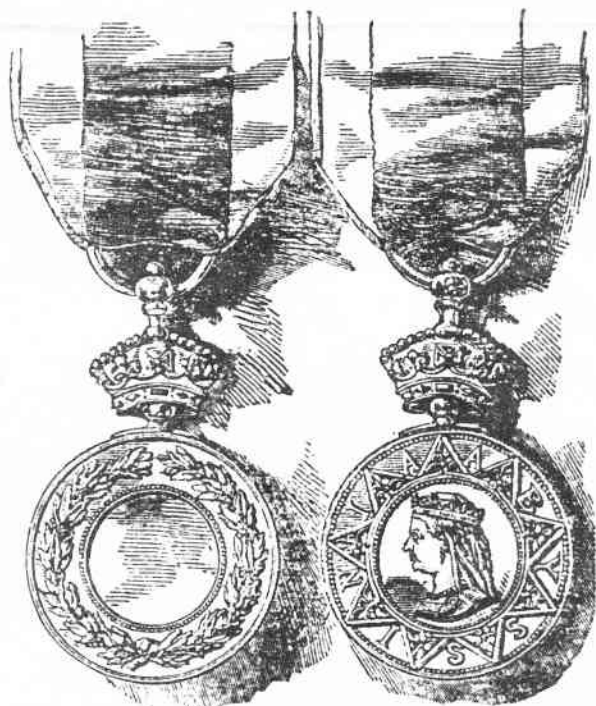
#### COMING EVENTS:

- 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: C. & D.N.A., P.O. Box 565, Collingwood, Ontario. 10 AM - 6 PM.
- 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 - (New date to be announced) Huronia N.A. show: Bayfield Street North, Barrie, Ontario. Information: P.O. Box 243, Barrie, Ont., L4M 4T2.
- October 7 - London N.S. annual banquet: St. George Presbyterian Church Hall, London, Ontario. Tickets: \$3.50.
- October 25 - St. Catharines C.C. show and banquet: Westminster Church Parish Hall, Queenston Street. Information: Stan Aaroe, 7 Rivercrest Drive, St. Catharines, Ontario.
- October 16-19 - Torex/O.N.A. Joint Fall Convention: C.N.E. grounds, Toronto. Information: Torex '75, 347 Bay Street, Suite 1000, Toronto, Ontario.
- October 26 - Tillsonburg C.C. show and banquet: Orange Hall, 12 Noon - 6 PM. Information: Mrs. C. McArthur, 11 Wolf Street, Tillsonburg, Ont., N4G 1S2.
- FEBRUARY 28, 1976 - N.Y.C.C. annual show, including one-session auction by Frank Rose Enterprises.

**NEW MEMBERS** to the club include Frank Dennis of Willowdale, John Regitko of Toronto, Glen Lappin (a junior) and Terry Moran (a junior introduced by Mr. F. Jewett) both of Willowdale. Applying for membership are Mr. Jack Veffer (introduced by Mr. J. Regitko), and Mr. Jeffrey M. Jacobs, both of Toronto. Mr. John Munro-Cape of Richmond Hill has been given one year Honourary Membership.

#### THE ABYSSINIAN WAR MEDAL.

The Royal Mint has lately been engaged in striking 20,000 medals for the troops and others employed in the late Abyssinian campaign. We give an illustration of the design. The obverse comprises the head of her Majesty, shown on a plain field. The Queen's brow is encircled by a diadem of rich workmanship, from beneath which a veil falls in graceful folds down to the shoulder, which is partly represented. Circles of jewels encompass the Queen's neck, and the bust is placed within an inner ring slightly raised, and engraved, or dotted, on its inner circumference. On the outside of this ring or frame for the Royal portrait is a series of nine vandykes, their apexes touching the outer and protecting edge, which also is finely engraved. The pyramidal form of the floreated vandykes gives a



THE ABYSSINIAN WAR MEDAL.

starlike appearance to the design. The legend is very simple, being comprised in the one word "Abyssinia." The letters are placed between the vandykes, and therefore at some distance from each other. The reverse consists of an admirably-executed wreath of laurel leaves, united at the base by a ribbon, and placed between the protecting edge and an engraved inner ring. Contrary to the ordinary practice of imprinting the name of the recipient and his rank or title on the edge of the medal, the field or surface of the disc will bear that inscription in the present instance. Thus the recipient's name will be encompassed by laurels, and made patent to all observers, like the words "one shilling" on a coin of that denomination. The medal is of silver slightly finer than standard, its diameter being 1½ in., its weight ¾ oz., and its intrinsic value 3s. 10½d. It was impossible to avoid a delay of two or three months before the Abyssinian medals could be lettered, clasped, ribboned and made ready for distribution. Every medal has had to be twice or thrice struck between the dies before completion. Messrs. Wyon, of Regent-street, designed the medal, which was approved by Mr. Owen Jones; and Messrs. Wyon also engraved the dies.

#### U. S. FIVE CENT PIECES OF 1866.

1. Obv. Shield, &c.; close date. Rev. 5 in a circle of stars and rays. This is the regular coinage of the year.
2. Same obv. Rev. 5 in a circle of stars only, as adopted in 1867.
3. Same obv. Rev. 5 in a close wreath of olive.
4. Similar obv., with divided date. Rev. As 1.
5. Same obv. Rev. As 3.
6. Same obv. Rev. 5 in a very peculiar loose wreath of olive.
7. Obv. Head of Washington; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Rev. 5 CENTS in a wreath of olive.
8. Obv. Head of Washington; IN GOD WE TRUST. Rev. As 1.
9. Same obv. Rev. As 3.
10. Same obv. Rev. As 6.
11. Obv. Head of Washington; GOD AND OUR COUNTRY. Rev. As 6.
12. Obv. of 1 muled with rev. of 7, reading, IN GOD WE TRUST, on both sides.

How near does this come to a complete list of these pieces? And how many more are there? From the number of obverses and reverses it is possible that there are more than twice this number, and what others were struck? The catalogue of the "Fewsmith Cabinet" has a long list of these pieces, but it is very incomprehensible without them before one. Any help in this matter will be gratefully received.

W. S. A.

-- American Journal of Numismatics,  
July, 1875, p. 19.

"The Abyssinian War Medal" comes from  
The Illustrated London News, 1869, p. 513.

I hope these historical reprints are of some interest to N.Y.C.C. members.

The **NEXT MEETING** and **GARDEN PARTY** of the N.Y.C.C. will be held Sunday, June 22, at the President's home, 305 Spring Garden Avenue, Willowdale, from about 2:00 PM until evening. Please bring lawn chairs, if possible.