



## News from the January 26, 1992 Meeting

The 370th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, January 26, 1992. The President, Ron Zelk, opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m. and welcomed 26 members and 2 guests. The on time attendance draw was missed by George Bickerton so the pot grows to \$6 for the next meeting. We were very much saddened to hear of the recent passing of Dr. Donald McIntyre and a moments silence was called in his memory. Harvey Farrow distributed copies of the 1992 Financial Report for review at this, the Annual Meeting. In response to the Chair's call for suggestions for the betterment of the club, Jack Veffer made an appeal for a special donation to the C.N.A. Jack explained that the C.N.A. is running at a deficit and that, as Chairman of a C.N.A. fund raising group, he was appealing to the North York Coin Club. This will appear as a business item at the next Executive meeting in March and the results will be brought back to the general membership.

The usual break of the evening was called early while Paul Johnson handled set up for a slide show. Thanks to Ted Boxall for being ready at a moments notice to serve the refreshments.

An auction of 5 lots was run by Bob Porter with the assistance of Basil Latham. It brought in \$11.25 to the club thanks to a donation by May Bunnett.

Lucky draw winners were Basil Latham, Brad Petch, Grant Monck, Edgar Stahl, Norman G. Gordon, Harvey Farrow, John Curtis, Bob Porter, May Bunnett and Roger Fox.

The meeting closed at 9:30 p.m.

## Canadian Gold Coinage

The members enjoyed a very fine CNA slide presentation prepared by the London Numismatic Society which reviewed all the gold coinage of Canada. It began with the discovery of gold in British Columbia in the mid 1850's and the fact that early miners had to take their gold out of the country to San Francisco for assaying. This situation was corrected in 1859 when an assay office was established at New Westminster. The first gold coins were the British Columbia \$10 and \$20 pieces engraved by Ferdinand Kuner and struck with the date 1862. Next came the Newfoundland \$2 gold piece of 1864. It was with the opening of the Royal Canadian Mint in 1908 that gold sovereign's became a part of the Canadian scene, featuring their distinctive "C" mint mark. This series continued until 1919. The first gold coins marked with "Canada" appeared in 1912 in \$5 and \$10

denominations. Their use was actually quite short-lived and they were suspended in 1914 with the Government's efforts to maintain tight control on gold with the start of World War I. It was not until 1967 and the \$20 centennial commemorative gold piece that Canada once again saw the actual production of a gold coin. The slide series then went on to document the series of commemorative collector coins which appeared in 1976 marking the 21st Olympiad and have continued annually to this day.

The slide series concluded with the comments: "The history of Canadian gold coins tells of an early need for a high value coin for trade and stability. Later, hundred dollar commemoratives issued by the Royal Canadian Mint had an attraction for many collectors for their design and the fact that they were issued in gold. The Canadian gold commemoratives are an interesting series, although not normally looked on as having great numismatic interest."

## Question-of-the-Month

The February question of the month will be answered by club old-timers or perhaps by our guest speaker himself: in what years did Stan Clute serve as President of the North York Coin Club?

The January question of the month was contributed by Frank Zahra. He asked "How many times has the Canadian 5 cent piece been changed since it was first issued in 1858?" The answer supplied by Frank lists:

1858-1921 Silver  
 1922-1936 Pure Nickel  
 1937-1942 Nickel Beaver  
 1942 Copper Zinc (12 sides)  
 1943 Copper Zinc V  
 1944-1945 Steel  
 1946-1950 Pure Nickel  
 1951 Commemorative  
 1951-1954 Steel  
 1955-1962 Nickel  
 1963-date Nickel (round)  
 1967 Centennial

If, however, you take the question a bit more literally and included all design changes on the obverse and reverse, including changes in metal and shape, you can actually identify a total of 26 changes. (By the way, Ted Boxall, who would be good at uncovering legal loopholes, noted that this count is out by one. He points out that the first coin produced in 1858 is the original style, and that this style was followed with 25 changes over the years... nice reasoning, Ted!)

## Coming Events

1. Torex, Feb. 27 10am-5pm & Feb 28 10am-3pm Pearson Ballroom, Primrose Hotel, 111 Carlton St.  
Info: Ingrid Smith (416) 586-0098
2. Peterborough Coin Club Show, March 27, 9:30am-5pm Portage Place Mall, Chemond Road  
Info: Colin Caldwell, RR 4 Peterborough (613) 742-0114
3. Hamilton Coin Club Semi Annual Show, April 3, 10am-4pm Royal Canadian Legion, Barton St., (across from Centre Mall) Hamilton  
Info: N. Kanerva (416) 335-9444
4. Ontario Numismatic Association 31st Convention Show and Sale April 16-18, College Inn, Stone Rd. & Gordon Street, Guelph  
Info: ONA Box 33, Waterloo, ON N2J 3Z6
5. North York Coin Club Show, Saturday, October 2, 10am-5pm, Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive, North York, FREE ADMISSION