



Member
Canadian Numismatic Association
Ontario Numismatic Association

North York Coin Club

Founded 1960

MONTHLY MEETINGS 4TH Tuesday 8 P.M. AT
Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive, North York

MAIL ADDRESS: NORTH YORK COIN CLUB, P.O. BOX 58508 Corner Plaza P.O.
197 Sheppard Avenue East, North York, Ontario, M2N 6R7

Executive Committee

President..... Ron Zeik	Director..... Ted Boxall	Receptionist..... Basil Latham
1st Vice President... Paul Petch	Director..... Paul Johnson	Social Convenor.. Ted Boxall
2nd Vice President.. Bob Porter	Director..... Basil Latham	Librarian..... Jim Heifetz
Secretary..... Lucille Colson	Junior Director.. open	Program Director.. open
Treasurer..... Harvey Farrow	Auctioneer..... Bob Porter	Past President.... Harvey Farrow
	Editor..... Paul Petch	

* * It's Meeting 400 * *

The 400th meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on Tuesday, October 24, 1995 at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive. We are fortunate to have long-time North York Coin Club member Mr. Al Bliman as our special guest speaker for this meeting. His current intensive-research project is on the subject of Nevada Casino Chips and Gaming Pieces and he will sharing his knowledge on this area of specialized collecting. Al Bliman is a Past President of the Canadian Numismatic Association, the Canadian Paper Money Society, was involved in Torex during the 1970's and early 1980's, was the Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Numismatic Dealers and has served on the executive of local clubs for many years. As the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Donald B. Thomas Memorial Foundation he took great satisfaction in assisting youngsters get a start in coin collecting and in continuing in the hobby. He received the 1980 Royal Canadian Mint Educational Award and medal and continues to rate research and education as the most important aspects of our hobby. We hope you can join us for this very special talk on the occasion of our 400th meeting.

President's Message

A reminder goes out to all the Executive Committee members that our next meeting is Thursday, November 9. Please mark your calendars!

Coming Events

1. Durham Coin '95, October 21, 10am-5pm, Sponsored by the Oshawa and District Coin Club, at the Pickering Town Centre, free admission
Info: Earl or Sharon MacLean, Oshawa Centre P.O. Box 30557, Oshawa, L1J 8L8
2. Scarborough Coin Club Celebrates Coin Week Canada, October 22-28, 9:30am-4pm, Cedarbrae Mall -- Club members will be on hand to answer questions and promote collecting
3. Burlington International Coin Show, October 28, 9am-4pm, Mainway Rec Centre, Walkers Line & Mainway (north of QEW), Burlington
Info: Nancy Kanerva, (905) 319-3817
4. Torex Show, October 28 10am-5pm and October 29 10am-3pm, Primrose Hotel, 111 Carlton Street, Toronto
Info: Ingrid K. Smith, (416) 260-9070
5. Stratford Coin Club 33rd Annual Show and Bourse, October 29, 9:30am-4:30pm, Kiwanis Community Centre, Lakeside Drive.
Info: Ken Wilmot, Stratford Coin Club, RPO Box 21031, Stratford, N5A 7V4
6. Waterloo Coin Society 1995 Show, November 18, 10am-5pm, The Rink in the park, Seagram drive, Waterloo
Info: Don Robb, 265 Westcours Place, PH3, Waterloo, N2L 6E4 Phone 1-519-888-9655

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 24

News from the September 26, 1995 Meeting

The 399th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, September 26, 1995. The President, Ron Zelk, opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m. and welcomed 19 members. The on time attendance draw was missed by Glen Williams so the prize grows to \$4 for the October meeting. Remember, all you have to do is be in attendance when your name is drawn in order to win the pot!

The President made mention of the Annual Show held on September 23 observing that we had a turn out of 89 members and visitors. This number is up from last year but is down from two years ago. Roger Fox thanked the Club on behalf of the Canadian Tire Paper Money collectors for allowing them to hold a meeting during the show. All bourse tables were sold and an overall profit was made.

John Regitko reported on the unveiling of the new \$2 coin at the Metro Zoo on September 21. He received an invitation and was representing organized Canadian numismatics at the event. The mint had received over 19,000 unsolicited suggestions for a design for the new denomination, but in the end contracted with Trent Townsend to prepare the design. The use of a wildlife theme was in response to a poll which showed 64% of those surveyed were in support. The Polar Bear design now joins the beaver, caribou and 1967 menagerie in depicting wildlife on circulating coins. The economic justification for switching from paper to coin are projected savings of \$280... this based on a one year life span for paper \$2 notes but a 20 life span for the coin. While the coin will be more expensive to make, the extra years of use will make it a money saver.

Paul Johnson announced that since the CNA/NESA Correspondence Course was released two months ago, over 125 people have registered in the Course. He also reported that an invitation has been received from the ANA to teach the course over a one-week period during the summer of 1996 at their headquarters in Colorado Springs.

Rick Craig presented an outstanding paper which summarized the adventure, history and satisfaction in collecting the Canadian Colonial Token series. Besides the paper, he allowed nicely grouped specimens from his collection to be passed around among the members. His

concluding point, "part of the fun is the search", reminded everyone that knowledge and luck as well as a budget are necessary to assemble a comprehensive and worthwhile collection. Rick was thanked by Ron Zelk on behalf of the members. His paper is presented as a supplement to this issue of the bulletin.

We once again extend our thanks to Ted Boxall for organizing and providing refreshments at the break.

The lucky draw winners were Norman G. Gordon(2), Paul Johnson(3), Russ Brown, Bob Porter, Roger Fox, Italo Vilella, Dick Dunn, Harvey Farrow, Rick Craig and Ben Walters. An auction of six lots was run by Bob Porter with assistance from Ron Zelk.

The meeting closed at 9:35 p.m.

Congratulations to...

Congratulations are extended to long-time member Carl Anderson who was written up in Hydro Lines, the North York Hydro news. He has been awarded the Spence Vanderlinden Public Official Award for 1995 by the American Public Power Association for his service to the industry. He is the first Canadian to receive this honour. He has recently been appointed to the Board of Directors of Ontario Hydro.

Question of the Month

Since it seems the new \$2 coin is on everyone's mind, let's have a good two-parter question on the subject: where has the \$2 coin denomination been used in British North America in the past and, in a lighter vein, what do you think the popular name of the piece will end up being?

The question from September asked members to define those pieces that have been described as "Borderline Tokens". Rick Craig did a fine job of describing them as pieces that are not 100% Canadian, had a fairly limited circulation during the early 1800's and were imported from the U.S. or Britain by banks, merchants or even individuals. Twenty-eight of these pieces are listed in the article "Canadian Boarderline Tokens" in the September, 1995, CNA Journal. This article by Fred Bowman is reprinted from the September, 1966, issue.

We hope to see you at the meeting

An Overview of Collecting Canadian Colonization Tokens

by Rick M. Craig

During the colonization period of Canada's history there was no official policy by either France or England to provide an expanding economy with any form of uniform currency like that which we take for granted today. Severe shortages of money for everyday trade were the order of the day.

To illustrate how serious this was one can look simply at what passed for money early in Canada's economic development. During the French Regime from the early 1600's the beaver pelt was the first widely accepted means of trade, namely our first money. A crude progression it may seem, but wampum was the next step.

Wampum was used as legal tender until 1670 by both settlers and native peoples and its use continued by the Indians long afterwards into the late 1700's.

Later, in the French period, playing-card money and jetons made for the colonies filled the need temporarily. French Canadian colonial tokens include some of the above metallic issues including the sol, the livre and the ecu, but here we are primarily interested in the flower of the colonial token issuing period -- from about 1813 to the 1890's.

The main classification of types of tokens issued are much the same as for those of other countries to do so earlier in Europe.

- 1) issues by merchants, manufacturer's, etc. which usually are of good weight for a shown value and usually have a name and address.
- 2) similar issues, but with no stated value -- a kind of advertising card with an accepted value understood in the then-prevailing economy. These were sometimes commemorative or political in theme.
- 3) tokens issued by private individuals -- a modern-day business card often meant as gifts to friends or customers
- 4) Regal and semi-regal pieces ordered or approved by an official government agency here or in England. This is the are most closely outlined in this article.
- 5) Forgeries, evasions and counterfeits.

The first Dominion of Canada coins were issued in 1870. The 1858 and 1859 pieces we think of as Canada's were issued for the Province of Canada (the union of Upper and Lower Canada). The point being that they were not then official in other parts of what later became Canada as a whole.

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A basic chronology of colonial token issues starts with Nova Scotia, the first colony to issue regular coinage in about 1814. In 1823 the Nova Scotia thistle series appeared with George IV as an obverse theme and a thistle design on the reverse. Thistles were made in 1824 and 1832 as well. Remarkably, the 1832 issue still bore an outdated portrait of George IV, although King William has reigned for two years.

Thistle tokens were ordered by the Nova Scotia government without the approval of the British government. Therefore, they are semi-regal. There is a large series of counterfeits of this type which are collected in their own right.

In 1856 Nova Scotia produced a new token design which had British approval -- the Mayflower 1/2p and 1p regal coinage. Some numismatic writers have called these the most beautiful designed coinage produced in Canada.

A similar situation occurred in New Brunswick. Frigate tokens of 1/2p and 1p were issued as semi-regal in 1843, but by 1854 an officially recognized version of the frigate design was created with the word "currency" replacing the word "token" to indicate regal status.

Prince Edward Island is attributed with the second most extensive series of tokens -- the (thought of as common) Ships Colonies and Commerce 1/2p series from the late 1830's to about 1860. Over fifty varieties are listed by Lees numbers and nice examples of the scarcer ones are a challenge to locate.

A private P.E.I. issue by James Duncan in 1855 is the first Canadian piece to use the word cent -- the first Canadian decimal.

The most readily available Newfoundland tokens were made by four brothers from England who set up as merchants in St. Johns and in Harbour Grace. These are the Rutherford 1/2p's of 1840-1846.



1837 gave rise to the Lower Canada Rebellion and an attractive token design which led to the un sou and Bouquet sous series -- the most extensive of all Canadian tokens by type.

Another important design type was issued also in 1837 by the political establishment part of the rebellion era. There is a nice, short very collectible series that starts with these tokens which feature a French Canadian Habitant on the obverse and the arms of the city of Montreal on the reverse. The 1/2p and 1p versions were made by the City Bank, the Quebec Bank, the Banque du Peuple and the Bank of Montreal.

In 1838 ad 1839 the Bank of Montreal ordered a new design to replace the Habitant's. These were the scarce side-view tokens -- scarce because the bank official who ordered them didn't like the quality when he saw them and returned the issues of both years to the minters in England. Most were melted. The phrase "side-view" is used to describe the three-corner view of the bank building used on the obverse. Popular conjecture has it that the lack of detail in the trees caused the rejection.



Upper and Lower Canada merged in 1842 into the Province of Canada and the Bank of Montreal needed a new token. Thus, the third in the series, the front-view tokens of 1842-1845 were born. Front-view because of the two-corner view of the bank building. These were fully accepted and the largest issue to that time.

The Quebec Bank issued their versions of the habitant obverse in 1852 with a new reverse. The Bank of Upper Canada followed with the common St. George design issue through 1857.

Throughout this entire time individual private issues were made -- too many to list here. For example: Molsons' made a popular piece; Hudson's Bay Co. made a very interesting and diverse series covering different geographic locations of their outposts. Thomas Church both designed and personally struck a long series of tokens including personal and collectible commemorative types. The list of collectable topics is quite daunting to either the generalist or specialist.

Token mintages range from less than one hundred to larger issues of 400-500 thousand. Almost all quite low relative to our expectations in the decimal world. The grading of these tokens also differs from that of modern decimals in some cases to allow for inferior dies and striking methods.

Collecting this material combines a greater relative scarcity than decimals with a greater variety of design and themes. In doing so, a collector not only gains a good picture of the evolution of our coinage, but the development of the country itself from earliest times.

The challenge in token collecting is two-fold -- finding the piece you need can be more difficult than the scarcest decimals, and the reverse may apply -- encountering a token not known to you, and trying to attribute it to a time, place and issuer. Great fun!

In closing, Canada is a very young country. There is more history before Confederation than since 1867. If it can be said that Canada came into being as an economic entity in the early 1700's, then while there may be those here who do not like the analogy, Canada's ancient money is our current decimal system, leaving the above discussed tokens as Canada's mediaeval coinage.

Illustrations from Breton

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