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## A NUMISMATIC PROFILE: THOMAS LINDSAY ELDER

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on Tuesday, April 22, 1997, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive.

For this meeting we are pleased to present a talk from member Rick Craig on Mr. Thomas Lindsay Elder, one of the top coin dealers, auctioneers, authors and numismatists of the early 20th century. Rick has done a fine job of bringing together a wide variety of background information from many sources to build a profile of this interesting gentleman. We hope you will be able to join us for what promises to be a most worthwhile presentation.

**“The Bulletin”**  
**April, 1997**

**Coming  
Events  
from**



**O.N.A. Convention** April 18-20, at the Ramada Inn, Windsor, ON. Hours: Sat. 10a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsored by the WINDSOR COIN CLUB. For more information contact S. J. Coblentz at 500 Elinor, Windsor, Ontario N8P 1E4, or Ron Binder at (519) 254-6855.

**Pembroke Centennial Coin Club Annual Coin Show** April 26, 10am-4pm at the Pembroke Mall, 1100 Pembroke Street, East, FREE ADMISSION Contact Glenda McKenzie (613) 646-2775

**Peterborough Coin Club Show** May 3, 9am-5pm Portage Place, Chemong Road, FREE ADMISSION Contact Evelyn Robinson (705) 745-5050

**Burlington International Spring Coin Show** May 10, 9am-4pm Brant Hills Community Centre, 2300 Duncaster Dr. (between Upper Middle Rd. and Hwy. 5) FREE ADMISSION Contact Nancy Kanerva (905) 319-3817

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### President's Message

It comes as a shock and we are filled with sadness to report that Mr. Jack Veffer, prominent Canadian numismatist and North York Coin Club member passed away while on vacation at the end of March. Jack was the author of one of the most important books in the annals of Canadian numismatics, *My 2 CENTS WORTH*. Important because it isn't so much a book about coins as the interesting people who collect coins. He specialized in bringing intelligence, insight and wit to the hobby. He will be missed by the many who knew him.

Need to contact the President? Phone calls are welcome at **416-745-3067** (leave a voice mail message if you can't get through in person) and e-mail may be sent to [petchp@ican.net](mailto:petchp@ican.net).

### Question of the Month

For April, we have a question that leads to a very interesting story. Do you know of a time when nickels were being passed off as \$5 coins? This wasn't a situation of making do: this was taken by the perpetrators as an opportunity for fraud. Do a little research and share your answer at the April meeting.

For March we asked you to find out "what is chloroform's connection with numismatics?" Our answer was supplied by Dr. Marvin Kay at the March meeting. See his complete *Chloroform* article on Page 2.

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***Next Meeting:  
April 22***

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## Meeting News from the March 25 Meeting

The 415th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, March 25, 1997, at the Edithvale Community Centre. The President, Paul Petch, opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m. and welcomed the 23 members and 1 guest present.

Carl Anderson was not present to collect the \$2 pot so the on time attendance draw grows to \$4 for the April meeting. With Secretary Lucille Colson absent, the Chair read the February minutes and Bob Porter volunteered to take the minutes. Thanks, Bob! And, Treasurer Harvey Farrow was also absent, so our thanks go to Basil Latham for sitting in.

It was unanimously decided by the members present to give the North York Coin Club vote for ONA President to Harvey Farrow. Marvin Kay will represent the Club as its delegate to the ONA Convention. The President reported that a Certificate was received for the Club's efforts during 1996 Canada Coin Week.

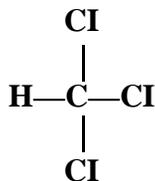
The programme for the evening was introduced by Paul Johnson. Entitled "Our Changing Canadian Currency", it was an excellent overview of Canadian Numismatics consisting of slides and commentary prepared by Ted Leitch. Paul Petch read the commentary.

The lucky draw was conducted by Al Bliman. Congratulations to lucky winners Dion Van Latham(2); Ted Boxall; Paul Petch; Dick Dunn; Bob Porter; Russell Brown; Italo Vilella(2) and Norman G. Gordon. Thanks also to auctioneer Bob Porter for conducting the auction.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

**Please...  
Contribute an article  
to *The Bulletin***

## CHLOROFORM by Marvin Kay, M.D.



**CHLOROFORM** —  $\text{CHCl}_3$  — trichloromethane; a colourless, volatile liquid; a strong anesthetic, anodyne and antispasmodic.

"But what", you might ask, "is the connection with numismatics?"

In my collection of 'Medicina in Nummis', I have a bank note and a medal that have a relevance with this early anesthetic agent.

First of all, here is the story of the bank note.....

It was 150 years ago, in 1847, that Justus von Liebig, a German chemist discovered chloroform, as well as many other organic compounds. Liebig was born in Darmstadt, Germany, in 1803. He became a Professor of Chemistry at the University of Giessen. Liebig also left his imprint on pediatrics through the nutritious malt soup he prepared for infants and children. Liebig's malt soup was a favourite nutritional supplement during the 1920's and 1930's.

Liebig is honoured on one of his country's bank notes, the 100 reichsmark dated June 24, 1935 (Pick #183). The note measures 180x90 mm. Liebig is depicted on the obverse, in a circle to the right. He is also visible in the watermark to the left. On the reverse, we see two casually draped female figures sitting on either side of a classical bust of a male athlete with a torch.

Chloroform has another numismatic connection. It concerns Dr. John Snow (1813-1858), a noted British epidemiologist and anesthesiologist.

He pioneered the use of chloroform (and ether) anesthesia in Britain. But these agents never became popular with physicians or patients until Dr. Snow used them to assist Queen Victoria with her deliveries. Snow first used ether to help her deliver her son, Prince Leopold, in 1853. And then he administered chloroform when she delivered Princess Beatrice in 1857. Chloroform and ether were both found to have undesirable side-effects and have since been replaced by much safer inhalation anesthetic agents.

Here is a medal honouring Dr. John Snow. It was produced by the Presidential Art Medals company of Ohio as part of the Great Men of Medicine series. It is bronze, 45 mm in diameter. The obverse shows a bust of Snow with his name and dates (1815-1858). Below is the word 'Epidemiologist', that specialty of medicine where he was better known. The reverse has the words 'Cholera - 1849 - London'. It also shows a street scene, with many ill people lying around. Dr. Snow was instrumental in halting the cholera epidemic which was raging through London at that time.

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**MEDICINA IN NUMMIS:****JOHN McLOUGHLIN -- CANADIAN PHYSICIAN** by RICHARD L. GOLDEN, M.D.

(Editor's Note: This article is reprinted from the December, 1976, issue of the C.N.A. Journal. Thanks to member Dr. Marvin Kay for suggesting it.)

Dr. John McLoughlin's portrait appears on the obverse of the Fort Vancouver Centennial commemorative half dollar of the United States minted in 1926. This coin is of special interest to both Canadian and American numismatists because of McLoughlin's major contributions to the history and development of both nations as well as being a unique example of a physician in Canadian and American coinage.

John McLoughlin was born in 1784 of French, Irish and Scottish stock, in the parish of Riviere de Loup, Lower Canada. At the age of 14 he was apprenticed to a Quebec doctor and is said to have later pursued his medical studies in Paris and Edinburgh. He practiced medicine in Montreal and later, at the age of 19, entered the service of the North West Company at Fort William on Lake Superior as an apprentice surgeon. McLoughlin soon departed from the formal practice of medicine and became an active fur trader. During this period, he became the father of a half-breed son Joseph. Shortly thereafter, at the age of 27, he entered into a union with Marguerite Wadon McKay, the daughter of a Swiss trader, a Cree Indian mother and the widow of Alexander McKay, a fur trader. He adopted McKay's children and set an example of marital fidelity for those in his employ who had taken Indian wives.

In 1814, at the age of thirty, McLoughlin became a full partner in the North West Company. He was involved in the violent competition with the Hudson Bay Company in the Red River country and was sent to London in 1821 as one of the representatives of the North West Company. As a result of these negotiations, the company was absorbed by the Hudson Bay Company. McLoughlin returned to Canada as a Chief Factor (a shareholding partner) in the expanded company and was placed in command of

the trading post at Lac La Pluie. His success in this post led to his appointment as Chief Factor of the Columbia River District, and in 1824 he embarked on the journey which was to leave an indelible mark on the history of the Northwest. John McLoughlin was almost forty when he arrived on the Columbia River at Fort George. He was a huge man, broad shouldered, big handed and towering six feet four inches in height. From his prematurely white hair came the Indian title of "White Eagle". He was later known as the "Great White Chief". A not sympathetic contemporary described him thus: "He was such a figure as I would not like to meet on a dark night in one of the bye lanes of the neighborhood of London, dressed in clothes that had once been fashionable, but now covered with a thousand patches of different colors, his beard would do honor to the chin of a Grizzly Bear, his face and hands evidently showing that he had not lost much time at his Toilette, loaded with arms and his own Herculean dimensions forming a tout ensemble that would convey a good idea of the highway men of former days." His character was a melange of contrasts - autocratic, at times tyrannical; given to violent prejudices and quick temper; and yet a man of impulsive generosity; an able administrator of strict honor and integrity; a good hearted and pleasant companion.

In 1825, McLoughlin left Fort George and founded Fort Vancouver in the name of King George IV. The name was chosen to point up British territorial claims based on the first explorations of the area under the orders of Captain George Vancouver (who gave his name to Vancouver, B.C., Vancouver Island and Vancouver, Washington) Under his leadership, Fort Vancouver became the nucleus of civilization and authority of the Empire, through the Hudson Bay Company. Cultivation and settlement of the land of Old Oregon was begun. From this territory the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and part of Montana were later formed. Over the next twenty

years, he expanded trade, explored the territory, encouraged agriculture, established law and order and created new trading posts and settlements over a far flung area. Many of these were populated by the aged voyageurs of the Hudson Bay Company seeking a haven. Oregon City had its beginning in this way. The Hudson Bay Company under McLoughlin exerted moral leadership in prohibiting the use of liquor as an article of trade and assisted in the work of missionaries among the Indians. Trade flourished and a fleet of vessels grew which sailed between Fort Vancouver and San Francisco, and the Russian posts in Alaska. There was overseas trade as well with China. As the autocratic ruler of the Northwest territory, he truly merited the title of "The King of Old Oregon". On occasion, as the territory's only physician, he exercised his medical skills for those in need.

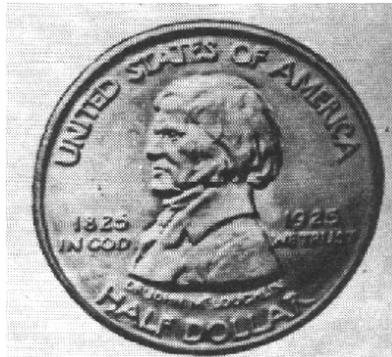
American trappers and settlers expanded rapidly into the Oregon territory during this period, engendering increasing hostility to the Treaty of 1818 under the terms of which the United States and Great Britain agreed to joint occupancy. McLoughlin aided many of these distressed immigrants with supplies and medical help, often from his own funds. In 1838, he traveled to London to discuss the deteriorating situation with his superiors; returning home in 1839. In 1843, a provisional government was established by the American settlers and in 1845, as a result of increasing pressures, McLoughlin placed the Company's forts and farms under its jurisdiction. In the presidential campaign of 1844, the Oregon question was a burning issue and Polk was elected on a slogan of "54 - 50 or fight". Ultimately, moderation prevailed on both sides and the Treaty of Oregon was signed in 1846, extending the boundary lines along the 49th parallel and securing Vancouver Island for Great Britain. Following this event, McLoughlin resigned his position with the Hudson Bay Company in 1846 and retired to Oregon City where he became an American Citizen in 1849. John

McLoughlin died in 1857 at the age of 73.

In 1925, a United States half dollar was issued commemorating the centennial of the founding of Fort Vancouver (now Vancouver, Washington). The obverse portrays a bust of Dr. John McLoughlin and the dates 1825, 1925. The reverse shows a frontiersman, in buckskin, holding a musket. In the foreground, Fort Vancouver is pictured with a mountain peak in the background. The inscription reads "Fort Vancouver Centennial", and below, "Vancouver, Washington. Founded .1825 . By . Hudson's Bay Company." A total mintage of 50,028 was coined of which 35,034 were melted inasmuch as little interest was shown in the coin. This left a net mintage of 14,994. The coins originated from the San Francisco mint, but the S mintmark was omitted. The designer was Laura Gardin Fraser and her initials appear on the reverse below the right side of the stockade.

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Fort Vancouver Centennial Half Dollar  
Obverse



Fort Vancouver Centennial Half Dollar  
Reverse

## HAIDA GOLD COIN WINS BEST COIN AWARD AT THE SINGAPORE COIN SHOW

OTTAWA - APRIL 4, 1997 -- The Royal Canadian Mint announced today, that the 1997 22-karat Haida Gold Coin featuring a contemporary native design of the Raven, was voted "Best Minted" Coin at the Singapore International Coin Show.

The 1997 \$200 22 karat gold coin is the premiere coin of a new series celebrating Canadian native art. It depicts The "Raven Bringing Light to the World," a beautiful example of Haida totemic art by British Columbia-based artist Robert Davidson.

"Singaporians confirmed this is one of our best Canadian coin designs", said Danielle Wetherup, Master of the Royal Canadian Mint, "The Royal Canadian

Mint has an international reputation for fine craftsmanship and innovation in coin production that is unparalleled in the world. The art of the coin has never been more breathtaking".

Every year the prestigious Singapore International Coin Show, which gathers coin dealers, distributors and Mints from around the world, invites thousands of visitors at the show to choose which coin they consider the best.

Each coin is appraised according to its theme and its interpretation, the level of intricacy involved in the production of the coin, the packaging and overall quality of the coin. This year, more than 12,000 coin experts attending the coin

show voted for the Haida coin amongst 11 entries from around the world.

The Haida coin is produced in a limited mintage of 25,000 world-wide and has a face value of \$200 Canadian. The obverse side of the coin features the effigy of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Each coin is accompanied by an individually numbered certificate of authenticity.

*The piece was the subject of an article in the February Club Bulletin. It is a pity that with a retail price of \$414.95 it is out of reach to many collectors.*

*This article is reproduced from a Royal Canadian Mint press release.*

**A.R.R.C.: The Money of America's Communist Experiment** by Ted Boxall

The first few years of President Roosevelt's New Deal saw many departures from the norm of the 1930's. Not the least was the Federal Emergency Relief Administration plan to transplant 100 distressed farmers from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan to the wilds of Alaska for an experiment in Communal Living.

The plan called for participants to be selected from those farmers with Scandinavian backgrounds. They had a reputation for hard work and were acclimated to cold climates. Each of the 200 families that were involved received an advance of a \$3,000 loan to build their homes, clear their land and tide them over until their first crops. Though the crop was to belong to the cooperative, all were to share equally in the distribution of the profits. The settlers had to purchase all their necessities from their own cooperative commissary.

The site of the government experiment was a 140,000-acre fertile valley called the Matanuska, a small port town 35 miles from Anchorage. There were problems from the beginning. A federal investigation was instigated in answer to complaints of settlers substantiated their claims of mismanagement of the commissary, of exorbitant prices and inadequate preparations.

The advance force of laborers recruited to build the homes for the settlers arrived simultaneously with the first settlers. But far more serious was the government's findings that the commissary's accounting system was in

disarray.

The commune was without a circulating medium of exchange. All the transactions were bookkeeping credits and debits. It was found that prices were not only exorbitant, but in some cases settlers were billed for merchandise never ordered or received.

The investigator's first act was to require sales slips to be issued by the government for Matanuska Valley. In 1936, the following year, a unique but unimaginatively designed coinage was first issued for the Matanuska Valley.

It was as utilitarian as a currency could be. Both sides were the same. The values were expressed in Arabic numerals in the center and repeated in words around the outside. The "coins" carried the initials "A.R.R.C." for the official name of the cooperative -- the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation. Denominations ranged from one cent to one dollar and include 5¢, 10¢, 25¢ and 50¢ pieces, all in aluminum. In addition there were five and ten dollar coins in brass. With the exception of the one-cent pieces all the aluminum pieces matched the size and shape of their legal tender coins. Since the cent was the

same color as the others and between the nickel and the dime in size, it was struck on an octagonal planchet to avoid confusion.

Each family received a monthly allowance in this currency in return for services to the community. Though everything in the commissary was valued in dollars and cents, only the tokens were accepted as money. They were soon dubbed "bingles" by poker-playing members of the commune, a name that stuck to this day. When the special money gained acceptance



outside the Community in nearby Palmer, the government ceased issuing it and the end of 1936 marked the end of the money issued for America's Communist experiment.

This article was developed from notes by Jay White of Anchorage, Alaska.

**Further to the A.R.R.C story:** In 1985 a commemorative eight-piece set was issued. The obverse being the same as the originals, but the reverse showing: Around the edge: *MATANUSKA VALLEY ALASKA 1935-1985*, In script: *COLONY*, In the center: *PROJECT 50th ANNIVERSARY*. 2500 of these Commemorative sets were minted.

Whitman's Red Book lists the original A.R.R.C. coinage as follows:

	Mintage	VERY FINE	UNCIRCULATED
1¢ Aluminum	5000	\$ 7.00	\$ 10.00
5¢ Aluminum	5000	7.00	10.00
10¢ Aluminum	5000	7.00	10.00
25¢ Aluminum	3000	8.50	12.00
50¢ Aluminum	2500	8.50	15.00
\$1.00 Aluminum	2500	15.00	20.00
\$5.00 Brass	1000	25.00	30.00
\$10.00 Brass	1000	35.00	40.00

## EXPERTS AGREE: LOCAL CLUBS ARE DOOMED

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**(Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the rec.collecting.coins news group on the Internet back in November, 1995. With our new format for The Bulletin, I thought it would fit in as an article rather nicely and that it may prompt some thought and discussion among the members on the issues raised.)**

Speaking at the 40th Fall convention of the Michigan State Numismatic Society, Clifford Mishler, Paul Gilkes, and Ken Bressett, all cited the demise of generalized, local coin clubs as typical of the many changes in our hobby. Clifford Mishler is the president of Krause Publications. Paul Gilkes is a senior staff writer for COIN WORLD. Ken Bressett is the president of the ANA.

The common theme of their speeches was "The Fun and Excitement of Numismatics." About 45 people attended the Educational Seminar which lasted 90 minutes.

### CHANGE IS GOOD

Mishler focused on many social changes over the last 40 years that have had a direct impact on our hobby. The machinery of the publishing industry has gone from Linotypes and even handset type to desktop computing. Mishler also pointed to the telephone as a device which was not taken for granted 40 years ago but which is too common to notice today.

"Times are more challenging," he said. "Change is all around us. Change is sometimes difficult to accept and accommodate." Mishler then pointed to the automobile as an example of positive change. "No one wants stick shifts, tube tires, and low mileage engines." He then listed the telephone, television, and microwave as contrasts to life in the past. "We accept change in daily life, but we resist change in our hobby. Our focus is on the past. Even a modern coin becomes history."

He continued: "We remember the good old days but there is more to be offered

today within our hobby. We might not have the opportunity for windfall profits we did 40 years ago, but we have a greater opportunity for interest because the information is available. It is my belief that collectors are not fewer but more specialized."

Mishler then expanded on this theme. He said that he sees growth in special interest groups. "Clubs have not kept in step with the times," he said. "Most care more about how many people show up to the Christmas party than they do about buying video tapes from the ANA and donating them to the local library."

As the president of a publishing firm that serves sports cars, antique cars and rock n roll memorabilia as well as coins, he predicted that publications will become specialized. Just as there are demographic editions of NEWSWEEK and TIME, there will be demographic editions of NUMISMATIC NEWS. "I just hope I won't be in charge of it," he quipped.

## KING FAROUK by Thomas LaMarre

The New York Times described him as a wolf, a glutton and a carefree gambler. But in his day, he was also the undisputed king of coin collectors.

The man we're talking about is Egypt's King Farouk. He was born in 1920, and inherited the throne at the ripe old age of 16. He had a net worth of 40 million and an annual allowance of \$400,000 . . . so, he was able to collect whatever he wanted.

Farouk's prestige in Egypt fell sharply after Egypt lost its 1948 war with Israel. In 1952, Colonel Abdel Nasser organized a successful coup. Farouk gathered his bank books and fled aboard one of the royal yachts--leaving behind four palaces, 20 villas, 100 cars and 8500 coins and medals.

The new government decided to auction off Farouk's coins and collectibles. But while living in exile on the Isle of Capri, Egypt's last pharaoh tried to stop the sale--saying the items should be displayed in Egyptian museums. Government officials ignored his protests, and Sotheby's was commissioned to catalog the items. Its staff spent more than three months completing the task. The "Palace Collections of Egypt" sale was held in February and March of 1954 in Cairo. It realized \$625,000.

Before the sale began, the U.S. government asked for the return of a 1933 \$20 gold piece--one of 445,000 which were minted, but never put into circulation when President Franklin

Roosevelt ordered all Americans to turn in their gold to the government. The coin was removed from the sale, but no one seems to know whether it was turned over to the U.S. Treasury Department. Its whereabouts remain a mystery.

***Money Talks, Transcript No. 1168, March 26, 1997 — This material was prepared by the American Numismatic Association and is used by permission.***