

## “The Bulletin” October, 1997

### President’s Message

It was a fine day on September 27 and it was very nice to see the folks who turned out for our Annual Coin Show. Thanks to the many people who helped with the show as well as the bourse dealers and exhibitors. The winner of the 1988 specimen set for the final hourly draw at 3:00pm was Dick Dunn. Del Murchison won the F.C.Jewett People’s Choice award for his ancient coins exhibit.

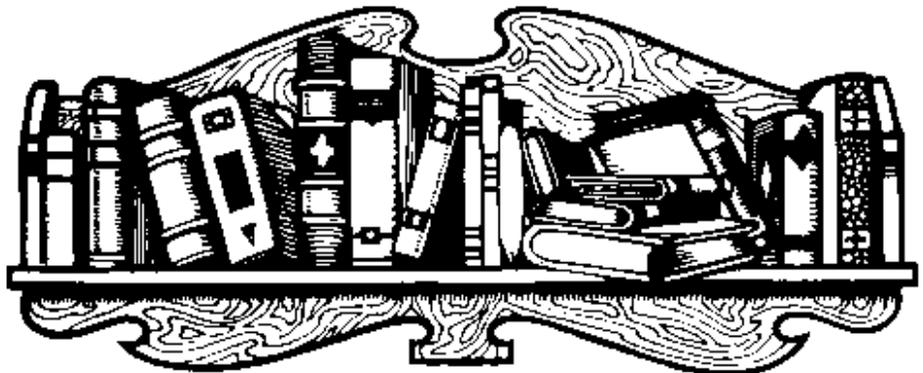
The uncertainty around the show date certainly got in the way of mounting the kind of show we really wanted. Perhaps we should move the date to a different time of year, or should we simply set a date and work towards it, whether we have the official permit or not. If you have an opinion, please let me know. It’s a matter in need of some discussion among your Executive. The next meeting of the Executive Committee takes place on Wednesday, November 12.

Speaking of the Executive, this is an election year. I’m pleased to report that Norm Belsten has accepted my request to serve as Nomination Chair. He will be putting forward nominations for a slate of officers at the November meeting and elections, if necessary, will be held in December. If you are interested

## Numismatic Book Night

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on **Tuesday, October 28, 1997**, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive.

What have you added to your numismatic library recently? Which volume in your library is most special to you? This is your chance to share some insights on one item from your most valuable resource, your numismatic library. For some, this could be an especially difficult choice, but be your library large or small, please share your choice with us on our numismatic book night.



in standing for a particular position, please see Norm. If Norm approaches you, please consider the talents and time you have to give to the Club. The Club only works if we have a strong and capable Executive team.

If you are planning to head south for the winter months, we can re-direct your Bulletin mailing to your temporary address or, if you wish, we can hold onto your mailings until you return in the Spring. Let us know if we can help.

Following up on an item from a few

months ago, Marc Verret has been expelled from the CNAD for failing to comply with their standards. ‘Nuf said.

Need to reach 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).

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***Next Meeting:  
October 28***

## Meeting News from the September 23 Meeting

The 421st meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, September 23, 1997 at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Dr., Willowdale, Ont.

The President, Paul Petch, opened the meeting at 8:03 p.m. and welcomed 24 members and 5 guests.

The On-Time Attendance Draw for \$2.00 was won by Italo Vilella. The Mint Box was passed to one junior.

The Chair advised we have received all meeting room permits up to Christmas. He invited all members to attend the Annual Show and encouraged them to put in exhibits. As an incentive, the award formerly donated by Fred C. Jewett and awarded to the most popular or People's Choice will be given. Bob Porter generously donated a colourful set of ribbons for winners and judges.

The feature for the evening was a PBS Nova Video taped by Paul Petch. As it is an hour long, it was decided to serve break refreshments during the showing. The tape was an excellent presentation entitled "The Secrets of Making Money", telling about the United State's efforts to prevent the making of counterfeit money. It was very well presented and held the members rapt attention. Paul is to be highly commended for his efforts. Many thanks also to him for providing donuts and to Italo Vilella for preparing and graciously serving the refreshments.

Following the film, Marvin Kay, Paul Johnson, Paul Petch and Roger Fox gave short but interesting accounts of topics relating to the counterfeiting theme.

The Lucky Draw and the auction were run alternately. However, proceedings were interrupted when it was discovered we had a noted collector of Canadian coins as one of our guests and that he had brought along some outstanding

items. Rick Craig kindly introduced this prominent collector and asked him to say a few words. Our guest commented that it was time two significant pieces that he holds "have the chance to see the light of day". The first piece was the British Columbia \$20 pattern in silver dated 1862, acquired earlier this year at the Norweb sale, and the second was a BC \$10 pattern in gold from the Eliasberg sale. Also on view was a fine historical monograph on the early history of the Province. Following the talk, members line up and individually had the opportunity to hold and closely examine the pieces.

Lucky Draw winners were: Sid

Belzberg(3), Lucille Colson(3), Ted Boxall, Bob Velensky(2), Russ Brown, Italo Vilella Ron Zelk and Norman G. Gordon. The draw run by Al Bliman brought in proceeds of \$21.00.

The auction of 18 lots was ably run by Bob Porter with the assistance of Roger Fox earned a commission of 85¢ and donations of \$8.00.

Many thanks to Rick Craig, Brian See and Marvin Kay for their donations.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:55 p.m.

## Coming Events

**Torex 1997** October 25-26, Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 10am-3pm at the Primrose Hotel, Pearson Ballroom 111 Carlton St., Toronto. Daily admission \$5. Contact Ingrid K. Smith (416) 260-9070.

**Stratford Coin Club's 35th Annual Show** October 26, 9:30am-4:30pm at the Kiwanis Community Centre Lakeside Dr. Free admission. Contact Ken Wilmot, Stratford Coin Club, RPO Box 21031, N5A 7V4.

**The Hobby Show** November 7-9, Fri. 12am-9pm, Sat. 10am-8pm, Sun. 10am-6pm at the International Centre Contact Ted Curl (905) 428-6466, fax (905) 666-8316.

**Windsor Coin, Card and Stamp Show** November 9, 10am-4:30pm at Caboto Club, 2175 Parent St. Admission \$1. Hourly door prizes Free parking. Contact Ron Binder (519) 254-6855.

**Waterloo Coin Society Show** November 22, 10am-5pm at the Rink In The Park, Seagram Drive Free admission. Contact Don Robb (519) 888-9655.

## Question of the Month

There was a coin quiz at a recent Mississauga Club meeting. Out of the dozen questions on the quiz, here are three to challenge our members:

- 1) Which Moslem country has the Star of David on its coins?
- 2) What world power has a subway system using plastic tokens?
- 3) Where do we get the expression "not worth a dam"?

In September we noted a recent news item reporting that 40 different countries have commemorative stamps in the works to mark the passing of Diana, the Princess of Wales. Then we asked "Which country will issue the first commemorative coin?" The point of the question was to lament the rich variety of themes on commemorative stamps and the disappointing track record held by the Mint in its choices for commemoratives in recent years. We didn't really expect an answer, but Canadian Coin News comes through an AU item in which they report \$5 BU and a \$50 Proof .999 silver coins from the Marshall Islands. The also support the answer from several members and report that Liberia and Sierra Leone have products struck at private mints.

## British Innkeepers' Tokens by Frederick W. Hackwood

**Editor's Note: Mr. F.W. Hackwood was born in 1851. The writer of many books on British social history and folklore, this article was discovered in his "Inns, Ales and Drinking Customs of Old England" and is reproduced here for its numismatic interest.**

In the library of the Guildhall is to be seen a collection of old London tavern and coffee-house tokens. As the practice of issuing such tokens prevailed throughout the country, local collections of them would be of undoubted interest in all provincial public museums. So common were they in the seventeenth century that to say a man had "swallowed a tavern token" became a cant phrase for conveying the information that he had got drunk.

Throughout the seventeenth century, and indeed for upwards of a century later, there was a most inconvenient shortage in the copper coins and other small change in circulation in this country; and to overcome this deficiency authority was often given to traders and others to coin their own pennies, halfpennies, and farthings for the facilitating of business transactions. These trade tokens, as they were called, became legal currency as "promises to pay"; and the circulation of them in all parts of the country grew to enormous proportions. They were issued by business corporations and traders of all sorts, and among them not a few innkeepers of the better class. Those of the last named were generally brass farthings, and always bore the sign of the inn from which they emanated and at which they were redeemable in the current coin of the realm.

A few words in explanation of this usurped privilege of coinage may be necessary. In the sixteenth century the want of authorised money for small change had begun to make itself felt. The Government had coined pence,

halfpence, and farthings in silver, but the latter were necessarily so small and thin as to be a loss rather than a gain to the trader. German copper coins were then imported and used, some known as abbey-pieces and others as Nuremberg counters; for Queen Bess had a magnificent contempt for any other than the precious metal to bear her authorised effigy. James I. granted a monopoly to Lord Harrington for the exclusive manufacture of copper tokens; but the issue thus authorised was so disgraceful the public preferred to use those issued by private traders. The circulation of traders' tokens increased rapidly during the reign of Charles I.; and throughout the Commonwealth there was scarcely an innkeeper of importance who did not issue his own coppers "for necessarie chainge."

The famous "Ship" at Greenwich issued a money token in the reign of Charles I., on which appeared a ship in full sail, and the inscription "Ship Tavern, 1640."

There is in existence a very rare small brass token of the "Boar's Head," High Street, Borough; on one side it has a boar's head with a lemon in its mouth, surrounded by the words "At the Boar's Head"; and on the reverse side, "In Southwark 1649." This house was part of Sir John Fastolf's benefactions to Magdalen College, Oxford; and the benefactor was a brave general in the French Wars under Henry IV., who is not to be confused with Shakespeare's Falstaff.

A very curious sign is represented on a token issued by one Samuel Boverly, of George Lane, Southwark. The sign was "The Old pick my Toe," which it is suggested, was a vulgar representation of the Roman slave who, being sent on a message of importance, would not stop even to pick a thorn out of his foot by the way. If not this, what is the interpretation?

Included among other preserved speci-

mens of the tokens belonging to Southwark inns are those of the "Dogg and Ducke," at St. George's Fields, 1651; the "Green Man"; the "Duke of Suffolk's Head," 1699; and the Bull's Head Tavern, 1667, which is mentioned by Edmund Alleyne, the founder of Dulwich College, as one of his resorts. Of the George Inn, Southwark, there are in the Beaufoy Collection at the Guildhall two seventeenth-century tokens, giving the names of different landlords.

The token issued by the Pageant Tavern at Charing Cross had upon the obverse a representation of the triumphal arch erected near that house for the Coronation of Charles II.—a street decoration which was allowed to remain standing for a twelvemonth after.

Another trade token was issued by the "Bear-at-the-Bridge-Foot" in Southwark—a sign, no doubt, derived from the famous Bear Gardens which stood close by there in Elizabethan days, as the obverse of the specimen preserved in the British Museum exhibits the figure of a bear muzzled and chained. door; and when the house was demolished, this sign was removed to the Guildhall Library for preservation.

Trade tokens were issued by the "Three Cranes," the Exchange Tavern, and a large number of other old City houses of entertainment, not a few of which are mentioned elsewhere in these pages (*Inns, Ales and Drinking Customs of Old England*), as the "Mermaid" in Cheapside, the resort of Ben Jonson and his literary friends, members of the club established by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1603.

Two doors from Temple Bar, on the south side of Fleet Street, stood the Devil's Tavern, as it was popularly called, though its proper name was the "Devil and Dunstan." As, however, the sign above the door, and the tokens issued by the proprietor of

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the houses contained a representation of the familiar legend of St. Dunstan gripping the Devil by the nose with his tongs, the name of the saint became neglected in favour of that of the greater personality depicted. The position of the house made it the favourite haunt of the lawyers and wits resident in the Temple; and hence, when they went forth to patronise this hostelry, they were wont to placard their chamber doors with the weird notice "Gone to the Devil" Aubrey informs us that "Ben Jonson, to be near the Devil's Tavern, lived without Temple Bar, at a comb-maker's shop." In Jonson's day the house was kept by Simon Wadloe, whose descendants seem to have been in possession at the later period, in the reign of Charles II., when the tokens were issued.

Also near Temple Bar was the Cock Tavern, mine host of which ancient hostelry, being obliged to close his house during the Great Plague (1665), advertised the fact like the honest man he was, announcing "to all persons who have any accompts with the master, or farthings belonging to the said house," that they might be paid their debts, and their tokens exchanged for the current coins of the realm.

Another famous old house called to mind by a token (dated 1657) in the Guildhall collection, was the Angel Inn, St. Clement Danes, once the resort of Cornish and West Country lawyers up in town on business. Concerning this "very old inn all gables and galleries," some interesting facts are recorded by Mr. Charles Gordon in his "Old Time Aldwych." We are there informed that in 1555, Bishop Hooper, after his condemnation to be burnt alive, was taken to this house previous to his martyrdom; that in 1733 a notable duel took place here, in which one of the combatants was killed; and that later it became a house much patronised by naval officers arriving from Portsmouth—for towards the end it was a very popular coaching inn.

Outside London a very interesting specimen belonging to Stratford on Avon

may be noticed. This one was put in circulation by a man named Phillips, said to have been connected by marriage with the Shakespeare family, and who opened the Falcon Inn, opposite New Place. The "Falcon," it may be remembered, was Shakespeare's crest of cognisance; so on the obverse of the halfpenny appears the inscription, "Ioseph Phillips . . . At Ye," and a figure of that bird in the centre of the coin. On the reverse appears, "His Half Penny . . . 1668 . . . In Stratford-Vppon-Avon." Warwick, and many other old towns throughout the country, can produce similar examples of seventeenth-century tokens emanating from licensed houses.

Although the issue of private traders' tokens was prohibited in 1672, they continued to make their appearance, in defiance of the law, till 1764, when a final stop was put to the circulation of these base metal farthings and halfpennies and other insignificant pieces of brass, tin, or lead, all of which were so much below their nominal value.

The lack of genuine small money still continued to hinder trade till ten years after the accession of George III., although coiners at this period produced spurious copper pieces very extensively, and greatly to their own profit. As the forger's art thus flourished, the traffic continued, till the traders resolutely took the coinage into their own hands again, and, with tacit public approval, issued their own copper tokens of full intrinsic value.

Birmingham at that time having acquired a high reputation for the skill of its die-engravers and medallists, large quantities of these copper coins were produced there. Mr. W. J. Davis, in his "Token Coinage of Warwickshire," gives full descriptions of very many of them, some among them being issued from licensed houses.

An interesting and finely engraved specimen is a penny which was issued from the Coffee Tavern in Bell Street, which has been previously mentioned as the house of the "poet Freeth,"

and the headquarters of "The Twelve Apostles"—a Jacobin Club. The obverse shows the bust of the host, wearing a cocked hat, and above is the inscription, "The Birmingham poet." The reverse contains within an oaken wreath, the revolutionary sentiment, "Britons Behold The Bard of Freedom Plain And Bold, Who Sings As Druids Sung of Old."

A Birmingham halfpenny also worthy of the artistic reputation of the town, was issued in 1792 by Henry Biggs, a licensed victualler, who kept the "General Elliott," in Moore Street.

Birmingham medallists at that time also turned out quantities of commemorative coins for all sorts of institutions. Among those which may be mentioned here were: one showing a front view of a building with four pillars and two weather-vanes, and inscribed, "New Brewery, Erected 1792"; and a similar one to commemorate an hotel erected in the same year, and bearing a front view of the building with a sign inscribed "Hotel" over the door.

In recent times numbers of public-houses up and down the country have employed a system of metal checks, generally inscribed with the name of the house and figures to indicate some monetary value, their use being to facilitate, if not to promote, the house's interests in some form of "wet rent." For instance, the price of admission to a music-hall or pleasure garden attached to a licensed house might be advertised at "sixpence, half returned in refreshments." The visitor paid his sixpence at the entrance, and received in return a metal check, which served not only as a ticket of admission, but was negotiable inside for the purchase of drinks to the value of threepence. Similarly, these checks have been used to hand to members of clubs and societies, holding their meetings rent free on licensed premises, as part of the receipt for their subscriptions, the agreement between the landlord of the house and the management of the club, in such cases, being that for

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the club's free use of his premises each member shall spend so much in drink every club-night. The collection of "wet rents" by this method of "public-house checks" was at one time very common in many of the more populous industrial regions of England.

Mr. Davis's comprehensive volume gives numerous examples of Birmingham checks and medalets made for concert-halls, theatres, societies, and public institutions. From pp.111-115 may be selected a few connected with the subject here under consideration: "The Apollo Garden" (a place of resort now closed); "The Birmingham Musical Society, Colonnade Hotel, New Street, Birmingham"; "Day's Crystal Palace Concert Hall, Smallbrook Street, Birmingham...3d. To be spent in the

Concert Hall only The Same Evening As Received" (now the Empire Theatre); several similar brass checks for the Rodney Inn Concert Hall (now the Gaiety Theatre); and one for the "Spread Eagle" Concert Hall (now Criterion Inn); an oval specimen of the London Museum Music Hall, in Digbeth; and a hexagonal one for "Inshaw's Mechanical Lecture & Concert Hall... For Lectures on Scripture Subjects," &c., available for 3d., to be spent at the Steam Clock Inn.

Almost in the same category are checks for "The Grand Sultan Divan, Needless Alley, New Street, Birmingham—American Bowling Saloon Refreshment Check 6d. W. H. H. Proprietor"; for the Town Hall; and for the Theatre Royal.

Perhaps the most interesting of this series is a milled brass token of the early nineteenth century, on the obverse of which is "Swan Hotel, Birmingham...George Hotel, Litchfield," while on the reverse appears "Litchfield and Birmingham 8 a.m. Tariff Omnibus 4 p.m."

**News from The Buzzer, a newsletter published by BC Transit**

**May 16, 1997, Ticket machines have problem with new \$5 bills**

A new series of \$5 bills is causing some difficulty with ticket vending machines at SkyTrain, SeaBus and West Coast Express. Problems are also being experienced in vending equipment across Canada. The bills, with serial number series 'AN', look the same as previous bills to the human eye, but are just outside the limits of bill acceptor tolerances. We are working with our equipment suppliers to make the necessary adjustments as quickly as possible, and hope to begin a retrofit program in early June. At that time, SkyTrain/SeaBus machines will no longer accept \$2 bills, which are now few and far between. It is expected to take three to four weeks to retrofit all machines on the system. In the meantime, please check ahead to ensure you have coins, other acceptable bill denominations (\$10 for SkyTrain/SeaBus, \$10 or \$20 for West

**ANA BOARD APPROVES NUMISMATIC CURRICULA**

The American Numismatic Association will begin this year to develop and distribute numismatic curricula to teachers of American history in elementary, junior and senior high schools in the United States.

In one of the many decisions at its meeting at the Association's Convention July 30-August 3, the ANA Board of Governors unanimously approved the educational plan and the campaign to raise the necessary funding which is expected to cost about \$190,000. The plan calls for creation of enrichment materi-

als for teachers to be field tested next academic year (1998-99) and distributed nationally free to teachers the following year.

The ANA will develop teacher and study guides, student readings and multi-media materials including computer software. Topics that could be covered include the Colonial and Revolutionary War eras; the writing of the U.S. Constitution; Jacksonian Democracy; the Civil War; American Expansionism, including the discovery of gold; the Progressive and Depression eras; World Wars I and II; and the role of money in American society, from barter to electronic smart cards.

Coast Express), or \$5 bills other than the 'AN' series. We regret the inconvenience.

**September 5, 1997, Update**

Modifications to the ticket machines are now underway so they will accept \$5 in the 'AN' series. Although to the eye these bills appeared to be the same, there were sufficient differences in colour characteristics that they were rejected by vending equipment all across the country, creating a backlog work for

equipment suppliers all across the country. Due to the nature of the (new ticket machine) technology, reliability of acceptance should gradually show further improvement over the coming weeks. With these changes we hope to eliminate the inconvenience experienced by many passengers.

***Thanks to Marvin Kay for forwarding this news from The Buzzer.***

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

## Recent News from the Royal Canadian Mint

### Canadian Stories and Coins on CD-ROM

**Moncton, July 24, 1997** — The Royal Canadian Mint launched a new CD-ROM titled *The Canadian Adventure* Thursday evening at the annual Canadian Numismatic Association convention in Moncton, New Brunswick.

Children and adults alike will enjoy *The Canadian Adventure's* stories of Canadian history, wildlife and culture illustrated with large format colour photographs. Coin designs commemorating these stories reveal the artwork of talented Canadian artists, skillfully engraved on coins by Mint craftsmen. A comprehensive database of Canadian coins helps new and experienced collectors track their collections. Animated graphics with sound effects show how coins are made.

Mint President Danielle Wetherup said "the Royal Canadian Mint is using new media to promote Canada and its coins. This is a brand new product for us, and we are proud that its quality equals that of our world-renowned coins. We will be making copies of *The Canadian Adventure* available to some Canadian schools and know students will take pride in its Canadian stories while they learn about the world of coins."

*The Canadian Adventure* marks the Mint's first venture into CD-ROM media. The Royal Canadian Mint is leading world mints, using the latest technology in creative efforts to reach out to its customers, new and old.

Two versions of *The Canadian Adventure* have been produced. A German and English version will be available for German speaking Europeans, and a French and English version will be available in North America through the Royal Canadian Mint.

### Caboto's Voyage Celebrated on Coin

**Trinity, Newfoundland, August 9, 1997**— The *Matthew* has left Newfoundland waters for good but will forever grace a new coin just launched by the Royal Canadian Mint. Here today the Honourable Alfonso Gagliano unveiled a new ten cent silver coin commemorating the 500th anniversary of Giovanni Caboto's first Atlantic voyage. Minister Gagliano said "This coin featuring the *Matthew* as it approaches land, captures an important element of the Canadian spirit — that willingness to dream, to explore, to reach out to new worlds and new horizons. As a Canadian of Italian origin, I am especially proud to honour an Italian explorer who helped lay the groundwork for the exploration and settlement of Canada."

Minister Gagliano presented the new coin to members of the crew of the *Matthew*, a replica of Caboto's original ship of the same name. The *Matthew* replica sailed from Bristol, England on May 3, 1997 and arrived in Bonavista, Newfoundland on June 24 where it was greeted by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The *Matthew* then sailed around the island of Newfoundland, stopping in at various ports. Trinity was its last port of call in Newfoundland before leaving for Nova Scotia.

The coin portrays Caboto's ship, the *Matthew*, under full sail approaching land. The design shows the ship rocking in waves with the bow pointing towards a hilly shore in the background. The coin design accurately portrays the type of ship used by Caboto, according to the best historical evidence.

The ten cent denomination was chosen for this commemorative coin because of its strong association with nautical themes. The circulation ten cent coin has borne the image of a schooner every year but one since 1937. In 1967, the ten cent coin sported an illustration of the mackerel.

The coin is sterling silver with frosted relief, and is the same diameter as the circulation ten cent coin. Mintage is limited to 50,000.

When Giovanni Caboto set sail from Bristol England in 1497, he was already known as a master mariner and navigator. Caboto sailed with a crew of about 20 on a ship similar in form to Portuguese caravels of that era. King Henry VII of England sponsored Caboto's voyage, with hopes that Caboto would find a western trade route to the Far East and claim new lands for the English Crown. But Caboto's voyage led to an unexpected destination, the continent of North America.

Caboto was born in Italy and raised in Genoa. He is also commonly known as John Cabot, the English version of his name because of the fame of his voyage for the English Crown.

The design was created by Donald H. Curley who was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia and studied at Nova Scotia College of Art and Design before attending the Arts Student League (New York) and the Royal Academy (London). He has been the Director of the Vancouver Academy of Fine art and lectured in Art History at Dalhousie University in Halifax.

He was included in "Who's Who International Art 96/97". A stamp was printed in Switzerland as a tribute to Don Curley in honour of this achievement. The stamp featured the painting "Sunday Morning". Donald continues to pursue his career as an artist and resides in Chester, Nova Scotia.

#### Coin Specifications:

**Composition:** 92.5% silver, 7.5% copper

**Weight:** 2.4 grams

**Diameter:** 18.03 mm

**Thickness:** 1.2 mm

**Edge:** Reeded

**Face Value:** 10¢

**Mintage:** 50,000

**Finish:** Proof (frosted relief on brilliant background)

**Price:** \$10.95 per coin