

## "The Bulletin" December, 1997

### President's Message

Norm Belsten, Nominations Chair, presented a slate of Club Officers at the November meeting. The following have agreed to stand for 1998/99;

President	Paul Petch
1st Vice President	Al Bliman
2nd Vice President	Albert Kasman
Secretary	Lucille Colson
Treasurer	Harvey Farrow
Directors	Basil Latham Rick Craig Marvin Kay

Marvin Kay was asked and has agreed to stand following the last meeting.

I announced at the November meeting that the Executive meetings are for the details of Club business, so the regular meetings may be kept shorter and more focused on members' collecting interests. Any Club member may attend an Executive meeting as an observer.

Also, watch for a survey next month on the idea of moving our monthly meeting to some time other than the fourth Tues-

***Next Meeting:  
Christmas Party  
December 11***

## Annual Christmas Party

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on Thursday, December 11, 1997, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive.

It's time once again for the annual Christmas Party featuring the food, fellowship and fun which have become a tradition of our December meeting. We will start the meeting at 7:30 p.m., beginning with the Chicken Chalet dinner. To supplement this purchased food, we also appreciate whatever family specialties (salad, cookies, cake, etc.) you may be able to donate to the "pot luck" buffet table. If you want to participate in the gift exchange, bring along a numismatic or non-numismatic gift with a value of around \$5-\$7. Harvey Farrow will accept last minute reservations or cancellations up until Tuesday, December 9. His number is (416) 923-5545. Please call, because we need to know how many dinners to buy. Because the room will be set up for dinner, there will be no dealer tables at this meeting.

In place of a **Question of the Month**, Ron Zelk has supplied us with a non-numismatic quiz. We've got copies for everyone, so bring along a pencil with a good eraser!



day.

My very best wishes to all members and their families for a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and joyous holiday season.

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**.

### Question of the Month

In 1992, the 125th anniversary of Canadian Confederation, a series of 12 25¢ pieces were issued, one for each Canadian province and territory. One piece was released each month. Our November question was, what is the province or territory that was commemorated with the November, 1992, release? There were actually two pieces: Saskatchewan (designed by Brian Cobb) was released November 5 and British Columbia (designed by Carla Egan) was released November 9. The B.C. announcement was moved ahead from December.

## Meeting News from the November 25 Meeting

The 423rd meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, November 25, 1997, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive, Willowdale.

The President, Paul Petch opened the meeting at 8:10 p.m. and welcomed 20 members. The on time attendance draw was missed by John Regitko and the pot is at \$4 for the December meeting.

Following reading of the minutes, the secretary announced the recent passing of Fred C. Jewett's wife and that Fred, himself, is in failing health.

Norm Belsten, Nominating Chairman, was called upon to give the new Slate of Officers for 1998-99. Our thanks go to Bob Porter for his years of service as a Club Director. He is stepping down this year. The floor was opened to nominations and while several were made, each nominee declined to stand. Ron Zelk moved the slate be accepted, seconded by Brian See and carried. The Chair will seek a third director.

The Chair presented information from the recent Executive meeting which had appeared in the November Bulletin. Del Murchison was presented with the engraved F.C. Jewett People's Choice Award trophy for winning at the annual Club show at the end of September.

Paul Petch announced that they had a very successful CNA Numismatic Classroom Course at Humber College on November 1. Paul Johnson added his positive impressions and advised it will be repeated in the Spring. A more advanced course is planned for next Fall. Harvey Farrow reported Waterloo had an interesting show and always seems to have a good turn out, in spite of poor weather.

The theme for the evening was numismatic connections with the month of November. It was moderated by **Marvin Kay** who, as usual, came up with many coins and medals honouring

medical events or those associated with medicine who were born or died in the month of November. He also had items on the Royal Winter Fair and the opening of King Tut's tomb. **Paul Johnson** remember John F. Kennedy died in November and brought along a Kennedy medal and a 1966 book of medals and other historical information pertaining to Kennedy. **Paul Petch** noted that a proclamation came down from King George V on November 21, 1921, to establish the Canadian Coat of Arms. This was put on the 1937 50¢ piece. He explained the heraldry

associated with the design and changes made over the years.

After a coffee break supplied by Italo Vilella and Paul Petch an auction of 6 lots was ably run by Ron Zelk with the assistance of Basil Latham.

Lucky draw winners were: Dion Van Laethem, Paul Petch. Lyan See, Norman G. Gordon, Norm Belsten, Brian See(2), Avram Zak, Russ Brown, Lucille Colson and Ted Boxall. Thanks to Al Bliman for calling the draw and to Marvin Kay, Brian See and Jim Charlton for their donations. The meeting closed at 9:40 p.m.

## A NUMISMATIC HORROR STORY by Al Bliman

This first anecdote starts a short series on the pitfalls that we all face from time to time as collectors and as people like all others who find it hard to resist "a bargain". For our first outing:

### Fools Gold

A friend, who shall go mercifully nameless, came to Canada from war-torn Europe in 1947.

His experiences with paper and fiat money of all kinds taught him all too well that these were indeed paper and became worthless in situations beyond the control of the holder. Thus he chose to put all his savings away in the form of gold coins.

Over a period of 20 years he accumulated about 400 gold coins of various countries. This, remember, formed 100% of his savings. It is important to note too that these purchases were made not as a collector but solely as an investor and in the course of this accumulation his background led him to seek "bargains".

Over this particular time frame the price of gold rose dramatically and my friend was proud to announce to those close to

him his good fortune and savings methods. It was at this point he asked me if I would like to see some of his prized gold pieces. He showed me gold from Israel of the Herzl and Ben-Gurion issues, several 1967 Canadian \$20, American Double Eagles, etc.

Because of my involvement in our hobby I recognized at once that there was a big problem!!

Many pieces he displayed were gold true enough, but plain counterfeits. Other ones were worse in that they were merely plated in gold. A proper evaluation by an expert proved 114 of his coins to be fakes. He estimated his loss at \$10,000.

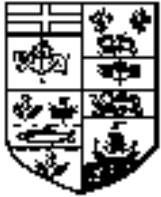
While the lesson here seems obvious, it is worth noting. All of us have been tempted to jump at a bargain from a seller that we perceived to know less than we do and who offers us something too cheap! Unless this is a risk you are comfortable with always follow this rule:

*Deal with people you know to be reputable and who will continue to be in business if you have a problem with your purchase in the future.*

## The Arms of Canada

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### The Royal Grant



During the first decades after Confederation, questions relating to the Arms of Canada had not received the attention they deserved. The Royal Arms of the United Kingdom were then freely used to identify the offices of the Government of Canada.

Shortly after Confederation, a Great Seal was required and a design was approved by a royal warrant dated May 26, 1868. This design displayed, quarterly, the arms of the original four provinces of the new federation: Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. It was never used as the Great Seal, but was gradually adopted as the Arms of Canada. For a reason unexplained by history, another Great Seal was adopted for Canada representing Queen Victoria and the throne of her coronation; this Great Seal is however altered at the beginning of each reign, so as to show the effigy of the Sovereign.

When other provinces joined Confederation, the attempt to add the arms of the new provinces to this federal composite design resulted in a crowded and confused appearance. For this reason, the Canadian Government submitted a request to the Sovereign for a grant of arms. This request was approved and the arms assigned to Canada were appointed and declared in the proclamation (text on next page) of His Majesty King George V dated November 21, 1921. This action was proceeded with on the basis of an Order of the Governor General in Council (P.C. 1921-1496) dated April 30, 1921.

### The Proclamation

The royal proclamation makes special reference to the request by the Government of Canada and states that the grant of arms or flags is made on the advice of the Privy Council and by the powers conferred by the first Article of the British statute "The Union of Ireland Act, 1800". Passed in the reign of King George III, it empowered the Crown to grant, by proclamation, arms and flags to the United Kingdom and its dependencies.



A special committee was mandated by the Governor General in 1919 to study the question on the Arms of Canada. It was composed of:

- Thomas Mulvey, K.C., Under Secretary of State, Chairman;
- Sir Joseph Pope, K.C.M.G., C.V.O., I.S.O., Under Secretary of State for External Affairs;
- A.G. Doughty, C.M.G., Litt. D., Dominion Archivist;
- Major-General W.G. Gwatkin, C.B., C.M.G., Department of Militia and Defence.

The present design of the Arms of Canada was drawn by Mrs. Cathy Bursey-Sabourin, Fraser Herald at the

Canadian Heraldic Authority, office of the Governor General of Canada, and faithfully depicts the arms described in the words of the Royal Proclamation dated November 21, 1921. The present design was approved in 1994 and shows a ribbon behind the shield with the motto of the Order of Canada. This version replaces a former design drawn by Mr. Alan Beddoe.

### Description

#### The Shield



The shield at the centre of the Coat of Arms is the most important part of the design. In heraldry, it is the shield "that tells the story" of a country. In Canada's shield, the first and second divisions depict four emblems that symbolize the four founding peoples of Canada. The third makes it distinctly Canadian.

#### *The three Royal Lions of England*

The first quarter consists of the three gold lions of England walking and shown full face, on a red background. In heraldry, red is represented by vertical lines on engraved images, such as our 50¢ piece. The lion is the oldest device known in heraldry and, as "king of beasts", was adopted by kings of Leon, Norway and Denmark as their emblem. However, the origin of the three royal lions of England still remains a mystery.

In the 11th century, Henry I, known as "the lion of justice", may have been the first English king to use a lion. It is uncertain as to why a second lion suddenly appeared. When Henry II married Eleanor of Aquitaine, whose family emblem was also a lion, it is believed that he added the third lion. There is no question that, when he led his English troops in the Crusades, Richard I, "the Lion-Hearted" carried a shield emblazoned with three golden lions on a red background. To this day they have been the royal symbol of England.

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## By the King — A Proclamation

Proclamation of 1921

Declaring His Majesty's Pleasure concerning the Ensigns Armorial of the Dominion of Canada

George R.I.

WHEREAS We have received a request from the Governor General in Council of Our Dominion of Canada that the Arms or Ensigns Armorial herein after described should be assigned to Our said Dominion. We do hereby, by and with the advice of Our Privy Council, and in exchange of the powers conferred by the first Article of the Union with Ireland Act, 1800, appoint and declare that the Arms of Ensigns Armorial of the Dominion of Canada shall be Tierced in fesse the first and second divisions containing the quarterly coat following, namely, 1st Gules three lions passant guardant in pale or, 2nd, Or a lion rampant within a double tressure flory-counter-

flory gules, 3rd, Azure a harp or stringed argent, 4th, Azure, three fleurs-de-lis or, and the third division Argent three maple leaves conjoined on one stem proper. And upon a royal helmet mantled argent doubled gules the Crest, that is to say, On a wreath of the colours argent and gules a lion passant guardant or imperially crowned proper and holding in the dexter paw a maple leaf gules. And for Supporters On the dexter a lion rampant or holding a lance argent, point or, flying therefrom to the dexter the Union Flag, and on the sinister A unicorn argent armed crined and unguled or, gorged with a coronet composed of crosses-patée and fleurs-de-lis a chain affixed thereto reflexed of the last, and holding a like lance flying therefrom to the sinister a banner azure charged with three fleurs-de-lis or; the whole ensigned with the Imperial Crown proper and below the shield

upon a wreath composed of roses, thistles, shamrocks and lillies a scroll azure inscribed with the motto A mari usque ad mare, and Our Will and Pleasure further is that the Arms or Ensigns Armorial aforesaid shall be used henceforth, as far as conveniently may be, on all occasions wherein the said Arms or Ensigns Armorial of the Dominion of Canada ought to be used.

Given at Our Court at Buckingham Palace, this twenty-first day of November, in the year of Our Lord One thousand nine hundred and twenty-one, and in the twelfth year of Our Reign.

God Save the King

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### *The Royal Lion of Scotland*

The second quarter consists of a red lion rearing on the left hind foot, within a red double border with fleurs-de-lis, on a gold background (a field of dots in heraldic representation). The royal lion of Scotland was probably first used by King William, who was known as "the lion". However it was certainly used by his son, Alexander III, who made Scotland an independent nation.

### *The Royal Irish Harp of Tara*

The third quarter is a gold harp with silver strings, on a blue background. This appears as horizontal lines on coinage. North of the present city of Dublin, there is a hill called Tara which for centuries was the religious and cultural capital of ancient Ireland. If you visit the site, you will see a 750 foot earthenwork that is said to have been the site of the banqueting hall of Irish kings. Thomas Moore recalls the history of this site in one of the most famous of all Irish lyrics that begins: "The harp that

once through Tara's hall the soul of music shed..." There is a legend, recorded in C.W. Scott-Giles monumental work *The "Romance of Heraldry"*, that this harp was found and came into the possession of the pope. In the 16th century, Henry VIII suppressed the Irish people in his attempt to become the lawful successor to the kings of ancient Ireland. The pope sent the harp of Tara to England whereupon Henry added its likeness to his royal shield. From this time it has remained a symbol of Ireland.

### *The Royal Fleurs-de-Lis of France*

The fourth quarter depicts three gold fleurs-de-lis, on a blue background. This appears as horizontal lines on coinage. The fleurs-de-lis was the first heraldic emblem raised in Canada. On July 24, 1534, Jacques Cartier landed at Gaspé and erected a cross, affixed with the symbol of his sovereign and the royal house of France.

### *The three Maple Leaves*

To complete the design of the shield, a Canadian symbol was required. Three red maple leaves conjoined on one stem, on a silver or white background, were then added. Throughout the 19th century, the maple leaf had gradually become closely identified with Canada. The maple leaf had been worn as a symbol of Canada during the visit of the Prince of Wales in 1860. The song "The Maple Leaf Forever", written by the Toronto school teacher Alexander Muir in 1868 had become Canada's national song. During World War I, the maple leaf was incorporated into the badge of every Canadian regiment. It was most appropriate that three maple leaves were given a commanding position within the shield, which made it unmistakably "Canadian".

### **The Ribbon**

On the advice of the Prime Minister of Canada, Her Majesty The Queen has approved, on July 12, 1994 that the Arms

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of Canada be augmented of a ribbon with the motto of the Order of Canada: "Desiderantes Meliorem Patriam" (They desire a better country).

Mr. Bruce Hicks, of Ottawa, had suggested this augmentation.

**The Helm and the Mantling**

The helm (heaume or helmet), which in heraldry is usually placed above the shield of arms, not only serves as a means of displaying the crest, but also has a significance of its own, since its type denotes the rank of the person bearing the arms. On the helm lies a mantling or lambrequin. The mantle, originally, was to protect the head and shoulders of the wearer from the sun's heat. It has become a decorative accessory to the crest and shield.



The Arms of Canada show a royal helmet, which is a barred helm of gold looking outward and draped in a mantle of white and red which are the official colours of Canada.

**The Crest**

On the royal helmet is the crest. This symbol consists of a wreath or ring of twisted white and red silk on which stands a crowned gold lion holding in its right paw a red maple leaf. The lion is a symbol of valor and courage.

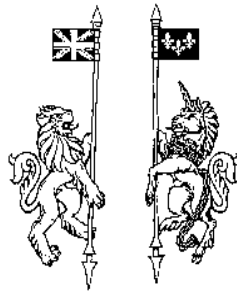


The crest is used to mark the sovereignty of Canada. It is now the symbol used on the Governor General's Standard.

**The Supporters**

The figures that stand on either side of the shield are known in heraldry as "supporters" and are often depicted in a ferocious manner. The King of England

chose two lions while Scotland chose two unicorns.



When James VI of Scotland became James I of England in 1603, he chose one lion and one unicorn as the supporters of his royal shields. Canada adopted the

same pattern and used a lion on the shield's right holding a gold pointed silver lance from which flies the Royal Union flag, and a unicorn with gold horn, mane and hoofs, on the shield's left. Around its neck is a gold and chained coronet of crosses and fleurs-de-lis. The unicorn holds a lance flying a banner of royalist France, namely three gold fleurs-de-lis, on a blue background. The two banners represent the two principal founding nations that had established Canada's enduring laws and customs.

**The Motto**



Canada's motto "A Mari usque ad Mare" is based on biblical scripture: "He shall have dominion from sea to sea and from the river unto the ends of the earth" (Psalm 72:8). The first official use of this motto came in 1906 when it was engraved on the head of the mace of the Legislative Assembly of the new Province of Saskatchewan.

The wording of the motto came to the attention of Sir Joseph Pope, then Under Secretary of State, who was impressed with its meaning. He later proposed it as motto for the new design of the coat of arms, which were approved by Order in Council on April 21, 1921 and by Royal Proclamation on November 21, 1921.

**The Four Floral Emblems**

At the base of Canada's Royal Arms are the four founding nations of Canada.



*English Rose*

The rose first became the symbol of England when Henry III married Eleanor of Provence and the golden rose of Provence became England's new floral symbol. From this golden rose eventually came the red rose of the House of Lancaster and the white rose of the House of York.

*Scottish Thistle*

There is a legend that, in 1010 when they attempted to capture Scotland, the Danes landed secretly at night. As they approached Stains Castle they removed their shoes to avoid making any noise. When they reached the castle's moat, they jumped in not realizing that the moat was dry and overgrown with thistles. The screams of the bare-footed Danes roused the garrison. The castle and Scotland were both saved and, according to legend, it is in memory of that night that the thistle became the floral emblem of Scotland.

*Irish Shamrock*

In Irish legends, it is said that when he brought Christianity to Ireland, Saint Patrick used the three petals of the shamrock to illustrate the Holy Trinity. As a result, the shamrock became the floral emblem of Christian Ireland.

*The French Fleurs-de-Lis*

Following its adoption as the symbol of France's king, the fleurs-de-lis also became the symbol of Christian France. By the 13th and 14th century, the three petals of the lily of France were being described by writers as symbols of faith, wisdom and chivalry. As in Ireland, they also came to be seen as symbols of the Holy Trinity.

**The Imperial Crown**

On top of the "achievement of the Arms of Canada" is the Imperial Crown which is indicative of the presence of a monarch as Canada's Head of State.

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The shapes of symbols in a coat of arms can be altered by an artist since heraldry is an art as well as a science. However, the symbols themselves can never be changed without formal approval. In 1957, when Canada's arms were slightly modified to produce a cleaner more contemporary design, the Government replaced the original Tudor crown of the 1921 design by a crown that would represent not just one of the royal families of English monarchs, but centuries of kings and queens of England. To comply with the wish of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Saint Edward's crown is now used for the Arms of Canada. It is that Crown that has been used for the coronation of kings and queens in Westminster Abbey for centuries.

### The Use of the Arms

The Arms of Canada are the arms of the Sovereign; they signify national sovereignty or ownership. They are used by Canada on federal government possessions such as buildings, official seals, money, passports, proclamations, publications, etc.; as well as rank badges of some members of the Canadian Forces. The design of the shield of the arms was Canada's badge in the Canadian Red Ensign, Canada's flag until the adoption of the National Flag in 1965. The Trade Marks Act, chapter T-11, Revised Statutes of 1985 (sect. 9), protects

the Arms of Canada against unauthorized commercial use.

Permission to use the Arms of Canada in commercial activities may be obtained by writing to the Manager, Ceremonial and Canadian Symbols Promotion, Department of Canadian Heritage [Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0M5, Fax (819) 997-8550], attaching a sketch or drawing showing the intended use.

The Canadian Coat of Arms was chosen as the design for the 50¢ piece by a decision of the Government in July, 1936. It was also selected for the \$20 commemorative gold piece of 1967. The revisions in the Canadian Coat of Arms of 1957 and 1994 have been reflected in design changes to the 50¢ piece in 1959 and 1997, respectively. The 50¢ denomination was reduced in size in 1968 when its composition was changed from a silver alloy to pure nickel.



1957 version \$20 Gold



1921 version 50¢ Silver



1957 version 50¢ Silver



1957 version 50¢ Nickel



1994 version 50¢ Nickel

### Development of Heraldic Arms

Armorial bearings came into use as a means of identification. They were important in both times of peace and war.

Centuries ago, few persons could read; nor had our ancestors the advantage of newspaper portraits, moving pictures, or the thousand other ways we now possess of recognizing and identifying people. Heraldry may be described as a form of picture-writing, worked out in the Middle Ages to afford a means of recognition. At that time, people had fine artistic perceptions, and utilized

bright colours in developing a system of heraldry that was not only ingenious and practical, but also very beautiful.

Despite printing, photography and other modern inventions, we still make use of emblems, badges and other symbols. The maple leaf at once suggests Canada; the thistle, Scotland; the rose England; the shamrock, Ireland; the leek, Wales; the lily, France. Each one is used and regarded as an emblem. The people of the Middle Ages transformed this method of appealing to the eye into a system in

which the coat of arms was the most elaborate form. In fact the system became a science.

It is curious to note that no country has abandoned the practice of using armorial bearings, emblems and symbols being important for preserving traditions and inspiring love of country. Of these symbols, the coat of arms and the flag are the chief elements. Although the flag is more frequently used, the coat of arms is the oldest and often serves as the foundation for the flag.