

"The Bulletin" February, 1998

President's Message

The meeting survey cards sent out with the January Bulletin are now coming back in. Please take the time to fill in your card and mail it if you have not already done so.

A very few members will find a reminder enclosed with this Bulletin to renew their Club membership. This is their last chance to maintain membership and this will be their final copy of the Bulletin. You may pay by mail or see the Treasurer at our February meeting.

Coming Events lists the ONA Convention coming up April 18/19. That means it is also ONA draw ticket time. Please pick up a book or two at the meeting to sell to your friends, to promote the hobby and to make a little money for the Club.

I received the sad news from Marvin Kay on February 5 of the passing of Major Sheldon S. Caroll. The numismatic fraternity is much the poorer for his passing and I have reprinted some updated background material on him in this Bulletin.

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.



Participants Rick Craig, Dick Dunn, Roger Fox, Basil Latham and Del Murchison will be laying out interesting items at their own tables. Members and guests will move to each table to view and discuss one-on-one the displays and the themes they are based on. Because of the meeting format we will have to squeeze in a bit and may have limited table space for others. This will also be the Club's 38th anniversary meeting with cake and recognition of some long-time members. We have noticed that the auction has been looking a bit poorly recently, so why not bring along some material that you'd like to sell and perk up that part of our meeting.

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on **Tuesday, February 24, 1998**, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive.

This month we are featuring something a little different. We are holding a coin fair.

Coming Events

Classical & Medieval Numismatic Society public meeting at **Torex** February 21, 2pm with speaker John Munro, University of Toronto, includes a meet & mix with members and opportunity to discuss and view ancient & medieval coins.

Torex February 21, 10am-5pm and 22, 10am-3pm at the Primrose Hotel, Pearson Ballroom, 111 Carlton St., Toronto. Daily admission \$5. Contact: Ingrid K. Smith, (416) 260- 9070.

Tillsonburg Collectibles Show March 8, 10am-4pm at the Tillsonburg Community Centre, 45 Hardy Ave. Admission adult \$2, 12 and under free with adult. Contact Ian Ward, (519) 426-8875.

7th Annual Cambridge Coin Club Show March 28, 9am-5pm at the Cambridge Newfoundland Club, 1500 Dunbar Road. Free admission. Contact L.R. (Verne) Shaull, (519) 621-3810 Ext. 253.

ONA Annual Convention April 18, 10am-6pm and 19, 10am-4pm sponsored by the City of Ottawa Coin Club at the Citadel Hotel, 101 Lyon St. N. Admission \$2 per day per adult. Contact Graham Neale, (613) 521-2117

North York Coin Club Annual Show October 3, 9am-3pm at the Edithvale Community Centre. 25 bourse tables. Free admission and draws. Free parking.

***Next Meeting:
February 24***

Meeting News from the January 27 Meeting

The 425th meeting of North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, January 27, 1998 at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Dr., Willowdale.

The President, Paul Petch, opened the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Secretary Lucille Colson was absent, so Bob Porter took down the minutes for this meeting. Ms. Karen Eaton was accepted and welcomed in absentia as member number 500. In actual attendance at the meeting, however, were Dr. Marvin Kay, member 400 and Mr. Russell Brown, member 300.

The On Time Attendance Draw pot of \$6 was missed by Avram Zak, so the prize increases to \$8 for the February meeting.

Treasurer Harvey Farrow handed out his 1997 Revenue and Expenditure report that showed an operational deficit of \$303.39 for the year. (Information is included in this mailing of the Bulletin for members not in attendance, ed.) After review and an opportunity for questions a Motion of Acceptance from Albert Kasman and Seconding by Norman G. Gordon was carried. Thank

Question of the Month

The year 1998 marks 140 years of decimal coins in Canada, but can you name the North American event which took place one year earlier which helped to consolidate decimal coinage?

The January question asked "When the Ottawa Branch of the Royal Mint began operation in 1908, what visual alteration was made to all of the Dominion of Canada's silver coinage?" Roger Fox had the answer. He explained that beginning in 1908 silver coinage switched from using a coin design (the obverse is upside down to the reverse) to a medal design (they are both right side up in relation to each other). The large cent had always been produced in the medal design.

you Harvey for another year of fine service.

Paul Johnson announced there will be a repeat of the very successful CNA Canadian Numismatic Course. Last presented on November 1, 1997, at Humber College, it will be presented at the same location on Saturday, May 30, 1998. He also reported that a special offering of the course is being given to Royal Canadian Mint employees on April 20/21 in Ottawa. There are plans for an advanced version of the course on November 7, 1998, also at Humber.

John Regitko sent along copies of The 1997 Charlton Coin Guide and Roger Fox brought in copies of the 1996 Unitrade Catalogue, free for all members present.

Our theme for the meeting was other hobbies and interests which Club members may have. There was excellent participation from:

- **Del Murchison** displayed and spoke on old movie film projectors and cameras used from 1898 to 1935.
- **Roger Fox** spoke on his restored 1942 GMC truck fitted with a war-time searchlight which had seen service in Halifax. It is now hired out for event promotions.
- **Albert Kasman** displayed and described features of his collection of movie video tapes and a second interest, small filled liquor bottles, but unfortunately no samples were forthcoming.
- **Marvin Kay** had compiled a list of the excellent books he has read over the year and also told us how he obtained his Amateur Ham Radio Operating Licence. He brought along some mobile equipment and demonstrated how he talks to people around the world by radio.
- **Ted Boxall** recalled his adventures while on business trips to Japan during the early 1960's.
- **Ron Zelk** described his involvement with the popular card game "Magic

the Gathering" and explained how collectors play against each other. He showed us some of his prized cards featuring dragons. It was left unclear as to whether they were prized for their rarity or the remarkable similarity in appearance to their owner.

- **Jim Heifetz** spoke on his miscellaneous collection of match book covers and his success in tracing his family tree back at least five generations.
- **Paul Petch** displayed an historic overshot coverlet dating from the mid-1800's which was purchased at an estate auction of one of the pioneer families of Perth County.

Lucky draw winners were Ted Boxall (2), Norm Belsten(2), Leon Sarga(2), Norman G. Gordon, Harvey Farrow, Robin Murchison, Basil Latham, Bob Valensky, Paul Petch and Bob Porter.

Coffee and juice, biscuits and donuts were served to all present with special thanks to Roger Fox and Paul Petch for their contributions .

The very full meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Marketing Focus Group

On February 5 a group of Toronto-area collectors were invited to give their reactions to some product ideas being considered by the Bank of Canada. Ranging from novelty to truly numismatic items, the participants groaned at key chains and mugs and applauded ideas for specimen sets and full sheets as well as quality reference material presented in both printed and CD-ROM formats. The two-hour session will help the Bank of Canada decide on its next move, or if there will be a next move.

Next in were a group of non-collectors who were being given the chance to express their view. I wonder what items impressed them and if we are in store for yet more tacky numismatic material.

A NUMISMATIC HORROR STORY by Al Bliman

This is part three of our short series on the traps collectors may fall into when an uncontrolled desire for ownership pushes itself ahead of good judgement. This time out we have

Doctoring Coins to make them "better"

The halving of 1967 Canadian dollars to try to make phony "diving goose" versions introduces us to another form of counterfeiting—altering good coins to pass them off as different varieties, types, or dates which are worth more than the host coin.

In Canada this has not been as great a problem as elsewhere, particularly the U.S. This is primarily because of the large number of mints operating in the U.S. over the past 200 years. W. Carew Hazlitt wrote in 1896 the following definition of a mint mark: "a symbol denoting the place of origin of a coin, sometimes accompanied by the initials or name of the engraver. The mark is variously found in the field, in the exergue, in the outer circle over the portrait on an obverse bust, or below the truncation of the bust".

Up until 1908 Canadian coins were made at the Tower Mint in London and bore no mint marks. From time to time some production was shifted to the Heaton Mint in Birmingham, giving rise to our coins bearing the "H" mint mark. Canadian gold Sovereigns made in Canada up to 1919 carried a small "C" mint mark. These present the only real opportunity for the coin crooks to add the little "C" to Sovereigns made for England to try to pass them off as scarce 1908 and 1916 Canadian ones. But these coins are so uncommon that they are scrutinized very closely by any potential buyer and none have been attempted to my knowledge.

Not so in the U.S. Issues there have been altered by either the addition or removal of mint marks in all denomina-

tions from cent to \$20 gold. American mints have operated in Charlotte, Dahlonega, Carson City, Denver, New Orleans, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and West Point.

Widely varying production numbers of the same type of coin made at different mints have made this form of numismatic larceny rampant in the U.S.

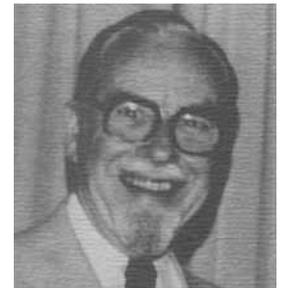
Similarly, the altering of dates in both countries is a big problem historically. Making 1921 Canadian 5¢ and 50¢ out of real coins with other dates would be very profitable if not for the vigilant members of our hobby to prevent such products in all but the smallest numbers.

To show the lengths to which crooks will go, I can tell you of the attempts to put a dot on our 1936 coinage — particularly the 1¢. Examples exist where a tiny drilling tool has been put through the rim (the edge) from the bottom to the point at which the dot should be. Then it is directed upwards to pop out from the reverse field. A thin wire is inserted into the bent hole and secured in place. The rim is repaired as well as can be done and the little wire on the reverse is ground down and shaped like a dot! These do not fool the experts, but a sucker looking for an underhanded bargain easily could be.

An altered U.S. 5¢ played a key role in the arrest of a Russian spy in 1957. The story became part of a movie titled "The F.B.I." starring James Stewart. The nickel involved was a 1948 Jefferson type which has its mint mark on the obverse. Used to carry microfilm in and out of the country the coin had been halved and hollowed out like a magician's piece. Ignorant of numismatics, the Russians had paired the discovery coin with the reverse of a 5¢ from 1942-45 which show mint marks on the reverse. A 14 year-old paperboy found it and when it fell and opened he turned it over to the authorities. Four years later an arrest was made.

In Memoriam: Major Sheldon S. Car-

A noted numismatic authority, writer, and speaker, Major Carroll was born and raised at Norwich in southwestern Ontario. He had been actively interested in numismatics for more than 50 years and was the founding president of the Canadian Numismatic Association, in which he held Life Membership No. 1. He was the founding president of the Canadian Paper Money Society, a Fellow of the Royal Numismatic Society, and member of the American Numismatic Society and Canadian Numismatic Research Society, among other numismatic organizations.



Major Carroll was the author of articles on Canadian coins and Canadian numismatics in the *Encyclopedia Canadiana*.

He was appointed first Curator of the Bank of Canada's National Currency Collection in 1963, a post which he held until 1981.

Among his honours and awards are the Coronation Medal by Queen Elizabeth II in 1953, the Gold Medal of Merit of the Ontario Numismatic Association in 1966, and the Centennial Medal by the Canadian government in 1967. In 1970 he was awarded the J. Douglas Ferguson Gold Medal, the highest award of the Canadian Numismatic Association, and in 1971 the Medal of Merit of the Major Sheldon S. Carroll

(Continued on page 4)

All rights to this material are retained by the author. Please do not reproduce without express permission.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police 125th Anniversary

Sterling Silver Proof Dollar and Brilliant Uncirculated Dollar

In 1873, the North West Mounted Police was created as part of Prime Minister Sir John A. MacDonal's National Policy. It was to replace the militia in Manitoba and to maintain law and order in Canada's unruly and unpatrolled northwestern frontier. The NWMP force was conceived and established to administer Canadian law, to end the



whiskey trade and the lawlessness that accompanied it and to establish peaceful relations with natives before CPR workers and settlers arrived.

As the nation grew in population and diversity and its communities became more established, the Mounted Police adapted, ensuring the peace and security of its citizens across the land. The

(Continued from page 3)

American Numismatic Association. The Royal Canadian Mint awarded him the silver medal for numismatic education in 1983. In 1984 he was appointed a member of the American Numismatic Association Hall of Fame, maintain the honour until his death in 1998 as the only living Canadian member.

This memoriam is reprinted from the CNA's Canadian Numismatic Correspondence Course.

RCMP is now a modern, progressive community policing force. Known for their red dress uniform with wide-brim Stetson hat, the men and women of the RCMP are respected worldwide for their professionalism.

The 1998 silver dollar sports the image of a Mounted Police officer in an 1800s uniform which includes a pillbox hat, differing from the contemporary dress uniform with its widely recognized Stetson hat. The officer is on horseback



with the western terrain in the background. The design is the creation of Canadian artist Adeline Halvorsen. The obverse of the coin features Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in a design by artist Dora de Pédery-Hunt.

DESIGN

Obverse: Contemporary effigy of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, by artist Dora de Pédery-Hunt

Reverse: RCMP officer in the uniform of the 1800s on horseback. Background shows the western terrain of Canada.

ARTIST

Adeline Halvorsen markets her work from her home studio in Newcastle, Ontario. She knew at an early age that she wanted to be an artist, and in her rural upbringing, animals, especially horses, played a very important role. Since 1976 she has dedicated herself to her career full time. Through experimentation, endless reading and hours of practice,

she has developed techniques entirely her own, first in pastel, then in acrylic and oil. She has to her credit more than 5000 commissioned portraits of horses, people and dogs. She works primarily with live models.

Specifications

- **Composition** Sterling Silver: 92.5% silver, 7.5% copper
- **Weight** 25.175 grams
- **Diameter** 36.07 mm
- **Edge** Reeded
- **Face Value** \$1.00
- **Finish** proof and brilliant uncirculated

The RCMP silver dollar is issued in both proof and brilliant uncirculated finishes. The proof dollar is encapsulated and presented in a green display case lined with green flock. The brilliant uncirculated dollar is presented in a plastic capsule. The sleeves covering the packaging for both the proof and brilliant uncirculated dollar feature a Mounted Police officer in the uniform of the 1800s on horseback. The silver dollar is available directly from the Royal Canadian Mint by calling 1-800-267-1871. The proof dollar costs \$29.95. The brilliant uncirculated dollar costs \$19.95.

The 1998 RCMP silver dollar is the 33rd commemorative silver dollar in a series that began in 1935. This is the third time the silver dollar series has commemorated the RCMP. In 1973, the silver dollar commemorated the 100th anniversary of the RCMP, and in 1994, the 25th anniversary of the last Northwest Mounted Police Dog Team Patrol.

This press release is reproduced from the Royal Canadian Mint's World Wide Web site on the Internet.