

"The Bulletin" August, 1998

President's Message

Here we are sweating our way through some very warm summer days and once again adjusting our meeting to the third Wednesday of the month. Ted Boxall has done a great job of getting our meeting space reserved. We're booked on the usual fourth Tuesday through the rest of 1998, except for December of course. The Christmas Party will be on Thursday, December 10 this year—never too early to start preparing for Christmas!

We have March 6, 1999, available to us for a Spring Coin Show. Space is available both in the Gym and in our usual Room 123 meeting space. This, as well as our ONA 2000 activities, will be discussed at our next Executive Meeting.

That next **Executive Meeting** is coming up on **Wednesday, September 16**. We're switching it back one week to avoid conflicting with the Scarborough meeting on September 9. This is a very important meeting. If your name is on the masthead, please, I need to see you there.

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.

Journeys

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on **Wednesday, August 19, 1998**, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive.



This will be another member participation meeting, this time with the accent on new things you have learned or seen. Perhaps you have been "summer tripping" or maybe you have been at home and have taken some "journeys of the mind" through books or even on the Internet. Harvey Farrow has been our delegate at the CNA Convention and will be updating us on activities there. Please feel free to round out our meeting with the journeys you've taken yourself. And don't forget the auction... we're always glad

Coming Events

Southwestern Ontario Numismatics Coin and Collectibles Show August 9, 9am-5pm at the Paris Fairgrounds, 139 Silver St. 40 tables \$1 admission. Contact Ted Bailey (519) 442-3474

The Collingwood Coin and Stamp Club 24th Annual Bourse August 15, 10am-4pm at the Leisure Time Centre, 100 Minnesota St. 22 Tables. Free admission. Contact Gus (705) 599-6975

Tillsonburg Collectibles Show and Sale August 23, 10:30am-3pm at the Tillsonburg Community Centre, 45 Hardy Ave. 65 tables \$2 admission. Contact Ian Ward (519) 426-8875

Hamilton Coin Club Fall Show September 12, 9am-4pm at the Royal Canadian Legion, Barton St. E. (across

from Centre Mall) Admission \$1 includes one prize ticket. Free parking. Lunch bar. Contact Nancy Kanerva, (905) 608-0568.

Woodstock Collectibles Show September 13, 9am-4pm at the CAW Hall, Beale St. Admission \$1. Free parking. Contact Woodstock Coin Club (519) 539-5926

London Numismatic Society Sixth Annual Coin Show September 20, 9:30am-4:30pm at the Ramada Inn, 817 Exeter Rd. (off Hwy. 401). Admission \$1. Contact: London Numismatic Society, (519) 472-9679.

*Next Meeting:
August 19*

Meeting News from the July 15 Meeting

The 431st meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Wednesday, July 15, 1998 at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Dr., Willowdale, Ontario.

The President, Paul Petch, opened the meeting at 8:04 p.m. and welcomed 24 members and 1 guest on this hot and muggy evening. There was a small air conditioner running, so the door to the room was closed to keep the little bit of cool air it produced all for ourselves.

For the On Time Attendance Draw, Italo Vilella's name was drawn for the \$2.00 pot. Unfortunately he was not wearing his name badge as required by the old, original rules of the draw, so he was not eligible to accept it. The Chair elected to draw another name. Lyan See was present to accept the pot for the second month in a row—the first time this has happened as far as we can recall.

The minutes of the June 16, 1998 meeting were read by the Secretary and after correction were recommended for acceptance by Norman G. Gordon.

The Mint Box was passed to one junior. The Chair announced the August meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 19 and that Harvey will act as Club Delegate at the CNA Convention in Edmonton.

The programme for the evening featured the theme "New to You" and the following members participated—

- 1) **Rick Craig** gave some interesting information regarding a set of 4 tin Newfoundland promotional tokens originally distributed in paint tins which he purchased through the eBay Internet auction.
- 2) **Roger Fox** was recently given a perfect 40 year old numbered Canadian Tire specimen bill that was issued in the last hundred of the 1st series of Gas Bar Rural Scene coupons.
- 3) **Del Murchison** gave some interest-

ing facts and insights into his collection of early 19th century pulp-style magazines which had bright and colourful cover art and low cultural literature.

- 4) **Marvin Kay** recently received 2 coin books: one on Pakistan coins and autographed by its author and the other from Wayne Jacobs, a long time correspondent from the Alberni Valley Coin Club in British Columbia.

- 5) **Paul Petch**, as promised, distributed copies of frequently asked questions about calendar systems used by different cultures. He gave a short discussion on a set of four books on ancient coins, written by Wayne G. Sayles, the most recent in the series having just been released, and on a book that he put together from copies of "*Perspectives in Numismatics*" presented by the Chicago Coin Club on their Internet World Wide Web site.

There was considerable interest and interaction from the floor and the members showed their sincere appreciation with rounds of applause.

Many thanks to Roger Fox for providing much appreciated refreshments during the break.

The Lucky Draw winners were: Ben Walters, Lucille Colson, Marvin Kay, Norman G. Gordon, Dick Dunn(2), Brian See, Paul Johnson, Basil Latham, Karen Eaton(2), Bob Valensky, Ted Boxall and one other who's name was missed. The draw, called by Paul Petch, brought proceeds amounting to \$23.00.

The auction of 5 lots was ably run by Bob Porter with the assistance of Basil Latham. Many thanks to Rick Craig and Brian See for their donations.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:40 p.m.

Question of the Month

A few months ago we featured a reprint of an article on some "odd and curious" Canadian money, especially items such as wampum beads. But there was another interesting medium of exchange used by native peoples, and we don't mean animal furs. The August question challenges you to identify it. The answer will be at the next meeting with an article in the September Bulletin.

For the July question we asked, "In which year and from which area did the first A.D.-dated coin have its origin?" See the article beginning on the next page for the answer.

Club Logo as Line Drawing

A suggestion was made by John Regitko that a line drawing of the Club logo (the obverse of our North York Coin Club medal) would reproduce in print and be more appropriate than the photo which has been in use for the past several years. Computerized graphic equipment and graphic programs make the production of such a drawing a much easier job than it would have been in years gone by. Presented here is a rendition that is partly the work of a computer program and partly the meticulous microscopic manipulations of your Editor. Is more work needed? Should it become the image on our masthead? Please let me know what you think.



The First Anno Domini Dated Coin

A question was recently raised on an Internet discussion group asking someone to identify the first coin to include *anno domini* (A.D.) dating. As we approach the year 2000, it may seem that the dating of coins in the current and familiar A.D. method has been with us for a very long time. In fact, such dating was rare prior to the start of the 16th century. The need for a date on a coin did not exist, since it was the portrait of the emperor, monarch or other issuing figure of authority that was most important in guaranteeing both the popularity of the issuer and the acceptance of the coin. If there was any date at all, it was generally the then-current year of the issuer's rule.

It has been **hard** to find a single and completely definitive answer to this A.D. dating question. What we can offer here are three sources of information, which, when taken together, will give the reader as complete a background of facts and opinions as is available.

Source One: *The Coin Atlas*

Our first source is from the book *The Coin Atlas* by Cribb, Cook and Caradice and is found under the entry for Denmark during the Medieval period. There are only a few clues here, and they read "A novelty from the reign of Valdemar II (1202-41) is the first European coin to be dated, a penning inscribed "ANNO DOMINI MCCXXXI-III." This coin was actually struck by the Bishop of Roskilde.

Source Two: An Internet Posting

A second answer was supplied by Robert Kokotailo on the Internet where he says, "The earliest recorded Anno Domini date on a coin is the Silver Denier referenced by Albert R. Frey in *The Dated European Coinage Prior to 1501* (illustrated on page 93), as a coin of Roskilde, bearing the following types :

- Obverse: Bishop's hat with "+

ANNO : DOMINI"

- Reverse: Crown with "M: CC: XXX: IIII" (indicating a date of AD 1234).

The attribution of this coin to Roskilde is not proven, and it has been pointed out previously that another attribution has been given based on style—I cannot remember what that attribution was—but of the very few specimens of this coin that exist, two of them were found in the Church of St. Ib in Roskilde, strongly supporting the attributions to that site—ecclesiastic coins of this period generally did not stray too far from their place of origin. The Bishop's hat shows that it is an ecclesiastical issue and can probably be assigned to Niels Stigsen, Bishop of Roskilde. A third specimen was found at the Æbelholt Convent, near Roskilde, also, at that time, under the control of Niels Stigsen."

Source Three: From *The Numismatist*

Our third, final and most complete source of information comes from *The First Twenty-eight Anno Domini Dated European Coins* by David R. Cervin ANA-65523, appearing in *The Numismatist* of July, 1973. This is a portion of that article—

SYNOPSIS

The first 28 dated coins were struck between 1234 and 1424. Of these 28, four are no longer extant, four are unique, and the most of any one date is 17. Fifteen collections have at least one specimen, and the total number world-wide is only 152. Of these collections, 10 are in Europe and five are in the United States. The most valuable collection is at the

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ROSKILDE 1234 DENIER

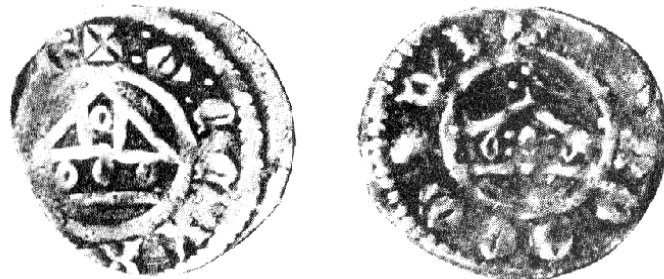


Figure 1.
Roskilde
1229 -
1248

Obverse: + M : CC : XXX : IIII :

Obverse

Reverse: ANNO : DOMINI :

1229 to 1248 (See text)

Bishop's hat

Reverse

In the year of our Lord

Crown (maybe a Church)

AR 14mm (other data not available)

This is not only the first Anno Domini dated coin ever struck, but it is the first of the six now known. Observe that the date (obverse) extends all the way from 1 o'clock to 11 o'clock, but is incomplete due to off-center striking, it reads + MCCXX . . . I Be-

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Aachen City Museum with the Royal Museum in Denmark running a close second. The largest collection is also at the Aachen City Museum with the American Numismatic Society as a distant second.

INTRODUCTION

As a rough guestimate, a couple of trillion coins have been struck bearing Anno Domini dates. This number is incomprehensible. Another way to express this quantity is to say a couple of thousand billion, which is equally incomprehensible. Possibly a better way to understand this vast amount is to point out that forty-eight million are being added every day of the year.

Now come some interesting questions: Where were the first ones struck; how many remain today; and where are they? We know the first, a silver penny or denier issued by Niels Stigsen, the Bishop of Roskilde (Denmark) in

1234. This was, of course, expressed in Roman numerals, MCCXXXIII, and all later coins had Roman numerals until 1424 when the moneyer for St. Gallen conceived of using Arabic numerals. (Actually Roman continued to predominate until about 1490.)

The following references are used:

1. Frey, Albert R: *The Dated European Coinage Prior to 1501*. (1914)
2. Menadier, I:
 - (a) *Die Aachen Munzen*, in *Zeitschrift für Numismatik*, Vol. 1913. p. 354-365
 - (b) *Die Munzen der Julicher* (same, 494-496)
3. Lindahl, Fritze: *Nordisk Numismatisk Arsskrift*; 1963, pp. 50-60.

These three writers list 26 coins between them. Two more were added as a result of answers to questionnaires sent to numismatic museums and private collectors, making a final total of 28.

Of the 28 coins known to have been

struck, four are no longer extant. There is real doubt if any of the missing coins will ever be found. A more startling disclosure is that only 152 of these early dated coins are extant. They range from unique to a maximum of 17. Would anyone knowledgeable in mediæval numismatics have ever guessed such startlingly low numbers? Not only are the world's foremost numismatists unacquainted with these very low numbers, but they sometimes reverse the degree of rarity of coins closely related on a time basis. This is not meant to be critical. It is just that the information presented herein has never been previously made available.

1234 ROSKILDE

The first Anno Domini dated coin has already been identified as being struck in 1234 by Niels Stigsen, the Bishop of Roskilde, a city that still exists about 20 miles northwest of Copenhagen. Its history is truly fascinating. Records show that it was placed in the Royal Danish Collection before 1710 and after 1696. But the exact date of the coin was not known for more than two centuries. The reason is that the obverse (dated side) is defective over a portion of the date due to an off-centered striking, the visible part reading: + MCCXX ... I

Numismatists conjectured over the missing letters until 1934. There had to be at least four letters—possibly five. Since Bishop Stigsen held tenure from 1225 to 1249, the range in dates was from 1229 to 1248. (The missing letters would be VIII & XXVII respectively). But there obviously was no way to pin down a single year. This possibly is the reason why Frey did not identify it as the first dated coin. He acknowledges its existence but credits the 1373 Aachen as dated coin number 1. Unfortunately he did not have access to Menadier's work or he would have added the 1372 Aachen and Schoonvorst & Sichem coins to his list, thereby relegating the 1373 Aachen to number 3 by his reckoning. (Number 4 by the **true** numbering system, which

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ROSKILDE 1234 DENIER



Figure 2. Roskilde 1234

O b - :

1234 :

Bishop's hat

Reverse

In the year of our Lord

Crown (maybe a church)

AR 14mm (other data not available)

In 1934, the second Roskilde coin was found and the date mystery was solved.

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must include the 1234 Roskilde).

But something spectacular happened in 1934. A numismatist, while rummaging through some coins in the museum of Blekinge at Karlskrona, Sweden, unearthed a specimen of the Roskilde, coins that bore the complete date. The missing letters were XIII, making the date MCCXXXIII or 1234.

Thus a 230-year-old mystery was solved—but not to Denmark's satisfaction. They wanted that coin, and Sweden was not about to release it. Could you blame them?

Denmark entered into a vast program to find a whole coin of their own. In 1941 their efforts were rewarded by locating specimen number 3. However, these first three coins gave no clue as to the real origin of the coin. They came from divers collections and could have been issued by some bishop other than Niels Stigsen. However, while probing the ruins of the Æbelholt Convent in 1943, a fourth specimen was unearthed. As this Convent was near Roskilde which in the 13th century fell under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Roskilde the first clue to more positively identifying these four coins presented itself. If more could be found, positive identification might be reasonable.

Denmark therefore entered into a truly tremendous program of archaeological exploration. It was thought that a good untapped source of old coins would be from earth under the floors of older Danish churches. Therefore more than 100 churches were examined resulting in some 5,000 coins being uncovered. In 59 of the older churches, were found 161 coins that were issued between 1146-1241. Of these 161 coins, two had the rare 1234 date, and both were found in the church of St. Ib in Roskilde. Since the Æbelholte Convent Church is also in Roskilde, it seems reasonable to assign this 1234 coin to Niels Stigsen, bishop of Roskilde.

However, the truly fascinating part of the history of this coin is: Why did

the Bishop include a date on it? There is a possible answer to this question, and for this we are indebted to Mrs. Fritze Lindahl. Niels Stigsen, in addition to being bishop, probably was chancellor too. The king, Valdemar II. had two-thirds and the bishop one-third of the income from the mint at Roskilde, and so both must have had the right to control the coin pictures. But as a chancellor, Stigsen may have had the opportunity to control the coin pictures on behalf of the king as well. In 1234 the king succeeded in providing a document by which he appropriated to himself half of the income from the mint of Ribe. It looked like the king was beginning a take-over of the mints, or so it might appear to the populace. Niels Stigsen may perhaps have wanted to show the world that he had been able to keep his part of the Roskilde mint in this same year, 1234, so he simply identified this Anno Domini date on the coin. There are no known follow-up dates, which suggests that Stigsen was satisfied with his announcement to the world that his power had not been suppressed.

Further, 138 years were to elapse before dating on coins again appears. Thus we must conclude that neither he nor his successors felt that dates on coins were either useful or necessary. The sleuthing of Mrs. Lindahl is most remarkable, and we are very grateful to her for her fine work.

Figure 1 shows the first of these six coins, presumed to have entered the Royal Museum before 1710. The obverse bears a bishop's hat with + MCCXX . . . I. On the reverse is a crown (possibly a church) with the words - ANNO DOMINI.

Figure 2 shows one of the two found at the church of St. Ib. The full date is clearly shown. + MCCXXXIII.

There is at least one other point of interest concerning this coin. On the obverse the legend is solely the date. On the reverse the words are solely ANNO DOMINI. In each case they occupy the entire periphery of the coin. This is probably the only instance

of a date, and only a date, occupying the full legends of both sides of a coin. And this makes sense in this case. The coin was to indicate the date. So why say anything else?

Origins of "money"

You've heard the expression "money talks", but the phrase has never had a meaning like this.

The word "money", like many of our English words, finds its origins in the Latin language, the language of the Romans. It's very close to the modern Spanish word *moneda*, the French word *monnaie* and the Italian word *moneta*.

Now, Moneta just happens to be the surname the Romans gave to their goddess Juno who was "the giver of Counsel". That is, one of her jobs was to warn people when they were doing wrong. She was an important goddess, and her temple was an important place. So, it's not surprising that the ancient Romans struck their coins in her temple. That is how Moneta became the name for a mint and later, the root of the word money.

Coins were sometimes struck showing Moneta as an allegorical representation of money, holding her scales of judgment and a cornucopia. The Emperor Commodus introduced three *Monetae* on this Sestertius of 186-187 A.D.



My Numismatic Trip Around the World by FRED BOWMAN

On February 4, 1958 my wife and I left Montreal for a five months' trip around the world. Our primary purpose was to visit friends in Australia, and then to tour India and Europe. I also wished to see as many coin collections as our itinerary might permit, but was particularly desirous of meeting the owners or keepers of these collections.

During our first numismatic stop, at New Westminster, British Columbia, I spent a most pleasant and instructive evening at the home of Mr. Leslie C. Hill. As many of you know, Mr. Hill is one of the leading authorities on the Canadian series. After numerous exchanges of correspondence over the years, I had looked forward with a keen sense of anticipation to meeting him personally, and greatly enjoyed our visit together. It is my hope that we may meet again soon, either at a C.N.A. Convention or otherwise.

Mrs. Bowman and I then flew all the way to Melbourne, Australia, where our next numismatic encounter was to take place. There we drove out to Springvale and passed a delightful hour at the home of Mr. W. E. Curran, Secretary of the Numismatic Association of Victoria. My only disappointment came upon learning that I had missed the opportunity of attending one of their gatherings by a few days; nevertheless, this was amply compensated to me by Mr. Curran's warm spirit of friendship.

In the course of our next stay—at Adelaide, in South Australia—I went to their National Gallery to meet Mr. James Deacon, Honorary Secretary of the Numismatic Society of South Australia. Mr. Deacon is, beyond question, his country's foremost authority on numismatics. He has done a great amount of original research work, particularly on the Australian series, together with considerable writing on the subject.

Then, too, we had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Sidney Hagley, President of the Numismatic Society of South Australia, who arrived with Mrs. Hagley and

drove Mrs. Bowman and myself out to their beautiful residence. The hours quickly passed as we tallied coins and viewed his magnificent numismatic collection and library. His coin study presents, without exception, the best arrangement for ready access and display facilities, neatness and completeness, of any private collection that I have seen. Both Mr. Deacon and Mr. Hagley were exceedingly friendly and hospitable, so that the time at our disposal together seemed far too brief.

In Ceylon, the next centre of attention on our numismatic journey, I went to the National Museum at Colombo and met Mr. H. L. Caldera, Educational and Publications Assistant of the Museum, who is in charge of their numismatic cabinets. Though these are restricted to Ceylonese issues they are unusually complete, ranging from large numbers of the early copper and silver punch-marked coins through all their series down to the present time. Mr. Caldera has recently published a volume in Sinhalese on the coins of Ceylon, and was engaged in preparing an English translation of this work.

Continuing on our way, we came to Madras in India and saw sections of interest at the Government Museum under the guidance of their Curator of Numismatics, Miss R. Vanaja. She possessed a remarkably comprehensive knowledge in her field, particularly with reference to the coinages of southern India; she made my brief stay at the Museum most instructive and pleasant. She was happy to show me any items in their huge collections. However, the rarest pieces are kept locked in a safe which requires both her presence and that of the Museum Head to open it; since time was too short, it proved impractical to carry out this arrangement. The Government Museum of Madras has published a number of numismatic works in English, including *Coins of India Through The Ages*, and *The Coins of Haidar Ali and Tippu Sultan*.

Moving on to Delhi, I went to inspect their Museum, which contains a great wealth of Indian coins. Unfortunately these were not on display at the time but packed away safely prior to being transferred to a new building, then approaching completion. Since the Museum's Superintendent and Numismatic Curator were both out of town, my visit there was entirely fruitless.

Our last excursion for India was to Bombay, where I had a thoroughly worthwhile visit to the Prince of Wales Museum with the assistance of Mr. Parmeshwari Lal Gupta, the Curator of Numismatics. Mr. Gupta is a most learned and distinguished numismatist; extremely kind and helpful, he made every effort to show me principal facets of their wonderful collections in the few hours at our disposal. Their numismatic library offers a wide selection of related reference books.

Calcutta, Lucknow and other Indian cities noted for their important numismatic resources were not on our itinerary, though we felt a sense of loss in missing them on this occasion.

While in Italy, I inquired at Rome as to the present location of the late King Victor Emmanuel's famous cabinets of Roman and Italian coins. You may recall that these were stolen by German soldiers who subsequently discarded them in northern Italy. Though they have been returned to Rome, the royal coin collections still await reclassification and are not on display.

So ended my numismatic quest around the world. I am most grateful to have been able to meet so many eminent authorities in our field of interest and found them, without exception, to be exceedingly friendly and hospitable. Our sole regret was that the time which could be spent with each of them proved all too short.

(This "Journey" was reprinted from the February, 1959, CNA Journal.)