

"The *Best Bulletin*" September, 1998

President's Message

I hope it has been a good summer for you and that you'll be able to join us at the next meeting where we will have news from our Executive Meeting coming up on September 16.

This Club's Bulletin has once again been honoured, this time by the CNA, as the best Canadian coin club newsletter. My thanks to the selection committee, and we'll try to maintain and improve the standard.

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.

Coming Events

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.

1998 International Collectors' Fair, October 2-4, Fri. 10am-8pm, Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 10am-5pm at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre (Hall G), 255 Front Street West. Free admission,

Exploration and Empire

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on **Tuesday, September 22 1998**, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive.



hope you will be able join us. Think about bringing something along for the auction

We recently had an outstanding television offering from CTV entitled "Empire of the Bay". Club member Rick Craig will be picking up on this programme and the broader topic of the Canadian fur trade as our featured speaker this month. His topic is, by definition, immense and loosely covers the history of the fur trade in Canada, the Hudson's Bay Company and the Northwest Company and leads to an examination of the types of collectibles with numismatic connections available to us. Rick has put considerable energy into assembling the material and we

Charles Moore Numismatic Auction, 50 tables. Contact: Trajan Publishing (905) 646-7744.

Durham Coin 98, October 10, 9:30am-5pm, sponsored by the Oshawa and District Coin Club at the Pickering Town Centre, Liverpool and Hwy. #2. No admission charge. Contact: Earl or Sharon MacLean (905) 728-1352.

Ottawa Coin and Stamp Dealers Association Fair, October 10-11, 10am-4pm daily, at the Nepean Sportsplex, 1701 Woodroffe Ave. Free admission. Contact: Brian Wolfenden (613) 226-2045.

Burlington International Fall Coin Show, October 17, 9am-4pm, at the Brant Hills Community Centre, 2300

Duncaster Dr. (between Upper Middle Rd. and Hwy. #5). Admission free. Displays and lunch room. Contact: Nancy Kanerva (905) 608-0568.

Tillsonburg Coin Show, October 18, 9am-4pm at the Tillsonburg Community Centre, 45 Hardy St. Admission one loonie. Contact: Wayne MacFarlane (519) 842-6666.

Torex, October 24-25, 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.

Next Meeting:
September 22

Meeting News from the August 19 Meeting

The 432nd meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Wednesday, August 19, 1998 at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Dr., Willowdale, Ontario.

The President, Paul Petch, opened the meeting at 8:05 p.m. and welcomed 22 members and one guest.

On Time Attendance Draw: George Fraser was present to accept the \$2 pot. The Mint Box was passed to one junior.

The Chair reminded members that meetings will revert back to the 4th Tuesday of the month, namely September 22nd, and that the next meeting of the Executive will be on September 16th.

A brief discussion was held on the present bulletin logo vs. a line drawing. Roger Fox's opinion was that the present photographic form looks very elegant.

Harvey Farrow, as Club delegate, gave his usual complete report on the CNA Convention in Edmonton. The following were some of the highlights: Our Club and Paul Petch, as bulletin editor, won the annual award for the best Club Bulletin; there will be a \$3 increase in CNA dues for 1999; the club was presented with a certificate for 35 continuous years of membership; the Convention had excellent media coverage which brought in a huge crowd to view about 200 exhibit cases and to consult with 46 dealers; next year the convention will be held in Kitchener-Waterloo and in Ottawa for the year 2000. Overall the show was very good. Roger Fox and Bill McDonald shared their views and what they saw as well.

Further to this journey, members were asked to share any recent adventures they had had. The following responded:

- 1) **Marvin Kay** - presented coins and other memorabilia from his spring-time cruise of the Caribbean.
- 2) **Jim Heifetz's** trip to Israel pro-

duced several unusual phone cards and a beautiful Capek '96 uniface medal depicting all vehicles that deliver mail.

- 3) **Del Murchison** had catalogues of prices for odd and curious money and brought along two interesting specimens not actually used as money. The Question of the Month was inserted at this point because it asked members to identify an "interesting medium of exchange used by native peoples." Del read out a long and complete list of exchange items but the seemingly single item omitted, arrowheads, was the answer Paul was looking for. A full article on arrowheads will be printed in the next bulletin.
- 4) **Dick Dunn** noted that a dealer was stamping paper money with "Spread the CNA virus" and managed to get him to stamp two sets of uncirculated bills for Geo. Fraser and himself.
- 5) **Bill McDonald**, during a trip to Italy, acquired a 1900 year old coin depicting the Trajan monuments that he had seen in Rome.
- 6) **Paul Petch**, on his return from the Bruce Peninsula, visited a bookstore where he found some very interesting books.

We have received a copy of the Robert C. Willey's "*Dictionary of Canadian Medallists*" from the Canadian Numismatic Research Society. It was edited by Ron Greene with publishing of it supported by the J. Douglas Ferguson Historical Foundation.

Coffee break was a welcome time with a round of applause to Roger Fox for his fine refreshments.

Lucky Draw winners were: Ron Zelk, Norm Belsten(3), Ted Boxall(2), Brian See, Dick Dunn, Rick Chadwick, Harvey Farrow(2), George Fraser, Italo Vilella and Bob Porter. Proceeds amounted to \$18.00.

Question of the Month

Our theme for the September Question of the Month is alcoholic spirits. Now, it isn't our purpose to glorify or promote alcohol, nor the imbibing of same. That's not necessary because, as W. C. Fields observed, "you never hear anything positive being said about liquor because it is able to stand on its own astuteness."

What you are challenged to do is to identify as many Canadian numismatic items as you can which are somehow tied in with alcohol. (Getting money in change at the Liquor Store doesn't count!) To get you started with an example, we offer Breton 562, a one sou token identified as being from "TH^S & W^M MOLSON MONTREAL" with a keg on the obverse and distilling equipment and the words "CASH PAID FOR ALL SORTS OF GRAIN 1837" on the reverse. Do a little looking and see what else you can come up with for the meeting.

The August question returned to the topic of "odd and curious" Canadian money. Recalling items discussed in a recent Bulletin article, members were asked to identify yet another interesting medium of exchange used by native peoples (and we don't mean animal furs). The answer we had in mind was "Indian Arrowheads" as discussed in the article on page 6, *Indian Arrowheads as a Medium of Exchange*. Del Murchison's list of odd and curious mediums of exchange is on page 7.

An auction of six lots ably run by Bob Porter with the assistance of Basil Latham brought a commission of \$1.30. Many thanks to Brian See and George Fraser for donations.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:52 p.m.

CNA '98 Edmonton Report by Harvey Farrow

Our group, consisting of Norm Belsten, Russ Brown, Ron Zelk and myself, left Pearson International Airport shortly after 7:00 p.m., on Wednesday, July 29th. We got into Edmonton around 9:40 p.m., Edmonton time, which was a little late because of the high head winds. By the time we got to the Convention Inn Hotel where we were staying it was after 11:00 p.m. We had driven about 25 minutes from the airport to reach the hotel, but we were still a good 15 to 20 minutes from downtown Edmonton.

The convention officially opened on Thursday at 10:00 a.m. Pre-registrants were admitted to the bourse and exhibit room an hour early at 9:00 a.m., before it was open to the general public to look for bargains at the 46 bourse tables.

At 10:15 a.m., 23 people boarded a bus without a tour guide, relying on the bus driver to provide the tour commentary. We were taken to the downtown area to visit the City Hall and the Province of Alberta Legislative Building. I was disappointed that we didn't see where the football and hockey teams play their games, but we did see the ball park where Edmonton's minor team plays. Our next visit was to the West Edmonton Mall, now the second largest mall in the world, taking in an area of 8 blocks.

For those who wanted a chance to get right inside the West Edmonton Mall, shuttle busses were provided, once in the

morning and once in the afternoon, on both Thursday and Friday to make the 15 to 20 minute trip. Some people took advantage of the service. There were no busses on Saturday because of all the meetings and education forums scheduled for that day. I never did make it inside the Mall myself, because I was using my free time on Thursday and Friday to do the bourse and exhibit room.

This year the Royal Canadian Mint's annual reception was at the end of the first day of the convention on Thursday evening. In some other years it has been



on the Wednesday evening, the night before the convention opens. Doors opened at 7:00 p.m. with a very good turnout. Refreshments offered included all kinds of fruits, cheese and crackers, bread rolls and 2 hinds of roast beef. We were treated very well and I, for one, did not need any supper that evening. It was also pleasant that live background music was provided by three musicians.

Danielle Wetherup, the Master of the Mint, spoke briefly to the guests around 8:15 p.m. She provided an outline of the Mint's planned production of quarters for the years 1999 and 2000. This is going to be a repeat of the very successful 1992 programme in which 12 different quarters were produced, one being released each month. This time we can look forward to a total of 24 new designs being produced during the two years of the programme.

Since this was the 100th anniversary of the western gold rush, our hosts presented everyone at the reception with a little bag containing a small lapel stick pin and a goldene medal promoting the 1999 and 2000 quarter programme. The reception finished around 9:00 p.m.

1998 CNA Convention Medal

The 1998 convention medal was produced by the Edmonton Numismatic Society in conjunction with the Canadian Numismatic Association. The central design element is based upon a photograph taken by Eric A. Hegg in 1898 of the White Pass & Yukon Railway. The scene depicts the narrow gauge engine in front of the only tunnel on the railway's journey from Skagway to Lake Bennet in the Yukon. This particular photograph, Hegg #661, was made available through the assistance of Mr. Richard H. Engeman, Photographs and Graphics Librarian, Special Collections and Preservation Division of the Allen Library, University of Washington in Seattle.



1998 CNA Convention Medal

The story of the White Pass & Yukon Railway is told by Roy Minter in his book *The White Pass - Gateway to the Klondike* c1987. It is a fascinating glimpse into an interesting part of the Klondike gold rush and the Convention theme pays tribute to the men and women who mined for gold in the Yukon 100 years ago.

There was a medal design competition and the credit for this winning design is shared by Darrell Stiles and Daniel Gosling. Darrell submitted one of the two winning design theme's. His contribution to the final design is the perimeter relief and the chain. Daniel Gosling suggested the central area based on E.A. Hegg's original photograph.

The medal was engraved and struck in limited quantity by the Royal Canadian Mint in silver and copper.

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On Friday the bourse and exhibit area reopened at 10:00 a.m. and was active until 6:00 p.m. There was a chance to win a gold coin at the mint's booth by depositing your name and address on a ballot. The mint continued to distribute copies of the same goldene medal from the booth as were handed out at their reception the previous evening.

At noon on Friday the Canadian Paper Money Society held their annual luncheon with over 25 people in attendance. Alex Mair was the guest speaker with *The Klondike and Some Interesting Stories* about Edmonton's history. It was very well done and was indeed very interesting for those in attendance.

There weren't any other meetings scheduled for Friday afternoon so many used the time for browsing and spending money on the bourse floor or visiting the West Edmonton Mall.

The weather had been perfect since we arrived. Then, about 5:00 p.m., a severe rain storm struck which included hail stones and lightning. It lasted for over an hour and it was such a heavy downpour that I couldn't see the mall and the big Ikea store right across the highway. It should be mentioned here that the Convention hotel was situated in a large median between the two lanes of expressway traffic. When we looked out our hotel room window we could see the traffic coming and going on the highway... rather like the 400 and 401 highways here.

Between 6:45 and 7:00 p.m. buses were supposed to be leaving for our big "night out" activity on the *Edmonton Queen Riverboat*. A boat cruise and dinner was planned on the North Saskatchewan River, but because of the storm our bus was late getting to the hotel. It was one of those new-style buses which can be lowered for wheelchair passengers, but when we were loaded and ready to leave the driver had a hard time getting the bus elevated back up to the normal driving position. After about ten minutes of work he had the problem beat, got the doors closed, and we were

off.

About 55 people participated in the cruise. The river channel was quite deep so about all you could see from either side of the boat were banks of trees and every so often a large storm sewer opening dumping the rushing water from the storm run-off into the river. The water was a dirty brown and, considering we were preparing for a buffet supper, it wasn't very appetizing! The buffet featured beef, chicken and salmon, along with various salads. There was only one kind of soup, which most people couldn't finish because it was so spicy. On a bit of a sour note, after the main course the waitress passed around a menu, without prices, listing three different kinds of desserts. Some people, myself included, were surprised when we were charged extra, not only for dessert but for milk in place of the standard cup of tea or coffee. This was a first, out of all the C.N.A. convention tours I have taken over the years. In the past, as you would expect, only alcoholic beverages were extra.

We were back at the dock around 10:30 p.m. and it was good to see the bus waiting for us for the return trip to the hotel. Unfortunately, because we were by the river I guess, it was loaded with mosquitoes and everybody was kept busy swatting and killing them... almost until we made it back to the hotel. This finished the Friday of the convention. On Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m., the C.N.A. Club Delegates' Breakfast

Meeting started with 21 people in attendance. At this meeting the C.N.A. President, Yvon Marquis, announced that the 1997 C.N.A. Best Canadian Club Newsletter Award went to the North York Coin Club. There was a plaque for the Club along with an Editor's Award plaque for Paul Petch. Also at the meeting they were promoting the special note issued in April to publicize Coin Month Canada to be held in October this year. In preparing the notes, there was a mistake in the translation from English to French. The phrase, "Touch the stories of yesterday" which appeared on notes E1 to E199, was corrected to "Touch the stories of Yesteryear" on notes E200 to E399. These notes sold individually for \$3.50 or for \$7.00 for both varieties. The meeting finished shortly before 10:00 a.m. A breakfast meeting of the Canadian Numismatic Research Society was held at the same time.

The Annual General Meeting of the C.N.A. began at 10:30 a.m. with a good attendance. The main news highlight of the meeting dealt with an increase in membership fees. This is coming about because of declining membership and the associated lower volume of Journal mailings. The C.N.A. is no longer meeting the regulations of Canada Post and Heritage Canada for accessing the lower postage rates. Effective in January, 1999, the yearly membership will be increased by \$3.00 to \$33.00 to offset the increased cost.

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Souvenir CNA '98 Convention Token



The central design element of the Edmonton Numismatic Society's BiMetallicToken was submitted by Darrell Stiles. The peripheral wording was a joint effort by James Kindrake, Albert Meyer, Mike Scheider and Daniel Gosling.

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This is the first increase in membership fees in about 5 years.

Immediately following the Annual General Meeting were the awards presentations for the exhibit winners, except for the Best of Show award which is announced at the banquet in the evening. Also during this meeting the North York Coin Club received its 35 years of continuous C.N.A. membership certificate. This meeting finished shortly before noon.

Meetings of the Canadian Association of Token Collectors and the Canadian Tire Coupon Collectors Club were held, both beginning at noon but in different rooms. I was unable to attend because at

12:30 p.m. the Numismatic Network Canada meeting took place with about 13 people in attendance. This meeting lasted for about an hour.

At 1:00 p.m. on Saturday the ladies attending had a craft programme event called 'Xmas in July', which wasn't really accurate because the convention calendar had by this time rolled over to August 1st.

At 2:00 p.m. the C.N.A./N.E.S.A. Educational Forum was held. Bruce Brace served as moderator and introduced Brian Cornwell speaking on Coin Grading and Counterfeit Detection, Lub Wojtiw with his talk about Alberta Prosperity Certificates and James Kindrake providing an overview of World BiMetallic

Coinage.

The bourse and exhibit room, open since 9:00 a.m. closed for the last time at 5:00 p.m., an hour earlier than on the two previous days. There were approximately 195 cases of displays, including a few of the same displays which had appeared in April at the O.N.A. in Ottawa. The Canadian Tire coupons and the trade dollar exhibits alone took up over 100 cases. This year there was one junior exhibit, which was a first for a number of years at the Convention.

The overall attendance was very good and Saturday was the best day, probably because the Convention had excellent media coverage. Representatives from three television networks had been in attendance during the day Thursday, promoting the convention to the general public.

The auction was conducted by Moore Numismatic Auctions and was held in two sessions. Both began at 1:00 p.m. The first was on Friday and had 1074 lots and the second was on Saturday and had 907 lots. Both were well attended and the prices, as usual, were low in some areas and over estimate in others.

The pre-banquet reception got underway at 6:00 p.m. and was followed by the banquet at 7:00 p.m. It was held in the same area as the exhibits and had an attendance of about 95. Ron Greene of Victoria, B.C., was the banquet speaker with his topic *The Klondike Gold Rush*, quite appropriate since this year is the 100th anniversary of the event. Each banquet attendee received an official 1983-1984 Edmonton Oiler Hockey Team Trade Dollar Set consisting of 5 pieces and featuring Wayne Gretzky, Andy Moog, Dave Semenko, Mark Messier and Dave Hunter. Credit goes to Ray Neiman of National Pride Coin & Stamp of Edmonton for donating this material. The dinner featured roast beef with Yorkshire pudding, vegetables and fresh fruit tart for dessert. The Best of Show, J. Douglas Ferguson Award, CNA Fellowships and the Guy Potter Literary Award were also presented at

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CNA '98 Awards

Exhibit Display Medals by category

Canadian Coins and Tokens:

1st R. Nelson, Stone Hardware and Groceries Tokens

Canadian Paper Money and Script:

- 1st Ron Greene, the Development of Bank Notes in Canada
2nd Lub Wojtiw, the 1937 Bank of Canada Notes
3rd Wayne Gilcash, Westmorland Bank of New Brunswick All Cashier Signature Varieties of \$1

Canadian Medals and Miscellaneous:

- 1st Ron Greene, Medallic Illustrations of British Columbia's Parliament Buildings
2nd R. Nelson, The Bluenose Legacy
3rd John Callaghan, XI Commonwealth Games 20th anniversary Edmonton 1978-1998

Non Canadian Coins and Tokens:

- 1st Dorte Brace, Aspects of Danish Coinage in the Middle Ages
2nd Albert Kaiser, The Congress of Berlin 1878 and 45 Piasters of Cyprus 1928
3rd W. Demortigny, Shipwreck Treasure

Non Canadian Paper and Script:

1st Lub Wojtiw, Money of Bidefeld

Non Canadian Medals and Miscellaneous:

- 1st R. Nelson, The Pony Express A Selection of Medals
2nd Albert Kaiser, The Waterloo Medal

Juniors:

1st Brett Clifton, Michael Jordan Medals

Best of Show:

Dorte Brace, Ancaster, Ontario, Aspects of Danish Coinage in the Middle Ages

J. Douglas Ferguson Award:

James Haxby, author of coin catalogues and other numismatic books.

C.N.A Fellowships:

Norm Williams and Geoff Bell

Guy Potter Literary Award:

Wayne Jacobs.

(Continued from page 5)

the banquet. Concluding around 10:00 p.m., the evening was topped off with the President's post-banquet reception, held in a large suite in the hotel. As usual, there was a very good attendance because it was the last chance for most people to say their good-byes until the next year's convention.

The only event on Sunday was the 8:00 p.m. Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors breakfast meeting, with 25 people in attendance. Executive turn-out was sparse, mostly because of personal illness or illness in the family. This meeting finished shortly before 10:00 a.m.

After the C.A.W.M.C. meeting we had the rest of the day to ourselves because our plane wasn't scheduled to depart until that night at 12:50 a.m., Monday, Edmonton time. The four of us, Norm, Russ, Ron and myself, arrived back at Pearson International Airport in the early hours at 6:20 a.m., Toronto time. After dropping Ron off at his place and getting myself home, I went to bed for some sleep, having been up for almost 24 hours.

Next year's convention will be in Kitchener, Ontario, hosted by the Waterloo Coin Society, at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel, July 22-25, 1999. Then, in the year 2000, it will be in Ottawa to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the C.N.A. and will be put on by the C.N.A. itself. Because of the distance, only 10 members of our club attended the Convention this year, but we hope that will increase for the next couple of years when it is closer to home.

This concludes my report on the 1998 C.N.A. convention in Edmonton, Alberta.

Thank you, Harvey, for reporting the Convention news and colour commentary in this very complete report.

Indian Arrowheads as a Medium of Exchange by Fred Jarrett

A recent number of *The Canadian Numismatic Journal* contained the suggestion that Indian arrowheads were used by the Hudson's Bay Company as media of exchange in trading with the Indians.

Today's generation is not the first to collect these interesting items. Arrowheads have always been collected, apparently: it is quite possible that the Indians themselves were loath to part with some of their finer specimens, and not unreasonable to assume that the Hudson's Bay factors and others at a trading post may have been impressed by the arrowhead maker's skill and the infinite variety of his product. In such a situation gunpowder, flour, tobacco and other commodities might well be passed over the counter in exchange for arrowheads.

The profusion and variety of these pieces of flint and stone would indicate that their production was not too difficult. Doubtless many an Indian could fashion his own, given a suitable piece of workable material. However, excavations show that arrowheads made by highly skilled members of the tribe originated in great abundance at certain centres. In other words, they made such manufactures their business, and even imported roughly worked material from which to shape the finished article.

An important contributing factor to the fairly plentiful supply of arrowheads available for collectors is their durable nature. When Folsom man, thirty thousand years ago, fashioned them so beautifully for his personal needs, he scarcely supposed that they would be lost, found, and used again and again down through the centuries.

It is interesting to note that two arrowheads picked up within a few feet of each other on a blown Saskatchewan field could be hundreds and even thousands of years apart in age—one lost and covered by long accumulation of

top soil before the other fell close by. For the uninitiated, it might be as well to define a "blown field": an area where successive seasons of drought and prevailing winds have removed one stratum after another—right down to the original hardpan, in some instances.

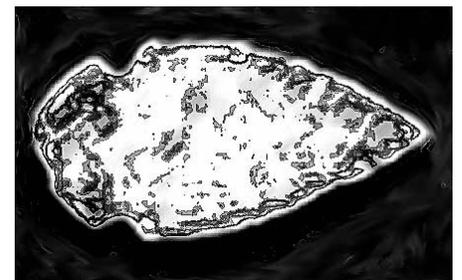
Geologists dated one level in which the writer found an arrowhead as ten thousand years old. That arrowhead surely waited a long time to get back into circulation!

Hudson's Bay Company officers, many years ago, decided to supply the Indians with arrowheads made from iron barrel hoops. These went out to the Indians in trade, thus making it a two-way proposition. However, very few examples of the Hudson's Bay article have ever been found on the Plains—which suggests that the idea had small favour with the Indians. Seemingly, they still preferred the tried and true to something less certain!

Thus the arrowhead can be accepted as yet another curious medium of exchange, with a legitimate place in our numismatic collections.

***C.N.A. Journal
May, 1962***

The removal of artifacts from heritage sites is now a criminal offense.



A Compilation of Canadian Odd and Curious Money by Del Murchison

I have compiled a list of odd Canadian monies, but I didn't include arrowheads. Why not?

Well, when talk turns to strange and curious money, occasionally we hear of arrowhead money. But I think that the inclusion is the result of overzealous catalogers who, in their effort to be all inclusive, have overstepped the boundaries between money and trade goods. Although Hans M. F. Shulman listed them in 1946 in his *Odd and Curious Money of the World—A Complete Register*, he listed a great deal of material that no one would call money. A prime example would be his carved jade symbols that he had for sale. And, although he included a great deal of background material about most of the pieces in his register, he simply listed arrowheads without comment.

The Fred Jarret article (on page 6) notes that the Hudson Bay Company traded metal arrowheads made from barrel hoops with the Indians. He also points out that finished and unfinished arrowheads have been found far from the quarry from which they originated. This simply shows that Flint as a commodity was in demand and traded far from its point of origin, and that the Hudson Bay Company hoped to make a profit from its now empty barrels.

Another point of contention is the abundance of tiny "arrowheads", too small to have been used for hunting. Those who support arrowheads as money point to these miniature pieces as being "small change". But, one has to realize that they need not have been projectile points. As the natives had no metal, they used Flint and other natural materials for everything. The tiny relics are probably drill bits, medical instruments, sewing or carving implements.

No cataloger of arrowheads that I know of even mentions the possibility of their use as money. There are no contemporary references of their use as anything

but implements. Certainly there are no legal documents referring to their use to settle debts, which is common with other unusual forms of money. Col. O. Phanes Sigler in his monumental article *Strange Money of the World* which ran from August, 1955 to September, 1958 in *The Numismatist* never mentions arrowheads in relation to North American currency. The current Bible for the odd money enthusiast, *Odd and Curious Money* by Charles J. Opitz, also bypasses the mention of arrowhead money in the North American context, although he lists three types of African pieces along with Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Russian arrowheads used as currency.

Here is my *Canadian Odd and Curious Money* list:

Axe money: Metal axe with wooden handle, Wahashee Georgian Bay, District of Canada

Beads: Hudson Bay Company Trade Beads ,

2 green or yellow = 1 light blue

3 light blue = 1 beaver skin,

1 large light blue opaque bead

= 2 "made beavers" of which

3 = 1 deep blue faceted bead

Bearskin: Quebec; became legal tender in 1673

Bear teeth: British Columbia, Polar bear teeth

Beaver skin: all through North America

Blanket money: Hudson Bay Company, White and red woolen blankets = 50 cents used in the potlatch, in 1849 HBC purchased 200 sq. miles from tribes in Vancouver Island for 950 blankets.

Buttons: British Columbia, large pearl button with brass shank = 1 marten skin

Codfish: Newfoundland, in the regulation of the fisheries in the Terra Nova issued in 1825 declared legal tender

Corn: Quebec

Cowry: Pacific coast

Dentalium Shell money: Nootka of Vancouver collected and traded to the Pacific Coast, small shells = \$.25 larger

shells up to \$5.00, value was determined by how many it took to make a string of 27 ½ inches

Fish hook money: Pacific northwest, Eskimos traded for metal fish hooks 1 ½ to 2 ½ inches

Liquor: North America 1600-1700

Maple Sugar: Nova Scotia, used as barter

Martin Skin: Canada, 1 "made beaver" = 2 Martin Skins

Moose Skins: Quebec 1674, moose skins were made legal tender

Nails: North America, Colonial period, scarce and expensive may have served as trade or barter item but not true money cost was stated in pence according to size, a tenpenny nail is approximately 3 inches

Olive Shells: North America, also known as Oliva Nana or Olivella shell, traded as individual shells, strung end to end or broken holed and then strung

Peas: Quebec circa 1600's, used as currency

Peace pipe: Northern Canada and Manitoba, most valued made of catlinite (pipestone) or steatite (soapstone)

Playing Card money: New France 1685-1757, first issued as emergency money

Shield Money: Northwest coast, made of native copper by the Kwakiutl and Haida tribes form of wealth equal to high denomination paper money, used in the potlatch some coppers weighed 90 lb. were valued at 7,500 blankets or \$3,750. One was valued at \$20,000!!! A store of wealth shield money was outlawed in 1898 but was used into the 1930's

Thimbles: North America

Wampum: North America beads made from the quahog clam shell, 2 white = 1 black = 1 farthing

Whiskey: see liquor

LEGEND OF THE WHITE BUFFALO

On August 6, 1998, in Portland, Oregon, the Royal Canadian Mint presented at the 107th American Numismatic Association World's Fair of Money the *Legend of the White Buffalo* gold coin. The new 22-karat gold coin has a face value of \$200 and is the second in a four year series on Canadian Native Cultures and Traditions.

Danielle Wetherup, Master of the Royal Canadian Mint, told the gathering, "Native artists and Mint artisans have been working together on this coin series, creating a new medium for Canadian Native art. Our 1998 coin depicting the Legend of the White Buffalo is an exquisite addition to the series. Alex Janvier's design is a beautiful, unique creation and I am very proud we have been able to use his work on our coin."

The Theme

The buffalo is a powerful symbol in the life of the Plains native culture and past generations have looked to the buffalo for both spiritual guidance and the necessities of life. White buffaloes are extremely rare and the legend maintains that a period of healing, unity and regeneration accompanies the birth of a white buffalo.

In traditional Plains native culture, food, shelter, clothing and tools were all provided by the buffalo. Peoples' lives and seasons revolved around the movements of the mighty buffalo herds who roamed the prairies, as well as the wood bison found in the boreal forests.

The Canadian Native Cultures and Traditions series is the result of a partnership between the Royal Canadian Mint and the Canadian Museum of Civilization to promote awareness of the First Nations culture and traditions in the contemporary world throughout the work of contemporary Native artists.

The Design

Obverse

Effigy of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II by artist Dora de Pédery-Hunt, surrounded by the inscription 200 DOLLARS, CANADA, 1998, ELIZABETH II.

Reverse

The design depicts the White Buffalo coming alive and leaping into action. The four cardinal points are marked with stylized teepee pegs joined by 16 stones—another important symbol of spiritual renewal. The "heartline" shows that the buffalo has life. The lines in the background suggest water, the source of life. As well as signing the design with his name, Janvier has included his own personal treaty number, 287.

The Artist

Alex Janvier was born on Cold Lake First Nations Reserve near Cold Lake,



Alberta. Raised in the Chippewyan tradition, he spoke the Dene Souncini language until the age of eight when he was sent to the Blue Quill Residential School. Janvier attended the Alberta College of Art after high school and decided in 1971 to devote himself to his art on a full-time basis.

Janvier's major commissions include the domed ceiling of the Canadian Museum of Civilization where his mural entitled Morningstar spans over 4500 square feet. The Museum is also home to "The Seasons", another of his major works. Janvier's paintings are sought after by art collectors and his work has been included in many exhibitions of

native art.

Janvier is hopeful about the future of aboriginal culture and art, noting that many people are recovering traditional values and practices. According to Janvier, belief in Mother Earth and the Great Spirit is the basis upon which future generations can reclaim true spirituality and freedom as aboriginal people.

The Series

The focus of the Canadian Native Cultures and Traditions series is on contemporary native art selected in cooperation with the Canadian Museum of Civilization from among artists featured in the permanent collection of the Museum. Four different regions of Canada will be represented.

1997: The art of the Haida from the West coast of Canada—"Raven Bringing Light to the World".

1998: The art of the Plains native culture—the Legend of the White Buffalo.

1999: Native art from eastern Canada.

2000: The art of the Inuit.

Coin Specifications

Purity 22 karat or 91.67% gold, 8.33% silver

Weight 17.135 grams

Gold Content 15.552 grams (minimum ½ Troy ounce of fine gold)

Diameter 29 mm

Thickness 2 mm

Edge Reeded

Face Value \$200

Mintage 25,000

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