

"The Bulletin" December, 1998

President's Message

I wish to extend very best wishes to all members and their families for a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and joyous holiday season from all the members of the Club executive and myself.

A thank you goes out to the many members who have promptly paid their annual dues. Payments received up to and including our November meeting night are being acknowledged in this mailing of *The Bulletin* with annual membership cards and receipts. If you haven't paid yet, you may pay by mail or see the Treasurer, Harvey Farrow, at a Club meeting.

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.

Christmas Party Time

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on **Thursday, December 10 1998**, 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. Notice that we will be starting 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 optional gift exchange, please 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 noon on Tuesday, December 8. His number is **416-923-5545** and this year you can also contact him by e-mail at 690667@ican.net. Please do contact him to reserve or cancel because we need to know how many dinners to buy. The charge per dinner is \$5. The balance is being subsidized by the Club.

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, Paul Petch has promised us an entertaining non-numismatic quiz. We've got copies of the quiz for everyone, so bring along a pencil with a good eraser!

Coming Events

Woodstock Collectibles Show and Sale, December 27, 10:30am-4pm at the Oxford Auditorium, 875 Nellis St. Admission \$2. Contact Ian Ward (519) 426-8875.

The Winter Show Coins and Collectibles, January 16-17, Sat. 10am-

5pm, Sun. 10am-4pm by the Canadian Association of Numismatic Dealers (CAND) at the Ramada Inn, 150 King St. E. Hamilton. Admission \$3. Contact T. McHugh, PO Box 61538 Fennell PO, Hamilton, L8T 5R1

Southwestern Ontario Numismatics Coin and Collectibles Show, February 7, 9am-5pm at The Special Events Building, Paris Fairgrounds, 139 Silver

Street. Admission \$1. Contact Ted Bailey (519) 442-3474

***Next Meeting:
Christmas Party
December 10***

Meeting News from the October 22 Meeting

The 435th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, November 24, 1998 at the Edithvale Community Centre.

The President, Paul Petch opened the meeting at 8:00 pm and welcomed 25 members and 3 guests.

Vince Chiappino of Mississauga was welcomed as a new member under number 502. Last month we forgot to record that **Len Keunzig** was accepted as new member 501. We made up for it at this meeting by pulling his name on the On Time Attendance Draw. Len was present to accept the \$4. pot.

The Chair announced that Harvey is accepting annual dues and December Christmas Party reservations. He also encouraged members once again to submit design ideas for the convention medal.

There was a brief discussion on the recent Waterloo Coin Show which may have to move out of Waterloo.

The Chair introduced the theme for the evening, numismatic connections to the month of November.

Marvin Kay came fully prepared with an illustrious variety of items, medals and stories from around the world and primarily related to medicine. **George Fraser** brought along two richly illustrated auction catalogues for sales which took place in November. He mentioned that they arrived in his mail box on the day of the sale, so he didn't really have an opportunity to make use of them. **Harvey Farrow** displayed three medals. In the spirit of Remembrance Day, November 11, one of them was a military medal awarded to his father. He also showed two books. One was about about Maple Leaf Gardens and he recalled his first November visit to the facility. The other was about the Royal Winter Fair which runs in November and with which his mother was associated. **Ted Boxall** had tokens from the

Hickam Air Force NCO Base on the island of Oahu in Hawaai. **Paul Johnson** put on view a new book containing the full history of the Kennedy Half Dollars. He recalled that Kennedy died in November, 1963. **Paul Petch** read a commentary on Winston Churchill who was born on November 30. To add to this he had a commemorative medal and an August, 1965 issue of the National Geographic which included a record containing Churchill's speeches. The efforts of all the participants was much appreciated by the members.

A get-well card for **John Curtis** was signed by members and friends in attendance. John is in hospital and we wish him all the best. It was being hand-delivered by **Norman G. Gordon**.

Coffee break offered a busy social time with many thanks going to Roger Fox for his preparations.

Lucid Draw winners were: Russ Brown, Dion VanLaethem(3), Norman G. Gordon, Bob Valensky(2), George Fraser, Ron Zelk, Basil Latham, Paul Petch(2), Vince Chiappino and Norm Belsten. The draw run by Roger Fox brought in \$21.00.

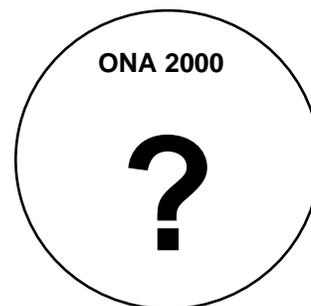
An auction of 6 lots was ably run by Bob Porter with the assistance of Basil Latham and earned \$4.60 in commissions and \$2.50 in donations. Many thanks to the following for their donations to the club: Brian See, Rick Craig, Mike Haken, Tom Wilson and Frank Zahra.

Regarding the December Christmas Party, the Chair advised there will be an optional Gift Exchange of approximately \$6 to \$7 and the usual non-numismatic quiz. The club will supplement the cost of the Chicken Chalet dinners. We will have the usual pot-luck table and gratefully accept any donations of salads and sweets. Our thanks to **Ron Zelk** who has volunteered to arrive with the Chicken Chalet hot food at 7:30.

Question of the Month

For the November question you were asked to identify Canada's earliest transportation tokens.

Rick Craig correctly identified the pieces in question as being the Bout de l'Isle tokens, a fairly scarce and very difficult series to collect. See pages three through six for a couple of fine articles on the subject.



ONA 2000 Medal Design Competition

The Ontario Numismatic Association's annual convention will be hosted by the North York Coin Club in April of 2000. As is the tradition, we will be issuing a medal in commemoration of the event. It was announced at the September meeting that there is a medal design competition now open to all Club members. The Medal Committee Chairman, Rick Craig, along with fellow committee members Roger Fox and Paul Johnson, are now receiving your designs and ideas. They hope to select a winning design by the end of the year. Why do we need to decide on the design so quickly? It will be the logo of the convention and will establish our major theme. The winner will receive one of the medals in silver as their prize.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:30 pm.

History of the Bout de l'Isle Tokens by P. N. Breton

(Illustrated under Nos.534 to 545.)

We reproduce here two interesting articles on the Bout de l'Isle tokens. This first one is from Breton's 1894 catalogue. It served as the source for Mr. R. C. Wiley's article on the same subject.

These twelve tokens, about which a number of contradictory histories have been written, are the most interesting of any of our Canadian coins.

They were struck at Birmingham and imported to be used as tickets or passes over three different bridges, which bridges stood for only a short time, and the following facts culled from authentic documents will help us to understand the important position they hold in our Canadian collections.

Lower Canadian Government to build two wooden bridges, of which one is from Lachenaie to Isle Bourdon, and another from the Isle Bourdon to the Island of Montreal. These two bridges were completed in 1806 and approved by experts on the 18th of October in the same year; unfortunately, although built at great expense, they were carried away by ice on Saturday evening, April 25th, 1807.

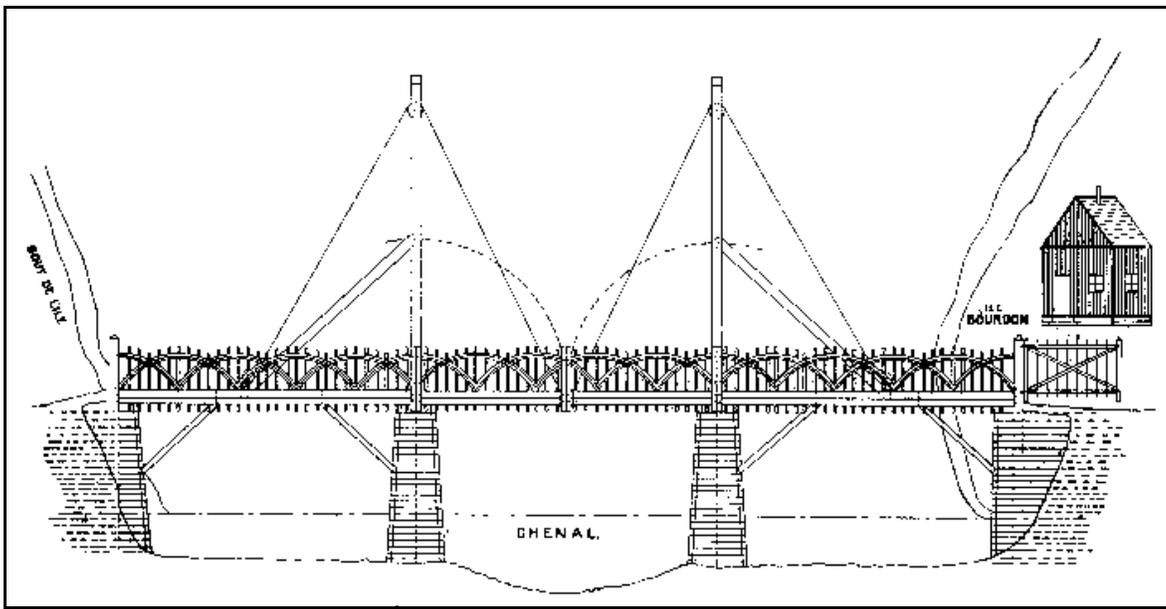
Notwithstanding this loss, Mr. Porteous asked for, and secured from the government, on the 14th of April, 1808, authority to rebuild, and also to build a third bridge between Repentigny and Isle Bourdon, thus connecting the main road and the one most travelled in the

ecutor of the estate, and along with his sister, Mrs. Godfrey Weir, are the proprietors of this historic island, which does not exceed two hundred acres in extent.

Mr. Thomas Porteous died in Montreal in 1834, and none of his children are now living.

His grandson, Mr. Thomas Porteous, Real Estate Agent, Montreal, who has given me a number of items regarding the family, is the son of Mr. James Porteous, formerly merchant at St. Therese, who, himself, built in 1830, the St. Rose Bridge.

In 1892, Mr. A. Desroches, of Montreal, on hearing of the existence of a model of these bridges, informed me of the fact, and accompanied me last October to verify the truth of the existence of this valuable relic.



Drawing taken from the model of the Bout de l'Isle bridge

Arrived at Isle Bourdon, we came across the tenants Mr. Thomas Buchanan, who had the kindness to show us the old Porteous residence, now used as a barn, and there in the garret we found the model of a part of a bridge.

This model, which has an antique appearance, and which should be preserved in a museum, is fifteen feet

long, and represents a double bridge to allow two vehicles to pass without difficulty. The bridge and the Porteous House here reproduced were drawn by Mr. François Breton, my father, who accompanied me in a second visit to the island; we have also been able easily to locate the positions of the bridges by certain traces still visible; thus, the Lachenaie bridge started from

(Continued on page 4)

These three bridges were built to unite the Island of Montreal with the mainland, by way of Isle Bourdon, which Islet is situated at the mouth of the l'Assomption River.

Isle Bourdon was ceded to Sieur de Repentigny on the 3rd of November, 1672, and became the property of Mr. Thomas Porteous, of Terrebonne, who, in 1805, secured the authorization of the

province; but these last structures, which had the same faults as the first, met with a like fate shortly after their completion.

Mr. Porteous afterwards sold Isle Bourdon to Mr. Henry Griffin, who, later on, sold it to a Mr. Ross. It finally passed into the hands of the Honorable James Leslie. Mr. James N. S. Leslie, of Montreal, grandson of the Honorable James Leslie, and son of Patrick Leslie, is ex-

(Continued from page 4)

or Cariole or other such carriage, loaded or unloaded, with the driver and two persons or less, drawn by two horses or other beasts of draught, Two shillings and nine pence currency; and if drawn by one horse or other beast of draught, Two shillings and six pence currency.

For every cart, sled or other such carriage, loaded or unloaded, drawn by two horses, oxen or other beasts of draught, with the driver, Two shillings and three pence currency; and if drawn by one horse or other beast of draught, Two

shillings currency.

For every person on foot, Six pence currency.

For every horse, mare, mule or other beast of draught, laden or unladen, Ten pence currency.

THE DOUGLAS, MONTREAL AND LACHENAYE ROYAL UNION BRIDGE.

We, the subscribers, being appointed experts to examine the bridge erected and built by Thomas Porteous, Esq.,

of Terrebonne, in the County of Effingham, over that branch of the River Ottawa, otherwise Des Prairies, which lies between La Chenaye and the Island called Bourdon, and another bridge over another branch of the said river which lies between the said Island and the Island of Montreal, and being duly sworn to give our opinion whether the said bridges are now fit and proper for the passage of travellers, cattle and carriages, do hereby, on the oath we have taken, certify that on the eighteenth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and six, we proceeded

(Continued on page 6)

THE FIRST TRANSPORTATION TOKENS OF CANADA by R. C. Willey

Canada's earliest transportation tokens appeared in 1808 for use on a series of bridges connecting Bout de l'Isle (the east end of Montreal Island) to the mainland via Isle Bourdon. Two bridges—one from Bout de l'Isle to Isle Bourdon, the other from Isle Bourdon to Lachenaie—were built in 1806 by Thomas Porteous of Montreal. Though these gave way to ice jams the following spring, new bridges had arisen in their place by 1808, together with a third span from Isle Bourdon to Repentigny. Ice demolished all three of them as it went out with spring freshets in 1809.

The following list gives tolls levied on the three bridges during 1808:

Personne—a person on foot; sixpence currency.

Cheval—a horse or beast of burden, laden or not; tenpence.

Charrette—a wagon, cart, or sleigh, loaded or not, with the driver; two shillings if drawn by one beast, and two shillings and threepence drawn by two animals.

Caleche—a carriage of two wheels, loaded or not, with the driver; two shillings and sixpence if drawn by one animator two shillings and ninepence when drawn by two.

These tokens have three types of ob-

verse and four reverses,—twelve varieties in all. Their obverse legends read: (a) *De Lachesnaye de l'Isle de Montréal on Repentigny*; (b) *De l'Isle de Montréal à Repentigny on Lachesnaye*; or (c) *De Repentigny à l'Isle de Montréal on Lachesnaye*. Reverses are inscribed *Calèche, Charrette, Cheval, or Personne*, with various foliate ornaments. All the Lachenaie tokens (except three or four) have had one edge clipped because the keeper of that bridge could not read.

Two errors in spelling resulted from ignorance of the French language and indifferent handwriting: the *u* of *ou* is transposed with the second *n* of *Repentigny*.

Because the three bridges disappeared so soon after their construction, the tokens also remained in use for but a short time and are rarely seen today. Some forgeries of them produced about sixty years ago failed to deceive collectors; alert Canadian numismatists of the time exposed these imitations.

BIBLIOGRAPHY Breton, P.N.: *Illustrated History of Coins and Tokens Relating to Canada, 1894.*

Reprinted from the *May, 1958 CNA Journal*



534



535



536



537



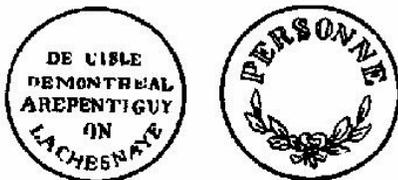
538



539



540



541



542

(Continued from page 5)

to a careful examination of the said bridges, and do depose and declare that in our opinion the said bridges are now fit and proper for the passage of travellers, cattle and carriages.

GILBERT MILLER.

(Signed) JOHN ROBERTSON.

ALEXANDER LOGIE.

BOURDON ISLAND, October 18th, 1806.

District of Montreal.

We, the subscribers, three of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, for the District of Montreal, do certify that in conformity to an Act of the Legislature of this Province, entitled "An Act to authorize Thomas

Porteous, Esq., to build a bridge over a branch of the River Ottawa, etc.," we appointed Gilbert Miller and John Robertson, master carpenters, and Alexander Logie, master mason, all of the City of Montreal, experts, to examine the said bridges now erected and built, and being duly sworn to give their opinion whether the same were now fit and proper for the passage of travellers, cattle and carriages, they, the said experts, did depose and declare that, in their opinion, the said bridges are now fit and proper for the passage of travellers, cattle and carriages, and which deposition is here-unto annexed and by them signed.

Given under our hands at Bourdon Island this eighteenth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and six.

JOHN RICHARDSON, J.P.

(Signed) ROBERT CRUICKSHANK, J.P.

ALEXANDER AULDJO, J.P.

N.B.—The public will please to observe, that it is forbidden by law to trot or gallop, either on horseback or in carriages on any public bridge, and the proprietor hopes that due attention will be paid thereto; neither can any person be permitted to go on the said bridges with a lighted pipe or fire of any description. "Le Canadien,"

Quebec, Saturday, May 2nd, 1807.

We are sorry to learn that the new bridge lately built at the foot of the Island of Montreal, by Thomas Porteous, Esquire, of Terrebonne, was carried away by ice last Saturday evening.

14th April, 1808.

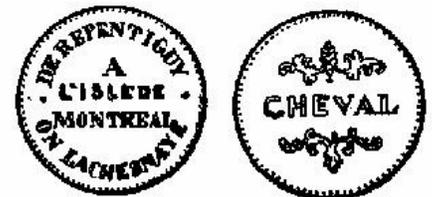
Act 48 Geo. III. chap. XXIII, to prolong the time granted to Thomas Porteous, Esquire, of Terrebonne, for rebuilding certain bridge carried away by the ice.

14th April, 1808.

Act 48 Geo. III. chap. XXIV, to authorize Thomas Porteous, Esquire, of Terrebonne, to erect a bridge from Repentigny to the Island called Bourdon.



543



544



545