

“The Bulletin” April, 1999

President’s Message

Updating my information to you last month, I’m now pleased to report that **all** of our members have renewed their membership. A “thank you” to everyone for your support of the Club. The next best thing to having old friends stay with us is meeting new friends. Perhaps you know a collector who is not yet a member. Please invite them or bring them along to a meeting.



The 1999 ONA Convention is history by the time you read this... well, if you can call what happened last weekend history. Basil Latham was our delegate to the convention and will be making a short report at the next meeting. I know I saw enough North York faces there to guarantee there will be some additional news from the

Coin Fair II

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on **Tuesday, April 27, 1999**, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive.

Following a very successful coin fair last year we have decided to repeat this theme and our thanks go to the following members who have agreed to “show their stuff”:

- **Jean Orr:** the earliest items in her collection. These are the pieces that got her started collecting which she spoke about at the March meeting
- **George Fraser:** some of his remaining paper money... much of his collection has been passed along
- **Ted Boxall:** promised he would bring something of interest
- **Albert Kasman:** Phone cards
- **Ron Zelk:** Royal Bank notes
- **Len Kuenzig:** car wash, telephone, miscellaneous tokens... the most unusual items he can find!
- **Paul Johnson:** medals with a train theme
- **Bob Porter and Brian See** will have their usual dealer tables

We will also have usual auction, so please remember to bring along some material to offer for sale. Hope you can make it!

convention as well. I’m looking for news from those who attended the Canadian Tire, the Token Collectors and the wooden money meetings. That’s the McCrae House shown on the convention medal on the left and it was the destination for a special convention tour. It was very nice to meet the artist, Nan Hogg at Friday’s opening recep-

tion. We were also able to move some of our planning work along for the ONA 2000 convention, so we’ll have some news on that, too.

The President is in the process of collecting the e-mail address of all members. If you are now on the Internet, send an e-mail and let him know at **petchp@ican.net**. Phone calls are also welcome at **416-745-3067** (leave a voice mail message if you can’t get through in person).

***Next Meeting:
April 27***

Meeting News from the March 23 Meeting

The 439th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, March 23, 1999 at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Dr., Willowdale.

The President, Paul Petch, opened the meeting at 8:05 p.m. and welcomed 27 members and 2 guests. Secretary Lucille Colson was absent and Bob Porter volunteered to take down the minutes.

A Moment of Silence was observed for Past President John Curtis who passed away at the end of last month.

The On Time Attendance Draw of \$8 was won by Lyan See. For the April meeting the pot will be back to \$2.

Dr. Marvin Kay has agreed to assume the 1st Vice President position, vacant since the passing of Al Bliman. Roger Fox has agreed to fill the Director position vacated by Dr. Kay. These appointments were made by the President are in effect until the end of December, 1999. The elections which will bring in a new slate of officers for January, 2000.

Rick Craig is the convener of a Coin Fair at the April meeting and he appealed for several members to mount modest displays for club viewing.

Paul Petch mentioned that Norm Belsten is preparing an ONA 2000 promotional wood for distribution at the April, 1999 ONA Banquet and show. Dick Dunn has volunteered his services as Bourse Chairman for the 2000 show. Paul also mentioned that the full back page of the 1999 ONA Souvenir booklet has been reserved for advertising of the 2000 show. A North York Coin Club half page ad will appear inside the same booklet.

Chris Boyer's Honourary Annual Membership in the Club has expired and he has transferred to become Regular Member number 504.

The evening's discussion was on "How I Started Collecting": Almost everyone

present joined in and spoke: Ron Zelk, Jim Heifetz, Albert Kasman, Marvin Kay, Jean Orr, Paul Johnson, Dick Dunn, George Fraser, Paul Petch, Roger Fox, Bob Porter, Bob Wilson and Rick Craig. Some start-up stories took us back to the war, others back to the 1980's. All were interesting and unique.

Thanks to Bill McDonald, Rick Craig, Brian See, and Basil Latham for their donations to the auction run by Bob Porter and assisted by Basil Latham. The auction earned \$21.85 for the club.

Lucky Draw winners were Russ Brown(2), Marvin Kay, Rick Craig, Paul Petch(2), Pamela Heifetz, Bob Porter, Norman G. Gordon(2), Brian See, Leon Saraga(2), Italo Villella, Paul Johnson(2) and Norm Belsten. The evening draw brought in \$29.00.

Many thanks to Roger Fox for supplying coffee, pop and cookies at break-time for the members.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:50pm.

Question of the Month

For our April question of the month we're lowering the difficulty level after stumping so many members with last month's question. 1999 is the 25th anniversary of what event associated with Canadian Government paper money.

That March question challenged you to identify the Canadian series of notes which originated in 1992 and which, at the time of its inception, resulted in the discontinuance of one of its denominations. What is the series, and what denomination was dropped? Roger Fox's article on Canadian Tire Money on pages 3 through 5 answers the question.

Coming Events

Pembroke Centennial Coin Show April 24, 10am-4pm at the Pembroke Mall. Contact Jim Baird, (613) 735-3882

Peterborough Coin Club Show May 1, 9am-5pm at Portage Place Mall, 1154 Chemong Rd. Contact Evelyn Robinson (705) 745-5050.

Spring Coin and Stamp Show sponsored by the Windsor Coin Club May 2, 10am-4pm at the Caboto Club, 2175 Parent. Admission \$1, 12 and under free. Contact Ron Binder (519) 254-6855.

Burlington International Spring Coin Show May 8, 9am-4pm at Brant Hills Community Centre, 2300 Doncaster Dr. (parking off Brant between Upper Middle Rd and #5 Hwy.). Free admission. Contact Nancy Meredith (705) 788-3159.

CNA/NESA Classroom Numismatic Course, May 15, 9am-5pm at Humber College, 205 Humber College Blvd., Etobicoke in the Community Room. Features Canadian Decimals, Coin Sticking and Coin Errors, Paper Money, Canadian Tokens, Collecting Strategies, Grading and Preservation.

Stratford 1st Annual Spring Coin Show sponsored by B.C. Coins & Ian Ward Promotions May 30, 10am-4pm at Stratford Knights of Columbus Community Centre, 151 Lorne Ave. East. Admission \$2 per person, children under 12 free (with adult). Lunch counter and free parking, door prize draws. Contact: Bob Dowsett (519) 271-8884 or Ian Ward (519) 426-8875.

Scarborough Coin Club's 3rd Annual Coin Show June 5, 9am-3pm at the Cedarbrook Community Centre, 91 Eastpark Blvd. Hourly draws. Free admission. Light lunch available. Contact David Bawcutt, 75 Clarendon Ave., Scarborough M1N 3S2.

CANADIAN TIRE — WHAT'S NEW? LOTS!

by Roger A. Fox

It's winter, after the holiday season, we have limited funds and maybe some spare time between snow storms. We may also be looking at expanding our present collecting interest to add variety at low cost. This scenario could also describe the youth of our hobby; looking for a very reasonable way of starting a Numismatic Portfolio which contains all the exciting and challenging features of the more expensive areas of our hobby!

So what's new? Go out to your car, or that drawer where you keep those Canadian



Issued in 1992 in denominations of 5¢, 10¢, 25¢, 50¢ and \$1, this series with the signatures of S. Pasternak-H. Macauley uses a 10 digit serial number starting at "1". Printed by the Canadian Bank Note Co., it is catalogued by Bilodeau as CTC S-15A, B, C, D and E.



The CTC S17-A, B, C, D and E notes continued the above series but with the signatures of S. Pasternak-S. Bachand. While dated 1992, they actually appeared during 1995.



This is the \$2 denomination of the 1992 series, but with the signatures of G. Kishner-H. Macauley. It also uses a 10 digit serial number starting at "1", was printed by the Canadian Bank Note Co and is catalogued by Bilodeau as CTC S-16-A.



This is the CTC S-22A note which continues the \$2 denomination with the signatures of G. Kishner-S. Bachand. While most certainly printed prior to 1996, it was not released until after the 75th anniversary series.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Tire Coupons and pull out your ‘stash’. Now take a minute and look at them—but not with the idea of purchasing a hammer or shovel—but with your numismatic eye! You are looking at real Canadian paper money which is printed by the same banknote companies, on the same banknote security paper as the money you spend every day. In fact, on notes dated 1992 or later, you’ll see more security and anti-counterfeiting devices worked into the layout than you will on regular Canadian banknotes! And, like Canadian banknotes, they never expire.

To give everyone a flavour of what’s new and what’s out there at present, I will include only the most common notes and series issued by The Canadian Tire Corporation (CTC) since 1992. This will cover about 80% of all circulating coupons now available.

First, a bit of history. Prior to 1992, Canadian Tire was running two major coupon programs. One for their Petroleum Division and all their gas-bars, and the other for their Associate Stores. Although both programs’ coupons were printed by the banknote companies on banknote paper, their looks, size, and redemption rules differed. By 1992 this dual program was over 30 years old and very expensive to maintain. It was time to standardize on one program for all of CTC. Therefore, a new series of store notes, completely different from any previous issues, appeared and was designed to be used at both store and

gasbar.

This new series introduced new signing officers, reflecting a reorganization of Canadian Tire’s executive during a time of national recession, a brighter more vibrant and colourful issue with a larger ‘Sandy McTire’ on the right side of the note, and many new anticounterfeiting devices worked into the design. It also meant the end of the entire Gasbar coupon program (all 10 series from 1958 to 1986), and all store coupons which stated dual use at ‘Gasoline Bar or Store’ (first 5 series from 1961 to 1984). It was also the end of the line for the 3¢ coupon—a victim of inflation. Thus, a



new image and fresh start for CTC coupons, and a major turning point in CTC coupon history! In fact this new series resulted in CTC re-naming their coupons ‘Canadian Tire Money’, as it is known today.



This commemorative series was released for Canadian Tire’s 75th anniversary in 1996. Printed by the British American Bank Note Co., the 10 digit serial numbers all begin with 75 and are numbered starting at “1”. Shown above is the S. Pasternak-S. Bachand signature used on the 5¢, 10¢, 25¢, 50¢ and \$1 denominations and catalogued as CTC S-18A, B, C, D and E. Below is pictured the \$2 denomination, catalogue as CTC S-19A and signed by G. Kishner-S. Bachand.



(Continued on page 5)



Even before the 75th anniversary series had been released in 1996, the British American Bank Note Co. had printed this new series with its 10-digit serial numbers starting at "1". This series was held in the BABN vaults until the 75th anniversary had passed before it came into circulation. Shown above is the S. Pasternak-S. Bachand signature used on the 5¢, 10¢, 25¢, 50¢ and \$1 denominations and catalogued as CTC S-20A, B, C, D and E. Below is pictured the \$2 denomination, catalogue as CTC S-21A and signed by G. Kishner-S. Bachand.



The 1992 issue contained all current denominations from 5¢ to \$2.00, and to the present, have pretty well remained the same in appearance, although several new series have resulted. I will briefly explain the highlights in the captions accompanying the

Our final note in this short "What's New" examination appears below. This is a \$1 note which appeared late in 1998. Printing is by the Canadian Bank Note Company and the 10-digit serial numbers once again have been rolled back to "1". Catalogued as CTC S-23A, the note displays the S. Pasternak-S. Bachand signature combination.



The Colour of Money

With the arrival of the euro to challenge the almighty dollar, it's time to settle accounts with the true nature of currency

by Christopher Hume, Art Critic

The best things in life may be free, but money is not one of them.

More than just cash, money is power. It is also time, we are told, and freedom, and access, and

Transmuting bits of paper and small metallic discs not just into symbols of worth but also into objects of value is no easy task, however.

The process whereby it happens appears to confirm the widely held faith in the doctrine of economic transubstantiation.

Though mysterious, complex and not fully understood, it is essential to life as we know it.

The introduction of a new currency is welcomed, therefore, because it provides fiscal believers with a rare opportunity to observe the ways of the market as they unfold before their eyes. Pure fiscal revelation.

So far, it looks as if the advent of the euro has exceeded expectations. Our faith has been rewarded; the doctrine remains intact. Already, since its introduction on January 1, its value has in-

creased.

But the euro is not simply a new currency, it is a designated super-scrip, a rival—the first—to the U.S. dollar.

The almighty buck has many adherents, of course, but so do the 11 currencies that eventually will be subsumed into the euro.

A quick survey of the iconography of the vanishing currencies shows why.

These are bills and coins that commemorate their national histories and heroes. Most of the parables they illustrate—in these postcolonial times—are cultural, celebrating artists and creators who lived so that others might suffer.

In the gospel according to the Banque de France, for example, the 100-franc note celebrates Paul Cézanne, one of the original disciples of modern art.

On one side, there's the man himself; on the other, a classic still life, apples and oranges as re-interpreted by the master.

As always, much of the design was dictated by the need to reduce the chances of counterfeiting and copying. In France, that means the currency has taken on a bizarre mix of aesthetics that gives it a disjointed, even self-contradictory appearance.

One half of each bill honours culture, the other is devoted to graphic fingerprinting. Dividing the two sections is a border of foil, a high-tech intrusion that reminds one of the need for constant vigilance against fiscal apostasy.

The Belgian franc is equally aimed at celebrating its founding cultural fathers, though that takes unexpected turns.

Symbolist painter James Ensor, who liked to portray himself being teased by demons, is venerated on the Belgian 100-franc note.

The 200-franc bill celebrates Adolphe Sax, inventor of the saxophone. (Where's surrealist painter René Magritte when you need him?)

Not surprisingly, nations play to their strengths—leading to a strange choice by Austria. Specifically, the Austrian 50-schilling note features a portrait of Sigmund Freud, founder of the pseudoscience that changed the world. Appropriately, perhaps, the great proto-shrink is wrapped in a swirling abstract pattern of colour and line.

Speaking of abstract, the Dutch have gone to huge lengths to remove as much figurative content as possible from their money.

The 25-guilder bill, which could have been designed by Lawren Harris at his most theosophist, is a perfect example. Whatever it's meant to be, it refers to nothing beyond itself.

It's true that the 10-guilder note includes a cartoon-like portrait of painter Frans Hals, but it is a generic rendering, more a reference to the Dutch Golden Age than to anyone specific.

Only the Spanish remain immune from the forces of political correctness. The Banco de Espana features Hernando Cortez; the infamous conquistador, on

(Continued from page 6)

one side of its 1,000-peseta bill and Francisco Pizarro, the conqueror of Peru, on the other.

Spanish banknotes also can be read vertically as well as horizontally. Whether that's significant is arguable. Perhaps the idea was to create a more progressive, more erect, image.

The Germans and Italians opt for a more traditional approach that combines pictures of cultural heroes with security graphics.

Still, it's clear that both countries have gone beyond the obvious. Italy's 1,000-lira note honours teacher Maria Montessori; the 2,000-lira bill depicts radio pioneer Guglielmo Marconi.

In comparison, some of the stars of German currency are complete unknowns. How about Baroness Annette von Droste-Hülshoff, the 19th-century lyric poet who graces the 20-mark bill? And what about Carl Friedrich Gauss, the father of modern mathematics, who appears on the 10-mark note?

By contrast, the euro relies exclusively on the iconography of architecture and engineering. Above all, Europe's first shared currency since the Roman Empire is awash in bridges, windows and entrances—structures that connect people and places.

The 11 countries in which the euro is now legal tender—Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain—have entered into more than an unprecedented economic union:

The euro is an expression of Europe's desire for greatness.

This isn't reflected in the look of the new currency, which despite its optimistic symbolism, appears to be cautious and hesitant.

Not surprisingly, the euro is absolutely devoid of individual references—no kings, queens, prime ministers presidents or even poets.

Speaking of kings and queens, it's worth pointing out that many of the European countries that still possess monarchies have left them off their currency roster. Spain is an example, as is Holland.

The politeness of the euro design and its visual homogeneity reflect a need to avoid offending any of the disparate participants.

More positively, there is a sense of visual restraint here that flies refreshingly in the ugly face of European nationalism.

But perhaps the real story of the euro is that it's a currency that came to life as a

computer entry before it existed on paper. The name might have been more important than the design, though already the French have taken offence to the growing use of the term "euroland." What would they prefer *Terres des euros*?

Until 2002, when the new bills and coins will be introduced into general usage, the euro will remain an invisible, virtual currency.

By the time people finally get it in their hands, it will already be familiar, regardless of what it looks like.

Maybe that's just as well.

This article was published in the Toronto Star of January 9, 1999 in the Arts section.



That's Sigmund Freud himself contemplating you from his place on this Austrian 50-schilling note, but Christopher Hume points out that all such national heritage will be lost with the arrival of the "euro-bills".

ONA 2000 Convention Medal Design Unveiled

The design and theme of the Ontario Numismatic Association's 38th Annual Convention medal was unveiled at the North York Coin Club's (NYCC) February meeting. The convention is being hosted by NYCC and will be held at the Triumph Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel in North York from April 14-16, 2000. Why is a medal design needed 14 months before the event? It's because the design will be used to both commemorate and promote the ONA's convention for 2000.

A Medal Committee, under the capable Chairmanship of Rick Craig with members Paul Johnson and Roger Fox, was responsible for considering all design ideas submitted by NYCC members and preparing a final design. It was an important job which would define the theme of the convention and establish an advertising image as well as the convention medal's design.

The design itself consists of an ellipse to the left containing a Janiform image. This two-headed image combines the obverse of a coin of Augustus Caesar on the left and a contemporary Canadian obverse showing Elizabeth II on the right. The continuous inscription within the ellipse from left to right reads **IMP. CAESAR AD 1 - 2000 AD ELIZABETH II**. To the right of the ellipse is a sun, which may be rising or setting, over a landscape and the year 2000. Above the sun and landscape is the convention location and date **TORONTO APRIL 14 - 16** while below appears the major theme **NUMISMATICS IN THE MILLENNIUM**. A broad rim surrounds the entire design. Inscribed on this rim is **O.N.A. 38TH ANNUAL CONVENTION** above and **HOST: NORTH YORK COIN CLUB** below. Between these two inscriptions appear the initials of Paul Petch, the concept designer, on

the left and those of the concept artist, Roger Fox, on the right.

The evolution of this design is an interesting story which is rich in individual collecting interests and symbolism. It almost took on a life of its own as Club members built upon each other's ideas, always with the objective of creating something worthy, not only of being added to the ONA medal series, but also of being a fresh, new and unique design within that series.

past, the head of Elizabeth II is a step into the future, or more simply stated: looking back, looking ahead. This single image captures the leap of 2000 years."

The ellipse shape with the sun, landscape and 2000 date are the creation of Roger Fox. The sun may be rising or setting, so represents both the end of one millennium "day" and the beginning of another. This is the third medal design Roger has worked on for the NYCC. His first was the 1986 CNA medal and his second was the 1994 ONA medal.



Paul Petch had several unfocused thoughts for a design, the millennium idea being just one of them. Dick Dunn suggested the theme "A Step Into the Future" and Rick Craig, with his interest in ancient coins, believed we could do no better than using the likeness of Augustus Caesar, Emperor in the year 1. Using the inspiration of ancient Roman coins which show the two-faced god Janus, god of beginnings, Paul was able to combined these suggestions. "This design allows us to present all the ideas at one time. Ancient numismatics from 2000 years ago with August Caesar to modern-day collecting with Elizabeth II. The head of Caesar is our look into the

The sun device is in homage to both Mr. Joseph Hooper of Port Hope, Ontario, and Pritchard & Andrews of Ottawa. Pritchard & Andrews were the creators of Hooper's numismatic cards. One of them, using the sun design, was catalogued by P. N. Breton as 778. Joseph Hooper was an early, prominent President of the ANA from 1898 to 1901 and creator of the ANA's lamp of learning symbol, designed in 1892.

Norm Belsten prepared 100 woods bearing the design. Coloured a rich blue, the traditional ONA crest appears on the obverse of the wood. These woods were distributed at the ONA's 1999 Convention Banquet in Guelph and were used by the Bourse Chairman, Dick Dunn, while promoting advanced bourse table sales.

The honour of hosting ONA 2000 is surely the most appropriate way in which the NYCC can also celebrate the 40th anniversary of its founding. As a medal, this design will be a fine remembrance of a very important year in the history of both the ONA and its host club.