

"The Bulletin" September, 1999

President's Message

We are going to make another try at holding a listed auction. Rick Craig has agreed to receive auction material. The items for consideration are to be submitted in person in an ordinary envelope showing your name, phone number and your estimated value. Rick will assure consistent descriptions of quality and peg fair prices. He will assemble the material, determine if there is enough available to run an auction and, if there is, forward the list to the Editor for inclusion in the next month's bulletin. Please submit an item or two—perhaps others are looking for just what you have!

What shall we do for our December meeting this year? It is never too early to start some planning for our annual party. One of the first decisions is "what to eat?" and we will discuss it at the next meeting.

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.)

***Next Meeting:
September 28***

Topical Treasures

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on **Tuesday, September 28 1999**, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive.

Featured this month will be Dr. Marvin Kay, the King of Topical Collecting, who has promised to share some stories and background on items from his collection. He tells us that there are some interesting items which have recently come his way which will be included.

We will also be holding our monthly auction if we get some material. It has been sparse through the summer, but were ready again this month. Hope you can join us at the September meeting.

Coming Events

Newbury Legion Ladies Auxiliary Coin Show September 26, 10am-4pm at the Royal Canadian Legion, 22 Durham St. Free admission, lunch counter. Contact Mrs. D. Ross (519) 693-4644

The Scarborough Coin Club display of coins and books October 2, 9:30am-4pm at the Eglinton Square Shopping Centre. Members will answer questions on coin collecting.

Durham 99 October 9, 10:30am-5pm sponsored by the Oshawa and District Coin Club at Five Points Mall, Taunton Rd. and Ritson Rd. Free admission. Contact Earl or Sharon MacLean (905) 728-1352, e-mail: papan@idirect.com.

Ottawa Coin and Stamp Dealers' Association Fair October 9-10, 10am-

4pm at the Nepean Sportsplex, 1701 Woodroffe Ave. Free admission Contact Brian Wolfenden (613) 226-2045

Burlington International Fall Coin Show October 16, 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.

Tillsonburg Coin Show October 17, 9am-4pm at the Tillsonburg Community Centre, 45 Hardy Ave. Admission \$1. Over 30 tables of numismatic items. Contact Wayne MacFarlane (519) 8426666.

Peterborough Coin Club Show October 23, 9am-5pm at Portage Place Mall, Chemong Rd. Contact Bob Algreire (705) 292-9862

Meeting News from the August 18 Meeting

The 444th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Wednesday, August 18, 1999 at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Dr., Willowdale.

The President, Paul Petch, opened the meeting at 8:03 p.m. and welcomed 15 members.

Marvin Kay would have been so happy to receive the \$10.00 pot in the On Time Attendance Draw, but unfortunately, he was not present. It stands at \$12 for September.

After giving thanks to Basil Latham for sitting in for her, the Secretary read the minutes of the July 21, 1999 meeting which were then accepted by the Chair.

Harvey Farrow reported the transfer of \$350.00 out of Club general funds for deposit to the ONA 2000 Convention account.

Brian See reported that the Campbellford auction reported at the last meeting was a dead loss as far as Canadian coinage was concerned. However, he had brisk and better than usual business at the recent Paris coin show.

The Chair advised he attended a meeting of the Toronto Parks and Recreation committee. They talked about club facilities but still haven't decided about charging us a user fee.

Chris Boyer spoke briefly on the CNA Convention and advised he still had a few convention medals to sell.

The Chair read an E-mail report from Marvin Kay, club delegate at the CNA Convention. It contained an interesting, amusing and comprehensive overview of the event. Paul Petch read out the list of award winners from the CCN. Harvey noted 24 club members had attended. Paul Johnson, Chairman of the Education Forum, complimented Paul Petch on his presentation and thought

the other two were very good also. As usual, overlapping programmes disappointed some people.

For the evening, members were asked to bring along new acquisitions or summer highlights. The following responded:

- **Paul Johnson** brought along part of his train-related collection of coins. His interest began as a youth when his father worked for the railroad.

Paul comments: "I began collecting medals, tokens and coins with trains about 15 years ago. I have had an interest in trains since I was young. I had also seen various numismatic exhibits of trains on coins and medals, especially one by Norm and Noreen Howcroft of Barrie. To date I have about 700 different medals, tokens and coins with a train design. About 500 are from the United States, 100 from Canada and another 100 from a handful of countries from around the world. About 80% of the medals show the train as the primary design while the rest show the train as part of the design grouped in with other items.

The Standard catalogue is titled "Railroad and Railroad Related Medals and Tokens" by David A. Bennick. The last edition was printed in November, 1998. He can be contacted at: 150 Cranberry Lane, Stuarts Draft, Virginia 24477-9665. The book includes a complete listing of related medals and tokens of the U.S.A. and Canada. It can be purchased for \$20 U.S. There is a lot of information on each item as well as a price guide. I am listed as a contributor since I assisted Dave with a much of the Canadian listings.

I have now got to the point that it is difficult to add material to my collection. The pieces I require are not offered for sale very often. I have recently been using the Internet to track down items that I need. The

artwork on many of the medals are of top quality, especially the silver pieces. It has been fun and a challenge to collect medals and tokens with train designs."

- **Norm Belsten** advised 27 woods were issued for the CNA alone. He had these as well as other woods issued in 1999 on view.
- **Del Murchison** attended the unveiling of a monthly quarter. During discussion about current problems he was advised that 7% of the market goes to numismatic collectors and that they most certainly are interested in collectors concerns. He also reviewed an eclectic collection of books that he had purchased through the Internet.
- **Chris Boyer**, as a member of the CNA medal committee, explained how they came up with the medal design, had the acrylic model to show as well as one of the limited number of mint sets.

Paul Petch presented a Coin Week Canada Bill and reported that he has some extras for anyone who may be interested. Their issue price is \$4.

Cold drink refreshments and cookies served by Paul Petch during the break were much enjoyed on this warm evening.

Lucky Draw winners were: Paul Petch, Bob Porter, Harvey Farrow(2), Brian See, Avram Zak(2), Chris Boyer(2), Bob Wilson, Lucille Colson, Vince Chiappino. Proceed amounted to \$14.00.

There was no auction. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

A new coin for the MELennium

An absolute steal at \$5 a pop or get the designer version for a mere \$1500

by Sue-Ann Levy

Sorry to have to break this to you but from here on in, next year is not to be called the new Millennium. No, here at the megacity, it will be coined the new MELennium. You can thank the 30,000 special issue Toronto Y2K coins that are set to start flooding the market anytime now.

The nickel-bonded coin, which is up for approval at today's meeting of the Economic Development and Parks committee, features the Year 2000 on the front plus a picture of the Toronto skyline, including the CN Tower and SkyDome.

On the back, the coin pays homage to Mayor Mel with the words the "1ST MAYOR OF THE NEW CITY OF TORONTO" plus a head and shoulders portrait, complete with hair plugs and chain of office.

That basic coin will retail for \$5, but for true mega-Mel fans, designer versions gold plated, silver plated, antique silver and copper can be ordered for between \$17 and \$24. Why there's even a 24K gold one for \$1,500. (Order me 10 of the designer ones they'll make excellent Hanukkah gifts!)

Now I don't mean to be a party pooper, but aren't there weightier issues to be decided around here such as how to find the real coin to avert a strike by the city's 7,000 sanitation workers, roads crews, parks and recreation employees and paramedics? On second thought, now

that Mayor Mel is in the heat of negotiations with CUPE local 416 boss Brian Cochrane, he could use the coins as bargaining chips—a 2% raise each year plus a designer coin for every worker as a signing bonus.

Well at least this little MELennium coin project isn't costing taxpayers one red cent. To the credit of the project organizers from the North York Chamber of Commerce, \$1.15 of every \$5 is intended for youth-oriented charities to be determined by the Rotary Club and the Royal Bank Project manager Doreen Cunneen says after expenses, the money remaining will go three Chambers of Commerce in the city for their own charitable work

Still if you ask me, the coin is a little too schmaltzy (over the top) for most tastes, although Cunneen says Lastman lent his

head once before for another coin project. That one, she says, was called the Melooney back in 1994 or 1995, to celebrate his 25 years as Mayor of North York. It was even "legal tender" for three months. She says the project had "a lot of consumer appeal." Oy vay what people will buy!

As for this current coin, Cunneen says the mayor's picture is there for "no other

reason" than the fact that he is the first mayor of the new city of Toronto and there is historical value to that. "It was a natural fit," she says, noting she's heard of other mayors in US cities doing the same kind of thing.

As well, according to their "soft research," coins will be the single "most sought after" Millennium keepsake. Still there's self-promotion... and then

there's shameless self-promotion. Michael Walker, perhaps Lastman's strongest nemesis on Council, calls Mel "a Caesar in the making." He feels Lastman is "out of control" and it should be a honour to hold the office of mayor, not to let it "go to your head."

Councilor Doug Holyday says the mayor "still thinks this is North York" and noted he hasn't even finished his first term yet. "The Money Pit should be on that coin ... people will remember they had to pay twice for City Hall," he snarled

Others seemed to pay a bit more attention to the other side of the coin, so to speak

"I'm sure he (Mel) allowed himself kicking and screaming to be used on the coin," laughs Councilor. David Shiner, who nevertheless thinks the coin serves a good purpose to promote the city and fundraise for charitable causes. "Thank goodness it's not heads AND tails," he adds.

Councilor. Chris Korwin-Kuezyński, whose Y2K Task Force approved the coin project last week, says he would have "designed the coin a little differently" -with a circle of prominent mayors from the past Millennium and not just Mel but if the money raised goes to charity, he's happy.

Ditto Blake Kinahan, who feels one side is wonderful but that it's "inappropriate" for the Mayor's picture to be on the other. Nevertheless Kinahan, who also sits on the Y2K task force, approved the project because of its fundraising benefits.

Well look at it this way, Mayor Mel sure knows how to get the best bang for his buck, or coin, or whatever. He's one guy who'll never sell himself short.

This article originally appeared in the September 13, 1999 Toronto Sun and was submitted by Marvin Kay.



A Personal Reflection on My Time at the 1999 CNA Convention by Marvin Kay

The Past Presidents' dinner took place on Wednesday evening. Five past presidents were in attendance... Earl Salterio with his wife Esther, John Regitko with his wife Monina, Geoffrey Bell, Jim Charlton with Mary, plus Sondra and myself. Also in attendance at this dinner were the outgoing president Yvon Marquis and his wife Diane, as well as the Executive Secretary Ken Prophet and his wife Joyce. Before the dinner began, I read out the names of the Honourary Presidents and the other past presidents who were deceased. The most recent CNA President to pass away was our own North York Coin Club member, Al Bliman.

During the dinner, this informal committee discussed such diverse topics as the feud between the chartered banks and the Royal Canadian Mint over the glut of dollar coins in bank vaults, to the ever-increasing costs of attending CNA conventions. On the latter subject, the committee tossed around many suggestions, including holding the Convention every two years or even holding the conventions off season, perhaps early spring or late fall.

The dinner was marred by the persistent presence of tiny fruit flies which kept buzzing around the diners. This was perhaps not unexpected because the hotel had a shabby, tired, run-down appearance.

I returned to Kitchener on Saturday morning. The registration desk was a beehive of activity. I had pre-registered and my registration box was waiting for me. There were lots of goodies in the box. The convention medal was a beautiful proof-like strike in bronze. The obverse showed the usual CNA voyageur logo. Featured on the reverse was a horse-drawn buggy in which were seated an Old Order Mennonite man and woman. Also, I found several coin books generously donated by Charlton Press.

Just beyond the registration desk was the Canadian Coin News display presided

over by Paul Fiocca. There I made my first purchase of the day. I bought Paul's last copy of "Canadian Welcome Home Medals 1899-45". The bourse floor was filled with about 35 dealers. I made my way to the display of the Royal Canadian Mint. In addition to their usual mint products they had supplies of the 1999 25-cent coins and the Nunavut \$2.00 coins. They were selling these at face value. I loaded up with a roll of each of the 25-cent coins from February to July, inclusive. My next purchase was from Ian Marshall. He had filled my want list of basic notes that showed doctors *or medical* scenes. Strolling around the bourse floor, I had a chance to chat with friends whom I had not seen for a very long time.

There was excellent attendance at the CNA annual general meeting. In addition to the usual run-of-the-mill business, I made a motion to install James Charlton as the new Honourary President of the Canadian Numismatic Association. Several people seconded my motion and the vote was unanimous. Mr. Charlton rose to thunderous applause to acknowledge the honour placed upon him.

(Marvin does not mention it in his report, but another important contribution he made to the meeting was the awarding of the Todd Gee Award. This award, given in recognition of youthful numismatic writing talent, was presented by Todd Gees' mother Daniel Duchamps, in what I found to be a most touching aspect of the meeting. Ed.)

There were three lectures in the Educational Forum held during Saturday afternoon. Among the speakers was our own Paul Petch taking about *The Evolution of Canadian Coinage*. The second talk was by Angus Sutherland. His topic was *Canadian Communion Tokens*. I attended the third lecture featuring Alan Herbert of Mesa, Arizona. Mr. Herbert's talk had the title *The Use of the Internet with Numismatics*. I didn't learn much from this speaker, which was surprising

considering he is an a respected numismatic writer. And I must say that I did find his presentation somewhat boring.

The banquet on Saturday night gave me another opportunity to chat with some more friends that I have not seen in a long while. The banquet speaker was Rev. McCombe who gave what can best be described as a motivational presentation. Among the awards presented after dinner was the prestigious J. Douglas Ferguson Award. This year it went to Kenneth A. Palmer who was not able to attend because of illness.

At the conclusion of the banquet, Chris Boyer of the Waterloo Coin Society presented the ceremonial ribbon-cutting scissors to Graham Esler, Chairman of the Year 2000 CNA convention. It will take place in Ottawa from August 2nd to 5th, 2000.

Other CNA Award Winners

Two CNA fellowships were awarded, one to convention chairman Chris Boyer and the other to Thomas Masters.

Other notable awards were:

- The Guy Potter Literary Award went to Ron Green;
- Best of Show was won by Robert Graham;
- The Louise Graham Club of the Year Award was presented to the Edmonton Numismatic Association;
- Best Club Newsletter Award to the Calgary Numismatic Society;
- Best Regional Newsletter Award to the ANFC;
- The Todd Gee Award was presented to Daniel Duchamps;
- Jerome Remick Literary Award to Dr. Ian Hunter.

A Visit from a Neighbour by Bill Kamb

This interesting e-mail came in from the first prize winner of the CNA Convention's Canadian Coin and Medals category.

I had a great time at the 1999 CNA and am looking forward to my next trip to Canada. Since there is no TICF Show this year I'm going to try and come up for the Fall Torex Show.

Let me first of all introduce myself. I was born and raised in Massachusetts and graduated from Worcester Tech with a degree in civil engineering. Since graduating in '72, I've worked in Ohio for various companies, primarily in Cleveland but lately in Columbus. I have a wonderful wife of twenty-four years and three kids, all in college. Our oldest son just graduated from Ohio University and is going on to law school here in Columbus. Our youngest son will be a senior at O.U. this Fall and is majoring in business. Our daughter will be a sophomore this Fall. As you can imagine we are very proud of all of them.

I started collecting Lincoln Cents as a kid, and eventually graduated to Indian Cents and then Large Cents. I finally realized that any U.S. coin that I could afford I could find at one or two shows and I thought that was boring. In 1983 I decided to collect coins from where my family came from, namely Newfoundland. I was raised in the same town West of Boston that my maternal grandparents lived in, and became very close to them. My grandmother took me back home when I was fourteen and they both took me back as a college graduation present. I fell in love with the place. My bride and I even went to Newfoundland on our honeymoon after spending a few days in Montreal. I loved it, she hated it... it was too rural for her.

When I started collecting Newfie coins I wanted everything in extra fine condition or better, and quickly picked up the common post-Vicky (Victoria) pieces. After several years I decided to upgrade my copper to uncirculated condition and recently I decided to upgrade my post-Vicky silver to choice uncirculated. I only need the 1873H five cent piece to be complete in EF or better and need just over twenty coins to achieve my current goals.

Approximately ten years ago I started collection the Breton Tokens from New-

money is left for such opportunities. I think that as I need fewer and fewer upgrades, I'll pick up more and more of these deals. I also started collecting uncirculated British Honduras coins about five years ago just for fun. Before I started my massive upgrading scheme I needed another outlet for my numismatic budget and settled on British Honduras just because it's challenging. Boy was I right. I added one coin to my collection last year, and just one more so far this year. I see there is one coming up in the Pittman Sale that I plan to bid on.

I must say, I really enjoyed myself in Kitchener. I upgraded two coins in the auction, two on the bourse floor, and did well with my exhibit. I visited with a lot of old friends and met some new people. I've found that the social aspects of numismatics are more important than plugging holes in albums, etc.



This is one variety of early Newfoundland merchant tokens from Rutherford Brothers displayed by Mr. Kamb. Pictured is Breton 953, Courteau 7.

foundland, and have slowly acquired eleven different varieties in VF or better condition. In my opinion these tokens are tougher than the coins. About eight years ago I started the twentieth century tokens that are mentioned in *The Currency and Medals of Newfoundland*. This is an excellent book which I highly recommend if you don't have it. It's put out by the Ferguson Foundation which has also done a similar book about Prince Edward Island currency and medals.

In recent years I've realized that I can buy certain coins South of the border at better prices than in Canada and visa versa. Every once in a while I'll buy a coin under favorable circumstances for resale across the border and do very well. However, the collecting instinct is very strong in me and usually little

CNA Exhibitor Awards

Canadian Coin and Medals,

- Bill Kamb, first,
- Chris Boyer, second,
- Serge Pelletier, third;

Canadian Paper Money and Script,

- Bob Graham, first,
- Ron Green, second,
- Tom Kostaluk, third;

Non Canadian Coins and Tokens,

- Dorte Brace, first,
- Bruce Brace, second;

Non-Canadian Paper Money,

- Tom Kostaluk, third;

Non Canadian Medals,

- Phil Grenslet, first;

Junior,

- Andrea Pedorin, first,
- Michelle Camelford, second,
- Matthew Fleck, third

Bi-Metallics in the News

The Internet has allowed a group of collectors interested in bi-metallic specimens, items with two and sometimes three separate metals used to make up the piece, to get together to exchange information and identify new discoveries.



This group, called the Worldwide Bi-Metallic Collectors Club has its own website on the Internet at <http://www.geocities.com/RodeoDrive/7513/wbcc/wbcc.html> Visit them to learn more about this interesting branch of the hobby!

Our own \$2 coin has brought Canadian circulating coinage into the bi-metallic arena, but there are other aspects of bi-metallics where we also have a presence.

Question of the Month

After complaints that last month the question was a little obscure, we'll keep it easy this month: What is the name and age of Canada's youngest coin designer?

And now, that tough question we asked last month, "How many countries had issued nickel coins by the end of 1936?" From the Foreword of the book "*Nickel Coins*", privately printed by the International Nickel Company, in its second edition of 1937:

"The term 'nickel' used throughout this book refers to the metal in its maximum state of purity (99.+) obtainable commercially in rolled form. It should not be confused with the copper base alloy containing only 25% nickel, sometimes used for subsidiary coinage. The first nickel coin was struck in Switzerland in 1881.

Twenty-nine countries have issued nickel coinage. They are:

Albania, Angola, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Danish West Indies, Free City Of Danzig, Ecuador, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iraq, Irish Free State, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Poland, Siam, Switzerland, Turkey, Vatican State, Zanzibar

This book contains facsimiles of the Nickel coins issued up to December 1936 with brief descriptions and dates of each issue.

Nickel is a metallic element; melting point 1440° Centigrade (2625° Fahrenheit); Brinell hardness number 85 (3000 kilograms) and specific gravity 8.85. It is white in colour with a high optical reflectivity of about 65%; magnetic at ordinary temperatures, enabling it to easily be distinguished from white copper-base alloys of nickel which do not respond to the magnet."

The Kindersley, Saskatchewan, Year 2000 Committee is issuing the first circulating bimetallic Canadian municipal trade token and the first 10-dollar piece. The "PEACE" design highlights the year 2000 as the "International Year for a Culture of Peace" as declared by the United Nations. The tokens will be legal tender at the participating merchants in Kindersley until January 15, 2000.



Located in west-central Saskatchewan some 200 kilometers southwest of Saskatoon and 65 kilometer east of the Alberta border, Kindersley is a service centre for the surrounding agricultural area. It is named for Sir Robert Kindersley, a major stockholder in the Canadian National Railway in the early 1900s. Activity in the area began in the late 1800s when Captain John Palliser, commissioned by the Government to investigate the route of a railroad across the great plains, explored the area. This semi-arid area was deemed to have limited production and settlement possibilities, but settlers came with the arrival of the railroad.

Designed by Donna Larocque (obv.) and Serge Pelletier (rev.), 2000 bi-metallics are being struck. Contact Eligi Consultants Inc. (613) 823-3844 for further information.



This picture recently appeared in the Toronto Star. It shows an encased coin owned by Toronto accountant Bryan Tannenbaum, handed out as a good luck charm back in 1948. It certainly takes on new meaning and simply overflows with irony now that Eaton's has gone into receivership.

PETER POWER/TORONTO STAR