

"The Bulletin" April, 2000

President's Message

Writing this issue of *The Bulletin*, my emotions are drawn in two directions. The successes that the hard-working members of North York's convention team achieved now give us many reasons for celebration. But, sadly, on Sunday morning, April 16, word reached us that Basil Latham had passed away at home about 9:00 p.m. Friday while under palliative care. It brings us to a time where we must quietly reflect and mourn the passing this fine friend and giving Club member. Basil served this Club for many years as a Director and our Receptionist. He will be both missed and fondly remembered.

There will be a meeting of the Executive Committee on Wednesday, May 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the Edithvale Community Centre.

The President continues to collect 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:
April 25***

Trivial Pursuit

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on **Tuesday, April 25, 2000**, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive.

Thanks go to Del Murchison for planning a Coin Facts Trivia evening for the April meeting. The Question of the Month takes second place compared to the fun of participating in this team play numismatic knowledge game. The challenge is all for fun, at it should be educational too! As well, there's going to be lots of inside news on events at the recent ONA Convention, so come prepared to relate your Show experiences.

We have no listed auction this month, but bring some material and we can have a fine auction anyway. Hope to see you for the April meeting.

Coming Events

Collectible show of coins, stamps, cards, comics, etc, April 30, 10am-4pm, at Queensway Lions Centre, First St., west of Kipling, south of Queensway. Admission \$5, tables \$25. Contact Judy or Ken, (905) 677-5825.

Peterborough Coin Show, May 6, 9:30 am-5:30pm at Portage Place, Chemong Rd. Free admission and parking. Contact Bob Aiguire, (705) 292-9862.

Burlington Spring Coin Show, May 6, 9am-4pm, Brant Hills Community Centre, 2300 Duncaster Ave. Hours: Free admission. Contact Nancy Meredith, (705) 788-3159.

Pembroke Centennial Coin Club Annual Show May 6, 10am-4pm at the West End Mall. Free admission. Com-

petitive displays, and dealers. Contact Daniel Duchene, (613) 638-0247

Windsor Coin Club 49th Annual Spring Coin Show May 7, 10am-4pm, at Caboto Hall, 2175 Parent Ave. Admission \$1, juniors free. Hourly draw, free parking. Contact Margaret Clarke, (519) 735-0727.

Second Annual Stratford Spring Coin Show May 28, 10am-4pm at the Knights of Columbus Community Centre, 151 Lorne Ave. East. Admission \$2, juniors free with adult. Free parking and door prize draws. Contact Bob Dowsett (519) 271-8884/ Ian Ward (519) 426-8875.

Scarborough Coin Club Annual Show coming on June 3, 9am-3pm... Plan for it!

Meeting News from the March 28 Meeting

The 451st meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, March 28, 2000 at the Edithvale Community Center, 7 Edithvale Dr. Willowdale.

The President, Paul Petch, opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m. and welcomed 27 members and 1 guest.

David Kneller was welcomed as new member number 5081

This meeting's On Time Attendance Draw winner, Bob Porter, was present to receive the \$4 pot. It's back to \$2 for May.

The Chair noted the passing of Club member Ronald Stuart.

The minutes of the Feb. 22/00 meeting were read by the Secretary and approved by the Chair,

The Chair reminded the members we are hosting the ONA Convention from April 14 to 16. He encouraged the members to sell the remaining raffle tickets, register for the events, attend the Banquet and enjoy the proceedings.

Our guest speaker for the evening, Bob Wilson, gave an overview and interesting stories about some of his many hobbies. These range from the growing of many varieties of chilies from which he makes and sells sauces, to the raising of tropical fish and being President of a world-wide club, to a profound interest in anything to do with the U.S. Civil War of 1861. He related a very interesting story on the life of Henry Stanley, before he set out on his famous trek to locate David Livingstone. On the side, he collects coin varieties and errors. Bob was thanked by Paul Petch and presented with a Certificate of Appreciation and a show of appreciation from the members.

The following made brief comments on one of their hobbies: Del Murchison collects wacky music records. Ted Box-

all saves personal medallions of different types. By chance, he recently found one for Elizabeth Wyn Wood which he passed around. Roger Fox has been involved in the restoration of a 1939 WWII anti-aircraft search light that has a nine hundred million candle power light.

Our many thanks go to Roger Fox for preparing the refreshments.

An auction of 32 lots was ably run by Bob Porter with the assistance of Paul Petch and Marvin Kay. It brought donations amounting to \$20.00 and a commission of \$9.00.

Lucky Draw winners were: Lucille Colson(3), Paul Johnson(2), Len Kuenzig(2), Leon Saraga(2), Marvin Kay, David Kneller, Mark Argentino, Norm Belsten, Norman G. Gordon, Roger Fox, Ted Boxall, Del Murchison, George Fraser and Dick Dunn. The draw was called by Roger Fox and brought proceeds amounting to \$31.00. We wish to thank Brian See, Norman G. Gordon, Rick Craig, Len Kuenzig, Mark Argentino and Marvin Kay for their donations.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:55 p.m.

Auction List

There is no listed auction planned for the April meeting. Please bring your material to Rick Craig at the next meeting so we can organize a listed auction for the May. The items should be presented for consideration in person in an ordinary envelope showing your name, phone number and your estimated value (i.e., reserve bid). Rick is assisting us by assuring consistent descriptions of quality and by pegging fair pricing for the listing.

Question of the Month

This month marks the 40th anniversary of a significant event in the numismatic hobby. Now, you know it isn't the 40th anniversary month of the North York Coin Club, because that happened in February. The particular event your editor is thinking of (while of lesser significance in his mind) is still of great significance, especially to U.S. collectors. I'm expecting there are a few answers to this one. Tell us what you can find.

The March Question of the Month invited you to research the set of coins produced at the Royal Canadian Mint that show birds. The answer, in the form of a picture gallery, appears on pages 7 and 8.

Reported in The Numismatist of November, 1960:

In the spirit of things that took place 40 years ago, here is an interesting remembrance of the organized hobby in the Toronto area during that time...

The regular meeting of the **Toronto Coin Club** was held August 27 at the Royal York Hotel with 25 members attending. Ed Schroeder commented on the success of the Sherbrooke convention, the exceptional program that had been planned for guests and on the fact that two hundred people sat down to the banquet. Mr. Wiley noted an increasing interest in Canadian tokens, especially among the French-Canadians. Bruce Brace and Rudy Sauro made notes at Sherbrooke to help them plan the 1961 C.N.A. convention to be held in Hamilton where the Royal Connaught Hotel has been reserved for this increasingly popular event. **Mr. John K. Curtis** of the **North York Coin Club** mentioned the rising popularity of wooden "nickels" and the fact that Dunnville and Cochrane had issued them this year. He extended an invitation to us to attend meetings of the North York Coin Club. Reported by Charles Kirk, Secretary.

ONA 2000 Convention A Personal Perspective by Paul R. Petch

Serving as the General Chairman of the convention committee that organized the 38th Annual ONA Convention was both a busy and rewarding experience. *The Bulletin* normally has a report of the annual convention activities from the Club Delegate, but this year I've decided to write it myself "on the morning after the night before". That is, the Monday following the Convention weekend.

One of the first things that strikes me is the extended amount of time it takes to properly mount an event of even such a modest size... that is, modest in terms of some of the really large conventions which come to Toronto. It was in the middle of March, 1998 that **Ken Wilmot**, the ONA President at the time, was searching for the 2000 location. He said, "I wondered if the North York Club would be interested in hosting the show again. The strength of numismatics lies in the Toronto area and when I read your minutes I know you have well-qualified members." There's nothing like a compliment to draw in the unwary.

The Club Executive agreed that North York should host the convention. We set to work locating a hotel with available space, forming up a medal committee chaired by **Rick Craig** with members **Paul Johnson** and **Roger Fox** and finding a Bourse Chairman, a job **Dick Dunn** agreed to take on. We were ready at the 1999 ONA Convention in Guelph to begin our promotion and sell bourse tables. We were gratified to have so much dealer interest, and realized things were looking very good when we had sold out 46 tables to over 30 dealers, including the Royal Canadian Mint. Preparations were most intense starting in January and we could see that we had all the parts in place the Wednesday be-

fore the convention opened when we held a "dress rehearsal", assembling the Registration Kits and preparing the daily admissions.

Friday was a busy day that started early with a confirmation meeting of all arrangements with hotel staff and a short visit to **Charles Moore's** auction viewing room. I met **Ron Zelk** there, but **Dick Dunn, Roger Fox, Rick Craig, Bob Wilson** and **Del Murchison** were soon on the scene and getting into the convention set up job. We had tables, telephones and electrical services coming into place quickly. **Brian Smith** from Torex delivered some extra cases and **Gary Oblinsky** arrived early with the ONA's cases and lamps. I myself got on the road and moved all the food and drinks for the hospitality suite into place. By the time I returned to the con-



vention hall, I found we were ready to go and we opened the doors to dealers a little after 5:00 p.m. because they were anxious to begin. Staff from Target Security arrived right on time at 6:00 p.m. and stayed continuously on guard until 4:00 p.m. Sunday. These were capable, friendly people who added much to the success of the event.

Also arriving in quick order were **Ken Wilmot, Bruce Raszmann** and ONA President **Mike Hollingshead**. **Bob Wilson** joined **Harvey Farrow** and **Albert Kasman** at the front of the convention hall at our registration table and welcomed and served the registrants until 9:00 p.m.

During all this time there was much preparation going on upstairs in the hospitality suite where my wife, **Carolyn-Marie Petch** with help from my daughter, **Francine Petch** brought the planned reception for registrants and dealers to life. **Roger Fox** shifted his at-

tention upstairs as well and put many years of bar tending experience to use, getting the refreshments ready to flow. An excellent bar tender, he served up the drinks and even listened to people's problems as well. Attendance was good and appetites were sharp, but food and drink held up to the 11:00 p.m. close. A feature of the evening was the presentation of a number of ONA 2000 uniface thank you medals to the convention workers. Not everyone was able to be there, but it was very nice to recognize the members of the team at the opening reception.

Saturday morning came early with a 7:00 a.m. C.N.A. Executive meeting that lasted well past its scheduled end time of 10:00 a.m. and went right until noon. I was unable to stay at the meeting, having to pop out frequently to attend to convention details. **Ron Zelk** capably stepped in to serve as Exhibits Chairman in place of **Basil Latham**. One of the important events was the official opening of the convention. It took place at 10:00 a.m., right after the registrant's bourse preview, with **Mike Hollingshead** and myself conducting the opening. **Dick Dunn** continued on during the days of the show as the "sheriff" of the bourse room, ensuring that the honest dealers who had paid their bourse fee did not get blind-sided by the few dishonest individuals who try to do selling on the floor.

Bob Wilson was back to help **Albert Kasman** and **Harvey Farrow** at the admission desk and set up the hourly draw prizes. A feature of the admission material was a special wood flat which served as an admission ticket. There are three types, one on dark cherry wood which were placed in the Registration Kits for Saturday and Sunday. There were also individual flats for Saturday and Sunday, having blue and gold imprinting, respectively. Only a few of the prizes were claimed, even though we went to drawing tickets every half hour on Sunday at 12:00 noon. We welcomed

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

over 235 paid visitors on Saturday. There were a few more in the 30 minutes prior to closing when we had declared free admission. The hospitality suite was open again from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with **Lucille Colson** and **Marg Fox** in to help for the day.

While I was not able to be there between 9:00 a.m. and noon, I got reports of a lively and busy Canadian Tire Coupon Collector's Club meeting from **Roger Fox**. It was the 10th anniversary meeting and included balloon's, coffee and cake... a real party.

In the early afternoon, Head Judge **Paul Johnson** along with Exhibits Judges **Don Robb**, **Dr. Marvin Kay** and **William H. McDonald** conducted the formal judging of the exhibits in preparation for announcing winners at the banquet.

The Canadian Association of Token Collectors had a good meeting which lasted from noon until 2:00 p.m. I was able to stop in there and say a few words of public thanks to **Scott Douglas** for organizing the Program of Events and **Harry James** for his presentation at the meeting on "Merchants Due Bills". **Del Murchison**, who handled non-numismatic publicity happened to be in the room as well. All three received their uniface ONA 2000 thank you medals.

The final group meeting of the Convention was the Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. At 4:45, after we had declared free admission, we were able to make a quantity of the Saturday ONA Admission flats available through **Norm Belsten** (the creator of the flats) to all attendees.

At 1:00 p.m. Charles Moore's ONA Auction got underway. It was very large with over 1400 lots and continued until after 7:00 p.m. Successful bidders were able to pick up their winning bid material after the auction and Charles told me that they were done by 8:00 p.m. and that the proceedings had gone very well.

There was a nice crowd that turned out for the pre-banquet reception. Since the reception room was ready, visits and chatting got started about half an hour before schedule at 6:00 p.m. A few minutes after 7:00 p.m., almost right on schedule, the attendees moved into the banquet room. **Dr. Marvin Kay** served as the Master of Ceremonies, introducing the head table comprised of **Mrs. Sondra Kay**, **Carolyn-Marie Petch**, myself, **Dr. Denna Benn** with ONA President **Mike Hollingshead**, **Ian Graham** of the Royal Canadian Mint, C.N.A. Librarian and keynote speaker **Geoff Bell**, Head Judge **Paul Johnson** and Awards Chairman **Don Robb**. There were a group of draw prizes and the drawing of the tickets took place between the courses and fell to those who had made the donation. This included **Brett Evans** of Trajan Publishing, **Ian Graham** of the Mint and **Roger Fox**, President of the Canadian Tire Coupon Collectors Club.

Following the excellent and well-prepared meal, **Geoff Bell** delivered his talk on "The Underappreciated". He itemized both hobby collectibles and individuals, all of which in his opinion could use a little more recognition and appreciation. The Master of Ceremonies, in appreciation, presented the Speaker with a silver uniface convention medal. **Paul Johnson** then came to the podium and announced the exhibit winners. The Junior category winner was **Matthew Fleck**, Third Place went to **Mike Hollingshead**, Second to **Chris Boyer** and the Best in Show to **Bill Kamb**. It was determined late on Sunday afternoon after the counting of the ballots that Bill had also won the People's Choice Award for best exhibit for his display of Newfoundland cents. **Don Robb** was then introduced to announce the selections of the Awards Committee. A Fellow of the Ontario Numismatic Association was presented to **Bruce Raszmann**, this in addition to an Award of Merit given to Bruce in 1973, making him the only individual to be so honoured. I personally was truly surprised and honoured to receive the Award of Merit for 2000. My thanks go to those who nominated and supported me and

also to all in attendance for their applause and congratulations.

The final presentations of the evening were in the form of medals presented by the ONA President to the Head Judge and Awards Chairman. The banquet concluded with an invitation from the Master of Ceremonies on behalf of the President to attend the President's Reception in the Hospitality Suite.

Sunday opened with the ONA Delegate Meeting at 9:00 a.m. conducted by M.C. **Ken Wilmot**. In addition to the club reports and a draw which saw some Junior Collector Kits from the Royal Canadian Mint get awarded for use at three clubs, there was an excellent panel discussion on the topic "Running Good Coin Club Meetings". Panel members were **Dorothy Mason**, **Mike Hollingshead** and **Del Murchison**. While unable to attend the convention **John Regitko** had helped with meeting organization in the background. The Best Local Coin Club Bulletin was awarded to the North York Coin Club with myself winning the Editor award.

The ONA Annual General Meeting followed immediately. The most significant events here were a vision of innovation for the ONA and the annual convention delivered by the President and a brief report by myself as Convention General Chairman on convention arrangements.

The meetings of Sunday concluded with a meeting of the ONA Executive.

Attendance on Sunday was quite good compared to other years with 96 paid admission. Because some of the dealers, as usual, began packing up in the early afternoon, there were only about 75% of the original dealers present by 3:00 p.m. Free admission was declared at this time because of the reduced selection. Counting Registration Kit entries for both Saturday and Sunday, the count for the convention totals to 423.

At about 3:40 p.m. we held the Dream Vacation draw. Draw Chairman **Bruce Raszmann** made the selections. The

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

first prize vacation trip was won by **R. Dexter Butt** of Richmond Hill. The second place \$100 gold went to **Chris Georgantopoulos** of Burlington. Consolation third and fourth prizes of O' Canada sets go to North York Coin Club member **Mark Argentino** of Mississauga and **Bernie Brodhagen** of Sebringville. Consolation fifth and six place prizes of a 2000 millennium March sterling silver 25-cent piece go to **Ralph de Boer** of Innerkip and **Grant Lattimer** of Niagara Falls.

And that was it. It was now 4:00 p.m. and the show closed. After all of the preparation and all of the fun, the ONA 2000 Convention was over... except for the cleaning up. The dealers moved out, there were cases, lamps and garbage to collect, table cloths to fold and save for next year, tables to take down and stack for pickup. The whole crew stayed on and helped. Truly, this is an exceptional group of members and friends who belong to the North York Coin Club, all of whom gave very willingly of their time and energy.

It was just before 6:00 p.m. when I thanked them all and invited them up to the Hospitality Suite where it was now their job to "clean up" the last of the drinks and food.

Was it a successful show? That's for others to decide, based on what they were looking for and what they found. I hope they consider it was. For myself, I'm convinced that the North York Coin Club, the Convention Committee and members are all the better for the convention experience.

Four Rules For Coin Collecting by William P. Donlan

Collecting trends change, and the wise collector will do well to keep informed. The present trend, not only to collect but to hoard rolls of coins, is exhausting the supply of many issues, and is creating a false market by pushing prices upward. Manufacturers of many household items discovered a long time ago that they could double or triple their market by urging housewives to buy an extra can or bottle, or a six-pack container; and by urging men to keep an extra supply of razor blades or shaving cream on hand.

Just what will happen when these rolls are broken up and spread around - only you young collectors will ever know. Would there have been any rare coins, and would the hobby have attracted so many followers, if rolls, instead of single coins, had always been collected?

I urge you not to miss the pleasure of collecting, and studying, some particular series. Specialize! Beware of coin market manipulators, because we have them in this hobby as well as in the stock market. Beware too of alarmists who use scare headlines to "warn" about possible shortage of some issue. Study the facts for yourself, and then decide if the rumors are true or false. Forget about the possible dollar profit, if you really want to enjoy this hobby.

My collection of coins was cataloged by Abe Kosoff, and the three-day sale took place in Beverly Hills. It was a satisfying experience. The financial returns proved conclusively that a coin collector can "have his cake and eat it too." I enjoyed my coins for over twenty-five years, and then sold them at a very nice profit. If you doubt me, ask Uncle Sam, who also did very well by the sale.

Glenn Smedley had a very excellent editorial in the January, 1960, issue of *The Numismatist*, and I urge you to read it in its entirety. I quote liberally from that editorial: "Numismatists should place the study of coins, medals, tokens and paper money, and the sharing of knowl-

edge, and the pride of ownership, and the fellowship of others, ahead of monetary gains from buying, selling and swapping."

I think he might have been correct in adding that if a collector will practice the first four rules, namely:

1. Study the items he collects, and their backgrounds;
 2. share that knowledge with others;
 3. take pride in ownership; and
 4. enjoy the fellowships and friendships his hobby brings him
- then monetary gains, dollar profits, must eventually follow.

In checking over my own experience recently, I concluded that I had unconsciously, or blindly, followed to some extent the four rules. Especially in the early days of my collecting, I read everything available on coins and currency. I wish my failing memory might permit me to retain a portion of the knowledge gained then. Possibly because I just liked to talk coins to anyone who would listen, sharing my knowledge with others was no effort. I know a few new followers of the hobby were won by talks I gave at various service clubs, and I have always enjoyed helping youngsters by giving a few Indian cents or other items.

Pride of ownership should be easy, for it is a poor numismatist indeed who does not take pride in showing his prized possessions at every opportunity. Besides the fun I had in arranging exhibits, following this rule certainly paid off in dollars for me. One of the factors that contributed to the sale in Beverly Hills was my collection of proof sets, which had been exhibited and was fairly well known from coast to coast.

The fourth rule may not seem important to the enthusiastic younger numismatists because, as the saying goes, "We grow too soon old, and too late smart." I guess a man has to be on

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

the wrong side of forty or fifty to appreciate the value of good friends and fellowship. But there was one man who sensed that men do crave friends. Dale Carnegie cashed in on his theory by teaching people "How to Win Friends." Yes, you can win friends, but you cannot buy them - that is, not real friends.

I had a rather wealthy partner in the theater business about forty years ago who used to say: "A man's bankroll is his best friend." But he was wrong! Dead wrong! I had this fact brought home to me very forcibly about twenty years ago by this true story.

On a cold January night on Broadway in New York City, my attention was attracted to a man carrying a "sandwich" sign draped over his bent shoulders. Perhaps I would not have noticed him or his sign if a police officer had not or-

dered him to move along. He shuffled off half a block, and when he thought the officer was out of sight he stopped again. I stopped too, and talked to him, and he told me his story.

As a young man he had inherited considerable money - too much money. Unattached, and with no near relatives, he had sold his share of a going business and left his home town for the big city. For a few years he lived well, if not wisely. The few friends he gathered in the bright lights were the fair weather sort. When his money was gone, his friends went with it. And now he was down and out, without a friend, he said, to know or care whether he lived or died. He was existing as a walking billboard, and by cleaning Bowery bar-rooms in exchange for a place to sleep.

Yes, I know he was only one of hundreds or thousands with a similar tale,

and you are wondering why this one "down-and-outer" should have made an impression on me. Well, under that week's growth of beard, and in those dirty clothes, I recognized the fellow who, twenty years before, had said: "A man's bankroll is his best friend." Yes, my former partner.

Let's enjoy the fellowships we gain in numismatics. Let's collect friends, while we collect coins. Friends are one thing those dollars won't buy.

This article was the condensation of a talk given at a Mohawk Valley Coin Club meeting which appeared in The Numismatist of October, 1960.

What the Value is of One Member?

Ten little members standing in a line.
One disliked the President, then there were nine.

Nine ambitious members offered to work late.
One forgot his promise, then there were eight.

Eight creative members had ideas good as heaven.
One lost enthusiasm, then there were seven.

Seven loyal members got into a fix.
They quarreled over programs, and then there were six.

Six members remained with spirit and drive.
One moved away, then there were five.

Five steadfast members wished there were more.
One became indifferent, then there were four.

Four cheerful members who never disagree -
'Til one complained of meetings, then there were three.

Three eager members! What do they do?
One got discouraged, then there were two.

Two lonely members, our rhyme is nearly done.
One joined the bridge club, then there was one.

One faithful member was feeling rather blue -
Met with a neighbour, then there were two.

Two earnest members each enrolled one more -
Doubling their number, and then there were four.

Four determined members just couldn't wait -
'Til each won another, and then there were eight!

Eight excited members signed up 16 more.
In another six verses, there'll be a thousand twenty-four!

The Bird Watcher's Canadian Collection

Confederation Centenary, 1967



*1 Cent,
Rock Dove in flight*



*One Dollar,
Canada Goose in flight*

Canadian Unity, 1978



*\$100
Twelve Canada Geese
Flying in Formation*

Circulation \$1 (from 1987)



Confederation 125 Years, 1992



10th Anniversary Loon Dollar from Gift Sets, 1997



Snowy Owl, 1991 Platinum Proof Set



\$30



\$75



\$150



\$300

Birds of Canada, 1995 50 Cents Proof Set



Atlantic Puffins



Whooping Crane



Gray Jays



White-tailed Ptarmigans

Peregrine Falcon, 1996 Platinum Proof Set



\$30



\$75



\$150



\$300