

“The Bulletin” August, 2000

President’s Message

I normally end this message with a reminder to those of you on the Internet that you should forward your e-mail address so I might contact you with any late information. This month, I’m letting you know that *my* e-mail address has changed. Throw out the old address and contact me at **p.petch@home.com** if you have the need. Phone calls are welcome at **416-745-3067** (leave a voice message if you can’t get through) or at my cell number **416-303-4417**.

I’ve been sending a copy of this Bulletin along to a few folks who indicated some interest in the Club. This is their last mailing, so they should know that we will be meeting in September, October and November at the usual Edithvale location on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Everyone can plan ahead for meetings on September 26, October 24 and November 8. It is a long way away, but you could even mark your calendar for the December Party meeting on Thursday, December 14.

While we are planning ahead, this is a notice to the members of the Executive that we will be holding meetings on two Wednesday evenings through the fall on September 13 and November 8 with our usual start time of 7:00p.m. For those members who may have missed

It’s Nice to be Home

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on **Wednesday, August 23, 2000**, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive. That’s the fourth Wednesday this month because Edithvale is open only on Wednesday evenings in the summer.

There are two special treats for the members who are able to join us. Harvey Farrow, as Club Delegate to the CNA Convention in Ottawa, will be providing details on his convention trip and bringing news of many of the events. There may be news from others too because Harvey reports he counted 17 North York members at the convention. And what about the A.N.A.! Did anyone make it there? Vince Chiappino and Del Murchison will be at the meeting and, weather allowing, will give us an opportunity to try some metal detecting outside on the Edithvale grounds.

Hope to see you for a relaxed and informal August meeting.

the news, I have now entered semi-retirement and must say that the summer has just zipped by... this business of relaxing seems to take a lot of time. With a new travel trailer in tow we made it as far as Mount Rushmore in the U.S. and a few high points in between, like the Mall of America in Minneapolis and my first visit to a full-scale casino.

While in the U.S. I had about 10 of their commemorative state quarters come into my hands. I was impressed to see a variety of coin holders on display in many stores. I expect that if the populous follows Canada’s lead, not many of them will stay in circulation. It was interesting to hear A.N.A. President Bob Campbell comment during the C.N.A. Education Forum that the U.S. is doing well in copying Canada’s 25-cent program and switching to the gold colour

for its Sacagawea dollar. He lamented on his country’s failure to also withdraw the paper bill from circulation.

Closing note: my daughter was rolling change at the church and plucked a 1911 one cent coin from the pile for me. I’m thinking that this just might count as the last large cent to be found in circulation. As for condition, I have graded liberally and declared it a “good”... perhaps the reason why no one else had claimed it before?

***Next Meeting:
August 23***

Meeting News from the June 20 Meeting

The 454th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, June 20, 2000 at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Dr., Willowdale, with President Paul Petch in the chair.

Business Arising from May meeting

- (1) Vince's medal was not a coin as described.
- (2) Instead of Pound it should be dollars.

Activity and news from June:

- (1) New Member: Dr. Hearst was accepted as Member No. 510.
- (2) On Time Attendance Draw: **Bob Voaden's** name was drawn and he was

not in attendance. The August prize will be \$ 6.00.

(3) Secretary **Lucille Colson** was absent, so Bob Porter wrote up the minutes for the evening.

(4) **Roger Fox** shared his opinions on the new U.S.A. \$2.00 notes now available at a special price.

(5) The speaker of the evening was **Dr. Marvin Kay**. His talk was reminiscences of his holidays and their numismatic aspects which took place in New York City, Amsterdam, California, France, Israel, at the ANA Show in Boston, Porto Rico, Costa Rica, England, etc. and he displayed all the coins, medals and souvenirs picked up during

his trips. It was all very interesting.

(6) Evening draw prizes: **Mark Argentino**(3) **David Kneller**(3), **Norm Belsten**(2), **Ron Zelk**, **Paul Petch**, **Jim Heifetz**, **Len Kuenzig**, **Ted Boxall**.

(7) Draw donations received with thanks from **Brian See** and **Al Kasman**, also, thanks to Roger Fox for biscuits and coffee.

(8) Auction commission realized \$1.80 run by **Bob Porter**. The Door Draw was called by **Roger Fox** and brought proceeds \$ 22.00.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm with the next meeting slated for 4th Wednesday in August, the 23rd.

Coming Events

Collingwood Coin and Stamp Club Annual Bourse August 19, 9:30am-3:30pm at the Leisure Time Centre, between OPP/Fire Complex and Theatre 4. Free admission. Contact: Collingwood Coin and Stamp Club, PO Box 565, Station Main, Collingwood, ON L9Y 3Z5, e-mail tbg@bconnex.net.

Woodstock Coin Club 11th Annual Coin Show, September 10, 887 Dufferin St. Free parking, admission \$1, door prizes and displays. Contact Woodstock Coin Club (519) 539-5926.

Hamilton Coin Club's Spring Show September 16, 9am-4pm at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 58, 1180 Barton St. E. (across from Centre Mall). Admission \$1 includes prize ticket Contact: Nancy Meredith, (705) 788-3159.

London Numismatic Society 8th Annual Coin Show September 17, 9:30am-4:30pm. The Ramada Inn, 817 Exeter Rd. Contact Ted Leitch (519) 472-9679.

The TICF September 29 to October 1,

Ramada Inn and Convention Centre, 360 Oakville Place Dr. Bourse, auction and more. Contact: Trajan Publishing, (905) 646-7744.

Burlington Fall Coin Show October 14, 9am-4pm at the Brant Hills Community Centre, 2300 Duncaster Ave. Free admission. Contact: Nancy Meredith, (705) 788-3159.

Tillsonburg Coin Show October 15, 9am-4pm. sponsored at the Community

Auction List

Let's try to get back to a listed auction for the September meeting. Bring material you would like to sell to the August meeting to Rick Craig so we can organize a listed auction for the September meeting. 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

For the August meeting I thought it might be fun to stay topical. This time, however, we are going to keep it closer to home and confine our search to the issues of Canada and British North America. The topic: tall ships (well, even not-so-tall ships)... but the challenge is to limit your answers to those coins, tokens, paper money or medals showing ships that have a mast.

The June Question asked members to identify coins, medals or paper money that show maps. Answers came from all over the room, for example: the Olympic \$10.00 coin, Chinese coins, 1957 Prov. Ind. set, Canadian Royal Visit 1939 medal, Italian 500 Lira, Australia 1970 and woods from the Maritimes.

Member Brian See did a search through the Krause World Coins catalogue and came up with an impressive list. Del Murchison did some research and has offered an Internet article he found on what may be the first appearance of a map on a coin. Both appear on page 3.

Ionia, Persian Satraps. Earliest Greek Map?

Particularly interesting is the reverse design depicting what Johnston has interpreted as a relief map of the hinterland of Ephesos, which if it is, would have been very useful to the Persians prior to Alexander's conquests and would also be the earliest Greek map and first physical relief map known. On the right (north) are the mountains Tmolos and Messogis between the river valleys of the Caÿster and Maeander, to the left of which are three mountain ridges (Madranbaba Dagi, Karincali Dagi, and Akaba Tepesi). Johnston follows Six in suggesting that the coins were probably struck under the Persian general Memnon at Ephesos, circa 336-334 BC, in order to pay his army after he had captured the city, but before his defeat by

Alexander at the Battle of Granicus in 334. However, this theory is still debated and doubted by scholars, most recently by Leo Miltenberg.

Ionia, Persian Satraps. Ephesos(?). Circa 350-340 BC. AR Tetradrachm (14.91 gm). Persian king kneeling right, holding bow in left hand, spear in right / Incuse relief map of the hinterland of Ephesos(?). A.E.M. Johnston, "The Earliest Preserved Greek Map: A New Ionian Coin Type," *JHS* (1967), 26 (this coin); Weber 6238 (this coin); Leo Miltenberg, "Money Supply under Artaxerxes III Ochus," in *Studies in Memory of Martin Price*, pl. 61, 81; *BMC Ionia* pg.



324, 3; *Traité* pl. 89, 8. Toned VF, light smoothing behind king. Very Rare.

From Triton III (CNG/Freeman & Sear/NAC, 30 November - 1 December 1999), lot 529x, estimated at \$5000.

Maps on Coins of the World

Country	Denomination	Year	Country	Denomination	Year
Australia	50 cents	1970	Panama	500 balboas	1975
Bermuda	1 crown	1959	Peru	20 nuevo soles	1992
Bermuda	\$1	1970	Philippines	25 piso	1979
Bermuda	\$1	1972	Philippines	50 piso	1975
Canada	\$10	1973	Poland	500 zlotych	1985
Croatia	100 kuna	1995	Portugal	200 escudos	1994
Croatia	200 kuna	1995	Portugal	200 escudos	1995
Croatia	1000 kuna	1995	Russia	10 rubles	1977
Cuba	5 pesos	1985	St. Thomas & Prince	100 dobras	1985
Denmark	2 kroner	1953	Sierra Leone	golde	1966
East Caribbean Territories	\$10	1980	Sierra Leone	5 golde	1988
Haiti	50 gourdes	1977	Slovenia	500 tolarjer	1996
Hungary	100 forint	1983	South Africa	2 rand	1995
India	50 paise	1988-95	Sudan	10 pounds	1978
India	2 rupees	1982-85	Sweden	100 kroner	1988
India	100 rupees	1982	Taiwan	10 cents	1949
Italy	500 lire	1985	Taiwan	20 cents	1949
Italy	500 lire	1986	Taiwan	50 cents	1949
Jamaica	\$10	1979	Tokelau Islands	100 tala	1996
Jamaica	\$25	1984	Tonga	2 pa'anga	1987
Jamaica	\$25	1985	Tonga	10 pa'anga	1987
Lesotho	20 maloti	1983	Trinidad & Tobago	\$10	1972-75
Malaysia	\$1	1977	Trinidad & Tobago	\$10	1976-81
Malaysia	25 ringgit	1977	Uganda	20 shillings	1969-70
Malaysia	25 ringgit	1980	Uganda	25 shillings	1969-70
Maldives	50 rufiya	1996	United States	\$1	1991
New Zealand	\$5	1995	United States	\$1	1991
Nicaragua	10 cordobas	1991	Western Samoa	\$1	1976
Nicaragua	2 pcs. 500 cordobas	1980			

The Magic Coin Shop by L. W. McCabe

Not so very long ago, but very far away, there was a magic coin shop. Not that the shop itself was magic, for it was just another stall in the Great Bazaar of the Imperial City of Persepolis. But the shopkeeper was a magician of sorts, as you shall see. His name was Ali bin Ibrahim, and he came from the far north. He had many friends and some enemies, as most men do, and he was commonly known as "Honest Ali."

The magic he practiced was recognized by his rivals and by his customers, with envy by the former, but often with joy by the latter. A bag of old silver or copper coins brought to him and purchased for little more than their value as scrap metal could be transmuted into objects of great value.

Yet Ali was no alchemist: he had learned to recognize the images and superscriptions of the great rulers of the world, and could thus distinguish coins of some rarity from such as would commonly be found in the bazaars. And there were many persons in the Imperial City who cherished things that were old, and of these many found joy in the collecting of old and unusual coins, so that Ali had a ready market for most of the coins that he discovered.

On a certain morning, as he sat in his



shop meditating on the latest increase in the price of opium and on the proposed increase on the sales tax, an elderly peasant came to him and spake thusly: "O Ali, Thou Honest One! Digging in my garden to plant cabbages, I have indeed found a great treasure, so that I have brought it straight to thee."

Ali greeted him coolly, for indeed he thought but little of cabbages, and said, "Well enough, my friend, but let me see them, and if I find naught of value I shall indeed pay thee well." The elderly one poured out upon Ali's counter some ten-score pieces of silver and copper, mostly quite encrusted with soil, and Ali sorted through them rapidly.

"Why, then, we have little enough here, my friend; I doubt that I shall find a market for such as these short of the melting pot. Yet there is good weight of copper here, and some silver. Lo, I shall pay thee two dinars for them, since one cannot think on naught save the reaping of profit."

The peasant eagerly grasped the coins proffered him and, calling blessings upon the head of Ali the Honest, promptly left in search of the nearest wineshop. Ali glanced over the coins again, and then placed them in containers of cleansing solutions to remove the encrusted soils before washing them care fully in olive oil of the best quality, which he imported especially from a distant realm, the Sultanate of Qualiforniyah.

Before he had quite completed this task, a regular customer, one Zeki Pasha, a high official of the Imperial Street Cleansing Service, came upon him. Greeting him merrily and asking after his health and seeing the mass of coins laid out on the counter, he fell to examining such as

were in his reach. Ali chided him for such effrontery, but gently, for the man was an old friend and a good customer. He then said, "Lo, Zeki Pasha, if thou still seekest coins of the great Linkan Shah, marked with the initial of Suleyman and the cipher of the artist Vidibi Khan, then look upon this coin which I have just discovered in this rich hoard for which I have indeed paid dearly. And should it be to your liking, why then I can permit thee to buy it for the meager sum of sixty dinars!"

Zeki Pasha inspected the coin and found that Ali had indeed described it rightly. "Ah yes, such a coin have I long desired. But sixty dinars - that is a goodly sum. And I must buy a new camel saddle, too. I can offer thee no more than thirty."

Ali considered gravely, and said: "Of a truth, the life of a poor shopkeeper is hard - taxes, rents, costs always rising - but I could take fifty."

"Nay, forty."

"Well, then, let us say forty-five."

"Well done, then, O Ali the Honest," said Zeki, and paid over that price, and went happily on his way.

Such then was the magic of Ali the Honest, for he had transmuted a simple piece of copper into an article of great value, and had thereby pleased both the one from whom he had obtained it, and that one to whom he had sold it. Worthy indeed is such magic!

This light-hearted article is reprinted from The Numismatist and is dedicated to all the "magician's assistants" out there.

Gum Money: A Fantasy by Randolph Zander

A bit of numismatic nonsense...

An example of exciting numismatic research is the study which our good friend and colleague, Dr. Reginald J. B. McMellifully, has done on the chewing gum currency that achieved a considerable circulation in the Pacific Islands in the late phases of World War II. Readers will recall that military payment certificates were not completely satisfactory and there were also difficulties with ordinary U. S. currency. An expedient was urgently needed, for there was considerable small commerce between the natives and our soldiers and sailors.

It was at this time, in March of 1945, that Yankee ingenuity provided a solution classical in its simplicity. An unidentified Sea Bee manually fashioned a used stick of chewing gum into a round disc, imprinted on the obverse and reverse with his forefinger and thumb prints, or double toughra, and used it to buy a shot of sake at a local cantina. Others were quick to follow his example, and between early April and late May, according to Dr. McMellifully's admittedly tentative findings, approximately 34,681 of these discs had been issued. This did not represent the total circulation at the time, however. A number of the Micronesian shopkeepers and young ladies developed a taste for second-hand chewing gum so that at any given time along in, say, early June of 1945, a good 10% of the gum money was being used for masticatory purposes. In addition, gum money was withdrawn from circulation for patching corrugated iron roofs and other utilitarian uses.

The numerous individual issuing authorities among our fighting men were able to add constantly to the circulating medium. By late August inflation had set in. Before the end of the year the corrected real index of purchasing power of a chewing gum disc had fallen to barely 4.36% of its mean average for May. Though the coinage was used in a desultory way for some time after, its utility

had ceased for all practical purposes by the beginning of 1946.

The serious numismatist is faced with a number of challenging problems in classifying these pieces. Dr. McMellifully's catalog is a monument of research. Yet he has said, with disarming candor, "... my list is far from complete." An enterprising graduate student, working with the doctor on a McFard Foundation grant, has travelled through this country and has visited the Islands to interview persons who issued and used the currency. His data are now being analyzed, and in due course a new and definitive CORPUS NUMMORUM PLASTICORUM will result.

In general the usual system of fingerprint classification has been followed in arranging the gum tokens (it is no breach of confidence to say that the law enforcement authorities have found Dr. McMellifully's work of substantial value in connection with some black market cases they had been studying). An interesting field of specialization involves changes in the dies. Occasionally an issuing authority would sustain a cut or other injury to his thumb or forefinger. This would result in a die break. But unlike conventional breaks which tend to grow more marked, these would gradually diminish as the injury mended. In the writer's collection is a fascinating series tracing the healing of M/Sgt. Adam Vanderplonck after his right forefinger had been lacerated by flying glass in a melee in the PX on Mooripangi Atoll. It is all the more remarkable for the fact that Sgt. (by then Private) Vanderplonck's die break series was issued entirely from the disciplinary stockade where he spent his convalescence in solitude.

Some collectors limit their efforts to assembling tokens fabricated from a single brand of chewing gum. Adams Black Jack, for example, with its somber color, makes an impressive display, but specimens in this medium are extremely rare. The Juicy Fruit series appeals particu-

larly to me. It is aesthetically pleasing to the sense of smell as well as to the eye.

Another facet of the series is the multiples that occasionally show up. Some lantern-jawed issuing authorities chewed several sticks of gum at a time. They produced fine broad tokens on which the double toughra is displayed most effectively. A few bubble-gum chewers issued gum money but this seems never to have had much appeal.

The question of restrikes is a vexing one. Dr. McMellifully has incontrovertible evidence that some unscrupulous issuing authorities, aware of the rarity now of their wartime issues, have made restrikes solely to meet collector's demands. Moreover, other individuals never involved in the actual wartime issue of this currency have produced altogether spurious *pieces de fantaisie* which have been bought by the unwary or uninformed. The revised McMellifully Corpus will have some practical hints for the collector on how to identify these abominations.

The question of care and preservation and display of gum money admits of no easy answers. The effect of a humid or southern climate on enveloped specimens can be irreparably damaging to both token and envelope. Roll collectors have found to their sorrow that even a well wrapped roll of gum tokens turns in short order into a sticky amalgam. Some few collectors of the old school have housed their gum money in mahogany cabinets with trays. This has the merit of exposing the obverse to ready view (though the coins quickly attract a thick patina of grayish dust or lint). But the disadvantage is that after a matter of weeks the reverses of the coins melt onto the tray, so that the collection becomes permanently mounted. One student lacquered his coins. The process somehow expunged the mint bloom and left them with a smooth sticky surface, devoid of design. In desperation, some of us have taken to making plaster casts and then simply chucking out the gummy discs. The plaster casts can be sprayed

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Hobo Nickels by Bill Fivaz

Movin' on, movin' on, movin' on...the stream engines beckoned as they built up momentum heading towards a new horizon, towards an adventure.

Many a man heard that call, when the rules became too hard to take. This man, born to dream not conform, that man without a job and out of luck - they heard the call, movin' on...movin' on. The soldiers drawn from home and done with war were often lured to travel by the train's call.

Movin' on made some men famous, caused others to lose their lives. Movin' on set some men free while binding them to a brotherhood stronger than roots, the brotherhood of the hobos.

Hobos they're called, a word with as many possible origins as there are reasons to join the fraternity. The Latin words *homo bonus* mean good man and could have been coined to make the term hobo. Some say that soldiers returning from the Civil War would be asked where they were headed and would reply "homeward bound". Migratory agricultural workers of the eighteenth century were referred to as "hoe boys", and since hobos worked as they traveled, it was concluded they were the original 'boes.

Ask a veteran hobo at a convention jungle what a hobo is and you'll receive a

definite answer. The hobo is a migratory worker, some with a special skill or trade, others ready to work at any task, but always willing to work to make his way.

The annual national convention of hoboes is about to convene. This weekend in the small Iowa town of Britt, Iowa a king and queen will be crowned and feted with a parade and mulligan stew.

What's that you say? This isn't quite your "cup of tea?" Well then, that's because you must not be a collector of hobo nickels.

In 1935 the nation was in the midst of the Great Depression. Money was tight--and people did whatever they could, just to exist. One of the most interesting and creative ways for itinerants, such as hoboes, to survive those tough times was to carve coins--changing a coin's original design into something else.



In 1913, the new "Buffalo Nickel:" was minted. It featured the large profile of a large Native American's head on the front, and a powerful buffalo on the reverse. Because this coin had such large figures on both sides it allowed the hoboes a great deal of creative latitude.

The Indian's head was transformed into soldiers, clowns, ladies and even past Presidents. The most popular subject was an ethnic person, usually wearing a derby and sporting a beard. This whole group of carved "five-cent" pieces is referred to as "Hobo Nickels."

The nickel was a considerable sum in the 1930s--when one of these unique carved coins could be bartered for a night's lodging or a hot meal. Some hoboes were more skilled and creative than others, and a few even initialed their works. A few may be found with the buffalo carved into a donkey, an elephant, a turtle or, in one case, the undeniable bust of Mark Twain!

So if you see an odd-looking carved nickel in your grandmother's jewelry box, chances are it once meant that a hobo had a warm place to sleep for the night--or some good home cooking from your kin-folk!

From the ANA's Money Talks Transcript No. 2051, August 14, 2000

Gum money...

(Continued from page 5)

with vegetable dyes with colors chosen to differentiate the principal categories of fingerprint whorls. I have converted 7,350 of my gum coins into 14,700 plaster casts. The collection fits snugly into our second son's former bedroom -- he generously relinquished it and has moved in with our elder son.

Finally, there is the question of investment. What disinterested counsel can one give the forward-looking collector who thinks beyond his own lifetime to the well-being of his surviving loved

ones? First, I would say that the appeal of this series is in the opportunity it presents for rigorous interdisciplinary research in support of numismatics. The true gum money collector is contemptuous of the so-called numismatic investor. But lest I seem too harsh, let me make a qualification. Professor McMellifully's new Corpus will be published shortly, and at a popular price. This great work, reinforced in some small measure perhaps by the present article, is bound to focus attention on the series.

Confidentially, McMellifully and the rest of us pioneers are looking for a

killing when the suckers move into the field.

Regretfully, the Editor could not locate any illustrations of these unique collectibles. Readers are left to their own devices in fabricating examples of this fascinating branch of the hobby.