

## “The Bulletin” April, 2001

### President’s Message

Since the last meeting Len Kuenzig and I have met and Len has taken possession of all treasury materials. I continue with the massive job of sorting and classifying the Club archives. There are boxes of files that I am reviewing and trying to put in order. I have made one complete pass and am now trying to classify the materials for storage in some large plastic boxes.

Do you have any free storage space? The Club has 12 display cases and we still have 8 cases in need of a home. Please contact the President if you can help. The area required is about 3’ long 2’ deep and 3’ high.

Thanks to those members who recently renewed. Payments received at the last club meeting are being recognized with membership cards enclosed with this mailing of *The Bulletin*. Renewals received by mail since the March meeting will have cards sent out with the next mailing.

The O.N.A. 2001 Convention is coming up at the end of the month. For the convenience of NYCC members who may not belong to the O.N.A. a copy of the registration form and program of events is included with this mailing. Make a note of the date and times of events you may

## Medicina in nummis

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on **Tuesday, April 24, 2001**, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive. We start gathering about 7:30pm with meeting start scheduled for 8:00.



Dr. Marvin Kay will be our guest speaker this month. He’s going to update us how his collection of medical numismatic material is coming along. He tells me that it has been five years since his last talk on the subject, although he has been able to contribute to many meetings over those years with a few specimens which relate to the topic of the month. (All good Canadians should be able to identify what is depicted on the medal to the right!)



We are back with a listed auction this month, but you are welcome to bring any additional items you wish to sell. Along with this we’ll have the usual draw and perhaps a surprise or two as well. Hope to see you at the April meeting.

wish to attend, because to save paper we’ve, placed the program on the back of the registration form.

There will be a meeting of the Executive Committee on Wednesday, May 9. All committee members are asked to make every effort to attend since this is the final meeting of “the season”. Up for discussion will be consideration of scheduled meeting dates for the next year.

For quite some time now I have finished my monthly message with the invitation to share your e-mail address with me. I have the feeling that I’ve still not got all e-mail addresses on record, so please take the time to send me an e-mail from your current address so I can bring the roster up to date. I’ll respond with a reply confirming I have it and then you’ll know that you will receive any last-minutes club announcements. If you are now on the Internet, send an e-mail to me at “**p. petch@home.com**”. Phone calls are welcome on my cell at **416-303-4417** and on my home phone at **416-745-3067** (leave a voice message if you can’t get through).

***Next Meeting:  
April 24***

## Meeting News from the March 27 Meeting

The 462nd meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, March 27, 2001 at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Dr., Willowdale, Ont.

The President, Paul Petch, opened the meeting at 8:07 and welcomed 23 members and 5 guests.

The following new member was welcomed - #512 – Franco Farronato of North York.

The \$20 On Time Attendance Draw was won by George Fraser. It was a timely win as he and his wife, Doris, are celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary. We wished them well. We're back to \$2 for the next meeting.

The minutes of the February 27, 2001 meeting were read by the Secretary and approved by the Chair.

The Chair announced the position of Treasurer was open and called for nominations from the floor. Len Keunzig was nominated by Dick Dunn and seconded by Brian See. Len willingly accepted the position. Marvin Kay moved that nominations be closed; seconded by John Regitko. Our thanks to Len for agreeing to serve on the Club's executive. The Chair also announced Mark Argentino will handle the accounting aspects of the auction and that Ron Zelk will look after the Lucky Draw material

The Cambridge Coin Show was commented on and the coming events were listed.

We were pleased to have Kent Farrow, executor of Harvey's estate, attend the meeting. He spoke about how numismatics had been such an important and major part of Harvey's life and thanked the members for sharing in his life. He observed that almost half of the attendees at Harvey's memorial service were numismatic friends. In grateful appreciation, the family has donated Har-

vey's collection of wooden nickels and flats, ribbons, medallions, etc. to the club. John Regitko has offered to review and organize this material. The President asked Norm Belsten to also review the woods once John has made a "first pass" on them. Kent had previously donated other numismatic office supplies.

The subject for the evening was Trains. Chris Fox accompanied his father, Roger, and gave an informed account of the trains and TTC cars that are on view at the centre on the Guelph Line. Not to be outdone Roger produced 2 Canadian Tire coupons bearing trains. Bob Wilson displayed pictures of steam engines dating back to the 1860's and briefly discussed the highlights of each with interesting facts. The always resourceful Marvin Kay was able to come with 2 medical-related medals. Franco Farronato listed the Canadian coins with trains as listed in the Charlton catalogue and John Regitko noted that 2 C.N.A. medals had trains and that railway spikes had been given out as souvenirs at a C.N.A. convention. Unfortunately, Paul Johnson, who has a large collection of train medals, was unable to attend due to pressing business matters.

Refreshments prepared by Roger Fox were most welcomed.

Lucky Draw winners were: Dick Dunn, Del Murchison, Mark Argentino, Norm Belsten, Norman G. Gordon, Russ Brown, Len Kuenzig (2), Vince Chiappino, and Bob Velensky (2). The draw run by Roger Fox brought proceeds amounting to \$29.00.

The auction of 17 lots run by Bob Porter with the assistance of Rick Craig and Mark Argentino was full of furious bidding and great fun and earned a total of \$9.25 in commissions and donations. Many thanks to Rick Craig and Mark Argentino for their donations.

Their being no further business the meeting closed 9:50 p.m.

## Coming Events

**ONA 39th Annual Convention**, April 27-29 at the Ramada Inn (formerly College Inn), Guelph. Featuring a Friday evening bourse, Saturday group meetings, auction and Banquet and Sunday show. Reserve your weekend!

**Burlington Spring Coin Show**, May 5, 9am-4pm at the Brant Hills Community Centre, 2300 Duncaster Dr. Contact Nancy Meredith (705) 788-3159.

**Peterborough Coin Club Annual Show**, May 5, 9am-5pm at Portage Place. Events include free admission, coin exhibits and displays. Contact Colin Caldwell, (705) 742-0114.

**Windsor Coin Club 50th Annual Spring Coin Show**, May 6 10am-4pm at Daboto Hall, 2175 Parent Ave. Admission \$1 includes a chance to win an hourly and grand prize draw. Juniors under 12 are free. Contact Margaret Clarke (519) 735-0727.

**The (Hamilton) Numismatic Show**, May 11-13 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, 150 King St. East, level P3. Hours: Fri. from noon, early bird admittance and show pass \$15, Saturday and Sunday open at noon. Admission \$3, senior and young collectors \$2. Jeffrey Hoare coin auction on Friday, militaria auction on Saturday. Contact Terry McHugh, (905) 318-1638, e-mail [rscoins@netaccess.on.ca](mailto:rscoins@netaccess.on.ca)

**Spring Coin Show**, May 27, 10am-4pm at the Army Navy and Air Force Veterans Hall, 151 Loren Ave. East, Stratford. Admission \$2, children under 12 free with adult. Events include 50 tables, door prizes, lunch counter and free parking. Contact: Bob Dowsett (519) 271-8884 or Ian Ward, (519) 426-8875.

**Canadian Tire Swap And Meet**, July 6-8 hosted by Hubert Grimminck, 1806 Sunningdale Rd. West, London. Features include displays and tables. Auction at 3 p.m. on July 7. For more information, contact Hubert Grimminck, (519) 472-2956.

### Listed Auctions

Bring any material you would like to sell by listed auction in May to the April meeting and give it to Rick Craig. 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 starting amounts for the listing in the bulletin.

### Question of the Month

For our April question of the month we turn to the Canadian decimal series and the 1967 \$20 gold piece. I can think of several statements which can be made about this coin in which it can be said to be the first. For example, it was the first Canadian gold coin which, at the time of issue, was illegal for U.S. citizens to purchase. Can you come up with a few more "first" statements?



The March question was supposed to get us going with a good discussion on coins that are not round, but we had limited time and few examples from the membership. Perhaps you would like to take a look through some foreign coin books and find a few examples.

Sri Lanka, or Ceylon as it used to be know was a country where a large part

### April Meeting Auction List

- |   | Starts at |
|---|-----------|
| 1) Twelve signs of the Zodiac medalets. Large cent sized, bronze, unused but toned.....   | \$5.00    |
| 2) 1978 Mississauga historical folder with 4 regional trade dollars. Well done souvenir.....  | 4.00      |
| 3) Pair of Canadian 50c 1942 nice VF and 1943 EF. Est. 10.00 .....  | 5.00      |
| 4) Mixed lot: Nfld. 1917c 10 cents in a VG , pair of vending machine tokens (Italy?), and 8 amusement Tokens.....   | 3.00      |
| 5) 1968 R C Mint set. ....  | 2.00      |
| 6) Three numismatic visual aids: A short VHS video from the R C Mint "From Artwork to Coin", The Charlton Numismatic Library on CD 1998....unopened, and The R C Mint CD The Canadian Adventure , unopened..... | 9.00      |
| 7) Six small athletic medalets circa WW II era, one of them awarded (initials only) and an encased cent from the 1967 EXPO. Nice lot.....   | 4.00      |

of the population was illiterate. So, there was an advantage to having square coins, or coins with fluted edges. It makes for easier identification.

Egypt, also a country with a problem of illiteracy, has made coins with holes, six-sided and with fluted edge, no doubt for the same reason. India, too, has done likewise.

But then we find that Canada, with no illiteracy problem, found it expedient to make her five-cent piece twelve-sided instead of round in 1942. The reason was that the 1942 (and 1943) issue was made of an alloy of 88 per cent copper and 12 per cent zinc. This metal, called tombac, had a tendency to discolor to a dirty brown, and so was often mistaken for a one-cent piece. This only proves that people may look at a coin, be able to read, but rely merely on color or shape to make identification. The same reasoning was at the root of making our Loonie 11-sided when it was introduced in 1987.



## Copper 25 cents slip out of Mint

Readers should consider this to be more of an editorial than a re-hash of an ongoing news story. It concerns the event which, for me, was introduced by the headline *Copper 25 cents slip out of Mint* in the January 23 issue of *Canadian Coin News*. In looking back, I could have been a little more suspicious, or at least reflective, about what I accepted as hard news. The reported pieces turned out to be frauds, not Mint errors.

### The Story Breaks

First, some background for those who may not have caught the front page article and headline in CCN. Here are the facts as reported:

- At least some nickel plated steel coins appear to have been made early in [2001], but without the final nickel layer.
- Several of the Natural Legacy coins, issued in May of [2000], have turned up in a copper finish.
- Winnipeg dealer Harvey Gainer of M. J. Daniels has handled several of them
- He said on one of the coins he saw, a bit of copper had flaked off to reveal the core underneath.
- He said he has been told unofficially that the coins were struck on steel blanks that did not have the final layer. But that hasn't been confirmed.
- The story of the copper coins has yet to be determined.
- There's lots of questions, he continued, plating and striking are two facilities in the same building but they're quite separate.
- They're easy to spot because they're brown. Several other copper 25-cent coins have been reported in other parts of Canada, but so far less than 25 are known. "I have seen less than 20, and some have turned up in the East," Gamer said. "I also heard there was one on eBay. Another will be in the CAND auction this month.
- The coins are easily identified by their weight, which is slightly lower than

solid nickel. They have the same specifications as the P marked coins, but are marginally lighter.



Unfortunately the news item also included some reasonable conjecture:

- Gainer suspects they may have been made as test pieces, to see how copper plated steel blanks would look or strike up. "Maybe they used coin dies for testing instead of making new dies. Maybe somebody sent over incorrect planchets."
- More likely, he said, it is just a few planchets that didn't receive their final layer of metal and slipped through the system. "It's a bulk system and maybe a bad batch got out the Mint. They may even have gotten most of them."
- But he finds it interesting that the coins were struck early in 1999, before the plating facility of the RCM was fully operational. However, he said, plated coins had already been struck for the vending industry's evaluation.
- "I think they were left over-from the 1999-P program."
- He has no idea how the coins got pulled out, but assumes they turned up in rolls at a bulk handler.

What would have been most helpful for me would have been a reminder that

they could also have been deliberately produced inside the Mint, and that without a pedigree, there's no telling what their background may be.

### More Unusual Items

Two more front page stories relating to unusual mint items have appeared in CCN since that first report. The next came on March 6 under the headline "*Copper*" 10-cent pieces found in roll. This time it was dealer Ian Laing of Winnipeg's Gatewest Coins who had a quantity on hand. The story once again includes conjecture from the dealer holding the stock, but no explanation of how they turned up in his hands nor any reports of other folks who have found them.

To the credit of the coin dealers, they have co-operated with officials. The April 17 CCN reported that Ian Laing contacted the Mint, offering one of the "copper" 10-cent pieces for verification. The Mint determined that they had not come out through normal production channels upon which both Laing and Daniels surrendered the coins upon request.

The most recent CCN item is the story of "*No P coins turn up in Calgary*" from the April 3 issue. This piece was noticed by David Evans and the story includes comment from Pierre Morin, Royal Canadian Mint Communications Advisor, which is comforting, because it confirms that it is one of a deliberate run and it reflects well on CCN as being an authoritative news source.

### Charges Laid

The original copper 25-cent story continues and has been updated by both CCN and Coin World in recent issues.

Summer Douglass, Coin World Staff writer, reported in the March 12 issue that a Royal Canadian Mint employee had been arrested at his home in Winnipeg on February 15. The unnamed sus-

pect is to face charges of making, passing, selling and stealing counterfeit coins. The 43-year-old man will not be identified until he is officially charged in a Winnipeg court April 19.

Summer Douglass continues her story: Pierre L. Morin said that the suspect allegedly stole copper cores of 25-cent coins and made them into "error coins" by sending the copper blanks through a Mint press set up for the same denomination.

The suspect then sold the copper-colored 25-cent coins as Mint errors; one of the dealers approached about buying the suspect's coins reported the Mint employee to the police. Winnipeg constable Bob Johnson said that 18 counterfeits were stolen.

Morin emphasized that the coins are considered counterfeit because they were not made by the Mint. Officer Johnson said that, as counterfeits, the coins have literally no value.

The suspect will likely be charged with violating four sections of Canada's criminal code - sections 449, 450, 452 and 459, which deal with the making of counterfeit money, possession of counterfeits, passing counterfeits as genuine and removing coins from "Her Majesty's mints. If found guilty, the Mint employee would be sentenced to 10 to 14 years in prison,

Morin said that Mint officials know how the suspect took the counterfeits from the Mint, but the particulars could not be revealed while the case is being investigated. He added that while "security is always an ongoing issue" for the Mint, there has not been a theft at the Winnipeg facility since 1979. "The existing [security] measures that are in place [at the Mint] are very secure," Morin said.

Canadian Coin News provided essentially the same update in its issue of March 20. Included was specific information on one of the pieces being offered for sale in the Jeffrey Hoare Auctions sale held in association with the CAND show on January 26, 2001. Lot

309 is listed as "**Twenty Five Cents, MAY NATURAL LEGACY 4.37 gms.** This at first appears to be a copper flan, but as it is magnetic it would appear to be one of the steel plated flans which did not receive the final nickel plating. Red UNC. \$200". As reported in CCN, the prices realized record that it was sold for \$160. This coin has since been recovered by police.

The CCN report went on to confirm that the Mint has always had a policy of aggressively perusing the sale and marketing of any product made in the RCM without authorization.

### Viewpoint

These "backdoor" Mint offerings must be seen for what they are, which are frauds. They are produced surreptitiously with the intent of creating a marketable collectible to appeal to that specialized branch of the hobby interested in Mint errors. I have a few such pieces in my own collection and I value them because they represent occurrences of the manufacturing process gone wrong.

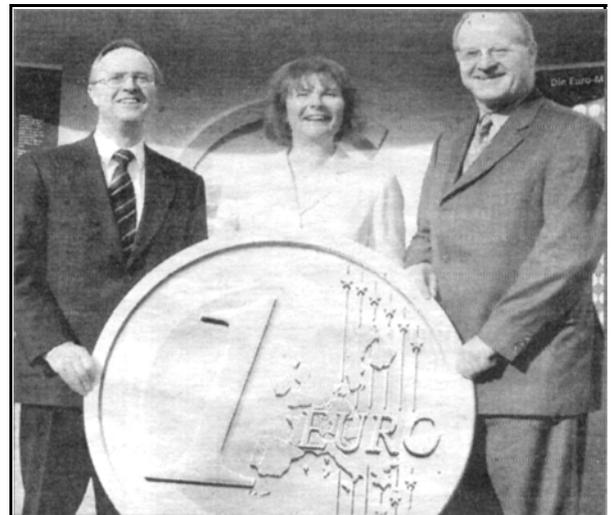
I'm pleased to see that Club member John Regitko, a long-time Mint error collector, has a new column running in CCN under the title "Striking Impressions". John is providing a great service by spreading knowledge of the manufacturing processes and making it easier for all of us to recognize on our own what is real and what may be fraud. I certainly have no patience with those on the fringe of this hobby who would knowingly collect and hold "backdoor" specimens. Their motivation is suspect in the least and the more of us who regard them as accomplices to a crime, the sooner this unfortunate practice may come to an end.

I am bothered by the statement from Pierre Morin that hints that Mint security is

both strong and satisfactory. While I recognize that this is the politically correct statement to make, I hope that behind the scenes security is being made even tighter. I can say that from my experience in touring the Mint's Ottawa facility security is very impressive. I have no idea what employees are subjected to at the Winnipeg facility and don't expect that I'll ever find out... that's what helps to keep it secure.

I'll continue to watch Canadian Coin News with interest. I can only hope that their reporting is thorough and dependable. I'm sure they recognize the great obligation they have to the hobby as they conduct their business activities. Publishing 26 error-free, authoritative issues per year is no small challenge.

I hope that the dealers involved in this event serve as models to other dealers. All suspect Mint errors in a dealer's stock should be authenticated to protect the collector. The Mint could increase the effectiveness of their security by simply offering a non-threatening authentication service. After all, what is the sense of a Mint employee willfully producing impossible specimens if there is no market to sell them into?



*The Euro Is Coming: Germany's Finance Minister Hans Eichel, left, Christa Randzio-Plath, chairman of the European Parliament's economic and monetary affairs committee and Ernst Welteke, president of the German Bundesbank launch an information campaign on the implementation of Europe's new currency in Berlin on April 2, 2001. Dubbed the Euro, the coins and bills will be sold to consumers starting Dec. 17.*

## Recent Mint Collector Announcements

### Royal Canadian Mint launches "Canadian Festivals" Series



The Mint officially launched a new collector fifty cent coin on January 29 celebrating the Carnaval de Québec. The event, held at Bonhomme's ice Palace, marked the launch of a new series of 13 sterling silver coins celebrating Canadian Festivals.

Three subsequent coins in the Canadian Festivals series will be announced later this year. Four coins will be issued in 2001, five in 2002 and four in 2003 for a total of 13 coins. The complete series will commemorate a festival for each province and territory. The coins are available individually or customers can subscribe to the 13 coin series, receiving single boxed coins that can be housed within a collectible coffee-table book with descriptions and graphics of the festivals.

The reverse of the coin features the mascot of the Quebec Winter Carnival, "Bonhomme Carnaval", with the Chateau Frontenac in the background. Bonhomme is a recurring figure during all the activities. He is the living incarnation of the snowmen that have enchanted Quebec children for generations.

### Themes of The Canadian Festivals Series

2001	2002	2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Quebec Winter Carnival (Quebec)</li> <li>(2) Toonik Tyme (Nunavut)</li> <li>(3) Newfoundland and Labrador Folk Festival (Newfoundland)</li> <li>(4) Festival of the Fathers (Prince Edward Island)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(5) Annapolis Valley Blossom Festival (Nova Scotia)</li> <li>(6) Stratford Festival (Ontario)</li> <li>(7) Folklorama (Manitoba)</li> <li>(8) Calgary Stampede (Alberta)</li> <li>(9) Squamish Days Logger Sports (British Columbia)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(10) International Storytelling Festival (Yukon Territories)</li> <li>(11) Festival acadien de Caraquet (New Brunswick)</li> <li>(12) Back to Batoche (Saskatchewan)</li> <li>(13) Great Northern Arts Festival (Northwest Territories)</li> </ul>

### Mint's Gold Coin to Mark 125th Anniversary of the Library of Parliament Building

A \$100 gold piece marking the 125th anniversary of the Library of Parliament Building was launched on February 15. The new coin features an inside view of the Library of Parliament Building. It depicts the Library's statue of Queen Victoria, the monarch who selected Ottawa as Canada's capital and established a permanent library here. The statue sits in the centre of the Library's domed rotunda, surrounded by decorative windows and beautiful wood inlay.

The Library of Parliament originated in the legislative libraries of Upper and Lower Canada, created in the 1790s. These libraries were amalgamated when Upper and Lower Canada were united in 1841. The library building, designed in the Gothic Revival style by Thomas Fuller and Chilion Jones, opened in 1876. Its circular shape and the use of galleries and alcoves were the inspiration of the first Parliamentary Librarian, Alpheus Todd. The Library was threatened by fire on February 3, 1916. The fire destroyed most of the Centre Block, but the Library's iron doors isolated it from the blaze. In 1952, a fire broke out in the cupola of the Library itself, causing extensive smoke and water damage. The Library's wood panelling had to be dismantled, sent to Montreal for cleaning and partial fireproofing, and reinstalled. A replica of the intricate parquet floor was re-laid in cherry, oak and walnut. In the centre of the room is a white marble statue of the young Queen Victoria, sculpted by Marshall Wood and acquired by Parliament in 1871. In the fall of 2001, the Library of Parliament Building will undergo major work to restore its original glory inside and out. For information on this project, visit the "Preservation" section of Parliament Hill: A Treasure to Explore Web site at [www.parliamenthill.gc.ca](http://www.parliamenthill.gc.ca).

