

"The Bulletin" January, 2002

President's Message

It is a pleasant turn of events that I am able to extend a very Happy New Year to all members and their families as one of my first duties as incoming President. You can be sure that I will be learning quite a bit as I go along during my first few months, but I am truly looking forward serving as the President of the North York Coin Club.

Your 2001 membership renewal is now due. Please bring your renewal to Len Kuenzig at the next meeting or send it in by mail. Those who have paid receive new membership cards with this mailing.

Two members who were very quick to renew were Tom Wilson and Frank Zarah, each of whom included a donation to the Club along with their dues. We thank these very supportive members and want everyone to know the money was immediately put to good use in subsidizing our annual Christmas Party.

If you are now on the Internet, please send an e-mail to the editor at "p.petch@rogers.com". This will allow us to send you any last-minute emergency announcements. You may contact the President, Bob Wilson, at **905-677-3765** or the Editor, Paul Petch at **416-303-4417**.

My Money is Worthless?

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on **Tuesday, January 22, 2002**, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive. We start gathering about 7:30pm with meeting start scheduled for 8:00.

Our guest will be Mr. Martin Hoffmann speaking on The Inflationary Currency of Germany. He will cover the period from 1900 through 1949, illustrated with notes from his own collection. Since some of these pieces are rather common, members are encouraged to bring along examples from their own collection.

This is the Annual Meeting so financial reports will be presented. We have a listed auction this month but you are encouraged to bring additional auction material for this meeting.

Coming Events

CAND Show, Jan. 26-27, Ramada Plaza Hotel, 150 King St. Hamilton. Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 10am-3pm. Large bourse, draws. Admission: adults \$3, others \$2. Contact Terry (905) 318-1638, e-mail rscoins@netaccess.on.ca

South Western Ontario Numismatics Coin and Collectibles Show, Feb. 3, 9am-4:30pm Convention Centre, Paris Fairgrounds, 139 Silver St. Admission \$2. More than 50 tables of tokens coins, paper money, sports cards, jewellery, militaria, postcards, and artifacts. Contact Ted Bailey, (519) 442-3474.

Oshawa and District Coin Club Coin-A-Rama 2002, Feb. 16 10am-5:30pm Five Points Mall (Ritson Rd. and Taunton Rd). Free admission. Coins, paper money, medals, and tokens Contact Earl or Sharon MacLean, 905-728-1352, e-mail: papman@idirect.com.

Torex, Feb. 23-24 at the Pearson Ballroom, Primrose Hotel, 111 Carlton St. Show and Auction. Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 10am-3pm Daily admission \$5. Coins, paper money, cards, books, supplies, pens, watches, militaria. Contact Brian Smith, (416) 861-9523, e-mail brian@torex.net. Web site: <http://www.torex.net>.

Ontario Numismatic Association Annual Convention, Bourse floor April 13-14 at the London Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 1150 Wellington Rd. South. Admission \$3. Hosted by the Ingersoll Coin Club.

This information is courtesy of Canadian Coin News and its web site.

**Next Meeting:
January 22**

Meeting News from the November 27 Meeting

The 468th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday November 27, 2001 at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive, Willowdale. The President, Paul Petch, opened the meeting at 8:05 p.m. and welcomed 22 members.

Unfortunately, Del Murchison was not present for the On Time Attendance Draw so the pot goes to \$4 for December.

Again, the Chair obliged the Secretary by reading and then accepting the minutes of Oct. 23.

Paul Johnson, as Nominating Chairman, was called to the floor to present nominations for the following offices:

President: Bob Wilson who accepted. No further nominations were made.

1st Vice: No nominations were presented or offered from the floor.

2nd Vice: Albert Kasman who accepted. No further nominations were made.

Secretary: Lucille Colson who accepted. No further nominations were made.

Treasurer: Len Kuenzig who accepted. No further nominations were made.

Directors: Roger Fox, Rick Craig and Vince Chiappino all of whom accepted.

The Slate of Officers will be formalized at the next meeting. The Chair thanked Paul and Norm Belsten for their hard work.

At the recent Executive meeting the Xmas Party was planned and Len is ready to take reservations. The yearly donation of \$50.00 was made to the J. Douglas Ferguson Foundation but the NESAs donation was raised to \$100.00 in honour of Harvey Farrow.

The Chair listed the recent shows. He, Bob Wilson, Brian See and Roger Fox attended various ones.

The President, as a long-standing good friend of Roger Fox, eloquently introduced him as guest speaker for the evening. Roger's presentation focused on the Canadian Tire display in Ottawa which, to date, has increased attendance at the National Currency Museum. A video, taped by Barry McIntyre, showed what an exciting event the opening was. Congratulations and well-deserved kudos came from the Canadian Tire representatives and others. Possibly the highlight was the comment made by an official of the Bank of Canada who noted "Canadian Tire Money could probably be considered as Canada's second official currency"! The red tape was cut and Roger presented brochures and an over-printed Canadian Tire coupon to the young people present. These were also given out to the members present. Rather than discuss his huge display, Roger offered to answer any questions while the refreshments he had prepared were being enjoyed. The members were justifiably proud of Roger's efforts and it was with great pleasure that Paul presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation.

The auction ably run by Bob Porter earned \$12.50 in commission and donations.



The Lucky Draw winners were: Norm Belsten, Paul Petch(2), Norman G. Gordon(4), Jim Heifetz(4), Bob Porter, Len Kuenzig, Roger Fox(2) and Avner Bar-Moshe. The draw run by Roger Fox with Albert Kasman selling tickets brought proceeds amounting to \$29.00. Many thanks to Rick Craig, Len Kuenzig and Albert Kasman for their donations.

An Application for Membership has been received from Avner Bar-Moshe of North York. If accepted his number will be 515.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:45 p.m.



Meeting News from the December 11 Meeting

The 469th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, December 11, 2001 at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Dr., Willowdale, Ont.

Last minute eye problems prevented the President, Paul Petch, from attending this meeting. This led to considerable consternation and confusion. However, eventually, calm prevailed and Past President Ron Zelk was able to open the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The On Time Attendance Draw for \$4.00 was won by Lucille Colson

The Swiss Chalet food had arrived and the buffet table was all set up with salads, pickles, sweets, coffee, pop and juices so everyone dug in for a great feast. We wish to thank the following: Ron Zelk for picking up and delivering the hot food, Roger Fox for setting up

the refreshments and Jean Orr, May Bunnett, Doris Wilson, Marg. Fox, Sandy Craig, Ellie Heifetz, Norman G. Gordon, Lyan See, Marco Farronato, Paul Petch and Lucille Colson for their donations to the buffet

Len Kuenzig suggested the club send a plant to Paul with all best wishes for a speedy recovery. Carried. (Editor's note: It was received and was a much-appreciated surprise.)

May Bunnett very generously donated thirty-five bundles of numismatic book, journals etc. for the festivities. Members were allowed to select one when their Gift Exchange and Lucky Draw numbers were drawn. Ron Zelk ran the Gift Exchange.

Lucky Draw winners were: Marco Farronato(3), Marg. Fox, Doris Wilson(2), Ron Zelk(2), David Giannone, Terry

O'Brien, Vince Chiappino, Mark Lane, Ellie Heifetz, Mark Argentino(2), Len Kuenzig and Jean Orr. The draw, run by Roger Fox with Albert Kasman selling the tickets, brought proceeds amounting to \$36.00. Many thanks go to Albert Kasman for his \$10.00 phone card donation.

The meeting was turned over to Bob Wilson to run The AHA! Christmas Trivia Quiz provided by Paul Petch. No one faired very well but everyone had a great time and had many laughs with the answers.

In Paul's stead, Ron wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and welcomed Bob Wilson as incoming President. The Executive were reminded of the January 8, 2002 meeting There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:25 p.m.

Question of the Month

The January Question of the Month challenges you to describe what a coin or medal of the "vis-à-vis type" is.

We tried something a bit different for our Question of the Month at the November meeting. The piece pictured at right showing "The ancient art of coin striking" was donated to the Club by Bill McDonald who could not recall where it came from or what its background might be. The person who was able to suggest the best identifying information would win it for their collection!

Rick Craig correctly identified it as one of a series of different themes originated by Kenneth Reynolds and made by Orleans Medalarts, USA. It is a part of a series produced over a number of years. A medal in the same series for Albert Einstein was produced in 1980. Rick won the piece, but he promptly donated it as a draw prize. Your editor got lucky and is now giving it a good home!



Banknotes Only A Eurocrat Could Love by David Olive

It was three years ago in the January, 1999 issue of the North York Coin Club Bulletin that an article on the coming Euro currency first appeared. With the passing of New Year's eve, the coins and paper notes described in that article have entered circulation, displacing some very old European currencies. This article takes a critical view of the designs that have been selected for the new series of notes.

Take a look at the new euro banknotes introduced last week and you understand why the Brits, Swedes and Danes are holdouts to the biggest currency conversion in history.

The notes are faceless and placeless. While the new euro coins, also launched last week, display familiar scenes, symbols and historical figures unique to France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the other eight members of the new "euro area," the banknotes bear no trace of national origin — a requirement made of the designer by a Eurocracy that's scared stiff of irking one nation by appearing to give prominence to another. The result is a first in the realm of stamps, coins and paper money — a culturally neutered currency. And it's God-awful.

Make no mistake, a single currency that helps bind countries to one another is a good thing for a continent whose Intramural disputes produced two world wars in the past century. And the sooner that central and Eastern European nations get swept into the 12-member zone where local currencies were replaced by the euro on Jan. 1, the better.

Half a century in the making, European unity is a project whose first great champion, Jean Monnet, worked in Western Canada in his youth and was inspired by the cooperative governing arrangements among Ottawa and the provinces. But true harmonization of European trade, defence and cultural policies is still a work in progress, partly for lack of unifying symbols that

The designer scanned famous landmarks into his computer, then blended them

Faceless and placeless euro notes are designed to offend nobody



more than 300 million Europeans can embrace with enthusiasm.

Coins and folding money are the stuff of everyday life and a far more powerful expression of Europe's experiment with unification than any thousand policy papers, directives and edicts from the European Union's bureaucratic brain trust in Brussels. Jacques Rueff, a former deputy governor of the Bank of France, understood that back in 1950 when he said that "Europe will be united by its money or it will never be made."

By now, there's a certain inevitability to a pan-European currency accepted as legal tender from Cork to Moscow — a lesson for Canadians who might someday have to contemplate life without the loonie. The past few days have seen a surprising ump in support for the euro in Britain, where people are beginning to grasp that clinging to sterling is tantamount to surrendering London's status as a financial capital to Frankfurt.

Then again, most Brits have yet to clap eyes on a euro banknote, an experience sure to dismay any lover of European culture.

Bland uniformity guides every aspect of EU practice and the new currency is no exception. Participants in the design competition for the euro were prohibited from using any recognizable buildings, monuments, natural wonders or heroes on the new money. No Black Forest or Lake Como. No Eiffel Tower or Bridge of Sighs. No Rembrandt self-portrait or Madame Curie in her lab.

"The idea was to create a feeling

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

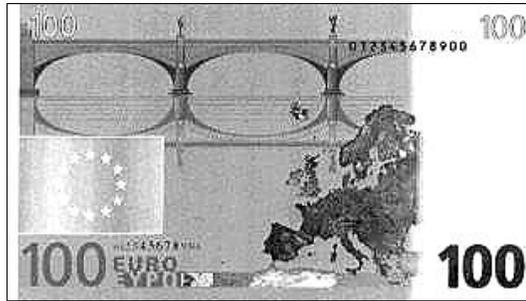
of commonality, of belonging,” said Robert Kalina, the engraver at the Austrian National Bank who won the design competition. I worked hard so that either an Italian or a Frenchman could look at the Gothic windows on the 20-euro note and say, ‘That could be here in France,’ or, ‘That could be here in Italy.’ “

Kalina limited himself to windows, bridges and a splotchy map of Europe to suggest the euro as “a link to the future.” But Kalina’s windows and bridges do not exist in real life. He scanned images of the Pont Neuf in Paris, the Rialto bridge in Venice and hundreds of other European bridges into his Apple Macintosh. From those images, he fashioned a series of “European” bridges for the seven-euro notes, obscuring the images that he had drawn upon, to the point of removing each real-life element pixel by pixel. “Hopefully,” said Kalina, “no one will recognize the old places” that went into the final pastiche.

The maps that appear on each banknote have won the new currency some fans. “Europeans will be able to point to their hometown to anybody who asks,” says a contributor to Beyond the Polder, a Web site for Dutch travellers. “Americans can quickly be told, ‘No, Amsterdam is not the capital of the Alps, see?’ She adds, however, that, “The 50-euro bill looks drab with its hesitant am-I-orange-brown-or-not? attitude. And the 5 euro bill looks like a lottery ticket.”

Kalina has succeeded all too well in developing images that will seem vaguely, but only vaguely, familiar to Belgians and Spaniards - and to commuters on the Don Valley Parkway who, when passing under the Bloor St. viaduct, are looking up at a bridge not dissimilar from the one that appears on the new 100-euro note.

It’s no wonder that French people this week are erecting metal-sculpture shrines to the discontinued franc, and Italians have filled more than one town square with papier-mâché statues crafted from lire. Their new currency is lifeless, depicting no people, animals or plants. The window images are no better than the bridges, giving the eerie impression of deserted buildings.



By opting for sterility, the EC currency czars have engaged in a sort of nihilistic rejection of the Western world’s greatest storehouse of symbolic treasures. It seems not to have occurred to Brussels that undue prominence for any one country could be avoided with a system of rotating images. Why not Goethe on the 50-euro note for three years, then Antoni Gaudi’s Church of the Holy Family, then a Brittany village scene?

Neither do they understand that Racine, Gutenberg, Notre Dame cathedral and Lake Geneva are pan-European, indeed,

global icons. Do Californians object that the Lincoln Memorial on the U.S. \$5 bill pays tribute to a son of Kentucky who practised law in Illinois? The tulips that blossom each spring in Ottawa are a perennial reminder of our affection for Holland. But the guilder and its floral motifs, often said to have been the prettiest currency in circulation, are now history; and tulips and other flora and fauna representative of specific nations are verboten on Europe’s new currency.

The depressed value of the Canadian dollar has prompted some business leaders and economists to muse about a similar inevitability of a common North American currency — a dreaded “amero.” For now, Canada’s \$ 10 bill is instructive about our shared experience in this part of the world. It depicts Scottish émigré John A. Macdonald as the leader of a nation of immigrants. Behind him, the Gothic elegance of the Parliamentary library is symbolic of our architectural evolution. And soldiers standing guard at a memorial arch are a reminder of national sacrifice and commitment to international peacekeeping.

Currency is among the most familiar and certainly the most tactile, expressions of a community’s values. The Eurocrats might well have imposed a prohibition on aggressors Charlemagne and Napoleon. But what a lively debate they have foreclosed in denying Italians the opportunity to decide whether Michelangelo, or Leonardo da Vinci would be the first to represent Italy to Europe.

As in Europe, a currency union on these shores would have its merits. Indeed, it’s not difficult to envision a global currency (the “worldo”?) But let’s hope we shun the Eurocrats’ example of mounting the largest exercise in political correctness ever perpetrated on people whose very definition is their incomparably rich cultural heritage.

This article appeared in the Wednesday, January 9, 2002 issue of the Business section of the Toronto Star.

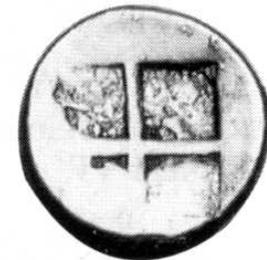
Numismatics And Insects

by Dr. Kirby Brown,

San Joaquin County Agricultural Communications Office

While Aristotle was studying the living world, including insects, other Greeks of the ancient world were probably collecting coins of their ancestors. The study of insects and of coins are probably equally ancient. The direct link between the two seemingly unrelated fields is even more ancient.

Among the very first true coins, little lumps of electrum (a natural mix of gold and silver) issued in the late seventh century B.C., are ones picturing beetles, bees, and scorpions.



Numismatics is the study of coins, currency, medals and tokens. In recent years, collecting by "topic," has become popular. Collectors specialize in animals, ships, famous persons, etc. It is only natural that a few devoted individuals have pursued an entomological bent. Using the broader concept of entomology, arachnids may be included.

The ancient Greeks produced the most artistically beautiful coins ever seen. These miniature masterpieces pictured gods and goddesses, mythological scenes, portraits and animals including insects. In some cases the insect was a principle part of the design. Entomological subjects include bees, beetles, butterflies, cicadas, ants, grasshoppers, and preying mantises.

In some cases the reason for depiction of an insect is easy to discern. For example, the honeybee was a sacred symbol of Artemis whose centre of worship was Ephesus. The honeybee appeared as the main design element on Ephesian coins for almost six centuries. In other cases the insect may have a mythological connotation. For example, a grasshopper on the back of a lion being strangled by Hercules may be a double reference to Hercules' battle with a lion and to his freeing Mt. Oeta of locusts. Other depictions of

insects are small, incongruous elements of coin designs and are thought to be symbols of families or local rulers responsible for the minting of the coins. There are somewhat over 300 types of ancient Greek coins picturing insects and arachnids.

The decline of the Greek power and the rise of the Roman Republic and Empire saw a decline in the place of insects on coins. No Roman coin has an insect as a principle design element; however, insects are frequent as small symbols on coins of the Roman Republic before 44.B.C. About 200 types of Roman Republican coins picture insects. The coming of the Roman Empire after Julius Caesar represents the almost total disappearance of entomological subjects on coins. A few of the Roman colonies in former Greek areas pictured scorpions, an occasional coin from Ephesus still pictured a bee, and some zodiac coins from Egyptian Alexandria included a scorpion. After about 200 A.D. the entomological eclipse was almost total. For 140 years until the 16th Century, the blackout continued. Only some obscure lead pilgrim's tokens from the 12th Century found in Turkey, Break this pattern. They are probably from Ephesus and picture a crude bee.

The Renaissance that started in the 15th Century had a profound effect on coinage. After over a millennium of relegation to a utilitarian medium of exchange, coins once again became outlets of creative expression. Other

changes included the development of medals and tokens]. However, insects never regained the prominence they achieved in classical Greek coinage and art. Their appearance on true coins is a rare event until the present day. Fewer than 100 different coin types in the last five centuries have pictured insects. Only in the last few years with the developing craze for topical coins have several countries issued coins picturing insects. These are related to wildlife conservation themes. Similarly, insects are recent elements of some paper money.

While true coins have been a rather infrequent medium for entomological themes, medals and tokens have been varied and rich. These objects are not subject to the bureaucratic restraints of coins and are often highly original and artistic. They often have a propaganda purpose. By far the most frequent theme has been a beehive and honeybees. Even after the invention of the modern wood beehive, the old straw skep continues to be depicted on medals and tokens. The message is usually "industry has its sure rewards" as appears on an 18th Century British trade

token The beehive is part of the coat-of-arms of Utah and often appears on medals and tokens of that State. Since ancient times, the butterfly has been a symbol of death and resurrection. It appears on medals relating to the death of kings and other famous people.

Grasshoppers are shown

on several German medals relation to plagues of locusts at different times. Ants appear on bank tokens as a symbol of frugality. There is an incredibly large variety of insect and arachnid depictions on medals and tokens. To date over 2000 different medals and tokens may be counted in this category. With increasing interest in the environment, entomological themes in numismatics are bound to increase in numbers, variety and artistic quality.



Reprinted from the Cultural Entomology Digest, June 1993

Numismatic Clippings from *Journal of Commerce, Montreal* Contributed by R. J. Graham

Volume 37 of the *Transactions of the Canadian Numismatic Research Society* for the year 2001 have just been published. Scanning the document, your editor sees many articles of interest to the token collector and history enthusiast, but very little to interest the collector of Canadian decimals. One happy exception to this statement are a set of three clippings taken from the *Journal of Commerce* of Montreal during the later half of the 1870's. These clippings provide interesting insight to the circulating coinage of the day.

BASE COPPER COIN

"We observe that the Quebec Chamber of Commerce has been representing to the Minister of Inland Revenue that the Dominion Government should take steps to remove from circulation the base copper coin, the circulation of which is unquestionably a nuisance. It is very questionable, however, whether it is in the power of the Dominion Government to afford any relief under the circumstances. This is a very different case from the American silver, which was not only a Government coinage but also a legal tender in the United States, and which obtained general circulation in Canada under very exceptional circumstances. As to the base copper in Quebec the remedy is simple: The public have only to refuse to take it. It may be that all that is desired is to procure a supply of good copper coins, which would be a very easy task, and one that any of the banks would probably undertake. We cannot help thinking that Quebec would like to be relieved of its base coin at the cost of the Treasury, which would be a very dangerous precedent to establish."

21 June 1878, p 549.

(Note: this article is undoubtedly making reference to the many copper tokens which continued to circulate because of the shortage of Canadian large cents.

NEW COIN

"A new silver coin has just made its appearance which is likely to cause some inconvenience owing to its approximation in size to two current Canadian coins, viz., the twenty-five and twenty cent pieces. It is an American twenty-cent piece not quite as large as our twenty-cent coin and not as heavy. Another difference between it and our twenty-cent piece in general appearance is that it is not milled. By the exercise of about the same amount of vigilance that is now necessary to distinguish between our twenty-five and twenty cent coins any one may easily avoid taking it for the latter. Of course like all other American silver coins it is subject to discount in this country."

20 August 1875, p 17

(Note: The Journal was not quite correct—the American 20¢ piece, while slightly smaller in diameter than its Canadian counterpart, was heavier and contained almost a fifth of a gram more pure silver.)

NEW ONE CENT COIN - 1876



The Government has caused to be struck for circulation in the Dominion a new bronze cent. The effigy of the Queen, with the words "Victoria Dei Gratia Regina, Canada" is on the obverse, and on the reverse the words "One Cent" with the date 1876, within a beaded circle, surrounded by a wreath of maple leaves. These coins are legal tender to the amount of twenty-five cents in any one payment.

22 Dec. 1876, p 519



January Meeting Auction List

	Starts at
1) A nearly complete set of Canadian Numismatic Association Journals from 1956 to 1993, property of C.N.A. Past President Dr. John Wilkinson. Approximately a dozen issues are missing. A donation auction lot for the club from Alice Wilkinson.	\$200.00
2) A section of the above lot if it is unsold. If no bid for the entire lot of Journals is made, then the years 1956 through 1962 inclusive are offered. The total estimate for these years is \$100.00	\$25.00
3) Two-volume set of <i>Canada's First Bank</i> , a history of the Bank of Montreal. Printed in 1966, over 900 pages hardbound in slipcases. Condition excellent. Estimate \$80.00 Donation to the club by Ted Boxall.	\$25.00
4) Newton, Iowa scrip notes issued in 1957 for the town Centennial. \$1, 5, 10, 20, and 50 dollar denominations. Donation to the club by Ted Boxall.	\$2.00
5) Catalogue of <i>Sudbury Numismatics</i> by Jeff Fournier. 81 pages illust. Estimate \$10.00 Donation to the club by Ted Boxall.	\$2.00
6) Lot of 4 silver coins: Mexico 1906 50 centavos VG/F, Netherlands 1959 2 1/2 G. VF, Australia 1 Florin 1951 VF, Italy 1863 1 Lira VG. Donation to the club by Ted Boxall.	\$5.00
7) <i>Coins Tokens and Medals Of the Dominion Of Canada</i> by Alfred Sandham, 1869. 72 pages, reprint of 1962 by Regency Coin. VF. Estimate \$20.00	\$5.00
8) Complete two volume set, hardbound: <i>Humphrey's Coin Collector's Manual</i> from the Bohn's Reference Library Series (England) on various subjects. Fine condition; covers worn but spine intact. Published in 1880. Must be viewed to be appreciated. Estimate \$30.00	\$15.00
9) <i>Money of the World</i> by Richard G. Doty —240 pages, richly illustrated in colour and black and white. Hardcover with dust jacket in very good condition. This is a survey of coins and paper money from their invention up to the present day. Originally published at \$30US. Estimate \$20.00.....	\$10.00

Listed Auctions

Bring any material you would like to sell by listed auction in February to the November 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.