

"The Bulletin" April, 2002

President's Message

There will be a meeting of the Executive Committee on Tuesday, May 9. Executive Committee members are asked to make every effort to attend, since this is the final meeting of "the season". Annual topics which come up at this meeting include our full meeting schedule for 2002-2003. I have learned that the Club can continue to meet free of charge at Edithvale for a few more months at least.

By the time you read this another O.N.A. Convention will have come and gone. I was not able to make the trip to London to attend myself, but this Club was, as usual, well-represented and there will be lots of convention news at the next meeting. [One piece of fast news: **Jean Orr** won a 2002 proof-like set in the Dream Vacation Draw! - Ed.]

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**.

**Next Meeting:
April 23**

You Didn't Miss It!

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on **Tuesday, April 23, 2002**, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive. We start gathering about 7:30pm with meeting start scheduled for 8:00.

Mark Argentino is again scheduled as our feature at this meeting with his display of Polymer notes, assuming that the snow holds off! We first had the chance to see and hear about these interesting Polymer notes at our November, 1999 meeting. Since then, Mark has been adding specimens to his collection and he tells us that it is a complete collection with all issuing countries represented. We'll also have a full report from the O.N.A. Convention held in London on April 12-14.

We repeat the listed auction from March this month (see page 3) and you are encouraged to bring additional auction material for this meeting.

Coming Events

Burlington Spring Coin Show, May 4, 9am-4pm at the Brant Hills Community Centre, 2300 Duncaster Dr. Free admission and parking. Contact: Nancy Merideth 705-788-3159

Peterborough Club Show, May 4, 9am-4pm at Portage Place, Chemong Rd. Free admission, displays. Contact Bob Alguire, (705) 292-9862, or Colin Caldwell, (705) 742-0114.

Windsor Coin Club Annual Spring Show, May 5, 10am-4pm at the Caboto Club, 2175 Parent Ave. Admission \$1 includes hourly door and a grand prize tickets. Juniors under 12 free. Free parking. Contact: Margaret Clarke 519-735-0727 e-mail: mclarke@wincom.net.

TNS Numismatic Show, May 25-26 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, 150 King St. East, level P3. Friday dealer set up from noon with Jeffrey Hoare coin auction, early bird admission and show pass \$15, Saturday and Sunday open at 10am, admission \$3, seniors and young collectors \$2. Militaria auction on Saturday. Contact: Terry McHugh 905-318-1638, e-mail rscoins@netaccess.on.ca.

Brantford Numismatic Society Coin Show, June 9, 9am-4pm at the Woodman Community Centre, 491 Grey St. Free admission. Evaluations, tokens, coins, paper money, draws, supplies, lunch counter and displays. Contact Brantford Numismatic Society, PO Box 28015, North Park Plaza, Brantford, N3R 7K5.

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

Meeting News from the March 26 Meeting

The 472nd meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, March 26, 2002 at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Dr., Willowdale, Ont.

During the afternoon the city was hit with freezing rain and a late winter snow-storm, so it was amazing that 15 members were able to attend. On top of the bad weather, Bob Wilson, the President, was ill, Len Keunzig, our Treasurer, was involved in business matters, and both the guest speaker Mark Argentino and our refreshments VIP Roger Fox were snowed in. We were much indebted to Past President Paul Petch for not only taking over the Chair but for thoughtfully organizing the programme.

With Len and his draw bag of member names being absent, the On Time Attendance Draw could not be held. This means the pot will jump to \$8.00 for our April meeting.

The following new member was accepted - #516 John Kates of Toronto.



Paul noted the coming events. Dick Dunn said he attended the Cambridge Show and found it very busy all day and that the dealers were very happy with their business. Paul announced that Bob Wilson had spoken with Norm Belsten and that has been appointed Club Delegate to the

ONA Convention. He also reported that Graham Esler would be the guest speaker at the dinner, while noting other Convention highlights and meeting times. Members were directed to the Program of Events presented in the March bulletin.



As club editor, Paul is presenting a set of nicely bound 2001 North York Coin Club Bulletins to the C.N.A. for judging in their annual "Best Club Bulletin" competition.

Dick Dunn confirmed the new \$5.00 bill would be coming out tomorrow, March 27.

The feature for the evening was a video produced by the American Numismatic Society titled "Making Ancient Coin Collecting Fun". An ex-history teacher, Bob Robbins, tells the story of ancient times through coins with plenty of anecdotes about the famous personalities that appear on a number of well-known ancient coins. Del Murchison, who is very well informed on ancient coins, voiced some criticisms. One of these was the selection of coin examples used, which rather than being affordable, were between five and six hundred dollars each in value. A second point was the manner in which the ex-history teacher tossed off many events in classical history as being common knowledge when in fact, in this crowd at least, they were not.

Lucky Draws winners were: George Fraser, Del Murchison(2), Paul Petch (2), Vince Chiappino and Italo Villella. The draw run by Norm Belsten with Albert Kasman selling tickets brought proceeds amounting to \$13.00.

There being no further business the

meeting closed at 9:20 p.m. Unbelievably, it had been snowing almost continuously during the meeting, so everyone had to scrape about 3 inches of "mainly clear tonight" off their vehicles before they could head for home. Paul had remarked that The Bulletin had been set up for March with an April Fools theme, but it seems the joke was on us.

Letter to the Editor,

A few months ago, I asked for help from the numismatic community to help me mark my 45th wedding anniversary with coins and banknotes showing the denomination '45'.

So many people responded. Many readers suggested the Cyprus 45 piastres crown of 1926. Other readers told me about the 45 kyat banknote of Myanmar. One reader sent me a Canadian Tire coupon for 45 cents. Someone mentioned a U.S. military canteen token for 45 cents.

Some readers suggested such things as postage stamps with a '45'; an old 45rpm record; and one person said I should include a Colt 45 in my collection. There were too many letters and emails for me to reply to each person individually.

So I am taking this opportunity to say, "THANK YOU EVERYONE".

Marvin Kay, NYCC #400.

April Fool's Day by David Vagi

Some of you may have just recovered from April Fool's Day . . . a day of tricks . . . a day when we try to make fools of our friends, and maybe even ourselves. But what's the origin of this mock holiday, and what part did coins play in it?

April 1st used to be part of the New Year's celebration. Medieval Christian Europe regarded March 25th as New Year's Day – because it was the Feast of the Annunciation, the day Church teachings say the Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she was to be the Mother of Jesus. But in 1582, Pope Gregory convinced the Catholic countries of Europe to adopt his Gregorian calendar. Besides knocking 10 days off the old calendar, it set January 1st as the first day of the New Year.

Some people couldn't understand this – and some thought they were being cheated. Riots even broke out in England, as people demanded to be "given their 10 days back." One version of the explanation for the origin of April Fool's days is that people started mocking these complainers, calling them "fools," and playing tricks on them. Another explanation relates the poor communication of the times and the fact

that some, who did not get the news of the calendar change, continued to mark New Year's on April 1, and were therefore regarded as April Fools.

The pagan Romans celebrated their New Year with an impressive festival, and coins were often distributed to the citizens. In Fourth Century A.D., the mint at Rome began to make coins especially for the New Year's Festival. Most were bronze, and showed the Emperor's portrait on one side and an Egyptian deity on the other side.

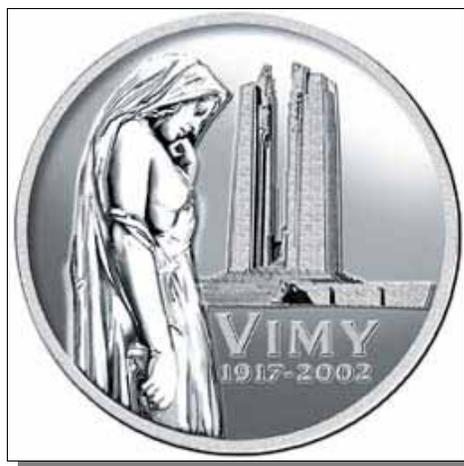
The festival coins were produced each year for about a century. We know they were issued in small quantities, because they're among the rarest of all Roman coins. Not only do these coins usually show a lot of wear, but they also often have holes drilled into them, so they could be worn as pendants after the festival ended.

So next year, on April Fool's, really get your friends going by wishing them Happy New Year! And then tell them the whole story.

*American Numismatic Association
Money Talks Transcript No. 129 from
April 1, 1993*

Question of the Month

For the May Question of the Month, we're leaving ancient matters in the past and coming right back up to date. Can you identify this design and tell a bit about its background? I'm sure that by the time the April meeting rolls around it will have received some publicity.



Once again there was a calendar theme for the March Question, asking you to identify a coin which celebrates New Year's day — on April 1! The answer is in David Vagi's article to the left.

April Meeting Auction List

Starts at

- 1) *Rare Coins of America and Foreign Countries*, The Numismatic Bank, Boston, 1897. Hardcover, 195 pp. gilt edged. Condition VF. Estimate \$40\$15.00
- 2) *The Young Collector: English Coins and Tokens with a chapter on Greek and Roman Coins*, 1886, by Jewitt & Head. Condition EF. Hardcover 123 pp. Estimate \$35\$10.00
- 3) *An Outline of Ancient Greek Coins*, by Z.H. Klawans, 1959. Hardcover 208 pp. VF. Excellent primer. Estimate \$25\$10.00
- 4) *A Guide To The Department of Coins and Medals in The British Museum*, 3rd Ed., 1922. Fine condition, spine taped paperback. Estimate \$20 \$5.00

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.

Cash Goes Hi-tech by Ian Robertson

New bills talk to the blind via scanners and boast features to thwart counterfeiters

Money talks. For the blind, a hand-held scanner being offered free by the Bank of Canada brings new meaning to the old phrase.

When the latest in a series of counterfeiter unfriendly currency was unveiled this week officials of the central bank said the electronic device introduced at the same time speaks its mind about a banknote's denomination.

When placed on a note, the device's digital voice reveals its value; a beeper sounds or it vibrates the right number of bucks.

Bonnie Schwab, chief of the Bank of Canada's department of banking operations, says new palm-sized readers are now available at no charge to vision-impaired people registered with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB).

The new devices are more compact and discreet than older currency readers and are programmed to differentiate between denominations of the new "Canadian Journey" and the 1980s series, which is still being circulated.

Both the new \$5 Sir Wilfrid Laurier blue notes and the \$10 Sir John A. Macdonald deep purple bills introduced in January 2001 also have large, braille-like embossed dots on the upper right corners. Blind people can tell the notes apart and future \$20, \$50 and \$100 bills will also allow them to feel the difference.

The new currency was approved after the CNIB, businesses, ordinary citizens and security printers were consulted about proposed designs and security devices needed to help thwart counterfeiters, Schwab said.

Hand-engraved

The new Macdonald and Laurier portraits have deeper engraving than on the previous "Birds of Canada" series notes, Schwab said. The Bank of Canada considered photogravure, a mechanical engraving process used by many countries, but decided to keep hand engraving, which is harder to fake despite up to nine months needed to complete each portrait.



Laurier's portrait was prepared largely by world-famous Polish-born Czeslaw Slania, official court engraver to Sweden, Monaco and Denmark the Bank of Canada's Joe Basile said. The job was completed by Jorge Peral, artistic director of the Canadian Bank Note Co. (CBNC), after Slania, who taught the Mexican-born Canadian citizen the engraver's art, took ill.

The \$10 bills are printed by the CBNC, while the \$5 notes, which feature images of a father helping teach his daughter to skate, children tobogganing

and stick handling are printed by the British American Bank Note Co. - a division of Quebecor, which owns The Toronto Sun

Bogus copies of the new \$10 bill began circulating within six weeks of introduction, but they are crude and the RCMP says no one needs an electronic detector to tell the difference.

"The Bank of Canada is proud to issue the new \$5 bank note as part of its commitment to provide Canadians with the most secure bank notes possible," David Dodge, governor of the Bank of Canada since early 2001, said at the bill's launch. "Canada's currency is among the most secure in the world."

People with sharp vision can check a variety of visible security devices.

But Schwab said the best way to determine the authenticity of a bank note is to "feel the raised ink. Also, look at the eyes, which always look flat on fakes."

People can avoid being scammed by learning what real money looks like, she said. To avoid confusion, the Bank of Canada has kept up a tradition begun with the King George VI

banknotes first issued in 1937 by using the same colours for successive series blue \$5 bills, purple \$10, green on the \$20 note, red for \$50, brown for \$1,000.

The Bank of Canada and the RCMP are holding education forums with retailers across the country to explain the new currency's security features, and to ask counterfeit-fearing merchants to remove signs banning \$100 bills from their shops.

Of the \$6 million in phoney currency surrendered by banks and stores or seized in raids last year, the biggest haul was of

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fake \$100 Sir Robert Borden "bird-back" notes, said Sgt. Moishe Gordon, an RCMP counterfeiting specialist. A gang that printed \$3 million in fake \$100 bills was caught partway into another \$3-million press run last July and jailed.

After their arrests, the RCMP said the number of dud hundreds being surrendered to police by merchants and banks or seized by local cops fell 75% within three months. But many stores, gas bars and coffee shops -especially in built-up areas in Ontario - still refuse to cash a \$100 bill.

"It takes time to get this message out," Gordon said. "No banknote is counterfeit-proof, but the high volume of bad hundreds that plagued us before no longer exists.

"We're working with retail merchant groups to get that message out there," he said. "We're hoping they'll start removing the signs soon."

To avoid problems presented by a smaller distribution of new \$10 bills last year, 22 million new \$5 bills were sent to banks across Canada before the official launch.

A "Safe Money" Sidebar

Anti-counterfeiting security features on the "Canadian Journey" \$5 bill, introduced this week, and the \$10 bill, issued last year.

- Deeper etched engraving of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's portrait on the fiver and Sir John A. Macdonald on the \$10 note.
- Three reflective "iridescent" maple leaves to the right of the portraits, which shift colour when viewed at different angles.
- Tiny micro printed text of varying sizes, which many people can only read with the help of a magnifying glass. On phoney bills, this lettering is broken, blurry and sometimes barely legible.
- Randomly placed red threads on the front and back of each note glow red under ultraviolet light.
- The Canadian coat-of-arms and accompanying text printed over the portraits in fluorescent ink become visible only under ultraviolet light. Counterfeits would be hard-pressed to reproduce this image. So far, none have appeared on the crop of crude but passable fakes of new \$10 bills.
- Each new note's denomination is engraved in a hidden number to the left of each portrait, but becomes visible when viewed at an oblique angle.

\$5 coin on the way?

Dodge said: "A well-informed public is an absolute must to reduce counterfeiting."

New green \$20 bills featuring Queen Elizabeth, new red \$50 William Lyon Mackenzie King notes and new \$100 brown Sir Robert Borden notes will be ready by 2003, officials said.

Lastly, there are rumours that the \$5 bill is going the way of \$1 and \$2 notes, which were replaced by the loonie in 1987 and the toonie in 1996. Bank of Canada officials say while a five-buck coin has been discussed, the Royal Canadian Mint is not gearing up its presses to churn any out just yet.

Reprinted from the Toronto Sun, March 30, 2002

The 40th Annual O.N.A. Convention Medal: Ingersoll Celebrates Town and Club

The main design for this year's O.N.A. medal shows Millar's Paragon Cheese Factory, certainly one of the notable landmarks of this old Ontario town. The old factory is located on Plank Line, just north of the 401, in Centennial Park and is now part of the Ingersoll Museum.

Below the cheese factory appear three cheese wheels, the work of David Peers and first used on the Ingersoll Coin Club's medal of 1986 to commemorate its 25th anniversary. For the O.N.A. design it was decided to add a mouse, just for fun, doing what all mice like to do best, nibble on cheese.

Inscribed around the outer edge of the

medal is 40th ANNUAL O.N.A. CONVENTION above with HOST: INGERSOLL COIN CLUB below. Two maple leaves appear on the left and right edge with the initials A and K for Aulis Koslonen, the concept designer.

In selecting this design, the members of the Ingersoll Coin Club believe it serves the dual purpose of recognizing both the town of Ingersoll and the local club. The obverse shows the O.N.A.'s crest, as is the custom.

The Great Canadian Mint in Edmonton, Alberta, struck the medals. They exist in proof-like bright copper (limited to 50 available only in registration kits), .999 fine silver (limited to 30



available to the public) and proof-like brass (limited to 40 available to the public). The medal sold out at the convention.

The Ingersoll Coin Club has succeeded in adding a worthy addition to the fine O.N.A. convention medal series.

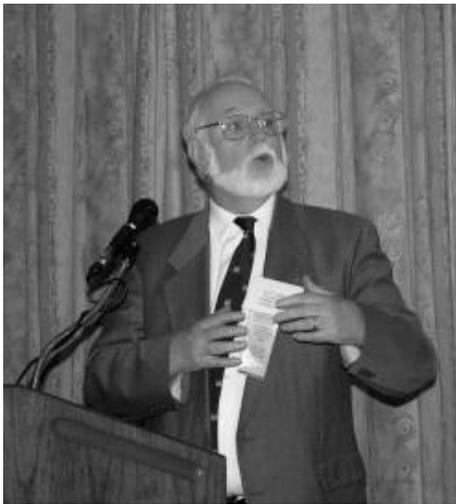
ONA 2002 Convention Highlights



Official opening ceremonies and ribbon cutting



There was busy bourse floor action both Saturday and Sunday



Banquet speaker Graham Esler suggested we should collect friends first, coins second.



Ken Wilmot, (left) Past President, receives the newly-created President's Award from current President Mike Hollingshead as Awards Chairman Don Robb looks on.



The 2002 ONA Award of Merit is present to Chris Boyer by Awards Chairman Don Robb



Banquet Master of Ceremonies Tom Rogers (left) is thanked for his hard work and support by Convention Chairman Tom Masters.