

“The Bulletin” November/ December, 2002

President’s Message

Because our November and December meetings are so close together we are crowding news of the two meetings into one issue of *The Bulletin*. Be sure to keep this issue around to remind you of the December meeting which is just two short weeks following the November meeting.

You should mark December 10 on the calendar and plan on joining us for the annual Christmas Party. See details to the right and on page 4.

The Club is again supporting the J. Douglas Ferguson Foundation with a donation of \$50.00 and the Numismatic Educational Services Association (NESAs) with a \$50.00 donation.

It is now time to renew your membership for 2003. Please bring the renewal enclosed with this mailing to our Treasurer, Len Kuenzig, at the next meeting or send it in by mail with your dues. Please be sure to update your contact information as well.

While it is a little early, I wish to extend very best holiday wishes to all members and their families, especially the ones we don’t see regularly at meetings.

Featuring Trade Tokens

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on **Tuesday, November 26, 2002**, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive. We start gathering about 7:30pm with meeting start scheduled for 8:00.

Rick Craig is presenting an interesting talk at this meeting on the subject of identifying, attributing and collecting post-confederation merchant tokens, also known as Trade Due Bills. These are the so-called Bowman Tokens, because it is in Fred Bowman’s *Trade Tokens of Ontario* (1966) that an initial tentative listing was first offered. Rick will be showing many items from his collection at the meeting.

We have a large listed auction this month with lots of variety, but please bring along your own additional material if you wish. This is your chance to settle up dues for 2003 and make your reservations for the December Christmas Party. Hope can make it to what promises to be a full and interesting meeting.



The December meeting of the Club will be held on **Tuesday, December 10, at 7:30pm**. Notice the December meeting is the second Tuesday and that we start at an earlier time, because it is our annual Christmas Party. To supplement the purchased Swiss Chalet food (see page 4 about placing your order), we also appreciate whatever family specialties including salads, cookies, cakes, etc. you are able to donate to the “pot luck” buffet table. Because the room is set for dinner, we’re sorry but there will be no dealer tables at this meeting.

If you want to participate in the optional gift exchange, please bring along a numismatic or non-numismatic gift with a value of around \$6 or \$7. Exchange of the gifts will be sequenced by draw. We will also be holding our usual lucky draw.

In place of the question of the month we are planning a special Christmas quiz activity, so come prepared for something that’s a bit different, but entertaining all the same.

Next Meeting: November 26
Christmas Party: December 10, 7:30pm

Meeting News from the October 22 Meeting

The 478th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday October 22, 2002 at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Dr., Willowdale, Ont.

The President, Bob Wilson, opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m. and welcome 24 members and 4 guests.

Norman G. Gordon was present to receive the \$8.00 pot in the On Time Attendance Draw. It's back to \$2 at the November meeting.

The Secretary announced May Bunnett had had serious surgery but appeared to be recovering nicely. She then read the minutes of the September 24th meeting and, after two minor corrections, the Chair accepted them.

The Mint Box was passed to one junior.

John Regitko reported the Stratford Show was very good with lots of juniors present and Dick Dunn noted the Scarborough Show was well attended.

The theme for the evening was Royal Collectibles with the following participating:

Marvin Kay – brought along bank notes showing monarchs who were doctors.

Paul Petch – had two items to show. The first was a set of 3 medals commemorating 1936, the year when Great Britain had 3 monarchs. The second was the recent Queen Mother silver dollar that was limited to 10,000 and sold from the mint for \$50.00. The piece commemorates her life with the dates 1900-2002. It sold out quickly and is now selling on E-Bay and through coin dealers for over \$180.00.

George Fraser – had four items to show.

- 1) In early days, he purchased a full set silver medals of Kings and Queens of England from 1042 to the present, along with descriptive literature.
- 2) He had a plaster plaque model of

Queen Elizabeth II obverse by Dora de Pédery-Hunt on view.

- 3) Dora's book of medals and
- 4) A 1967 Confederation medal with Queen Victoria dated 1867 – 1967.



Mark Argentino – presented a pop-up book on the royal family.

Paul Johnson – had two items. The first was a medal of Queen Mary and King George – 1967-1917 – which bore all provincial Coats of Arms on the reverse. He then invited people to view two books on British history. From one he read an interesting account on Royal Maundy Money. A recent programme issued for the ceremony in Canterbury Cathedral highlighted the distribution of the Maundy Money.

Dick Dunn – read from two original letters signed by King George VI and Earl Athlone, from when he served as Canada's Governor General.



Roger Fox – brought 5 books on Royalty for viewing along with the new 50 cent piece which used the same design as the medal presented to school children in 1953. He also had a Canadian Tire connection to royalty through a description of 1953 Coronation decorations at the flagship store which was written up in the 75th Anniversary book published in 1997.

Del Murchison – recalled the programme and ceremony when the Queen recently presented new colours to his son's regiment in Hamilton. His wife received a "Sweetheart Pin" from the regiment and his son was part of the honour guard. He also showed unusual pieces from his large collection of Royal medals.

Lucille Colson – presented a Christmas card of the Queen Mother sent to her husband's cousin along with a photo of her taken with his cousins.

Bob Wilson – produced an old-fashioned scrapbook on the royal family made up by his wife in the 1940's.

Members much enjoyed the refreshments served by Roger Fox during the break.

Lucky Draw winners were: Bob Velenky, Paul Petch (2), Franco Farronato, Dallas MacPhee (2), Mark Argentino, Italo Villella (2), Len Keunzig, Roger Fox, Avner Bar-Moshe and Dick Dunn. The draw run by Roger Fox with Albert Kasman selling tickets brought proceeds amounting to \$35.00. Many thanks to Albert for his \$5.00 phone card donation.

The auction of 8 lots was ably run by Bob Porter with the assistance of Mark Argentino and Vince Chiappino and earned a commission of \$9.50.

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

Britain's 2002 Gold Sovereign

Britain's 2002 gold sovereign honours the golden jubilee of Queen Elizabeth's reign by reviving a modern version of a coin design last seen on sovereigns struck for the same anniversary of Queen Victoria in 1887. Instead of the renowned Benedetto Pistrucci engraving of St. George and the Dragon, the reverse of the 2002 gold sovereign carries the royal coat of arms for only second time in 115 years. The only previous occasion was for the 500th anniversary of the sovereign coin in 1989.

The 2002 shield design is based on a drawing by Timothy Noad, a herald painter at the College of Arms, and will grace all four members of the sovereign family, from the five-pound gold version to the half-sovereign.

Ranking among the all-time classics of numismatics, the British gold sovereign, or one-pound coin, was first issued in 1489. After Henry VII defeated Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485, he wanted a gold one-pound coin to convey the majesty of the British throne and build the country's prestige.

Britain's first one-pound coin which carried his portrait was issued at the end of

the Middle Ages and the beginning of a very prosperous era for England. The coin was useful for storing individual wealth and for use in international trade.

Henry's first sovereign coins carried his portrait on one side and the Tudor Rose and Royal Arms on the other. They proved a huge success but disappeared from circulation during the next century. Revived after the Napoleonic Wars, the sovereign



reached new heights of popularity during the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901). Respected worldwide for the accuracy of their weight and fineness, almost one billion were struck in London and branch mints around the world, along with untold millions of counterfeits.

Circulating versions were discontinued in the 1980s, but the coin remains popular today in its collector-only versions.



Question of the Month

For the November question, you are challenged to identify the Canadian collectible that shows the monarch's effigy more than once on its obverse. Actually, to give you a really BIG hint, it appears three times!

The October question of the month asked who could tell about the design placed on the gold sovereigns of Great Britain for this year. We were disappointed when no one knew the answer so Paul Petch, our question man, kindly provided the following information. 2002 honours the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth and uses a shield design which was last seen on the 1887 coin for the jubilee of Queen Victoria. See the article to the left.

Coming Events

Coin-A-Rama, Nov. 30, 9am-4pm at Our Lady of Peace Hall, 6944 Stanley Ave. Niagara Falls. Admission \$2. Free parking, free gold draw, 40 dealers. Contact Barbara, (905) 356-5006.

CAND Show Jan 25-26, Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 10am-4pm at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, 150 King St. Large bourse, draws. Admission: adults \$3, others \$2, young numismatists free. Contact Terry (905) 318-1638, e-mail rscoins@netaccess.on.ca

12th Annual Cambridge Coin Show, March 15, at the Cambridge Newfoundland Club. Admission free. Over 40 tables. Tokens, trade dollars, coins, paper money, militaria, post cards, sports cards, CTC coupons. Contact: Vincent Nevidon (519) 622-6625 or Chris Piercey (519) 623-2356, e-mail: wolfed@sympatico.ca

Eastern Ontario Numismatic Show, March 28-30, Fri. 4pm-7pm; Sat. 9:30am-5pm; Sun. 10am-4 pm at the Days Inn Convention Centre, 33 Benson St. Kingston. 65 tables. Admission \$3. Contact Ted at 1-866-747-2646.

Courtesy of Canadian Coin News
(<http://www.canadiancoinnews.ca>).

The British Columbia \$10 and \$20 Coins by Ronald Greene

There is a significant event in Canadian numismatics about to take place early next year. On January 13, 2003, the Sid and Alicia Belzberg collection of fine coins is going up for auction in New York City. Among the choice material are the \$10 and \$20 British Columbia gold pattern pieces. These incredibly rare pieces are not even present in the Bank of Canada's National Collection.

This article gives you some interesting background on these fabulous pieces. It is reprinted from the C.N.A.'s 2002 Convention Souvenir Program.

When gold was discovered in the mid 1850's on the Fraser River there were few people in the territory then known as New Caledonia. With the first influx of gold seekers in 1857 James Douglas, the Governor of nearby Vancouver Island, extended his control over the mainland in order to prevent any Americanization of the territory. The colonial authorities in London ratified Douglas' actions, formulating legislation which was passed and proclaimed in 1858 creating the Colony of British Columbia. Douglas was appointed as Governor of the new Colony.

The lack of coin, the absence of banks and the suddenly increased population created great difficulties. With a dearth of coin, and no assaying facilities the successful miners took their gold to San Francisco which left the local communities unenriched by the gold extracted. In April 1859 the Treasurer of the Colony, Capt. Wm Driscoll Gosset, suggested that a mint be established. The same month, the Home Government

was asked to provide an Assay Office for the Colony and to send out £100,000 (Pounds Sterling) in coins to exchange for bullion. Some twenty-four months later £6,900 arrived in small coin. In 1860 a quantity of Treasury Notes was issued to pay contractors for construction of roads, but these were redeemed quickly and not intended to be a circulating medium - the possibility of counterfeiting was considered great and the largely American population had a great distrust of paper money, preferring coinage of full intrinsic value.

In September 1859 an Assay and Refining Office was authorized, Francis George Claudet appointed Assayer and staff obtained in England. When word reached the Colony in January 1860, construction of a building was commenced in New Westminster. The Assay Office opened in August 1860. The first ingots cast were not marked with a value, which negated some of the benefit of an assay. Even when instructed to put values on the

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December Meeting Food Selection



The Club will once again go to Swiss Chalet for food for our meeting on December 10. The two dinner choices are:

1. **Quarter Chicken Festive Dinner Special** with white or dark meat (includes the chocolate treat) member price is \$7, the Club pays the balance.
2. **½ BBQ Back Ribs** member price is \$9, the Club pays the balance.

With each dinner you get sauce, roll, plus your choice of
A. French fries B. Baked potato C. Rice.

Please select \$7 for chicken or \$9 for ribs, stating your choice of Ribs or Chicken with white or dark meat and fries, potato or rice to Treasurer Len Kuenzig at the November meeting. You should notify Paul Petch by phone at **416-303-4417** or by e-mail at **p.petch@rogers.com** by noon on Sunday, December 8 if you either decide to attend or discover you must cancel. Thanks to Len and Paul for taking the orders and handling the pick up.

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bars disagreements whether the value should appear in Pounds or Dollars led to acrimony and a lack of action.

Meanwhile the need for a Mint was becoming much more obvious, but there was debate between those who wanted the Mint established in New Westminster and those who wanted it in Victoria. Finally the Governor made his decision. On November 14, 1861, after consulting Gosset and Claudet, but not London, he instructed Capt. Gosset to send Mr. Claudet to San Francisco to obtain the necessary machinery for coining at the Assay Office in New Westminster pieces of the value of \$10 and \$20, American currency.

There was no intention to refine the gold, as that would add many times more to the cost of the establishment. All that was felt necessary was to add alloy to bring the pieces to a uniform standard of fineness. In San Francisco, Claudet was able to purchase a screw-press which had been used to strike the Wass Molitor & Co. coinage, and the other necessary machinery; rolling-mill, cutting-press, milling-bench, draw-bench, line-shafting, pulleys, moulds, balance, gauges, and steam engine. He had dies cut to Capt. Gosset's design by George Ferdinand Albrecht (Albert) Kuner, the leading engraver on the West Coast and responsible for many of the dies used to strike the early private California gold. Several sets of silver die trials were also struck. The total expenditure came to \$5,085.

Claudet returned to British Columbia in

March 1862, accompanying the machinery and supplies. By early April he had started to install the machinery and requested further instructions. But for reasons, still unknown, the Governor had lost the desire to establish the mint and instructed that the machinery be preserved with grease and laid up. Coinage was considered a Royal Prerogative. Did the Governor feel that London would disapprove, had permission been denied, or was it related more to Gosset's request that he be allowed to use the title, "Deputy Master of the Mint"? These are questions that may never be answered. But more trouble arose as the Assay Office employees asked for increased salaries for anticipated extra work in the minting of coins. Requests for extra staff were ignored or rejected.

Pleas to allow the Mint to operate were refused. On June 26 a gold trial specimen of the \$10 coin was sent to the Governor and on July 2 four more gold coins were forwarded. It was reported that a few coins were struck from gold supplied by New Westminster residents and that these were exhibited at the Mint. On July 10 Gosset suggested sending some coins for display at the London Exhibition, which rather surprisingly was approved. He then had struck some eighteen \$10 coins and ten \$20 coins. These were to be sold as bullion later and the proceeds credited to the Colony. An August 22, 1862 request from the Colonial Secretary asked for the total number of pieces struck, but there is no record of a reply by Gosset to that letter - how we wish

there were! Gosset's health at the time was not good. He had applied for and was granted leave. In late August he turned over his responsibilities to his temporary replacement, Chartres Brew, and left the Colony - never to return - and the mint never again operated.

An interesting letter in the Public Records Office, London, from Gosset to the Master of the Royal Mint indicates extreme differences of opinion on the coins. Gosset felt that the coins should have been denominated in Pounds Sterling as part of a standard coinage for the Empire, while Douglas felt that they should be in Dollars which was the common currency of the Colony, as the majority of the white population was American, and the main supply point for Victoria (the Colony of Vancouver Island) and British Columbia was San Francisco.

The coins were unknown to Canadian numismatists until 1883 when R. W. McLachlan saw the examples in the British Museum which had been donated by Governor Frederick Seymour (Douglas' successor) in 1864. Most of the surviving gold examples have come from pieces inherited by the Provincial Government and held as "unissuable gold coin," a total of \$140.00 according to J. McB Smith, Deputy Minister of Finance at the turn of last century. These coins appear to have been sold as curios to the members of the Government following McLachlan's enquiry to John Robson, then Provincial Secretary.

The first public sale of the pieces took place in London, England when the famed Murdoch collection was dispersed. Two pieces, a gold \$10 and a gold \$20 were sold on July 21, 1903.

Today it is difficult to state precisely how many of the coins have survived. We know of five \$10 in silver, four \$20 in silver, four \$10 in gold (one of which hasn't been seen since 1937), and five \$20 in gold. Two of each of these pieces are tied up in public collections, leaving collectible examples very rare.

References:

- 1) R.L. Reid *The Assay Office and the Proposed Mint at New Westminster*, Archives of B.C. Memoir No. VII, King's Printer, Victoria, 1926
- 2) Newspapers *The British Colonist* (Victoria)
The British Columbian (New Westminster)
- 3) Documents Colonial Secretary Letter-books, BCA
Colonial Secretary, Letters In-coming, BCA
- 4) Canadian Bank of Commerce (Courtesy of the Bank, which acquired a \$20.00 gold in 1905 and tried to determine how many pieces may have survived.)
- 5) Leslie C. Hill files
- 6) Royal Mint files, PRO, Kew (London, England)
- 7) Personal correspondence

November Meeting Auction List

	Starts at
1) Pair of parking tokens; one uniface; one reads OTMH	\$1.00
2) 1980 Lake Placid Olympics key tag.....	.50
3) 1982 Arthritis Society medal — trade dollar type	2.00
4) Hospital radio token from Ogden Utah used to pay/play a radio in patients' room and a quarter sized token dated 1976 from Peel Memorial Hospital — use unknown.	3.00
5) 1977 tie tack for Columbia Presbyterian Medical Centre	1.00
6) Pair of Trade dollars 1987 and 1988 from Baddeck, NS, featuring Alexander Graham Bell	2.00
7) Three base metal Banting/Insulin commemoratives, 2 the same.....	3.00
8) Unusual pair: small oval medalet for the Wyeth Drug Co. 100th Anniversary, and a bronze plaque 4"x2" dated 1932 from an Hungarian Spa	5.00
9) Large copper medal on a thick planchet for the Metropolitan Life Co., Ottawa — Nice medal	5.00
10) Pair of trade dollar style medals for the Canadian Forces Medical Services Silver Jubilee 1984	3.00
11) Advertising medalet for a drug, "Regroton"	1.00
12) Large bronze medal by the CIBA Drug Co. promoting a product "LOCORTEN".....	2.00
13) 3 US Eisenhower cupro-nickel clad dollars in plastic holder.....	5.50
14) 1936 US 5c nickel dated 1936 — grades only good plus a Canadian 1900 one cent in VG (some corrosion) est. \$6.00	4.00
15) One Million \$ Canadian Fantasy bill — photocopy type in sealed card — 50 Peso note from Uruguay plus an unidentified 100 denomination note from unknown source.....	4.00
16) Canadian \$5 bill, Gordon Towers in VG or so	9.00
17) \$5 Somaliland commemorative 1998 dated featuring the sinking of the Titanic	5.00

	Starts at
18) 1976 Torex medallion plus a Church of St. John N.Y. medalet.....	1.00
19) 2002 Canadian 50 cent, 1981 Canadian dollar, 1962 Canadian 25 cent grades MS60	3.50
20) 1983 UK Royal Mint set in card holder.....	5.00
21) 2002 Germany Unc Euros set.....	3.00
22) <i>Discovering America</i> , by R. Rulau, 328 pages, Soft Cover	5.00
23) <i>Tokens Of The Gay 90's</i> , by R. Rulau, 168 pages, Soft Cover	5.00
24) <i>Recollections Of A Mint Director (US)</i> , by Frank A. Leach, 136 pages, Soft Cover.....	4.00

Listed Auctions

For 2003 we are making a small but important change to our Listed Auction service.

Bring any material you would like to be considered for the listed auction in January, 2003 to the November or December meeting and give it to Rick Craig. The items should be presented 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 of premium items in the bulletin.

We are setting a low end start value of \$10 to qualify for the listing. That is, Rick will gladly appraise all material offered and will ensure that those with a start value of \$10 or more are listed in the bulletin. Items of lesser value, while not listed, will appear in the auction with their appraised value.

Those members not requiring this service are still invited to bring along any material they wish to enter into the auction to any meeting.

The listed auction is a way of publicizing your more premium material in advance of a meeting, to give notice to all Club members and to generally raise the caliber of material offered.