

## **“The Bulletin” September, 2003**

### **President’s Message**

We had a major two-part meeting on September 9. The first hour was our usual late-summer Executive Meeting. Our permit and dates for our meetings through 2003-2004 were confirmed. The dates are listed for your information on the right. We are once again being allowed to meet at no charge. Paul Petch gave notice of his resignation as Editor. (*See page 3 for a letter, Ed.*)

The remainder of the meeting had to do with initial planning for the C.N.A. 2004 Convention, which we will be hosting with help from the members of other clubs in the Greater Toronto Area. I can tell you that both of our most senior members have a part to play at the Convention. Mr. Jim Charlton is the Honourary President of the C.N.A. and Mr. George Fraser is the Honourary Chairman of the Convention.

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:  
September 23***

## **C.N.A. Night**

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club, will be held on **Tuesday, September 23, 2003**, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive. We start gathering about 7:30 p.m. with meeting start scheduled for 8:00.

We are calling this a Canadian Numismatic Association Night because we have news and displays from the Convention. Paul Johnson was both our Club Delegate and also organized the Educational Forums. Paul Petch will be showing pictures. John Regitko, C.N.A. Executive Secretary will be promoting membership in the C.N.A.

Because we are coming back from our summer break we have no listed auction this month, but you are encouraged to bring auction material for the meeting. Hope to see you at the meeting!

### **North York Coin Club Meeting Schedule 2003 — 2004**

*All monthly meetings are scheduled for a Tuesday:*

September, 2003	-	September 23
October, 2003	-	October 28
November, 2003	-	November 25
December, 2003	-	December 9 (Party)
January, 2004	-	January 27 (Annual Meeting)
February, 2004	-	February 24 (Anniversary)
March, 2004	-	March 23
April, 2004	-	April 27
May, 2004	-	May 25
June, 2004	-	June 15

*Executive meetings are always the 2nd Tuesday:*

November, 2003	-	November 11
January, 2004	-	January 13
March, 2004	-	March 9
May, 2004	-	May 11

## Meeting News from the June 24 Meeting

The 486<sup>th</sup> meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, June 24, 2003 at The Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive, Willowdale, Ont. The President, Bob Wilson, opened the meeting at 8:05 p.m. and welcomed 23 members and 1 guest.

Norman G. Gordon was present to accept the \$2. pot for the On Time Attendance Draw. It continues at \$2. For September.

The Chair, after noting the length of the May 25, 2003 minutes, moved they be accepted as published in the Bulletin. Seconded by Del Murchison and carried.

Len Kuenzig presented a financial report and went on to thank those who have donated auction material. The revenue goes a long way in offsetting the cost of the bulletin.

The following items of business were brought to the floor:

- The Chair noted Torex will be held on June 28-29 at the Novotel Hotel.
- Rick Craig had for sale copies of Len Buth's book providing an alphabetic listing of W.R. McColl's 1903 catalogue.
- The Secretary brought members' attention to a telephone scam involving area code # 809
- Paul Petch advised an error had been made in the June CNA Journal. The last 16 pages are missing. A corrected issue is on the way.
- Bob Wilson says he has found 2003 1-cent coins with and without the "P".

The Chair introduced Del Murchison and Shawn Hamilton as guest speakers for the evening. Del explained he focuses on collecting the oldest Chinese coinage. He gave a very informative historical account of the earliest Chinese Dynasties and the development of the Chinese coinage up the late sixteen hundreds. Shawn spoke to us about his approach to collecting the more recent Chinese paper money and about his latest venture of collecting a coin not only for each Chinese province but for their each of their many rulers as

well. He had his collection on view. Del rounded out the presentation with a review of his reference books. Translations of facts have been printed in both Cantonese and Mandarin so this can cause confusion. Both speakers agreed that counterfeits are a problem. Their interesting presentations were well received by the members. They were presented with Certificates of Appreciation and the clubs many thanks.

On this lovely, hot June evening, Roger Fox's iced drinks and other refreshments were thoroughly enjoyed.

Lucky Draw winners were: Del Murchison (3), Franco Farronato (5) Avner Bar-Moshe (2), Albert Kasman, Roger Fox (2), Terry O'Brien (2) Bob Velenky (3), Bill O'Brien, Lucille Colson and Dominic Ritota. The draw run by Roger Fox with Albert Kasman the tickets brought proceeds amounting to

The auction was ably run by Bob Porter with the assistance of Marvin Kay and Vince Chiappino. Many thanks to Frank Zahra and Bill McDonald for their donations.

There being no further business the Chair wished everyone a wonderful summer and would look forward to seeing them in September.

## Listed Auctions

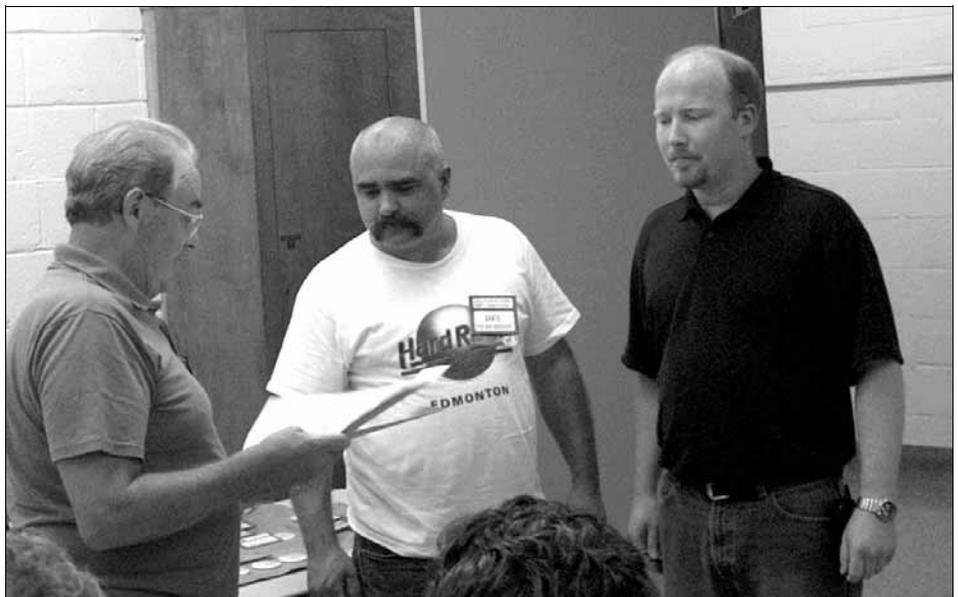
Bring any material you would like to be considered for the listed auction in October, 2003 to the September meeting and give it to Rick Craig. The items should be presented in person in an ordinary envelope showing your **name**, **phone number** and your **estimated value** (i.e., reserve bid). Rick Craig is assisting us by assuring consistent descriptions of quality and by pegging fair starting amounts for the listing of premium items in the bulletin.

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 calibre of material offered.

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.

*Below: Bob Wilson presents  
Certificates of Appreciation to  
Del Murchison and Shawn Hamilton*



## Coming Events

**London Numismatic Society 11th Annual Coin Show**, Sept. 21, 9:30am-4:30pm at the Ramada Inn, 817 Exeter Rd. Admission \$1. Contact Len Buth, (519) 641-4353, [lbuth@sebmanager.on.ca](mailto:lbuth@sebmanager.on.ca).

**TNS**, Sept. 26-28 at the Howard Johnson "The Royal Connaught" Hotel, 112 King St. East, Hamilton. Fri. 4pm-8pm; Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 10am-4pm. Contact Terry McHugh, (905) 318-6458.

**Oshawa & District Coin Club Durham-Rama 2003**, Oct. 4 at the 5 Points Mall, Ritson Rd. & Taunton Rd. Oshawa, 9:30am-5:30pm Free admission. Display/show and sale of coins, paper money and tokens. Contact Earl or Sharon MacLean, (905) 728-1352 or e-mail: [papman@idirect.com](mailto:papman@idirect.com).

**Tillsonburg Coin Show**, Oct. 5 at the Tillsonburg Community Centre, 45 Hardy Ave. 9am-4pm Admission \$1. Contact Wayne McFarlane, (519) 842-6666.

**Burlington Fall Show**, Oct. 18 at 2300 Duncaster Dr., off Brant St. N. 9am-4pm Free parking, admission and coffee and doughnuts while they last. Contact Nancy Meredith, (705) 788-3159.

**Torex® Coin Show & Auction**, Oct. 25 & 26, Novotel Toronto - Centre, 45 The Esplanade. Canada's National Coin Show - Admission \$6 - Under 16 Free! Contact Brian R. Smith (416) 861-9523. Web site: <http://www.torex.net>.

**Scarborough Coin Club 7th Annual Coin Show**, Nov. 1 at the Cedarbrook Community Centre 91 Eastpark Blvd. 9am-4pm Free admission, refreshments available, tables still available. Contact Dick Dunn P.O. Box 562 Pickering, ON L1V 2R7 or e mail [cpms@idirect.com](mailto:cpms@idirect.com).

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

## Editorial, from Paul Petch

At the Tuesday, September 9 Executive meeting of the North York Coin Club, I announced that I am resigning from the position of Editor of this bulletin.

This job began for me, as best as I can remember, back in 1991. At that time, I took over from Ron Zelk and Harvey Farrow who worked as co-editors and produced the bulletin out of John Regitko's old place of business near Yonge and Sheppard. As I recall, Ron had some special duties coming up with the ONA and he was not going to have the necessary time to fulfill his duties. He asked me to take over from him.

When I began, I was co-editor with Harvey. I would put together most of the front page and minutes and a question of the month for the back page. Then I would deliver it to Harvey to finish it off and put it in the mail. After a few years, I took it over completely. It was with the January 1997 issue that I began using MS Publisher, adopted something very close to the present format, and began producing multi-page bulletins with a variety of articles. What a thrill it was to be awarded "Best Bulletin" by both the C.N.A. and the O.N.A. in a single year. It brought honour to this Club and validated the effort I was putting into the task.

My decision to resign was arrived at out of necessity and the realization that I must concentrate and focus my efforts. As most of you know, I am now the Editor of the Canadian Numismatic Journal. This demanding job takes a great deal of time. Some of that time is in conflict with deadlines for producing this bulletin. In addition, I am now the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Canadian Numismatic Association, Chairman of the 2004 Convention, which will be hosted by this Club, and busy doing typographical layout on the *Canadian Numismatic Bibliography*, an important Canadian numismatic research work, as well as serving on a committee producing a second Canadian Numismatic Correspondence Course.

I like to think that I bring some unique talents to those other tasks. On the other hand, I can quickly think of half a dozen other Club members who have the ability and talent to serve as the Editor of this bulletin.

If you ask, "Why is Paul abandoning the Club?" I would like you to instead ask, "Why are those others, so capable and full of talent, so unwilling to take their turn?" Just as Harvey helped me get started, I will help the next person who serves as Editor. Just as I had the opportunity to shape the bulletin during my time of service, so will the next Editor.

If you say, "I will miss Paul's work each month" then you are probably not a member of the C.N.A. and are not receiving its Journal. If you are a member, then it is my hope that you will notice that the Canadian Numismatic Journal continues to improve.

## Salt and Pepper Money

by Robert D. Leonard Jr., Chicago Coin Club

### SALT MONEY

#### A Roman Salary

The Latin term *salarium*, from which our word "salary" is derived, originally meant an allowance of salt for soldiers, officers, and civil administrators in ancient Rome. Later it came to be synonymous with Roman military pay in general, even if that pay was no longer in the form of salt. However, it is not known to what extent its recipients used this salt as a medium of exchange, instead of consuming it.

#### Salt-Cake Money of the Grand Khan

The Khmer people of Cambodia used salt in the 9th century to purchase horses and weapons; whether this was currency or simply barter is unclear.

However, Marco Polo reported the use of actual salt money for small change in the Mongol province of Kain-Du (now part of Yunnan in southwest China) ca. 1275-92. He wrote, "In this country there are salt-springs, from which they manufacture salt by boiling it in small pans. When the water has boiled for an hour, it becomes a kind of paste, which is formed into cakes of the value of two denari each. These, which are flat on the lower side and convex on the upper, are placed upon hot tiles, near a fire, in order to dry and harden. On this latter species of money, the stamp of the Grand Khan is impressed, and it cannot be prepared by any other than his own officers. Eighty of the cakes are made to pass for a *saggio* of gold." [The Venetian *saggio* was 1/6 ounce, so each salt cake was worth 1/480 ounce of gold, or about 2 denari.]

"But when these are carried by the traders amongst the inhabitants of the mountains ... they obtain a *saggio* of gold for 60, 50, or even 40 of the salt cakes, in proportion as they find the natives ... further removed from the towns, and more accustomed to remain in the same spot; inasmuch as people so circumstanced cannot always have a market for their gold, musk, and other commodities. And yet even at this rate it answers well to them who collect the gold dust from the beds of the rivers ... The same merchants travel ... through the mountainous and other parts of the province of Tibet ... where the money of salt has equal currency. Their profits are considerable, because these country people consume the salt with their food ... whereas the inhabitants of the cities use for the same purpose only the broken fragments of the cakes, putting the whole cakes into circulation as money."

Marco Polo probably obtained some or all of this information by hearsay, though his description of the preparation of the salt-cake money has the ring of an eyewitness account. Unknown today, these cakes seem similar to the salty brick tea money which circulated in much of the same region 600 years later.

In the 15th century salt was an important form of money in the highlands of Viet Nam, just south of Yunnan. The Annamese gained access to the source of this salt when they conquered Champa (south Viet Nam) in 1471. Salt was used as currency in the Zimmé market in Siam until 1874 and by the Yachumi tribe of Burma as late as 1921.

#### Ethiopian Rock Salt Blocks

Salt may have acquired a monetary role in Ethiopia as early as Pharaonic times. In any case, it was used there in 1520-26, in the form of rock salt blocks 6 inches long, 3 1/2 inches wide, and 2 1/8 inches thick. At the source, each block equalled 1/160 to 1/130 of a gold ducat, but as it traveled farther, it became worth nearly its weight in gold and would purchase a slave. In 1727, salt was also traded in larger blocks of up to 80 pounds. A 19th century specimen in the British Museum collection, two whetstone-shaped pieces tied together with long leaves, resembles those described in 1526.

In the 1930s it was generally known as *amolé* (after the Arnold tribe, said to have introduced it) or sometimes *tsho*, and was from 8 to 14 inches long and 1 1/2 to 3 inches wide at the middle, tapering to about an inch at each end. At one time, four to six were worth a Maria Theresa thaler in Addis Ababa; as a rule they were 10 to the thaler elsewhere. Four sizes of varying values were made, and to make change they were divided into halves and quarters. In 1948, Einzig wrote, "In particularly backward regions [of Ethiopia] it constitutes the only currency." It was probably out of circulation by 1970.

It was a courtesy in Ethiopia, when meeting a friend, to proffer a salt bar to be licked. Thus one's money was diminished through hospitality!

#### Salt Across the Sahara

In salt-poor West Africa, survival depended on import from the coast, where it was extracted from seawater, or transport across the Sahara Desert, where it was quarried from rock salt

deposits. (A third source of salt, filtering plant ashes, was inefficient and possible only in certain areas.) This trade must thus have begun in prehistoric times. After the domestic camel replaced the horse for Sahara transport in the 3rd century A.D., caravans of as many as 40,000 camels carried salt from the mines at Teghaza to Timbuktu in the Middle Ages, and from there to Jenne, Gao, and the rest of West Africa. The Arab traveler Ibn Battuta visited Teghaza in 1352. He reported that even the mosque there was built entirely of salt. Though still active in 1510 when Leo Africanus visited Timbuktu (where he saw a single camel's load of salt sold for 80 ducats), by the early 19th century. Teghaza had been abandoned and the mines shifted 65 miles southeast to Taoudenni. And the salt caravans continue today: an Associated Press story of Jan. 7, 2001 reported that—though partially superseded by trucks—camels loaded with four 80-pound blocks each still made the trek from Taoudenni to Timbuktu

monthly, and the salt miners were paid in salt!

### Tribal West and East Africa

Many African tribal communities from Sierra Leone to Tanganyika used salt as money. Rock salt from Taoudenni was current in the Gold Coast in the 19th century. In Angola, another source of rock salt, the miners cut the salt into blocks a yard long; in 1905, a male slave could be purchased for 20 (smaller) salts weighing two or three pounds each. One salt was equal to 10 brass rods or 5 fowls. Salt bars called *di-banda*, weighing 6½ pounds, were used in the Katanga region of the Congo. At the headwaters of the Lomami there, two or three pots of salt were the price of a slave in 1924.

In Nigeria, local brines were boiled in different size pots to make salt cones, which passed there and in Cameroon. Loose salt neatly wrapped in banana leaves was used for payments by the Babunda tribe

of Upper Kasai, Congo. In Sierra Leone, the Limba tribe used salt packed in long, narrow baskets sealed with mud as money as late as the 1950s or 1960s; most recently, the bride price was 10 baskets of salt.

### Native American Salt Money

Beginning in Pre-Columbian times, salt was a favourite barter item from Mexico south. The Lacandon of Chiapas, Mexico – a distinct, isolated Mayan group – made salt by burning a certain species of palm, which they used as money until the 20th century. Inca and pre-Inca groups traded salt together with other commodities. As late as 1949 the Indians of Otavalo Valley, Imabura Province, Ecuador, used salt as a medium of exchange.

*This article is reprinted with permission from a Chicago Coin Club article card provided by Dick Dunn. The story of **Pepper Money** is coming next month.*

The June question of the month, asked “How many coins and from what years would you need specimens to complete a Canadian 50¢ type set of royal portraits?”

Len Kuenzig piped up with 15 and Albert Kasman said 8! Paul Petch commented that, depending on whether you included all of the variations or not, both answers were correct. He, himself, came up with 16 because he counted the 1911 Godless as a variety. Members came up with other possible options.

For Queen Victoria (1870-1901) there are actually four obverse varieties of the single design. Edward VII (1902-1910) had a single design and no varieties. George V (1911-1936) had two designs. The “Godless” obverse in 1911 is the first and the restored “DEI GRA:” for 1912 to 1936 is the second. George VI (1937-

1952) also had two designs. The first (1937-1948) has the legend “ET IND: IMP” while the Emperor of India. With India's independence, the legend was removed (1948-1952).

There are a total of four design series for Queen Elizabeth (1953-present). The first is the laureated design (1953-1964) and includes a “shoulder fold/no shoulder fold variety.” The second is the tiara design (1965-1989) with a total of four varieties occurring in 1977, 1978 and 1982. The third is the crowned design (1990-2003) which has a circulation variety with a “P” for plated planchets and a numismatic variety with a “W” for collector products from Winnipeg. In 2002 this design includes the dates 1952-2002 to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee. The fourth design series begins in 2003 with the

uncrowned image. It is also important not to forget the 50th anniversary circulation 50¢ circulating coin based on the 1953 Canadian Coronation Medallion issued in 2002. This is the 5th Queen Elizabeth design.

As you can see, depending upon you criteria, you could actually have as few as 8 or more than 20 designs in a 50¢ type collection.

For the September question, we turn our attention to the year 1927, the Silver Jubilee of Confederation. What are the official pieces that were released in that year? More interestingly, who knows what plans for a commemorative piece were abandoned in that year?

## Question of the Month

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**NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY OF CANADA  
BOOKS FOR SALE**

- BIRD, RICHARD W.** **COINS of NEW BRUNSWICK**  
-1993, 168 pages, comprehensive and detailed study of New Brunswick coins and tokens. Very well illustrated  
B&W cloth..... \$25.00
- BROWN, GEORGE A.** **CANADIAN WELCOME HOME MEDALS, 1899-1945**  
-1991, 155 pp. Winner of Numismatic Literary guild specialty book award for 1991. Limited edition, attractive, mostly  
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- GILBOY, C.R.[EDITOR]** **ASPECTS OF THE NUMISMATICS OF NORTH AMERICA**  
-1986, 288 pp articles by well-known numismatists ; won numismatic Literary Guild Best Book of The Year Award,  
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- GRAHAM, R.J. & KENNEDY E.K** **CURRENCY & MEDALS of PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**  
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- MENARD, MICHELE** **COINS OF THE MODERN OLYMPIC GAMES, VOL 1**  
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- HILL, LESLIE C. & SIMPSON, SCOTT A.** **YUKON NUMISMATICA**  
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- EASSON, ALISON** **ROMAN REPUBLICAN COINS IN THE ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM AND AES RUDE, ITALIC  
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-1998, 75pp. Card covers, well illustrated, good bibliography, comprehensive index ..... \$30.00
- GREENE, RONALD [EDITOR]** **ROBERT C. WILLEY'S DICTIONARY OF CANADIAN MEDALLISTS**  
-1998, 180 pp. Canadian Numismatic Research Society, Occasional Paper No. 2. Bob Willey's study, an earlier  
version which appeared in the Transactions of the Society, is a very comprehensive account and includes an exten-  
sive bibliography and 10 plates of medals..... Soft cover, \$20.00  
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- RUTH MCQUADE [EDITOR]** **THE INTERPAM BOOK & THE INTERPAM AUCTION CATALOGUE**  
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Indies.  
-Authors include, W.Allan, W. C. S. Barrett, Y. Beresiner, J.E. Boling, S.S. Carroll, F. Clowery, D. Crawford, M.  
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(These books are now on clearance and this information is provided to Club members as a service.)

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