



North York Coin Club

Founded 1960

MONTHLY MEETINGS 4TH Tuesday 7:30 P.M. AT
Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive, North York

MAIL ADDRESS: NORTH YORK COIN CLUB, P.O.BOX 10005
R.P.O. Yonge & Finch, 5576 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, M2N 0B6

Contact the Club :

E-mail: northyorkcoinclub@rogers.com
Phone: 416.945.9299

Member :

Canadian Numismatic Association
Ontario Numismatic Association

PresidentNick Cowan
1st Vice PresidentBill O'Brien
2nd Vice President.....Open
SecretaryPaul Petch
TreasurerLen Kuenzig
Past PresidentRobert Wilson

Executive Committee

DirectorTony Hine
DirectorRoger Fox
DirectorVince Chiappino
Junior DirectorOpen
AuctioneerBob Porter
Auction ManagerMark Argentino
Co-EditorsPaul Petch/Tony Hine

ReceptionistAlbert Kasman
Draw PrizesBill O'Brien
Social ConvenorBill O'Brien
LibrarianRobert Wilson
Program PlanningPaul Johnson,
Paul Petch, John Regitko

THE BULLETIN FOR SEPTEMBER 2007

COMING EVENTS FOR FALL 2007

SEPT. 16, London, 15th Annual Coin Show, The Ramada Inn, 817 Exeter Rd. . Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. *Admission \$1; children free. Door prizes, displays.* For more information, contact Len Buth, 519-641-4353, buth@webmanager.on.ca.

SEPT. 23, Maidstone, 4th Semi-Annual Essex County Coin Show & Sale, St. Mary's Hall. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Canadian and American coins, paper money, tokens, war medals, etc.* For more information, contact Dan Jones, 519-733-6296, djones33@cogeco.ca.

OCT. 13, 2007, Oshawa, Durham Coin-A-Rama (Oshawa and District Coin Club), Five Points Mall, 285 Taunton Road East. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. *Free dealer; public and membership draws. Free admission. Celebrating 45 years in numismatics.* For more information, contact Sharon Maclean at 905-728-1352 or papman@idirect.com.

OCT. 14, Mt. Elgin, 45th Annual Tillsonburg Coin Club Show, Mt. Elgin Community Centre, Hwy. 19. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$1 For more information, contact Wayne MacFarlane, 519-842-6666, waynemacfarlane@sympatico.ca.

OCT. 20, Guelph, South Wellington and Waterloo Coin Societies, Colonel John McCrae Legion, 919 York Rd. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Displays, free parking, accessible, buy-sell-trade, over 50 tables.* For more information, contact Lowell Weirstra 519-824-6534.

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

We start gathering at 7:00 p.m. with meeting start scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

September is a wonderful time to get caught up after the summer break, and especially to hear news from the C.N.A. Convention. Please be prepared to contribute and bring along an item of interest

Please Don't Forget: *We need some donations to our supply of draw prize material, and please bring some items for the auction.*

OCT. 21, 2007, Stratford, Stratford Coin Club Annual Show, Festival Inn, 1144 Ontario Street. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Adults \$2, *Admission includes draw on gold coin, 16 and under free. Buy, sell coins, paper money, tokens.* For more information, contact Larry Walker, 519-271-3352, walker@wightman.ca.

OCT. 27-28, Toronto, Torex—Canada's National Coin Show, Radisson Admiral Hotel, 249 Queen's Quay West, Admiral's Ballroom. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission \$6. For more information, please call 416-705-5348. Web site: <http://www.torex.net>.

NOV. 2-4, 2007, Montreal, NUPHILEX, Holiday Inn Midtown, 420 Sherbrooke St. W. Hours: Fri. 11 to 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$3 per day, Sunday free. Early bird admission \$25 (\$10 donated to Quebec Autism Society). Room security from Thurs. 5 p.m. to Fri. 8 a.m. Coin auction by Lower Canada Auction. For more information, contact Gabriel Sebag, 514-842-4411, nuphilex@bellnet.ca. Web site: <http://www.nuphilex.com>.

NOV. 3, Scarborough, Scarborough Coin Club 11th Annual Coin Show, Cedarbrook Community Centre, 91 Eastpark Blvd. Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. *Free admission and draws with refreshments available.* For more information, contact Dick Dunn at cpms@idirect.com or PO Box 562, Pickering ON L1V 2R7.

NOV. 11, Windsor, Windsor Coin Club Annual Fall Show, Caboto Club, 2175 Parent Ave. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Lots of free parking. \$1 admission includes draws for hourly door prizes and a grand prize. Juniors admitted free.* For more information, contact Marg Clarke, 519-735-0727 or e-mail mclarke@wincom.net.

NOV. 18-19, Cambridge, TLC Show, Future Inns, 700 Hespeler Road. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission adults \$4, seniors and children \$2. For more information, contact Linda Robinson, 289-235-9288, lindarobinson@cogeco.ca or Tom Kennedy, 519-271-8825.

NOV. 24, Niagara Falls, Coin-a-Rama, Our Lady of Peace Hall, 6944 Stanley Ave. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking, \$2 admission, free gold draw. For more information, contact B. Kostyk, 905-356-5006.

MEETING NEWS OF THE JUNE 2007 MEETING

The 526th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on June 26, 2007 at the Edithvale Community Centre, North York, Ontario. The meeting came to order at 7:45 p.m. with the President, Nick Cowan, in the chair and 28 members and 1 Guest in attendance.

The on time attendance draw of \$6 was won by Bill O'Brien, so it goes back to \$2 for the September meeting.

The President apologized for not being available for the May meeting and called on the Secretary to review the minutes of the June meeting. The Treasurer provided a financial report.

This was a member participation night and there were interesting contributions from

Marvin Kay on the 1982 C.N.A. convention, David Quinlan with a curious one-cent resized to a twenty-five cent piece, Ben Boelens with a koptic coin he needed assistance with, Roger Fox on recent signature varieties on Canadian Tire ten-cent notes, Jim Heifetz with numismatic news of his trip to St. Kitts and a proof specimen coin purchased there, Tony Hine highlighting a recent 1858 one-cent variety research book, Paul Johnson showing an 1879 exhibition medal, John Regitko promoting C.N.A. convention registration and Paul Petch with news of a 2010 \$1 coin found in circulation and an update on progress with the Canadian Numismatic Bibliography.

The President appointed Henry Nienhuis as the North York Coin Club C.N.A. Convention delegate.

We thank Bill O'Brien for providing and preparing refreshments for the break.

Bob Porter conducted the auction with Mark Argentino, Esquire, serving as auction manager and Vince Chiappino as runner. The auction alternated with the evening's Lucky Draw called by Bill O'Brien. Draw ticket sales were \$36 and the club earned \$8.25 in auction commission. Lucky Draw winners were John Regitko, Bob Velensky (3), Roger Fox, Tony Hine, Jim Heifetz, George Fraser (2), Henry Nienhuis, Terry O'Brien, Bill O'Brien, David Quinlan, Franco Farronato and Ben Boelens. The Club thanks those who donated draw prize material, and everyone is reminded that more material is needed since the shelf remains rather bare.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello again fellow Members;

During our summer break there have been a couple of changes to bring to your attention.

First, please notice the letterhead and the change to the Club's e-mail address. I had been having problems with my old Internet provider and I hope this change will improve my service.

Through the City Councilor in our area, John Fillion, I have learned that construction of a new Edithvale Community Centre is planned to begin in June of 2008. These plans call for the demolition of the current building with a new structure to be constructed on the site over a period of 18 to 24 months.

This puts us in a situation of having to find a new home for the Club until construction is complete and we are welcomed back into the new facility.

We have a few ideas for a new location and they are actively being evaluated based on the facility, available parking and cost. If any of you, our members, have ideas and an 'in' at some location you think should be considered, please let me know.

Nick

MY TIME AT THE C.N.A. CONVENTION

BY TONY HINE

The annual CNA convention means different things to different people.

For the Niagara region, it is a chance to promote the tourism attractions of the falls, the Shaw Festival and the wine belt.

To coin dealers the convention is a market. To authors, it is a choice opportunity to launch a book. One book and at least one catalogue were launched this year at the Falls. To specialized collectors, the CNA is an opportunity for specialty clubs to meet, including the CATC, CAWMC, CTCCC, CPMS, CMNS, CEVNA, MASC and NNE.

The Canadian Numismatic Association held its 2007 Convention in Niagara Falls Ontario in July. While the official 2007 convention ran from July 12th to 15th, two days of Educational Seminars preceded the Convention on July 10th and 11th and in some ways the most exciting topics outshone some aspects of the official program. A presentation by Dr. Peter Moogk on Archaeology and Canadian Numismatics and another by Mr. Paul Berry, the Chief Curator of the National Currency Collection of the Bank of Canada in Ottawa on the Double Tournois in 17th Century Canada, were particularly noteworthy and well received.

The books launched this year included Rob Turner's single volume survey of the

1858 Canadian Cent (reviewed in CNJ by NYCC member Henry Neinhuis) and Al Hager's price guide to certified coins. A Canadian Numismatic Bibliography prepared by Darryl Atchison and Paul Petch was shown and should be printed and distributed in September.

At the club delegates breakfast, the writer (Tony Hine) represented the Scarborough Coin Club, while Vic Shewchuk represented the Oshawa Coin Club, Terry O'Brien from the Mississauga Etobicoke Coin and Stamp Collectors Club was in attendance and Henry Neinhuis represented the North York Coin Club. Albert Kassman was present at the CAWMC meeting, although he boycotted the sit-down breakfast portion. Norm Belsten, Roger Fox and Len Kuenzig all attended portions of the convention, while Paul Petch always seemed close by.

Connor Shewchuk is definitely a fan of the "coin show with a swimming pool."

The Club Delegates Meeting featured a program by ANA Governor, and CNA Director Stan Turrini of Vallejo, California. The program canvassed the audience about experience as a collector and within the hobby. It demonstrated that the hobby is addictive, a lifetime pursuit, and a source of much fun and fellowship. Those of us in the

NYCC MEMBERS AT THE C.N.A. CONVENTION (DAN GOSLING C.N.A. PHOTOS)



Stan Turrini, ANA Governor, presents the Glenn Smedley Award to Paul Johnson



Presidential Award to Dick Dunn



Presidential Award to Paul Petch



Paul Petch, Bill O'Brien and Terry O'Brien at the Canadian Paper Money Society Lunch



Tom Rogers, George and Mrs. Fraser and Karen Eaton at the Canadian Paper Money Society Lunch

organized portion of the hobby have a duty to educate others, spread the passion and help more junior collectors pursue their interest.

Turrini invited attendees to self-identify as: Numismatist, Coin Hobbyist, Coin Collector, Coin Investor, or Coin dealer.

All coin investors should, of course have been asked to leave quietly without creating a scene, but in a spirit of tolerance, since no one self identified as an investor, no one was asked to leave. Turrini is an advocate of the coin hobbyist label, as he feels it highlights the fun and fellowship of the organized hobby.

Turrini urged delegates to consider the years of collective experience and knowledge within their clubs.

At the Newfoundland Numismatic Enthusiasts' meeting on Friday, July 13th, CAN past-president Geoff Bell spoke about his experience as a numismatic and paper ephemera expert on the Antiques Roadshow Canadian Edition.

Overall the great success of the CNA 2007 Convention owes a vote of thanks to Convention Chairman John Regitko and his team of volunteers. The Bourse Chairman Mr. Dick Dunn deserves special mention.

We also learned that Conor Shewchuk likes the coin show with the swimming pool best.



Coin Errors & Varieties Numismatic Association meeting with Henry Nienhuis, (Rob Turner) and Tony Hine



Outgoing Convention Chairman John Regitko with 2008 co-chair

ROYAL CANADIAN MINT OFFERS GOLDEN TOUCH

BY KRISTIN GOFF, CANWEST NEWS SERVICE

Saturday, August 18, 2007

OTTAWA—The Royal Canadian Mint, housed in a building reminiscent of a medieval castle, is a popular place for tourists and school groups who come to see the mint's specialized presses stamp out collector coins, medallions and more.

But tucked inside the nearly century-old building on Sussex Drive is another line of business that Canadians rarely see. The Crown corporation runs a world-class gold refinery, processing billions of dollars worth of precious metals each year.

While scarcely known to the public, the mint's refinery has garnered a reputation for honesty in the mining industry. And, with the cost of gold climbing past \$600 an ounce, it is also finding pawn shops and jewellers seeking to cash in on the rising value of precious metals.

"Nobody trusts anybody in the gold business," says Rod Beauprie, director of the mint's refinery. He's smiling as he says this. But he's not joking.

Mining companies, for instance, will assay ore internally before sending it off for the independent assessment that markets demand. If the two results are far apart, they will do a third assay -and ultimately choose the result they like best, says Beauprie.

"We have put an enormous amount of work into making sure that our assays are always good, so that we'll always win," he said. "People will come to us for that reason, they know there is no dispute, there's no ambiguity about the results."

Although it now competes against private companies, the mint's reputation for accuracy plays a key role in its marketing.

"It is almost a quaint concept—there's been a refinery here for 80-some years," said Beauprie. "The government is more trustworthy than a private business, that was the theory 80 years ago. And that's our *raison d'être* at the moment."

Last year, the mint took in nearly five million troy ounces of partially processed ore from mines, jewelry and industrial materials and produced nearly 2.6 million ounces of investment-grade refined gold. It also produced 300,000 ounces of silver in a refinery it opened last year.

The ore it receives from mines in Ontario, Quebec and abroad is partially refined when it arrives. Most is in the range of 60-to-70 per cent pure.

At the mint, it typically goes through a series of steps, including smelting in furnaces that reach 1200 degrees Centigrade, to burn off impurities. The molten remains are poured into forms for further treatment.

The refinery uses an interesting mix of high-tech and traditional techniques to ply its trade. In its precision assaying lab, for instance, there is an atomic emission spectrometer to analyze "a molecular mist" sparked off a gold or silver bar at intensely high temperature, to help determine its purity.

But the mint also relies on an electrolytic process that dates back to the 1800s, to refine gold from around 95 per cent to 99 per cent purity. Gold plates are soaked in an acid bath charged with an electric current over a couple of days. The gold dissolves and separates from impurities and reforms in a sponge-like state on a separate titanium plate. In that highly refined state, it is ready to be cast into investment-grade bars or bullion coins.

The refinery recently scored a first by producing gold bullion to a purity standard of what those in the industry refer to as "five nines"—or 99.999 per cent pure gold, the highest purity in the world.

It celebrated by producing the world's first gold coin with a \$1-million face value. So far they have received five orders for the 100-kilogram coin made of virtually pure gold.

The refinery produced about \$10 million in revenue last year, providing refining and assaying services for about 100 customers. It also produces the gold used for the mint's own production and sale of Maple Leaf gold and silver

coins and other bullion, which produces \$270 million in sales.

Both are sidelines to the Royal Canadian Mint's main business, which is to supply the country with pennies, loonies, toonies and other coins Canadians need. Its main production facility in Winnipeg produced 2.2 billion circulation coins last year.

Beauprie reaches into a large plastic barrel and pulls out a handful of chains, brooches, rings and assorted jewelry, in a room where smelting operations are under way.

There's a gaudy necklace that says "Vinnie" as well as a number of engraved articles that look woefully out of date.

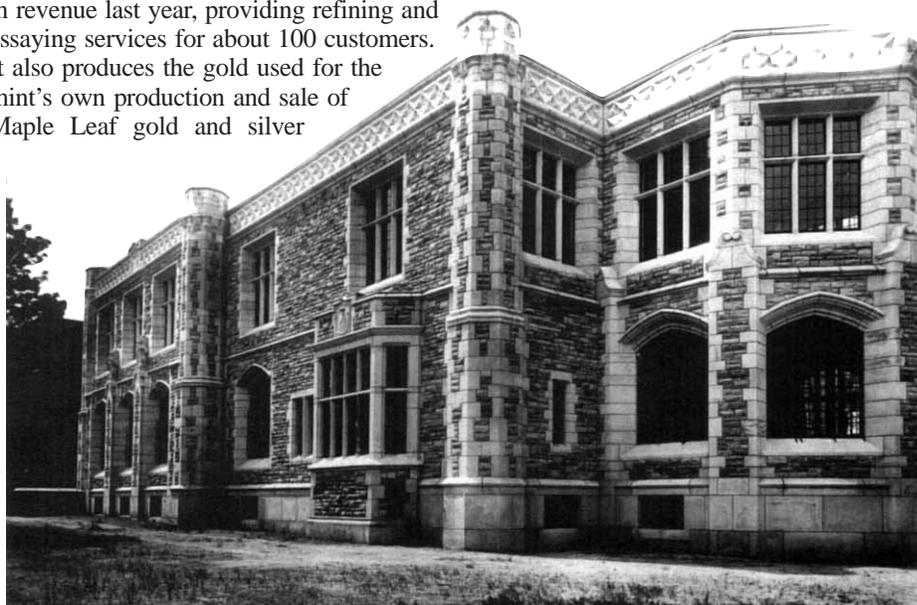
"In the old days, we dealt exclusively with mines," said Beauprie.

"Now there's a lot of old jewelry," amounting to about a half-tonne per month.

Most of it is cheap or out of style, since companies would prefer to resell high-end jewelry if they can, says Beauprie. The mint charges customers \$1 an ounce to take it from "bling" to a 400-ounce bar of gold, said Beauprie.

"Gold never disappears. It is never thrown out," he says. "Even in this place, every tissue, every piece of sandpaper, everything that falls to the floor is collected and treated to recover the gold."

Ottawa Citizen



Royal Canadian Mint Refinery, 1936

A WHOLE NEW WAY OF “GOIN’ FOR THE GOLD” RCM’S GIANT GOLD COIN HAS BEEN IN THE NEWS

BIGGEST GOLD COIN GOING ON SALE

by John Gittelsohn,
The Orange County Register
Friday, July 27, 2007

Irvine company gets ready to auction the world's biggest coin—minted from 220 pounds of gold—that flips some other records, too.

It's not exactly pocket change.

Teletrade, an Irvine company is selling the world's largest gold coin, a sale that could enter the record books in several categories:

- At 100 kilograms or about 220 pounds of gold, the coin—the first of at least five planned by the Royal Canadian Mint—holds a world record for weight. The previous record was 31 kilos set by the Austrian mint in 1994.
- The Canadian coin sets a new standard for purity: 99.999 percent solid gold bullion. The standard 24-karat gold piece is 99.99 percent pure.
- The 100-kilo coin is the world's first to have a face value of \$1 million Canadian, which is about \$940,000 U.S. But it's worth considerably more than face value.
- If melted down, the 220 pounds of bullion would be worth \$2.4 million in U.S. currency.

Teletrade will take a 12 percent commission above the hammer price.

“It will set a record for Teletrade and, to our knowledge, be the most expensive coin offered at online auction,” said Ian Russell, president of the Irvine-based online coin auction house. “Obviously, this takes things to a new level.”

The eBay-style auction begins Monday and concludes Aug. 16 at 7 p.m. You can watch the bids rise at www.teletrade.com.

Teletrade opened as an automated phone-bidding auction house in 1986. It currently claims 161,000 registered members, who trade about \$25 million in mostly newly-minted coins a year through online auctions, Russell said.

The Canadian 100-kilo coin dwarfs most Teletrade products. A Delaware quarter recently fetched \$8,000, Russell said. A 2003 Lincoln penny in perfect condition sold for \$15,000.

A-Mark Precious Metals, a Teletrade affiliate that specializes in coin wholesaling, bought three of the five 100-kilo coins from the Royal Canadian Mint.

Teletrade and A-Mark are both subsidiaries of the New York-based **Escala Group**, a publicly traded holding company that also owns Irvine-based **Bowers & Merena Auctions**, a live auction house, and **Collateral Finance Corp.**, which is offering 4.9 percent financing to the buyer of the 100-kilo Canadian coin.

A-Mark got the rights to purchase the mother-of-all gold coins because it is a major dealer of 1-ounce Canadian gold coins, said Gregory Roberts, chairman and chief executive officer of the Santa Monica-based coin wholesaler. The 1-ounce coins typically fetch \$750 to \$800 at auction, said Roberts. The price is closely tied to the value of gold, he said, a commodity that has more than doubled in value over the past five years.

The 100-kilo coin is stored at an undisclosed location guarded by shotgun-armed Brinks security guards. Earlier this week, a group of guards unpacked the coin from a

foam-lined strong box to display it for photographers. None of the guards, who are used to handling lots of money, dared touch the gold, which is tough to tarnish but easy to dent.

“It won't be getting dented,” Roberts said.

One side of the coin depicts a three-leaf cluster of Canadian maple leaves, gleaming against a background of frosted gold. The flip side shows Queen Elizabeth II, who reigns over Canada as sovereign of the British Commonwealth.

Roberts says there are about 5,000 potential bidders around the world, from individual coin collectors to corporate executives who might want the coin as a show-piece in their executive suite.

Bidders must undergo a background check to make sure they qualify as potential buyers, Roberts said.

The auction has set the coin world abuzz.

“I'd say there's been a bit of an arms race in minting the biggest coins,” said Jay Beeton, a spokesman for the American Numismatic Association in Colorado Springs. “The Royal Canadian Mint pretty well trumped everyone with this coin—its size, purity and rarity.”

The Canadian mint will have a hard time breaking some records.

The highest price ever paid for a coin went to a 1933 Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle \$20 gold piece, which sold at live auction in 2002 for \$7.59 million.

The heaviest pieces of currency are believed to be stone disks traded on the Pacific Island of Yap, the largest of which tip the scales at more than 8,000 pounds.



CHUNK OF CHANGE: Irvine-based Spectrum Numismatics owns three of only five of the world's largest gold coins.



BIG GOLD: Ian Russell, President of Teletrade in Irvine, holds a regular quarter to contrast its size with the world's largest gold coins, minted in Canada, weighing in at 220 pounds and worth an estimated \$2.3 million. This coin is the first of five coins of this size.



TREASURE CHEST: Hector Zamudio, left, and Albert Guzman of Brinks strain to lift a box containing one of the world's largest gold coins.

NO TAKERS FOR CANADA'S GIANT GOLD

BY NUMISMATIC NEWS

August 23, 2007

It wouldn't fit in anyone's pocket.

Nobody took home the big Canadian \$1 million gold coin offered in Teletrade's Aug. 16 auction.

"While the big Canadian coin did not sell it came very close the reserve was \$2 million, and the bid was up to \$1,950,000," reported Teletrade President Ian Russell.

The 100-kilogram coin, created by the Royal Canadian Mint in part to highlight availability of .99999 fine gold in its Maple Leaf bullion coin offerings, contains more than \$2 million in gold.

Another example of the 220-pound (3,215 troy ounces) coin was displayed at the American Numismatic Association convention in Milwaukee, Wis., Aug. 8–12.

Reportedly six of the big gold coins have been sold by private treaty since introduction in May. RCM has estimated that it might make 10 of them, though no formal maximum mintage is set.

The piece was put up for bids Aug. 16 to promote a new service, Teletrade Direct, a way for collectors and investors to purchase gold, silver or platinum bullion items. Among offerings are Canadian Maple Leaf and U.S. American Eagle and Buffalo bullion coins.

Teletrade's Premier Plus auction of mostly U.S. coins realized about \$220,000, with an average per-lot price around \$1,900, Russell said. "Dollar gold pieces sold very well, as did patterns and silver dollars," Russell said.

Top pieces in the auction included a 1908 gold \$2.50 graded Proof-65 by Numismatic Guaranty Corp., which went for \$18,480. Sale catalogers wrote, "The unpopularity of this proof finish among contemporary collectors meant that most of the 236 pieces reportedly struck were probably melted as unsold at year's end."

An 1879 Morgan dollar pattern in copper, Judd 1614, graded Proof-64 Red Cameo

by Professional Coin Grading Service, realized \$8,736.

Bringing \$8,288 was a proof 1880 Morgan dollar in NGC Proof-66 Cameo. An 1856-D gold dollar in PCGS AU-50 traded for \$7,168. Catalogers noted that PCGS had certified five 1856 gold dollars from the Dahlonega Mint at this grade, and 33 finer.

An 1870 half dollar pattern, Judd 948, in NGC Proof-65 Brown, fetched \$6,048. Catalogers said NGC has certified two examples of this pattern, both at this grade.

Buyer fees of 12 percent are included in sale prices reported here. Teletrade's next Premier Plus auction is scheduled for Oct. 4.

For more information about this sale or to consign to a future Teletrade auction, call (800) 949-2646, or e-mail info@teletrade.com.

The firm's Web site, where it conducts most of its auctions, can be viewed at www.teletrade.com. The new bullion service has its own site, www.TeletradeDirect.com.

DON'T NICKEL AND DIME THIS MAN

BY ROBYN DOOLITTLE, TORONTO STAR STAFF REPORTER

August 22, 2007

As his eyes flick to the dark marble counter and come to rest on a neatly stacked dollar of dimes, Stuart Ross's upper lip twitches with annoyance.

"I don't deal with that stuff. See," he tells me haughtily, pointing to a long menu of tax-included \$3 lattes, espressos and gourmet coffee.

"It's all round numbers for a reason. Next time, don't come with anything less than a quarter."

"Just take it," he scoffs, pushing a cup of steaming gourmet java towards me before turning to the next woman in line, his thin bearded face immediately flipping from a sneer to a smile.

Ross's bipolar customer service is part of Bulldog Coffee's charm, but that was the last time I ever tried to buy a cup of joe at the café, hidden just south of Carlton St. off Church St., with loose change.

While the Canadian mint prepares to release a study on the country's coin usage trends—which is expected to restart the ax-

the-penny debate—one cantankerous Toronto barista decided to ban all small change in his trendy café years ago.

Even in the tip jar.

"I've lost customers over it, but it's just not worth it for me. I'd rather take a loss. I'm here all day, open to close. I don't want to go home, spend hours rolling all this change. Then I take it to the bank and they charge me a fee," says Ross while pouring a white heart into a latte's silky foam.

"I'd rather be spending time pulling the perfect shot of espresso and doing what I do best than standing back here fiddling with the cash register."

Seinfeld had the Soup Nazi and Church St. has its Coffee Nazi.

"I think I was the first to call him that," boasts Donna Braybrook, who always pays for her daily tea latte with proper change.

Jordan Wenzel, a barista at nearby Lettieri café, comes back every day, and agrees with Ross's policy.

"Dealing with customers' (small) change is annoying," Wenzel says.

As the mint prepares a coin usage report, one cafe sticks by its ban on irksome small change

Periodically throughout the year, the Royal Canadian Mint, Department of Finance and Bank of Canada meet to discuss coin usage issues.

Despite a public consensus that pennies are annoying, the coins are still wanted, says Christine Aquino, the mint's senior manager of corporate communications.

"Based on market demand, the production of the penny is still quite healthy," Aquino says.

"We produced over a billion last year."

Last year, the mint produced more pennies, nickels and dimes than ever before.

Not that this will change Ross's mind about his pricing.

He and change have never gotten along. But despite his best efforts, he hasn't managed to get change out of his life entirely.

"So one day I take the huge jug down to Dominion to the coin machine. Put it all in and get \$27," he scoffs.

"When I got back to my car, there was a \$30 parking ticket."

LOCAL ARTIST HELPS NATIONAL MINT SOLVE DESIGN PROBLEMS

BY ANNE KYLE, THE LEADER-POST (REGINA)

Saturday, July 21, 2007

Regina artist Chris Jordison is making a big splash with his design on the colour photographic hologram which graces the Royal Canadian Mint's latest series of collector coins.

Jordison was commissioned by the mint to create a collector series coin design for a \$30 sterling silver coin and a \$300 14-karat gold version. This is the second time the Regina-based illustrator and graphic designer's work has graced the backs of mint-issued coins. In 2005 his design of the Western Red Lily was selected in competition for use on a limited edition pure gold coin.

"I didn't come up with the hologram to tell you the truth. It was the Royal Canadian Mint that had the plan for doing that. They came to me with a design problem," Jordison said.

"I was really pleased about getting the call. Usually the design is selected through a competition. The mint invites any number of artists to submit designs and then one is selected from the entries."

The mint knew it wanted to put the Canadian Rockies on the gold coin and the Niagara Falls on the silver coin and then put the hologram on, he said.

"The problem they had is how do you cast a carved coin and then put the hologram on it. Generally you look up at the Rockies and you usually look down on the Niagara Falls. They had a problem with the horizon line," Jordison said.

"In this case they knew they had a design problem and they came directly to me to see if I could come up with a design solution for the coins."

What he came up with was a pair of hands with a modern panoramic camera which allowed for a floating horizon. Looking at the design one can't tell whether

the hands are pointing up or down.

"It was just a matter of thinking about it in a different way. I did the art work for the hands, but really it was a collaboration between me and the mint's designers, who selected the actual photographs," he said, adding the hologram process on coins is quite new technology for the mint.

These coins are the latest in a series that celebrates Canadian technical achievements. Jordison's design commemorates the invention of the panoramic camera by John R. Connon in 1887 which allows photographers to capture dramatic views in 180 degrees or 360 degree views.

The Rocky Mountain Panoramic Camera gold coin will be produced in a limited mintage of 1,000, while the Niagara Falls Panoramic Camera sterling silver coin has a limited mintage of 15,000. Both coins were released for sale earlier this week.

When asked whether he was paid for his labour in silver and gold coins, Jordison laughs and confesses that he had to buy his own copies of the collector coins.

"I bought a silver and a gold coin because it's good for the portfolio when you are out showing clients some of your work." The Leader-Post (Regina) 2007



Roy Arnel, Leader-Post

Artist Chris Jordison shows off his silver and gold coin designs

ANCIENT COINS DISCOVERED ON BEACH

BY STEVEN MCKENZIE, BBC SCOTLAND NEWS WEBSITE

Archaeologists believe the pieces of copper alloy date from the middle of the 4th Century. They were found in a sand dune, but the location in the Uists has been kept secret to protect the site. Archaeologists said it was a "lucky find" as the coins were at risk of vanishing in a high tide.

Just seven other Roman coins have previously been found on the isles. A Roman brooch and pieces of pottery have also been uncovered in the past.

Kate Macdonald, an archaeologist who has lived on the isles for three-and-a-half years, said the new find was exciting. She said: "It is very unusual to find two coins very close together on a stretch of beach on the Western Isles. A whole seven others have been found - six of those on North Uist - which indicates something quite special was happening at that time."

'Well preserved'

Ms Macdonald is studying a PhD at the University of Sheffield on the Iron Age, Scottish islands and brochs. She said the coins dated from the Iron Age in Scottish

Ancient coins have been found on a beach in the Western Isles . . . new clues to the far reaching influence of the Roman Empire

terms, but in England would be considered to be from the late Roman period.

The isles were a "hub of development" throughout pre-history because travel was easier by sea than land at that time, said Ms Macdonald. However, she said it was likely to always remain a mystery how the coins arrived on the islands. They were either brought back by islanders from the mainland, or by Romans.

Ms Macdonald said: "In Scotland it has always been thought the Western Isles were beyond the reach of the Roman Empire. The coins were very well preserved. You would expect salty water might have attacked them to some extent. They look almost as good as the day they were made."

The coins are being kept at a local museum, but will eventually be examined by experts in Edinburgh.

Ms Macdonald praised the members of public who found them for handing them over the museum.

Archaeologists are convinced that no other coins are on the beach after an extensive scan of the area using metal detectors.

Meanwhile, Fife charity Scottish Coastal Archaeology and the Problem of Erosion (Scape) is leading a community project at a site on North Uist. Scape is investigating the suspected Iron Age round houses before they vanish in a powerful storm.



IT WAS A GOLD MEDAL DAY

by Joe Warmington, Toronto Sun, September 8, 2007

TRENTON—His medals were missing for almost 40 years and he got them back.

On that day, the provincial government officially commemorated the Highway of Heroes and another great community put on a spectacular show of support for the fine Canadian troops in a Red Friday Rally. It doesn't happen often but that was a gold medal day for the men and women who wear the uniform to defend freedom and our precious way of life.

You certainly won't get any argument from Rodney Travers-Griffin, a 75-year-old veteran who was sure his service medals from his time in the British military were lost forever. After all they were gone for nearly 40 years. To tell this story you have to go back to the Santa Claus Parade in 1967.

"We had just come back from it," he said from his Beaches area home. "I knew something was wrong."

Burglars had just left with all sorts of stuff—specifically his military medals.

"It was upsetting," he said.

Funny how things come around.

"I was reading about an estate auction," he laughed.

In the flyer and available for sale were his medals. "I couldn't believe it," he said.

He immediately called the estate dealer, Jeffrey Hoare, with the news.

"Turns out they were already sold," he laughed again.

But owner Wendy Hoare got on the horn to the buyer and told him of the situation.

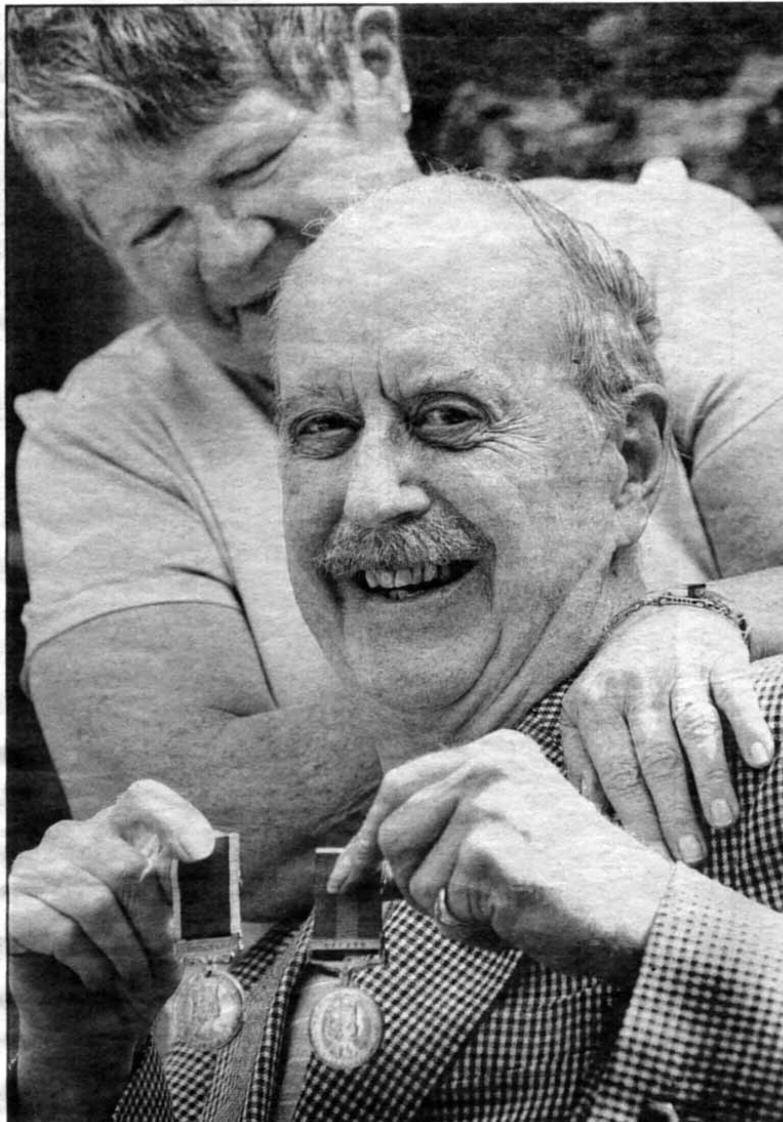
"The buyer immediately returned them," Travers-Griffin said with a happier laugh.

And the smile on his

face was even bigger Wednesday when a package arrived with his long lost medals. "It was great," he said. "I really appreciate Wendy getting them back. She did it all in less than a week."

No one knows where they have been all these years and how they ended up in that estate. But with a robust market for military medals they have probably been bought and sold a few times before they finally showed back up.

Good for Wendy and thanks to Rodney for his service. He doesn't need medals to honour his commitment but it sure is nice he got them back for his family to savour for years to come.



FIRE AT MINT CAUSES \$500,000 DAMAGE

by Lindsey Wiebe
Winnipeg Free Press,
September 1, 2007

*Second fire in two years
could have cost a fortune!*

An overnight fire at the Royal Canadian Mint—the second in two years—has caused an estimated half a million dollars in damage, and closed part of the Mint's coin production operations.

Fire officials say they found out about the blaze shortly after 2:30 a.m.

The fire apparently started in a tank of mixing solution used for washing coins. Damage was estimated at \$500,000, mostly to coins as well as machinery and the tank itself.

All Mint employees were evacuated, and nobody was injured.

Investigators have yet to determine the exact cause of the fire on the plating production line, which produces blank coins near the back of the sprawling mint.

However, police say it's believed to have started due to an electrical shortage in machinery.

A fire in a similar area two years ago was also quickly contained, but there's no word yet on whether the same equipment was involved in this fire.

The fire has not disrupted other operations at the mint and public tours resumed by morning.

- with files from
Canadian Press